

at least tolerated, as inevitable. Tension, on the other hand, can occur where perceived unfairness occurs, whether or not the perception is based on good grounds. The data from the AARP survey is used to map out the intersections of beliefs which might possibly lead to tensions. For example, it is not only the view that federal programs for elders are costly, but also the judgment that elders get more than their fair share of government benefits and exercise more political influence than advocates for children—a clustering of factors rather than a single perception—which is likely to generate tension. This surely makes sense, even though some of the more elaborate parts of the framework attempting to separate 'stressors' from 'frictions', seem to me rather strained.

The book concludes with a chapter from the editors that admirably summarizes the preceding chapters and provides a useful account of the issues involved in targeted versus universal benefits, though it is rather limited in its treatment of implications for public policy. There is, for

instance, no reference to labor market issues where competition for jobs is a potentially significant aspect of intergenerational tension that, to my mind, requires policy intervention. Attention is paid to volunteering, but I feel that this conforms slightly to the stereotype of older people as being necessarily out of the labor market. That said, it is a tidy conclusion.

I have one methodological and one substantive comment to add. Methodologically, I am not convinced that the dynamics of intergenerational transfers have been captured. Work in the United Kingdom by John Hills, for example, attempts to look at the impact of welfare payments not simply between age groups, but against a changing historical background. This is surely crucial, since neither time nor the policy context stands still, but especially since the assumptions under which people have worked for much or all of their lives also change. These are the kinds of justice issues grappled with in the volume on intergenerational justice edited by

Laslett and Fishbien, and only fleetingly referred to here.

The substantive comment is not a criticism but a plea for qualitative research to complement and illuminate the issues raised in this volume. On many occasions I would have been delighted to have had the illustration of a personal example or a family case study. This is especially the case where such complex issues as solidarity and giving are involved. A detailed picture of the relationships involved can only come from more strongly colored research. Yet this volume admirably paves the way for such work and could be valuable reading for the new French Minister for Intergenerational Affairs—as far as I know, the first person to hold such a portfolio. ■

Tom Schuller is Director of the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He was the principal author of the report *Learning*, one of the major outputs of the Carnegie Inquiry into the Third Age, and with Michael Young co-authored *Life After Work: The Arrival of the Ageless Society* (Harper Collins 1991). His current research is into new lifecourse models.

PUBLICATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ageing and the Care of Older People in Europe

Richard Hugman.

1994. St. Martin's Press, Inc., New York.
US\$39.95, 199 pages.

In this book, Richard Hugman examines the social implications of old age in Europe using qualitative comparative methods. Drawing on historical, anthropological, and socio-

logical studies, the author analyses conditions created by social, political, and economic institutions (such as family, government, and welfare) that impact the quality of life for older Europeans. This book references an array of research findings to connect discrete measures associated with aging populations (e.g. economic and demographic variables), with less quantifiable "meanings" of

old age. Consequences of aging are juxtaposed with social responses as well. The impact of a larger older population are correlated with specific societal, community, and family dynamics. The author's associations are convincing. Often, adversities are presented as extensions of social conditions that are not exclusive to the elderly. For example, poverty and racism may affect certain older pop-

ulations, but are not exclusive to them.

Hugman uses comparative techniques to reveal both the diversity and the commonalities of aging populations in Europe, with diversity receiving more attention. Specific examples are rarely discussed in detail; however, cultural, ethnic, class, and national influences are weighed into many of the arguments. The author also takes a critical look at outdated or negative images of aging along with the institutions that perpetuate them.

Ageing and the Care of Older People in Europe presents aging as a multidimensional social construct bounded by overlapping cultures, political systems, and perceptions. Throughout, it reminds us that responses to aging require critical thought before opinions are formed or policies made.

Aging: Canadian Perspectives

Victor Marshall and Barry McPherson, eds.

1994. Broadview Press Ltd., Ontario. Can \$24.95, 267 pages.

This is a compilation of 15 articles by Canadian scholars in the social sciences. Most of the research addresses how individuals adapt to aging in different environments, such as home, work, recreation, and personal care situations. Although the research is Canadian, many of the findings are relevant to growing old in any industrialized society.

Collectively, the volume addresses the impact that aging has on the individual, family, community, and society. Individually, the articles cover topics such as changing demographics, "lifecourse" structures, and eco-

nomics and public policy issues. This smorgasbord of research and essays could easily serve as a primer on aging in the social science.

Altruism in Later Life

Elizabeth Midlarsky and Eva Kahana.

1994. Sage Publications, Inc. Thousand Oaks, California. US\$22.95, 269 pages.

The authors offer a thorough examination of issues surrounding the positive contributions of older people. The study provides a context for current views of age by starting with an overview of the often conflicting images of aging that have prevailed in cultures throughout history. It then considers specific issues associated with altruism including differences in donation behavior and rescue behavior, predictors of helping behavior, and interventions that seem likely to increase increasing volunteer activities among older people.

Autonomy and Well-being in the Aging Population I

D.J.H. Deeg and M. Westendorp-de Serière (eds.).

1994. VU Uitgeverij, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. US\$14., £10. 110 pages.

This volume reports the first results of the Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam (LASA), started in 1990 by the Dutch Ministry of Health Welfare and Sports' Department of Policies for the Aging. The research has two major purposes. First, it studies from a multidisciplinary perspective the effect of age on four components of functioning—social, cognitive, emotional and physical—

over a long period of time. Second, it seeks to produce policy relevant information on social integration, independent functioning, use of health care and social services.

This volume is intended for a broad audience. It reports early findings in areas such as chronic diseases, living arrangements, physical ability, mental disorders, intelligence, memory, and social integration.

Work and Aging: A European Prospective

Jan Snel and Roel Cremer, eds.

1994. Taylor & Francis Ltd. London. US \$99 cloth, US\$49.50, paper. 417 pages.

Scientists, practitioners, and policy makers attended a two-day symposium on work and aging held in Amsterdam during the European Year of Older People and Solidarity between Generations, 1993. They gathered to discuss theoretical and practical approaches to a number of broad themes including: aging, work and health; aging and mental work capacity; training and education; and social policy. This book is based on those discussions and includes contributions from other experts. ■