Influences of life histories, inequality and social life on retirement

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Overview

1. Social Constructions of Retirement and Ageing

2. A Social Structural Perspective

3. The Importance of Social Context

4. Policies and Purposeful Social Change?

5. Some references (the research behind the ideas presented here)

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1. Social Constructions of Retirement and Ageing

a) **Retirement** as an event, a process (and reversible) stage of life
   • From whose viewpoint? (workers, retired, employers, governments etc)

b) **Ageing and older people**
   • Age as an index of time, duration of exposure, maturation, etc
   • Older person, senior citizen, etc as social categories
   • A new third age? (longevity, working less/more, an earned right to leisure?)
   • And whose ageing (social segments including his and hers)?

c) **Conceptual approaches**
   • Political economy and critical as well as social structures and life transitions

d) **Methodological approaches**
   • Qualitative as well as quantitative (people’s own stories?)
2. A Social Structural Perspective (complements individual perspective)

a) The Age Period Cohort Paradigm

b) Periods (e.g., early 1990s recession, Global Financial Crisis, & future?)

c) Life Course Accumulations (diversity and inequalities)

d) The Baby Boom Cohort and future trajectories

e) Cohort succession, momentum, social change

f) Adaptation and change by individuals and social structures (& interactions)
3. The Importance of Social Context

a) Australia has been different from the US and Europe (population growth, economic growth, government fiscal position, employment growth for over 55s in all social segments)

b) Prevailing Attitudes (eg on the productivity of older workers and generational equity)

c) Individuals’ expectations and attitudes (eg Kerry Sargent-Cox)

a) Employers and Markets
   (more from other speakers)
4. Social Issues & Policies: Big issues

- Macro-economic prospects: workforce shortages, population growth, etc
- Human capital and inequalities over the life course
- Adequacy of income, enabling paid work, and valuing non paid work
- Age discrimination
- Treasury Advisory Panel on Positive Ageing
- The Intergenerational Reports (the 3 ‘Ps)
- Changing attitudes and behaviours?
References


References (cont)


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