

from the expected 15 to 4 gigatons? Perhaps, but it is unlikely that all 22 proposed actions can be fully achieved.

The report provides an authoritative account of what is needed to insure a sustainable future for agriculture but seems too sanguine about the real-world obstacles that will face the implementation of the proposed agenda. Aimed at a wide audience, the text is highly readable and includes many figures and tables.—J.B.

#### DEBORAH CARR

##### *Golden Years: Social Inequality in Later Life*

New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2019. 357 p.

Samuel Preston, in his 1984 presidential address to the Population Association of America, set the terms of the debate that was to dominate our perception of the golden age of rising political and economic clout of the senior citizens of America whose lives were transformed through the emergence of Social Security under the New Deal. Deborah Carr's volume, *Golden Years: Social Inequality in Later Life*, published 35 years after Preston's seminal statement, will arguably reshape our perceptions of these golden years to encompass divergent pathways of the fortunate and no-so-fortunate older adults in twenty-first century.

Research on aging has been shaped by the life-course perspective that identifies early life experiences as shaping the trajectories of adult lives, continuing into older ages. In contrast, Carr sets out to identify experiences in later years that amplify early inequalities and give rise to new inequalities. Simultaneously she also identifies personal, psychological, and social resources that enhance coping abilities in face of anticipated and unanticipated challenges.

The chapter on mental health provides an interesting illustration. Although population level statistics tell us that older adults fare better than younger population with respect to mental health symptoms, ranging from happiness to depression to anxiety, some older adults are far more vulnerable to these conditions than aggregate statistics suggest. Race, socioeconomic status, and gender powerfully shape the number of stressors faced by older adults, their social and financial resources to cope with these stressors, the cognitive capacities that help them adapt to them, and their willingness to acknowledge mental health challenges and seek help. Experiences of a lifetime shape all of these intervening mechanisms but do not determine them fully. Many older adults manage to thrive among these disadvantages and social support networks, public policies, and affirming religious beliefs increase this resilience.

Demographic trends of the past five decades shape the social lives of the older adults. As Carr notes, declining marriage and rising divorce rates have taken a toll on the support systems of older adults, particularly African Americans. Whereas over 70 percent of white men ages 65 and above are married, this proportion is only a little more than 40 percent for Black men of similar age. Among women, the proportion married is 44 percent for white women and 24 percent for black women. When coupled with lower wealth accumulated and higher responsibility of caring for grandchildren, racial differences in well-being take on a new meaning.

Arguably, the most interesting chapter deals with the neighborhoods in which older adults live and the characteristics of these neighborhoods that help enhance

the quality of their lives. Carr notes that many older adults dread the thought of living in a nursing home but few will have these fears realized. Although over half the older adults will spend some time in residential care facility, most do so for short periods of time. Even among the oldest-old, only 23 percent live in a residential facility for an extended period of time. Public policies have tremendous impact on shaping the lives of the older individuals living in community settings. Sidewalks, wide doorways to accommodate walkers, and proximity to public transportation increase the independence of older adults. An intriguing line of research explored in the book relates to the benefits of living in age-segregated neighborhoods. Carr cites several studies that document the benefits of having a large number of older adults in the neighborhood. Widowed seniors living in neighborhoods with greater concentration of widows(ers) live longer than those in neighborhoods with lower concentration, possibly because peers with similar marital status may provide a source of companionship and social support.

This is a fascinating volume that draws from the insights of a variety of disciplines, psychology, sociology, economics, and demography to paint a rich and multifaceted picture of the lives of older adults at the beginning of the twenty-first century. As American society ages and the older population becomes increasingly diverse, this book will provide valuable insights into developing public policies for enhancing the lives of America's older population. —S.D.

**YANA VAN DER MEULEN RODGERS**

*The Global Gag Rule and Women's Reproductive Health: Rhetoric Versus Reality*

New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. 232 p. \$39.95.

This is a guidebook for policymakers who may want to formulate US women's reproductive health policies on the basis of empirical evidence. In 1984, the Reagan Administration first adopted the Mexico City Policy, informally known as the "global gag rule," which blocks US family planning assistance to any NGO that provides abortion counselling or referrals or that advocates for the decriminalization or expansion of abortion services. It applies only to the overseas activities of NGOs and exempts US nonprofit organizations. President Bill Clinton rescinded the policy in 1993, President George W. Bush reinstated it in 2001, President Barack Obama rescinded it in 2009, and President Donald Trump reinstated it 2017 while expanding it to block all US global health funding—not just family planning funding—to noncompliant NGOs. The policy's goal is to reduce the number of abortions. From the beginning, many questioned its means of accomplishing this goal: blocking US contraceptive assistance to noncompliant NGOs. Would not decreasing women's access to modern contraceptives lead to more unwanted pregnancies and to more abortions? This empirical question is the one Meulen Rodgers sets out to address.

Chapter 2 offers an account of the evolution of the policy and examines evidence of its effects. The author found that the policy—especially when reinstated by President George W. Bush in 2001—significantly depressed the delivery of family planning services, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Chapter 3 examines the shifting place that family planning aid has played in US foreign assistance, beginning with its original antinatalist goals during the 1960s and 1970s, to "safe motherhood" goals