

# Conference Reflections and Closing Remarks May 12, 2021

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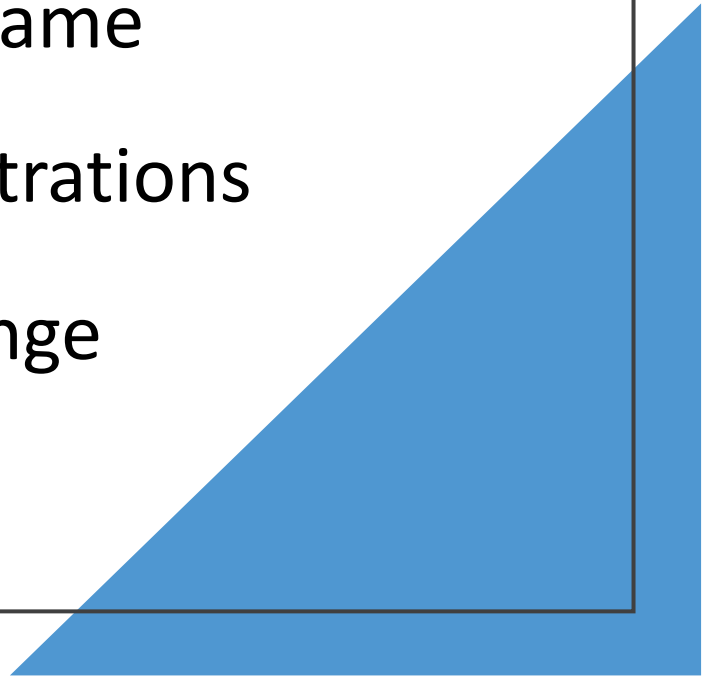
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# Outline for Closing Talk

- Situating Studies
- Critical Gerontological  
Perspective as a Frame
- Examples and Illustrations
- Directions for Change





## Homelessness in Late Life: Growing Old on the Streets, In Shelters and in Long-term Care (2012-2016)

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**Grenier, A. (PI)**, Lavoie, J. P., Sussman, T., Rothwell, D., and Bourgeois-Guerin, V. SSHRC Insight Grant.

[https://criticalgerontology.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/iStock\\_000002609488Small.jpg](https://criticalgerontology.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/iStock_000002609488Small.jpg)





Precarity and Aging:  
Unequal Experiences in  
Contemporary Late life

**Grenier, A. (PI),** Rudman, D., Kobayashi, K.,  
Marier, P., Phillipson, C. (2016-2023). *Precarity  
and aging: unequal experiences in  
contemporary late life*. Insight Grant. SSHRC.

# Critical Gerontological Perspective

1

Frameworks and Assumptions

2

Policies and Practices of  
Exclusion and Marginalisation

3

Experiences of Precarity &  
Inequality across the Life Course

# A Critical Reading

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## **Frameworks and Assumptions (Macro)**

The importance of 'Place'- What does it mean to age in place?

What options are available? (i.e., Who gets to age where? in which locations?)

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## **Policies and Practices of Exclusion/Marginalisation (Meso)**

'Home' is the practical site for service delivery (homecare)

Homelessness- 'no home within which to grow old' and thus few services/supports

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## **Experiences of Precarity and Inequality (Micro of Macro)**

Long-term impacts of poverty, insecurity, risk, and disadvantage (experiences of disadvantage)

Aging can also be experienced as precarity and exclusion and not only 'success'





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## Questions:

How does insecure housing/poverty  
affect precariousness in later life?

How does precarity impact housing  
in late life?

# Planning for Seniors Housing in Changing Cities: A Cross-National Exchange

May 11 & 12, 2021 | Virtual Event



The conference  
has explored....

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Changing perspectives on aging and housing

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The preservation of seniors housing

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Eviction prevention strategies

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Policy initiatives for seniors housing

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Supporting equity and diversity in seniors housing

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Building effective research and public policy partnerships

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Innovative models to promote aging in place

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Stories of resilience in a pandemic

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Working together to support communities for all ages



# Resonating Themes- Older people's needs:

- Cut across health, housing, income & care;
- Cross a range of sectors (structures) and experiences, resulting in un-necessary suffering
- Must be understood within social, cultural, political and economic context
- Can accumulate over time and can cause additional insecurities, particularly related to care
- Can worsen against barriers and unacceptable practices (e.g, eviction)
- Require multi-level responses and solutions
  - Recognition , Social justice, Experience and involvement of older people

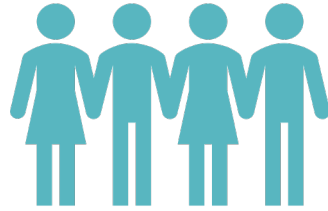
(See Grenier, 2021; Grenier, Lloyd and Phillipson, 2019)

# Points from the conference

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# Older People Need :

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Recognition and  
Inclusion



Stable Income and Access to  
Care (sometimes <65)



Affordable and Safe Long-term  
Housing (and Support)

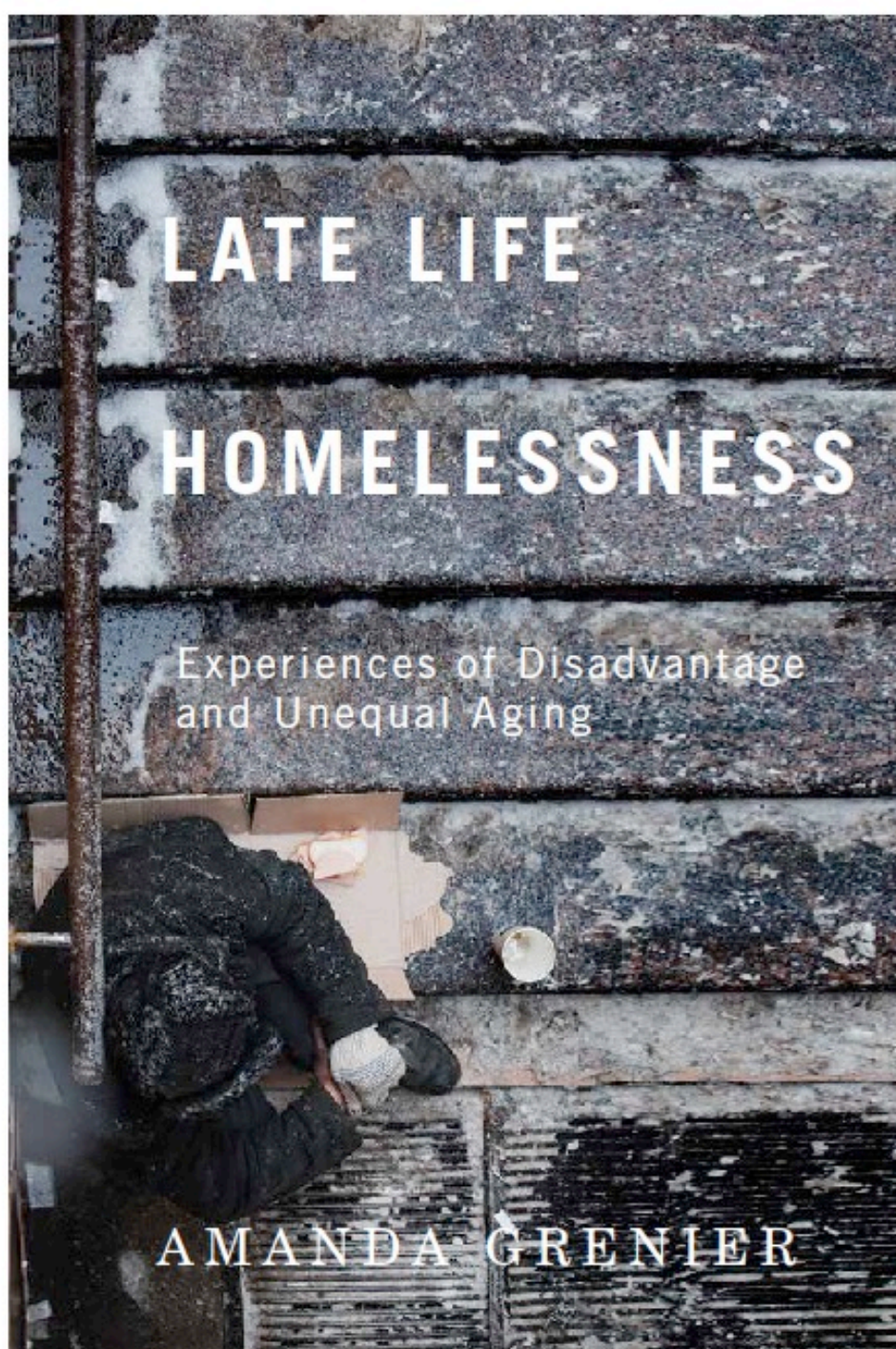


Protection from Eviction  
and Displacement



# Policy Agenda for Change

Include	Older people in strategies and frameworks
Alter	Program eligibility for persons not yet 65 (ie., 50+)
Develop	Housing for older people
Ensure	Access to income, health, housing, care
Recognize and respond	To inequality, disadvantage, risk and insecurity
Address	'At-risk' trajectories of over-represented groups
Discuss	Housing and care NOT housing OR care
Provide	Access to aging 'well' in safe and desirable places



For more information, see:

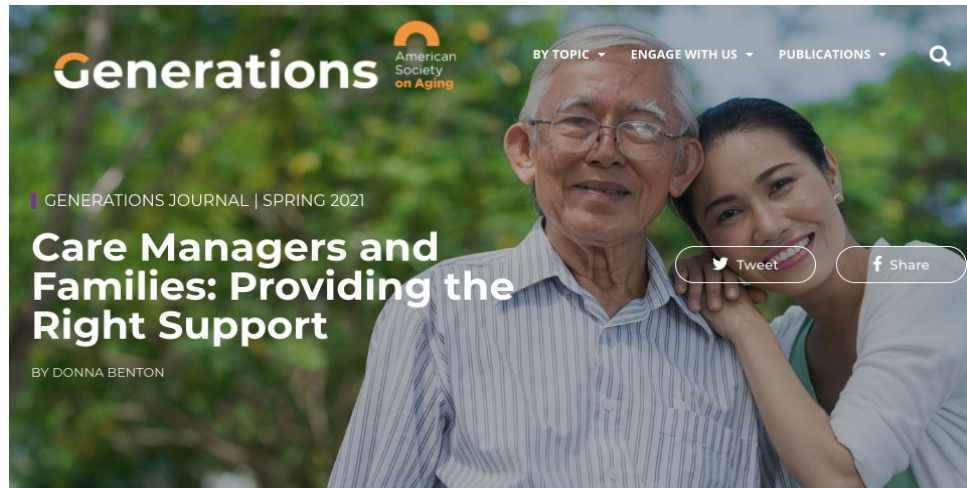
Grenier (2021, November).

Late Life Homelessness:  
Experiences of Disadvantage and  
Unequal Aging

Montreal: McGill Queens  
University Press



# Forthcoming







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en sciences humaines  
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Social Sciences and  
Humanities Research  
Council of Canada

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# EXTRA





An example of an age-lens- Quebec's (2014) strategy:

“Older people who are homeless have ***extremely poor health*** (physical, psychological, cognitive); experience ***premature aging***; and have a ***mortality rate*** that is three to four times greater than the general population. As such, this group is particularly ***vulnerable, both financially and socially*** (victimization, abuse, isolation)”

[translation by authors]

(Government of Quebec, 2014, 14-15)

