



Exposition

Further Reading

Chivers, Sally

The Silvering Screen: Old Age and Disability in Cinema

U of Toronto P, 2011

ISBN: 978-1442611047

Popular films have always included elderly characters, but until recently, old age only played a supporting role onscreen. Now, as the Baby Boomer population hits retirement, there has been an explosion of films, including *Away From Her*, *The Straight Story*, *The Barbarian Invasions*, and *About Schmidt*, where ageing is a central theme. The first-ever sustained discussion of old age in cinema, *The Silvering Screen* brings together theories from disability studies, critical gerontology, and cultural studies, to examine how the film industry has linked old age with physical and mental disability. Sally Chivers further examines Hollywood's mixed messages—the applauding of actors who portray the debilitating side of ageing, while promoting a culture of youth—as well as the gendering of old age on film. *The Silvering Screen* makes a timely attempt to counter the fear of ageing implicit in these readings by proposing alternate ways to value getting older.





Recent publications

Hartung, Heike

Ageing, Gender, and Illness in Anglophone Literature: Narrating Age in the Bildungsroman.

Routledge, 2016

ISBN: 9781138858503

This study establishes age as a category of literary history, delineating age in its interaction with gender and narrative genre. Based on the historical premise that the view of ageing as a burden emerges as a specific narrative in the late eighteenth century, the study highlights how the changing experience of ageing is shaped by that of gender. By reading the *Bildungsroman* as a 'coming of age' novel, the book asks how the telling of a life in time affects individual age narratives. Bringing together the different perspectives of age and disability studies, the book argues that illness is already an important issue in the *Bildungsroman's* narratives of ageing. This theoretical stance provides new interpretations of canonical novels, visiting authors such as Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Frances Burney, Maria Edgeworth, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Samuel Beckett and Jonathan Franzen. This book introduces a new theoretical approach to cultural age studies and offers a comprehensive analysis of the connection between narratology, literary theory, gender, and age studies.

Hubble, Nick, and Philip Tew

Ageing, Narrative and Identity

Palgrave Macmillan, 2013

ISBN: 9780230390942

This book outlines the methodology and results of the Fiction and the Cultural Mediation of Ageing Project, led by a research team from Brunel University, UK. In investigating how older people resist stereotypical cultural representations of ageing, the study demonstrates the importance of narrative understanding to social agency. This book will therefore be of interest not only to students and researchers in the growing interdisciplinary field of Ageing Studies, but also to those with interests in Social Policy, Social Narrative and wider socio-cultural conceptions of the interaction between representation and everyday life.



King, Jeanette

Discourses of Ageing in Fiction and Feminism: The Invisible Woman

Palgrave Macmillan, 2012

ISBN: 9781137292278

This book explores the way older women are represented in society. Through close readings of novels by major 20th century novelists, compared with the more dominant representations of female ageing to be found in popular culture it suggests that they offer a feminist understanding of the ‘invisible’ woman sometimes lacking in feminism itself.

Segal, Lynn

Out of Time: The Pleasures and the Perils of Ageing

Verso, 2013

ISBN: 9781781682999

In *Out of Time*, leading thinker Lynne Segal examines her life and surveys the work and lives of other writers and artists to explore the pleasures and perils of growing old. Following in the footsteps of Simone de Beauvoir—who in her mid-fifties mourned “never again!” and yet was energetically writing in her sixties and seventies—Segal mixes memoir, literature and polemic to examine the inevitable consequences of staying alive. Who is that stranger who stares back from the mirror? What happens to ambition and sexuality? As millions of baby boomers approach their sixth or seventh decade, these questions are becoming increasingly urgent. Must the old always be in conflict with the young? How can we deal with the inevitability of loss and find victory in survival? *Out of Time* is an urgent and necessary corrective to the assumptions and taboos that constrain the lives of the aged.