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The Environments of Ageing: Space, Place and Materiality, Sheila Peace, 2023, Policy Press, ISBN 978-1-4473-1055-6 (hardcover), ISBN 978-1-4473-1056-3 (paperback), pp.392+xvii

The author's stated purpose was to make a lasting contribution to the field of environmental gerontology, drawing on research conducted during her career of more than 40 years and international scholarship. While her research focused on the micro and meso levels, she recognises that macro concerns are fundamental. The theoretical developments draw on work particularly by US authors, such as L. Powell Lawton, but the research presented was primarily undertaken in England and the UK. The policy approaches are also UK-focused.

Chapter 1 focuses on the person and their environment, before discussing the person-environment interaction, and arguing that the environmental context can be enabling and disabling. Chapter 2 examines theoretical developments drawing on social gerontology and geographical gerontology. Social gerontology is seen as focusing on the local (micro) level, that is the person's dwelling, neighbourhood or community, while geographical gerontology considers the meso level (cities, towns and villages) and the macro, global level. Chapter 2 considers place attachment, relocation and place theory, and Chapter 3 discusses the global challenges for population ageing.

Chapters 4 to 8 discuss the interaction between people and their various living environments, drawing particularly on the research conducted by the author and her colleagues, focusing on the meaning of home and whether space and place can recreate the meaning of home in different settings. Chapter 4 focuses on location and home as place, drawing on four community studies, and examines housing and population trends in the UK, including population changes and the development of age-friendly cities. Chapter 5 describes the range of general needs housing occupied by people in later life and policies for developing accessible housing. Chapters 6 to 8 discuss living in different types of accommodation, and the meaning of home in these.

Chapter 6 explores decision making about housing in later life. The concept of 'option recognition' was introduced by the author and her colleagues to capture individuals' assessments of person-environment interactions to balance health, housing and social care, including exploring personal and collective living. The chapter draws on three British research studies to examine how individuals in general housing perceived their living arrangements and local environment, and how they made compromises to create workable living arrangements. It also reviews the international ENABLE-AGE project, which was conducted in three West and two East European nations.

Chapter 7 discusses specialised housing, focusing mainly on housing with care. The chapter recognises that care needs vary with time and place by referring to 'housing (with care)' instead of the more conventional 'housing with care' or 'extra care housing'. It highlights the confusing nature of terminology, which is illustrated by quoting the level of provision in the UK as around 720,000 homes (2018 figures). However, most of these are in retirement housing and retirement villages that do not include personal care; housing with care only represents around 75,000 homes. The research studies discussed in the chapter focused mainly on housing with care, and examined health, quality of life, social interaction and the physical environment. The chapter then examines their ongoing roles, recognising diversity and future design. The author notes that people's perceptions of home in these environments tend to be captured indirectly, highlighting decisions to move and the differing reactions people have, balancing reducing home maintenance and

increasing security with maintaining some continuity and independence. The chapter also examines the development of co-housing (intentional communities), specifically the Older Women's Cohousing Community (OWCH), the first such senior group in the UK.

The development of alternative living arrangements has provided a means for some people to downsize ('rightsize'), thereby freeing family housing for younger buyers/occupiers. However, the level of provision in the UK is low, relative to the US, Australia and New Zealand, for example, and the clientele relatively restricted to a particular demographic. The author identifies the need for more work to understand the meaning of home in such settings and how support and care in co-housing will develop. In general, studies of housing with care focus on the non-profit, voluntary sector, while information on private sector retirement housing is limited.

Chapter 8 highlights the poor standard of care homes and the substantial research literature of the 1960s to the 1980s. It also discusses the increasing role of the for-profit, private sector in managing care homes, associated with changes in the availability of social security during the 1980s, changes in levels of provision following attempts to reduce the 'perverse incentive' created by funding arrangements, and the continuing, and unresolved, attempts to establish workable arrangements for paying for social care. The chapter notes that the understanding of the meaning of home in the transition to a care home is under-researched.

Chapter 8 also discusses care home design, in particular the 1980 study conducted by the author and her colleagues, which led to a recommendation for a more personalised space, the 'residential flatlet', and the work by Torrington and her colleagues. It also discusses the National Minimum Standards introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and the development of new regulatory arrangements, currently overseen by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). However, the impact of the Standards on care home closures is not discussed. A literature review for 2010 onwards indicated that recent research has examined how complex person-environment interactions relate to practice, but there has been less focus on design, also a feature of the CQC's current approach to regulation and inspection, and it is not clear what impact the earlier research has had. Changes in consumer expectations associated with privatisation may have influenced care home design, but this is not discussed.

Chapter 9 returns to methodological issues, focusing on participatory methods, interdisciplinary research and measurement issues, again including the research by the author and her colleagues.

Chapter 10 focuses on contextual issues related to environmental gerontology, returning to a global perspective. The COVID-19 pandemic sidelined other global issues, but Chapter 10 recognises the impact of climate change as the dominant global challenge again. The chapter discusses the importance of age-friendly elements such as transport and community centres for the support of older people, as well as technological issues, and recognises the unequal effects of global issues on the World's population. It also highlights the importance of age-friendly housing, but notes that innovative design has been concentrated in specialised housing rather than the wider environment, as recognised in an initiative by the Royal Institute of British Architects. Although a few new models of general housing have been developed using a more sustainable and intergenerational approach, they are in the minority. Chapter 5 discusses the views and aspirations of people for mainstream housing, including the Sheffield DWELL study, and Park et al. are quoted as arguing

that housing options should move beyond specialised housing. Also, most older people live in existing housing, which will require adaptation for all generations, and the balance between maintaining older housing and designing new housing remains a global challenge.

Chapter 10 concludes with a brief discussion of a relational perspective and changing perceptions of the meaning of home, and calls for people working in the field to engage with a broader understanding of the spatiality of ageing, embedding older age within local, national and global challenges.

In addition to the ten chapters, the book offers a useful glossary of terms, an impressive bibliography spanning 78 pages and a detailed index. However, the contents list only presents chapter titles, making navigation of the book challenging. More detailed content listing and numbered chapter sections would have improved the reader's experience. The text contains several errors, including discrepancies in the date of the first UK COVID-19 lockdown and omitted citations from the bibliography. Some sections, particularly in Chapters 7 and 8, could have benefited from more editorial oversight due to their complexity, and some figures lack clear cross-referencing or explanation.

This book represents a large part of the author's career in gerontology, and provides a unique perspective on environmental and geographical gerontology. Apart from reviewing a substantial body of research and theory, it provides researchers and policymakers with many suggestions for further work. Even if the level of provision of alternative forms of housing could be increased, demographic changes mean that most people will continue to live in mainstream housing. The book highlights the views and expectations that housing policymakers and developers will need to take into account in planning future housing developments, and the need to bring consumers into the design process. While understandable, and probably necessary to keep the work within manageable bounds, the focus on UK research may reduce the appeal of the book to an international audience. However, the relatively poor quality of existing housing in the UK, and the need to make adaptations to respond to climate change, suggests that future research could examine building design in other countries and the acceptability of different forms of building design and wider place design to people of all ages.

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