

Call for Papers

Ageism toward Older Adults during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

Journal of Social Issues invites submissions for a special issue on ageism toward older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Important Dates

- Abstracts due: May 1, 2021
- Decisions on abstracts sent: July 1, 2021
- Deadline for full manuscript submission for approved abstracts: September 1, 2021

Editor, Journal of Social Issues: Carey S. Ryan, Ph.D.

Special Issue Guest Editors: Sheri R. Levy, Ph.D. and Ashley Lytle, Ph.D.

Aims of the Special issue

Contributions to this special issue will draw on strong theoretical and research foundations to fill in gaps in our understanding, bring together emerging perspectives, and offer insights into one or more of the following important topics on *Ageism toward Older Adults during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond*:

- Ageism and Intergenerational Relations
- Ageism in the Workplace
- Ageism in the Delivery of Healthcare
- Psychological and Physical Effects of Ageism
- The Intersections of Ageism with Ableism, Heterosexism, Racism, and Sexism
- Reducing Ageism

Collectively, articles in the special issue will serve as a catalyst to stimulate further theorizing, research, interventions, and public policies to improve our understanding of ageism and how to reduce it and its negative consequences.

Abstract Submission

- Abstracts are due May 1, 2021 and should be emailed to Sheri R. Levy (sheri.levy@stonybrook.edu) and Ashley Lytle (alytle@stevens.edu) with subject line “JSI Ageism Abstract Submission.”
- Authors must follow [JSI manuscript guidelines](#). Detailed abstracts (3-6 pages) should describe theoretical underpinnings of the work and the methodological approach taken. Abstracts for empirical articles should include descriptions of the sample, methods and analytic approaches, and primary findings; quantitative abstracts should also include statistical power analysis. The abstract should clearly describe how the proposed manuscript will address the goals of the special issue. Author(s) names and affiliations, tentative manuscript title, and short biographies (limited to half a page) for each author should be included in the abstract submission. Authors reporting qualitative research should consider COREQ or SRQR reporting guidelines. For review articles, the abstract should include a discussion of criteria for inclusion and primary conclusions. All submissions should address ethical concerns and research challenges presented by data collection during the pandemic. Introductory sections should address the policy context of the research topic and discussion sections should address

implications for and applications to social policy. JSI accepts “reports of new research findings that make a significant contribution to knowledge” and “critical reviews of the literature, including systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and conceptual analyses.” JSI encourages data sharing (see **Wiley’s Data Sharing policy**). Scholars from all career stages and backgrounds are encouraged to submit an abstract.

- Decisions on abstracts and invitations to submit full manuscripts will be sent to potential authors via email by July 1, 2021.

- Invited full manuscripts must be prepared according to the manuscript submission guidelines on the *Journal of Social Issues*

<https://spssi.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/journal/15404560/about/issue-editor-guidelines>

- Full manuscript submissions for approved abstracts will be due by September 1, 2021. It is estimated that articles will be 20-30 double-spaced pages including references.

- Submitted manuscripts will undergo editorial review, and those meeting criteria will be peer reviewed by masked review. Thus, an invitation to submit a manuscript does not guarantee inclusion in the special issue. The special issue will be published in 2022.

Background

Ageism toward older adults has been on the rise, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated ageism. At the start of the pandemic, for example, older adults were devalued in social exchanges with the hashtag BoomerRemover, a nickname for how the pandemic had a higher mortality rate among older adults. Older adults in nursing homes and other facilities have faced neglect and abuse, resulting in a higher death rate. Older adults have faced age-discrimination in healthcare with the use of triaging that deemed older adults as lower priority for life-saving treatment.

Ageism toward older adults continues to worsen since it was introduced as a “serious national problem” in 1969 as “revulsion to and distaste for growing old,” “prejudice,” and “discrimination” directed toward older adults (Butler, 1969, p. 243; Palmore, 1999). Ageism can undermine positive intergenerational interactions, allowing for avoidance, disrespect, and discriminatory behavior toward older adults. This includes devaluing older adults’ contributions in the workplace, providing older adults with worse health care and treatment, and financially exploiting and abusing older adults. Further, research indicates that ageism represents a stereotype threat and that people embody ageist stereotypes in self-fulfilling ways that are detrimental to their well-being, health, and longevity.

Ageism influences the workplace and health care in other ways, such as deterring or stigmatizing individuals who work with older adults. This reduces opportunities for the educational training and careers of workers along the lifespan and leaves unmet the physical and mental health needs of the growing older population. Individuals who have not reached older adulthood and who have few positive interactions with older adults generally lose out on the resources, knowledge, and wisdom that older adults bring to their communities, and they face the anxiety of foreseeing their future older self who will be stigmatized and may not receive adequate care. Ultimately, ageism influences society as a whole.