

Blaming old age: representations of intergenerational unfairness in austerity discourses in the UK

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英国リバプール大学からDr. Pickardをお迎えして、医療や介護ニーズの高い“高齢者”や“Aging”が、日本や英国でどのように社会で認知され、またこの認知に、政策の展開がどのように影響を与えているのかということについてお話いただきます。

Summary

This paper discusses generational warfare discourses which have been particularly prominent in the UK media and linked with austerity. In particular it looks at the representations of older people in such discourses in terms of the greedy and selfish old, on the one hand, and the needy old consuming more than their share of health and welfare on the other. Although critiques of this 'burden of old age' discourse have mostly focused on challenging the empirical evidence for generational inequity the paper suggests a more foundational reasons for its approach, as rooted in the 'age system'. Whilst it is a powerful vehicle for social stratification, the age system is an under-examined feature of growing inequality, including health inequality, in the context of late modernity. I consider ways in which re-imagining such representations may lead the way to a more equal age system characterised by more harmonious age relations and a more positive view and experience of old age. In this, I suggest that western advanced liberal nations have much to learn from the example of Japan.

*Light refreshments will be served

Organizer

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