

Preface

The *Handbook of the Psychology of Aging* provides a basic reference source on the behavioral processes of aging for researchers, graduate students, and professionals. It also provides perspectives on the behavioral science of aging for personnel from other disciplines.

The eighth edition of the *Handbook* continues to reflect both the continuing interest of the scientific community as well as the needs and worldwide growth of the older portion of the population as well as the increase in active life expectancy. The growth of the research literature provides new opportunities to replace chronological age as the primary variable with other variables that represent causal mechanisms and hence present the potential for control or experimental modification. Both academic and public interests have been contributing to the emergence of the psychology of aging as a major subject in universities and research institutions. Issues of interest to the psychology of aging touch upon many features of daily life, from the workplace and family life to public policy matters covering health care, retirement, social security, and pensions.

The psychology of aging is complex and many new questions keep being raised about how behavior is organized and how it changes over the course of life. Results of the markedly increasing number of longitudinal studies are providing new insights into the casual factors in behavior changes associated with adult development and aging. They are contributing to our understanding of the role of behavior changes in relation to biological, health and

social interactions. Parallel advances in research methodology particularly directed towards the problems of studying change allow us to explicate in greater detail, patterns and sub-patterns of behavior over the lifespan.

Facing the rapidly accelerating growth of the relevant research literature, the editors once again have had to make choices about what new topics should be included in the handbook. But the growth in research activity does not occur uniformly across all fields. Hence, some topics covered in earlier editions of the *Handbook* are not included in the present edition. In this edition we have again markedly expanded coverage of the section on Neuroscience, Cognition and Aging. Other new topics first introduced in this edition include: Relationships between adults and their aging parents, intergenerational communication practices, assessment of emotional and personality disorders in older adults, neuropsychological assessment of the dementias of late life, and family caregiving for cognitively or physically frail older adults.

We continue the editorial principle of not inviting previous contributors to revise their earlier contribution. Instead if we felt that a topic needed updating we asked a new author to approach the topic from a different perspective. When a previous contributor reappears in a subsequent edition, it is typically on a different topic that the contributor has developed expertise in. For these reasons, readers are advised to consult earlier volumes of the *Handbook*, both for data and for interpretations.

The previous editions should be consulted for a perspective on the development of the subject matter of the psychology of aging. To assist the reader, [Table A](#) present a list of topics (and authors for each topic) across the eight editions of the *Handbook*.

TABLE A Topics and Authors Across the Eight Editions of the *Handbook of the Psychology of Aging*

	1st edition	2nd edition	3rd edition	4th edition	5th edition	6th edition	7th edition	8th edition
Topic	(1977)	(1985)	(1990)	(1996)	(2001)	(2006)	(2011)	(2016)
Accidents	Sterns et al.							
Activity and exercise				Stones & Kozma				
Animal memory and learning			Woodruff					
Attention processes			McDowd & Birren		Rogers & Fisk			
Attitudes towards aging		Rosenmayr				Hess	Hummert	
Auditory perception	Corso	Osho et al.	Fozard	Kline & Scialfa	Fozard & Gordon-Salant			Winfield & Lash
Autobiographical memory						Birren & Schroots		
Autonomic system	Frolkis							
Behavior genetics	Omenn	McClearn & Foch	Plomin & McClearn	Pedersen	McClearn & Vogler	Vogler	Kremen & Lyons	Reynolds & Finkel
Biological influences	Shock		Elias et al.					
Brain and life span in primates				Hakeem et al.				
Caregiving							Knight et al.	
Clinical assessment	Schaie & Schaie	Zarit et al.	Kaszniak				Manley et al.	
Cognitive neuroscience							Kramer et al.	
Cognitive intervention					Willis		Stine-Morrow & Basak	Willis & Belleville

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TABLE A (Continued)

	1st edition	2nd edition	3rd edition	4th edition	5th edition	6th edition	7th edition	8th edition
Topic	(1977)	(1985)	(1990)	(1996)	(2001)	(2006)	(2011)	(2016)
Control							Lachman et al.	
Creativity and wisdom			Simonton		Sternberg & Lubart	Brugman	Ardelt	
Culture and ethnicity	Guttman	Fry	Jackson et al.				Whitfield et al.	Fung & Jiang
Death and dying	Kastenbaum		Berg	Lawton				Biak
Decision making							Peters	Marson et al.
Disability and rehabilitation	Kemp							
Ecology of aging	Scheidt & Windley		Parmelee & Lawton	Wahl		Scheidt & Windley		
Educational psychology		Willis						
Electrophysiology of aging			Prinz et al.					
Elder abuse and victimization				Wilbur & McNeilly				
Emotion and affect		Schulz		Fillip			Charles	
Environment	Lawton							
Ethical issues			Kimmel & Moody				Moye et al.	
Exercise and cognition								Erickson & Liu-Ambrose
Executive functions								Reuter- Lorenz et al.
Experimental principles	Birren & Renner	Birren & Cunningham						
Family in late life		Aizenberg & Treas		Gatz et al.			Fingerman & Birditt	
Fragile aging								Smith & Ryan

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Topic	(1977)	(1985)	(1990)	(1996)	(2001)	(2006)	(2011)	(2016)
Gender differences			Huyck			Sinnott & Shifren		
Health behaviors		Siegler & Costa		Deeg et al.	Leventhal et al.	Aldwin et al.		Carstensen & Antonucci
History and concepts	Riegel		Birren & Birren	Birren & Schroots	Birren & Schroots		Schaie	
Hormones & behavior								Resnick et al.
Human factors and aging			Charness & Bosman			Scialfa & Fernie		
Human memory	Craik	Poon	Hultsch & Dixon	Smith		Hoyer & Verhaeghen	Nyberg & Bäckman	Lustig & Lin
Impact of social structure	Bengtson, Kaschau, & Ragan							
Intellectual abilities	Botwinick	Labouvie-Vief	Schaie	Schaie			Park	
Intergenerational communications								Giles, Gasiorek, Abrams, Albert, & Light
Learning	Arenberg & Robertson-Tchabo		Hultsch & Dixon					
Measurement	Nesselroade	Schaie & Hertzog	McArdle & Anderson	Collins		Rudinger & Rietz	Ferrer & Ghisletta	Stuart & Stawsky
Mood and anxiety disorders								Barry & Byers
Mood and cognition								Knight et al.
Motivation	Elias & Elias		Kausler	Fillip		Carstensen et al.		
Motor performance	Welford		Spirduoso & McRae		Ketcham & Stelmach	Newell et al.		

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Topic	(1977)	(1985)	(1990)	(1996)	(2001)	(2006)	(2011)	(2016)
Neural basis	Bondareff	Bondareff			Vinters			Kühn & Lindenberger
Other senses	Kensho							
Personality	Neugarten	Bengtson et al.	Kogan	Ruth & Coleman	Ryff et al.	Mroczek et al.	Edelstein & Segal	Hill & Roberts
Problem solving	Rabbitt	Reese & Rodeheaver		Willis		Marsiske & Margrett		
Psychol. theories	Baltes & Willis	Whitbourne				Salthouse	Dixon	Schaie
Psychophysiology	Marsh & Thompson							
Psychological intervention	Eisdorfer & Stotsky	Gatz et al.	Smyer et al.	Willis		Knight et al.	Stine-Morrow & Basak	Teri et al.
Psychopathology	Pfeiffer		Cohen	Gatz et al.	Gatz & Smyer		Whitbourne & Meeks	Park
Reading and aging						Meyer & Pollard		
Research design	Schaie	Nesselroade & Labouvie	Schroots & Birren	Hertzog	Schaie & Hofer	Hofer & Sliwinski		
Religion and aging				McFadden		Krause		
Selection, optimization, and compensation							Riediger et al.	
Sleep and sleep disorders								McCrae et al.
Social cognition and aging				Blanchard-Fields & Abeles				
Social influences	Lowenthal		Schooler		Antonucci			Hoppmann & Gerstorf
Speed of behavior		Salthouse		Cerella	Madden	Hartley		
Stress	Eisdorfer & Wilkie						Almeida et al.	

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Topic	(1977)	(1985)	(1990)	(1996)	(2001)	(2006)	(2011)	(2016)
Structural and functional brain change				Scheibel			Rodrigue & Kennedy	
Taste and smell	Engen							
Technology								Charnell & Boot
Vestibular system		Ochs et al.		Simoneau & Leibowitz				
Visual perception	Fozard et al.			Kline & Scialfa	Fozard & Gordon-Salant	Schieber		
Work	Chown	Stagner		Salthouse & Maurer	Czaja		Bowen et al.	Wang & Shi

The chapters are organized into four divisions: Part I, Concepts, Theory and Methods in the Psychology of Aging; Part II, Biopsychosocial Factors in Aging; Part III, Behavioral Processes that Impact Aging; and Part IV, Complex Behavioral Processes and the Psychopathology of Aging.

An extensive review process recommended many changes in the draft manuscripts. The

draft of each chapter was reviewed by one associate editor and by the two senior editors. The senior editors thank the associate editors, Bob G. Knight, Becca Levy, and Denise C. Park for their advice on the selection of topics, authors, and their reviews of the chapter drafts. Their careful reading of the manuscripts and their detailed editorial suggestions are gratefully acknowledged.

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