

# Globalisation and the Need for a New Critical Gerontology

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# Globalisation and the Need for a New Critical Gerontology

- Neo-liberal Economic Globalisation
- Arguments for an International Political Economy of Ageing
- Potential Components of a New Research Agenda

# Globalisation and the Need for a New Politics of Ageing

## The Economic Components of Globalisation:

- Increasingly integrated financial markets, including for foreign exchange, equities and both long and short-term debt.
- Rapid growth of foreign direct investment and an increasing share of global production in the hands of transnational corporations.
- Increased world trade, which is both cause and consequence of policies to reduce barriers to trade.
- Increasing transfers of technology through transnational forms, international licensing agreements, and joint ventures.
- Increased international movement of people, both legal and illegal.
- Rapidly increasing reach of new forms of communication.

# Neo-liberal Economic Globalisation

- The Transatlantic Consensus
- The Power of the Financial IGOs

# Arguments for an International Political Economy of Ageing

- Impact of Neo-liberal Economic Globalisation
- Growing Realisation of Global Interdependence

# Potential Components of a New Research Agenda

- Global inequality in old age

# The Scale of Global Inequality - 1

- 1.1 billion people living in absolute poverty in 2000
- This includes 100 million older people
- 80% of older people in developing countries have no regular source of income

## The Scale of Global Inequality - 2

- During 1990s per capita income fell in 50 countries, only 1 of them OECD
- Life expectancy at birth:
  - 75 years in the most affluent 30 countries
  - 48.9 years in sub-Saharan Africa
    - (39.1 years Malawi, 37.9 years Sierra Leone)
- Total income of 582M people in all developing countries (excluding China) just over 10% of the combined wealth of the world's top 200 billionaires



## Percentage cost of providing a pension at 40% of per capita GDP to people aged 75+

Country	2000	2025	2050
Burkina Faso	0.3	0.4	0.5
Côte d'Ivoire	0.3	0.4	0.7
Ghana	0.7	0.6	1.2
Kenya	0.3	0.4	0.7
Mozambique	0.4	0.5	0.6
Tanzania	0.2	0.4	0.6

Source: Schwartz (2003)

# Potential Components of a New Research Agenda

- Global inequality in old age
- Development and ageing
  - Neo-liberal macro-economic orthodoxy
  - Exclusion of older people

# Potential Components of a New Research Agenda

- Global inequality in old age
- Development and ageing
- Globalism: the IGOs
  - The myths of free trade and comparative advantage

# Potential Components of a New Research Agenda

- Global inequality in old age
- Development and ageing
- Globalism: the IGOs
- Transnational corporations

# Potential Components of a New Research Agenda

- Global inequality in old age
- Development and ageing
- Globalism: the IGOs
- Transnational corporations
- The nation state in a globalised world

The key ingredients to successful social development appear to be responsive governance, socially friendly economic policies, and the universal provisioning of social services. In all these endeavours the role of government is central.

Chen and Desai, 1997, p.432

# Potential Components of a New Research Agenda

- Global inequality in old age
- Development and ageing
- Globalism: the IGOs
- Transnational corporations
- The nation state in a globalised world
- Supra-national regional structures

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- Global inequality in old age
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- Globalism: the IGOs
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- The nation state in a globalised world
- Supra-national regional structures
- The United Nations



# The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

## Ten Foundations

- human rights
- a secure old age
- empowerment
- individual fulfilment and well-being
- gender equality
- intergenerational inter-dependence
- health care and support
- partnership
- research
- ethnic minorities

# Potential Components of a New Research Agenda

- Global inequality in old age
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- Globalism: the IGOs
- Transnational corporations
- The nation state in a globalised world
- Supra-national regional structures
- The United Nations
- International NGOs

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- Neo-liberal Economic Globalisation
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- Potential Components of a New Research Agenda
- Conclusion