

thus provides an overview of recent reform efforts and debates in a number of European countries. It remains to be seen, however, what will become of the reform efforts mentioned in the book beyond the implementation of austerity measures and financial crisis in Europe.

However, the book's biggest strength—that it covers a large multitude of topics in this field—is also its main weakness. The supposed 'leitmotif', i.e. the experiences in implementing welfare reforms in LTC, partly undermines the coherence of the different chapters by touching on a variety of topics but not being able to provide a comparative in-depth analysis of these themes. For example, while a detailed account is given of the economic arguments for social insurance in the first chapter, the very last chapter does not live up to its promise of discussing the multidimensional character of quality in LTC. The book provides data on less studied regions, such as the CSEE countries, on the one hand, and new perspectives on well-studied countries, like Sweden, on the other hand. This makes it a valuable addition to the existing literature on one of the key policy priorities in the next years in Europe.

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Andreas Hoff (ed.): *Population Ageing in Central and Eastern Europe. Societal and Policy Implications*

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260 pp.

Population ageing is a global phenomenon and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are not an exception here, although population ageing in these countries rarely attracts the attention of scholars who explore this phenomenon. This book is the

first comprehensive account of the topic of population ageing in this region and aims to fill in the existing information gap. It consists of 14 chapters written by a large international team of researchers, most of whom work in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, so they take advantage of local sources of data on population, living arrangements, and social support systems. This book covers various aspects of population ageing and provides a detailed description of this process for nine countries in the region. All these countries have similarities in the major driving forces and trends of population ageing. Fertility decline, which accelerated during the economic transition, remains the main driving force of population ageing in this region. In contrast to Western Europe, increasing longevity makes no significant contribution to population ageing of Eastern Europe. And effects of out-migration are relatively high in most Eastern European countries although this kind of migration has a tendency to fade over time.

Despite the similarity of the major demographic trends across Central and Eastern Europe, each chapter of the book describes the problem of population aging from a different angle. As a result, all the chapters are different. For example, Eva Frątczak pays special attention to intergenerational family relations in Poland. Using macrosimulation models she estimates the expected length of time spent by women in different marital statuses and analyses the changes to this indicator over time. The models presented in this chapter help to estimate the expected years of adult life spent with responsibility for children or older parents. It is interesting that by 2002, the expected number of years devoted to responsibility for family actually had declined compared to 1988–1989, which is explained as a consequence of decreasing fertility.

The chapter by Sarmité Mikulionienė provides information on attitudes to popu-

lation ageing and perceptions of older persons by Lithuanian society. The author notes that the respondents in population surveys in this country consider population ageing to be a negative phenomenon. On the other hand, the overwhelming majority of respondents agree that older people represent a social value. At the same time, the author admits the existence of disparities between the public declarations of respect and actual behaviour towards the elderly. She also believes there is a need for a new attitude towards ageing. This is an important statement not only for Lithuanian society but for all societies experiencing population ageing.

Gaiane Safarova gives an account of population ageing in Russia, which is the largest and most complex country to describe [see also Guillot, Gavrilova and Pudrovska 2011]. The population age structure in Russia is affected by past events (including wars and revolutions), which created large population waves continuing into subsequent generations. For this reason, population ageing in Russia is highly irregular with periods of population 'rejuvenation' as it was observed in this country in the last decade. A detailed account of health and social care in the Czech Republic can be found in the chapter by Iva Holmerová and her co-authors. This country makes progress in improving care for the elderly although many problems still remain, including negative attitudes towards older people. Labour markets and ageing are discussed in detail by Zsuzsa Széman in her chapter devoted to Hungary. Older workers are under continuous social pressure to retire early and by age 60 only 13% remain in the labour force [see also Vanhuysse 2004, 2009]. Particularly interesting is the observation that a significant share of the low employment among older workers results from the very poor health of the Hungarian population. For example, the Hungarian Manpower Survey found that 'deteriorating health status' is one of the

basic reasons why people give up working in Hungary and at the relatively young age of 50–54 'sickness, state of health and disability' account for 41.2% of the reasons cited for giving up work. These are unusually high numbers compared to the United States or Western European countries and probably deserve further research. Poor health may be one of the reasons for the very high discrimination against older workers in Hungary as reported by Széman.

Valentina Hlebec and Milivoja Šircelj pay major attention to the social support networks of older people in Slovenia. The data come from a representative survey of the Slovenian population and retired individuals aged 50 and older were selected for analysis. The authors found seven types of social networks of retired people and evaluated them in terms of their ability to provide necessary support for older people. According to the study, only three out of seven types of networks are large enough and sufficiently heterogeneous to provide necessary social support. Around 40% of respondents belong to less favourable social support networks in terms of size and composition, which may require targeted measures from the social care institutions. Population ageing in Croatia is the focus of the chapter by Sandra Švaljek. It should be noted that this country experienced significant direct and indirect losses of population during the 1990s because of the Homeland War. This chapter gives an excellent review of the pension system, public health expenditures and the labour market in Croatia.

I particularly enjoyed a chapter on population ageing in Romania written by Ágnes Neményi. This country has an unusually high level of international labour migration and the author describes this phenomenon in great detail, and she outlines its consequences for population ageing. In the most active age group of 20–35 years the number of Romanian migrants is about

twice as high as the same age population residing in Romania. A high level of out-migration not only accelerates population ageing due to structural changes of the population. It also generates new family norms and values, including postponed marriages and declined fertility. In the short term, however, out-migration has positive effects on the Romanian economy because international migrants help to support their families at home including their older parents. In another chapter Emil Hristov uses a factor analysis model to study population ageing in Bulgaria and comes to the conclusion that decreasing live births is the most significant factor of population ageing in this country.

The last part of the book contains several chapters summarising individual health, family relations, and demographic trends in Eastern Europe. A good overview of health status, cognitive function, and disability in the countries of this region is provided by world-renowned epidemiologists Martin Bobak, Hynek Pikhart, and Michael Marmot. Their chapter is based on the most recent European population surveys collecting health information. The authors conduct a comparative analysis of self-rated health, physical functioning, healthy life expectancy, and cognitive function for people living in Eastern and Western Europe. And according to the survey data, Eastern Europeans fared worse than their Western European peers. The authors note that in the Eastern European countries with poor health indicators (in particular in Russia) individual health deteriorates very rapidly with advanced age. They suggest that the very rapid decline in health in Russia may be a result of life course accumulation of disadvantage and suggest that past events (like war hardship) could contribute to this disadvantage. I would add the effect of the severe climate in Russia to the list of poor living conditions in this country. Overall, the chapter on population health is very rewarding to read.

Piotr Czakanowski gives a broad overview of the evolution of family relations in Poland since the 1960s until recent times. The main conclusion of this study is optimistic: although a higher proportion of older people live independently now than in the 1960s their relations with their children did not deteriorate and even slightly improved over time. Of particular interest is the analysis of caregiver relationships with care receivers. In Poland, the proportion of family members who are the major caregivers for the elderly is significantly higher compared to the UK. Finally, the author calls for better cooperation between social services and family caregivers. He also emphasises the importance of economic measures to support caregivers providing care for the elderly. Arjan Gjonça and Edlira Gjonça give a comprehensive review of demographic processes in Eastern Europe countries and compare these countries with their Western counterparts [see also Sobotka 2011; Vanhuyse and Goerres 2012]. Although general processes of demographic transition are similar in both groups of countries, Eastern European countries have distinct differences, such as early birth of the first child and wide gender gaps in life expectancy. Although currently population ageing is more dramatic in Eastern Europe than in more advanced economies, population projections predict that the most rapid ageing during the next two decades is expected in the CEE and the former Soviet Union as a result of the unprecedented decline in fertility in these countries in recent decades. So researchers interested in the problem of population ageing should pay particular attention to the population processes in these countries.

This book is useful to demographers, sociologists, epidemiologists, and everybody who is interested in the newly emerging problem of global population ageing. Researchers studying Eastern European countries and the former Soviet Union will

find a lot of new material for their work. The main advantage of this book is the strong team of researchers who know their data first hand and extensively cite local publications. This makes the book unique and gives readers a direct access to new information. At the same time, some chapters do not describe all aspects of population ageing and would benefit from further expansion. For example, readers may want to see more information on the migration processes in Poland. The chapter on population ageing in Bulgaria considers only demographic processes, whereas it would be interesting to learn more about the social, economic, and health consequences of Bulgarian population ageing. This book covers only two countries of the former Soviet Union, so it would be good to see a special edition on population ageing in these countries in the future. There is no doubt that this book will be extensively cited and used in research on population ageing

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Luke Martell: *The Sociology of Globalization*

Cambridge 2010: Polity Press, 336 pp.

The torrent of literature that has been published on globalisation in recent years shows no sign of abating. The term first appeared in corporate boardrooms in the 1960s and it was not until the 1990s that the concept really took off among the public and in academia. When I started writing on globalisation in the early 1990s there were a handful of studies on the topic. A decade later, in late 2003, a quick search on Amazon.com for 'globalisation' came up with over 11 000 titles [Appelbaum and Robinson 2005: xii]. As I write this review in late 2011, the figure had nearly doubled, to over 18 000. Given such a welter of studies we should welcome the more recent proliferation of textbooks, readers, and encyclopaedias that set about to collect, review, interpret, synthesise, and assess this enormous body of literature, many of them intended for the classroom. In 1995, sociologist Malcolm Waters published what is probably the first such interpretative text, simply titled *Globalization* [1995]. Since then dozens—perhaps hundreds—of such texts have been published in English, among them, well known works by Held et. al. [1999], Holton [1998], Scholte [2000], Steger [2008], Ritzer [2007], Appelbaum and Robinson [2005], Lechner and Boli [2012], and Scholte and Robertson [2007].

It is from this matrix that Martell's work appears. *The Sociology of Globalization* appears to be a textbook for students. Unlike Sassen's study [2007], which was published several years earlier under the same