



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN**
UNIVERSITY

The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare

Volume 23
Issue 2 *June*

Article 21

June 1996

The Economics of Aging. James H. Schultz.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw>



Part of the Social Work Commons

Recommended Citation

(1996) "*The Economics of Aging.* James H. Schultz.," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 23 : Iss. 2 , Article 21.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol23/iss2/21>

This Book Note is brought to you for free and open access by the Social Work at ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN**
UNIVERSITY

wider questions about the discipline and its academic acceptance. In a field riddled with faddishness, an inquiry of this kind would have been valuable.

James H. Schultz, *The Economics of Aging*. Westport, CT: Auburn House, 1995. \$69.50 hardcover, \$19.95 papercover.

James Schultz is a world renowned expert on social security and other economic aspects of retirement. A professor at Brandeis University, he has served as an expert advisor to governments and international associations on social security questions. His knowledge of the field is prodigious and he has published widely on income retirement issues.

The Economics of Aging is now in its 6th edition and it continues to be the definitive book on the economics aspects of retirement in the United States. It covers topics as diverse as employment in old age, retirement planning, social security and medicare and occupational pensions. One of the book's strengths is that it effectively combines descriptive, theoretical and policy content. Its descriptive content is useful not only to students and researchers but to elderly people who need to know the basic facts about retirement income. At the same time, it tackles complex policy and theoretical issues making a useful analytical contribution to the literature.

The book is well written and readily comprehensible. Topics that confound even the most intelligent lay person will be easily understood. One example of Schultz's ability to simplify a complex field is admirably revealed in the chapter dealing with occupational pensions. The subject is a maze of intricate rules, regulations and different provisions. However, Schultz not only simplifies the subject but makes it interesting. In addition, the book covers a range of policy and theoretical issues. It discusses the question of social security's long term fiscal viability, and reviews the arguments which have been made for modifying the system. The chapter on social security and inter-generational conflict is particularly stimulating. The book is essential reading for all who work in the field of gerontology and will undoubtedly continue to be an important reference source for many years to come.