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*Aging in the New Millenium: A Global View.* Terry Tirrito.

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responded and fourth, what are the risks and challenges involved. However, the study did not assess the performance of contractors with regard to client outcomes.

In seeking to answer these questions, Sanger provides a great deal of useful information about the growth of social service contracting and the way federal, state and local governments have promoted the growth of the welfare market. She demonstrates that contracting has grown enormously and that it has radically altered traditional modes of public and voluntary provision. Contracting has changed the character of government and non-profit agencies as well and created a complex and fluid situation which is not always conducive to effective service delivery. Despite some advantages, the widespread use of contracting has also had a negative effect on continuity, staffing and accountability. Although Sanger's study does not reach definitive conclusions about the impact of contracting out on the welfare of clients, its cautionary findings should be heeded by those who believe that social needs can best be met through competitive social service provision in the welfare market.

Terry Tirrito, *Aging in the New Millennium: A Global View*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2003. \$ 18.95 papercover.

Global aging is all-encompassing and will affect every man, woman and child anywhere in the world. It will affect everything from individual life plans to international security. The steady increase in the number of older people will have a direct bearing on family relationships and solidarity, generational equity and lifestyles. It will generate important opportunities while at the same time it will create unprecedented challenges. Increases in old age in many countries can be attributed to advances in science, medicine, and technology that have led to reductions in infant and maternal mortality, infectious disease, and occupational hazards, as well as improvements in nutrition and education. Decreases in fertility combined with increases in aging may shrink the numbers of workers and consumers, creating unprecedented challenges to national and global economies. At the same time, with the advances in health and medicine, current populations will live longer and remain healthier than previous generations.

As a result, traditional concepts of retirement and the contributions of older adults will need to be reconsidered.

In her book *Aging in the New Millennium: A Global View*, Terry Tirrito weaves together the complicated tapestry of aging around the world, covering topics such as life expectancy, and the varying social and economic impacts of aging throughout the world. Chapter topics range from demographic trends, theories and perspectives on aging to the experiences of older adults, programs and services for older adults, and attitudes about aging. Founded on statistics and research, Tirrito provides detailed accounts of developed and developing countries, and includes differences based on gender, sexuality and ethnicity. She presents the theoretical perspectives on aging in three chapters that respectively consider biopsychosocial theories, sociological theories and aging theories. She also discusses the physical, mental health, and psychosocial factors that impact the aging process. The book's final chapters provide an overview of public support programs and services for older adults as well as impacts of an aging population on political, social and economic systems. Tirrito concludes the book with a discussion of emerging and unresolved issues in aging.

*Aging in the New Millennium* does a superb job of providing a comprehensive overview of the varied trajectories and effects of population aging in culturally diverse societies that are on different stages of economic and social development. Tirrito's analysis brings into sharp focus conditions and situations that are both similar and unique between and across nations. She also emphasizes how cultural attitudes complicate our understanding of the aging process. Readers would, however, benefit from further discussion on how the improvements in technology, supportive devices and changes in lifestyle preferences interact with the options and costs of remaining independent. Nevertheless, Tirrito has written a wonderfully comprehensive handbook on the implications of population aging worldwide that will appeal to anyone interested in aging: professionals, scholars, and students alike.

Rod Michalko, *The Difference that Disability Makes*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2002, \$ 19.95 paperback.

This book is an important contribution to the fields of disability studies, psychology and sociology. Several authors have