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Review of *Gerontological Social Work and the Grand Challenges: Focusing on Policy and Practice*. by Sara Sanders, Stacey R. Kolomer, Cheryl Waiters Spellman, and Victoria M. Rizzo

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The book assists in presenting more meaningful discussions around sexual assault, including challenging the myths of sexual violence, the importance of identity, sexual assault and disclosure, rape myths, and rape culture. It is especially useful for highlighting the Identity Inclusive Sexual Assault Myth Scale (IISAMS), as well as unique concerns and resources for this community. To my knowledge, IISAMS is the first research tool that measures rape myths, including queer identities. This book relates well to recent research indicating that non-heterosexual individuals experience higher rates of victimization compared to their heterosexual counterparts. Unfortunately, this book did not discuss how race or ethnicity impacts sexual assault, as most of the participants were White. Nonetheless, as this topic is an emerging field of research, this book fills an important gap in the literature concerning both method and theory.

Overall, this provides the needed portrayal of the unique identities and understandings of LGBTQA+ individuals and how they perceive sexual assault. It is a significant contribution to the literature in a variety of areas, including LGBTQA+, gender, and sexual violence studies. This book is an asset to qualitative researchers interested in extending inferences about sexual assault myths within the queer community and could be included in upper-level college courses to provide an inclusive perspective on sexual assault.

Kimberly A. Hogan
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Sara Sanders, Stacey R. Kolomer, Cheryl Waiters Spellman, and Victoria M. Rizzo, *Gerontological Social Work and the Grand Challenges: Focusing on Policy and Practice*. Springer International Publishing (2019), 186 pages, \$79.99 (hardcover).

This book brings together leading researchers and academics in social work to address some of the most prominent social problems in the U.S. related to gerontological issues. Each chapter discusses a separate social problem or "Grand Challenge" that we must overcome to advance the well-being of our society. The grand challenges discussed are healthy development for all youth,

the health gap, stopping family violence, advancing long and productive lives, ending homelessness, responding to a changing environment, harnessing technology, smart decarceration, reducing economic inequality, financial capability, and achieving equal opportunity and justice. This book is well written and focuses on one challenge at a time, so that the reader can follow along easily. It was written specifically through a gerontological lens with a focus on the importance of social workers in tackling the grand challenges. While the book discusses the impact of social workers on the overall well-being of older adults, all professionals interested in policies and practice that affect older adults will find this to be useful. Given the current epidemic with COVID-19, it is most pertinent for this review to discuss the social policies mentioned in the following chapters: closing the health gap, eradicating social isolation, and harnessing technology.

Although an international problem, the U.S. is now especially impacted by the spread of this virus. In a response to try to limit the spread, some states have taken precautions to promote the well-being of their residents. Shelter-in-place directives have been issued by many states in hopes of limiting the spread of disease. Even with these precautions, we are not yet sure how long it will be until the virus either slows or a vaccine become available. It is clear the coronavirus will have a long-term impact on the U.S. For seniors, the impact will be exacerbated. As professionals, we must seek to understand the impact this will have on older adults and work to reduce the negative outcomes.

A related issue already impacting older adults is access to adequate healthcare. Many facilities have limited supplies and space for those who need care. Older adults who are infected with the coronavirus have an increased chance of death, and that risk only increases without proper healthcare. Those who are unable to access adequate care due to social, economic, or environmental factors are even more likely to face high mortality rates as they contract this virus. Collaboration among professionals working in research, policy, and practice is essential to create the interventions required to address this problem. These authors focus especially on the need for collaboration in research on social care interventions in the healthcare delivery system, which can then be used to advocate for reimbursement of care management services by social workers.

Social isolation is another social issue that has a huge impact on seniors. Isolation has been found to relate to multiple health issues, increasing the need for healthcare and the chance of death. With the COVID-19 pandemic, many older adults must distance themselves from their networks of social supports. An example I see in my own work is the policy of limiting of guests and visitors in nursing homes in order to reduce exposure to the virus. While this is a necessary precaution, there will be an impact on residents' social health. Efforts need to be made to address this increase in social isolation. An example of local efforts being made by some businesses is that of having times of the day when shopping is limited to those categorized as higher risk and vulnerability to infection. This is but one way older adults may limit their contact with others while still being able to socialize and engage in their communities. The authors suggest that social workers are key players in working with older adults as advocates for addressing problems of social isolation.

Another key resource for addressing social isolation is the ability to harness technology, which could have huge implications for addressing a number of social issues. Social workers are making significant efforts to incorporate technology into their professional practice to expand access to services. This expansion of services could have huge impacts on older adult's well-being during this pandemic. Examples such as telehealth options or traveling health services both increase access to healthcare services and reduce exposure to COVID-19. Increased access to video call platforms, such as Skype or Zoom, create opportunities for older adults to remain connected to loved ones while following institutional precautions to reduce contracting the virus. Technology offers such promising tools for expanding social services for seniors. At the same time, the significant cost of such technology still limits accessibility for services. A continuing focus for social work, therefore, is to advocate for broad social policies that address factors of accessibility.

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