

Cultural Functions of 'the Midlife' in Contemporary America

Generations, Race, Class, Culture and History

This lecture is the second of a series given in conjunction with this CAS interdisciplinary initiative during the spring semester 2000. One of the foremost age theorists in America, Miller Endowment Visiting Professor **Margaret Morganroth Gullette** began the series in February with "The Contrived War Between 'The Boomers' and 'The Xers'". **Thomas Weisner**, UCLA, explores "Countercultural Youth From the 60s at Midlife," April 5.

Katherine Newman

*Ford Foundation Professor of
Urban Studies, John F. Kennedy
School of Government, Harvard
University*

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Third Floor, Levis Faculty Center
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A Different Shade of Grey: Growing Old in The Inner City

Race and space play an important role in shaping the midlife years. While affluent Americans contemplate the empty nest and a long stretch of time free of the burdens of their earlier years, mature adults in the inner city confront a very different scenario. They reach middle age with fewer resources, the onset of chronic diseases before their time, and nests that don't empty. Many are responsible for the care of grandchildren whose own parents have been undone by the ravages of drugs. Midlife minorities in New York City must manage the aging process without the support structures that middle-class Americans have come to expect. They teach us that context matters in thinking about midlife.

Photo: Martha Stewart

For background information, please consult
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