



OLD AGE, VICTIMISATION AND CRIME

POWELL, Jason L.

Professor of Social Gerontology, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences,
Coventry University, Coventry, England,
United Kingdom

ABSTRACT

This article explores old age as an important sociological and legal dimension of analysis and dissects its relationship to victimisation and contemporary crime. The article is concerned with examining how the notion of victim applies to older people within the life-course. I then move to explore the relationship between old age and victimisation and highlight a number of implications for the study of age and its relationship to victimisation. I conclude by suggesting that current political discourses position the concept of “victim” along neo-liberal lines of ‘responsibility’ as opposed to the societal construction of victim. In recent years, the experiences of ‘age groups’ across the life-course have been taken as a developing issue of concern in Criminology (Powell, 2013). Whilst this has been the case regarding ‘younger people’, the criminological development of ideas pertaining to the experiences and representations of ‘older people’ has been ‘unchartered territory’ (Brogden and Nijar, 2000). The aim is to demonstrate that researchers studying the relationship between older people and victimisation would benefit from a more careful conceptualisation of ‘age’, one which focuses on the ways in which ‘old age’ itself is socially constructed, is represented and used by particular interest groups.

Keywords: Crime, Victimisation, Ageing, Old Age, Criminology.