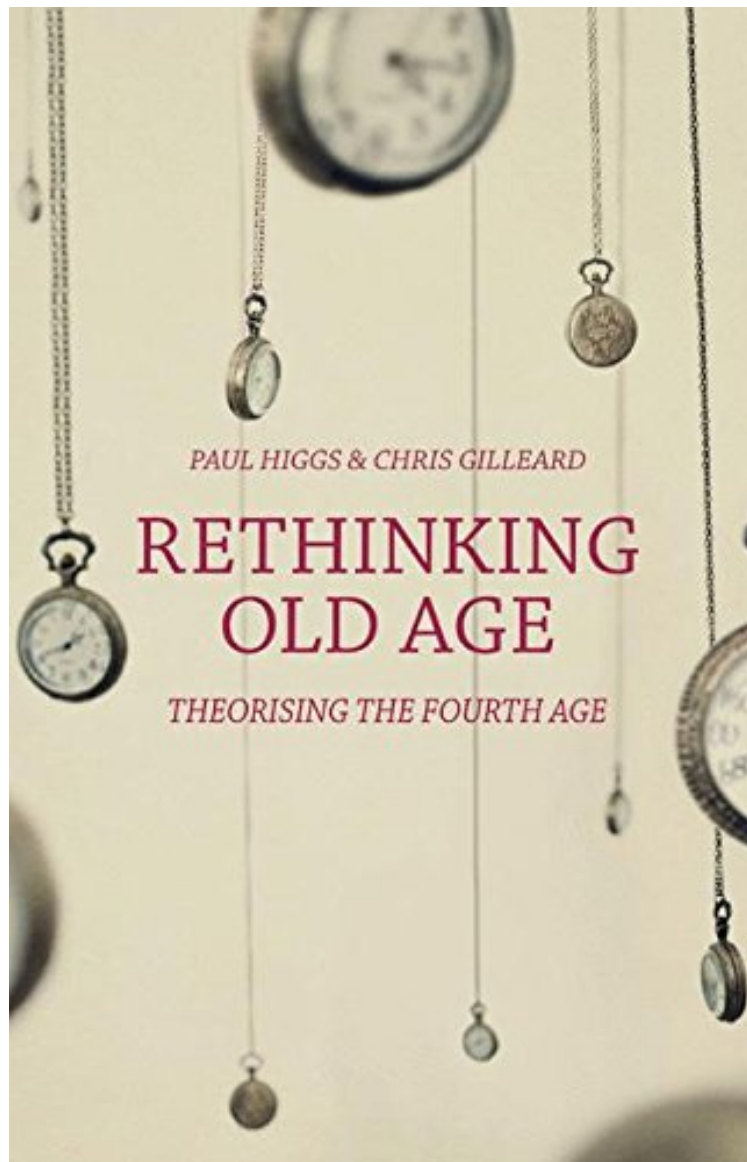


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Rethinking Old Age: Theorising the Fourth Age

Paul Higgs, Chris Gilleard

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Paul Higgs, Chris Gilleard : Rethinking Old Age: Theorising the Fourth Age before purchasing it in order to
gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rethinking Old Age: Theorising the Fourth Age:

With the aspiration for a long life now achievable for many individuals, the status of old age as a distinct social

position has become problematic. In this radical re-examination of the nature of old age, Paul Higgs and Chris Gilleard reveal the emergence of a 'fourth age' that embodies the most feared and marginalised aspects of old age, conceptually linked to and yet distinct from traditional models of old age. Inspired by the authors' ground-breaking work on the third and fourth age and supported by extensive sociological, medical and historical research, *Rethinking Old Age* offers a unique and timely analysis of the fourth age as a 'social imaginary' that is shaped and maintained by the social, cultural and political discourses and practices that divide later life. It stands as a significant resource for students, academics and practitioners of Sociology, Ageing Studies, Gerontology, Social Policy, Health Studies, Social Work and Nursing.

The authors of this interesting new book discuss a new separating out of the final stage before death: The Fourth Age. the authors also discuss the inter-relationship between the old person and his/her nearest, carers and society as a whole. This book rewards readers, young and old, who would understand the moral imperative of displaying humanity by a sense of compassion. (Michael Costello, *Third Age Matters*, www.U3A.org.uk, Issue 24, 2016) A powerful and original analysis of the fourth age as a category which eludes the clinical diagnoses and categories of social care that seek to capture it. It has relevance well beyond sociology of ageing and social gerontology.' Susan Pickard, Reader in Sociology, University of Liverpool, UK 'Higgs and Gilleard bring clarity to a long-neglected and misunderstood issue in social gerontology. I know of no other books that shed such light on the fourth age or that address the issue of frailty from such a sophisticated standpoint.' Markus Schafer, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Toronto, Canada
From the Back Cover
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