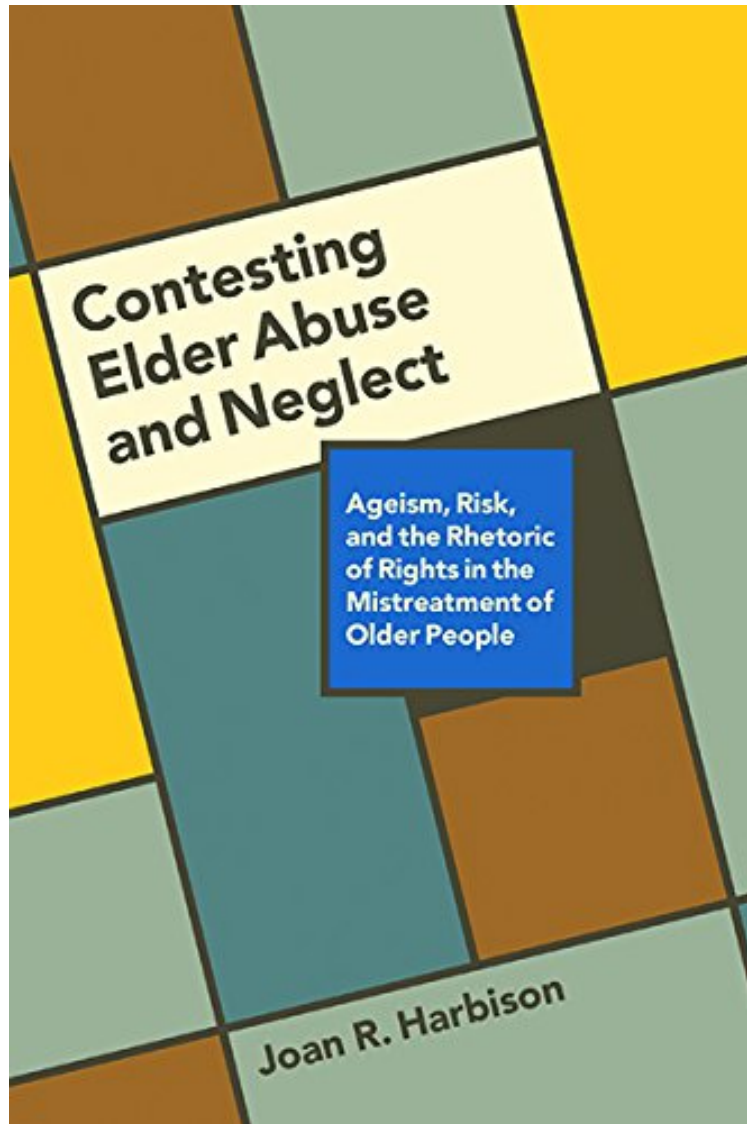


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# Contesting Elder Abuse and Neglect: Ageism, Risk, and the Rhetoric of Rights in the Mistreatment of Older People

*Joan R. Harbison*

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**Joan R. Harbison : Contesting Elder Abuse and Neglect: Ageism, Risk, and the Rhetoric of Rights in the Mistreatment of Older People** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Contesting Elder Abuse and Neglect: Ageism, Risk, and the Rhetoric of Rights in the Mistreatment of

## Older People:

The mistreatment of diverse older people in varying ways is categorized in many societies as "elder abuse and neglect," yet this concept has not been subjected to rigorous critical inquiry. Instead, it has most often represented the interests of professionals, academics, and governments, while policymakers and researchers frequently disregard the complexity of issues that fall under the designation. The first comprehensive, scholarly critique of the topic, *Contesting Elder Abuse and Neglect* is an important, much-needed contribution that encourages new thinking, policies, and action regarding the treatment of older people.

The mistreatment of diverse older people in varying ways is categorized in many societies as elder abuse and neglect, yet this concept has not been subjected to rigorous critical inquiry. Instead, it has most often represented the interests of professionals, academics, and governments, while policy makers and researchers frequently overlook or disregard the complexity of issues that fall under this designation. The first comprehensive, scholarly critique of the subject, *Contesting Elder Abuse and Neglect* questions existing assumptions about the mistreatment of older people. It explores how and why the concept of elder abuse and neglect came to be and shows how this catch-all term masks fundamental problems concerning the mistreatment of older people, their place in society, and how they see themselves. Joan R. Harbison and her colleagues expose how the abilities, needs, and wishes of older people who are perceived as victims are ignored or go unheard and how the supposed solutions to abusive treatment can take their toll on those people they were originally intended to protect. Grounded in twenty years of interdisciplinary empirical research, *Contesting Elder Abuse and Neglect* is an important, much-needed contribution to the literature, which supports and encourages new thinking about issues concerning older people. This comprehensive and well-written book offers a new perspective on the place of elder abuse within gerontology. It is an invaluable resource that should influence the future of research, education, and public policy. (Jill Manthorpe, professor of social work at Kings College London, UK) This book makes a valuable contribution to the historical as well as the contemporary literature relating to elder abuse and neglect. The main purpose of the book is to critically question existing definitions and understandings about the mistreatment of older people. The authors draw on their own and others research to question different constructions of age in order to bring new insights and understanding to this phenomena. (Sheila Furness, retired senior lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Social Care at the University of Bradford, UK) About the Author Joan R. Harbison is an adjunct professor at the Dalhousie University School of Social Work in Halifax.