

RESEARCH ON AGING

An International Bimonthly Journal

SPECIAL CALL FOR PAPERS



SPECIAL ISSUE:

Emerging Employment Patterns at Older Ages

GUEST EDITOR:

Richard W. Johnson, Urban Institute

DEADLINE: October 1, 2007

Ranked in Thomson Scientific Journal Citation Reports®

EDITOR:

Angela M. O'Rand
Duke University

Research on Aging announces a call for papers for a special issue on Emerging Employment Patterns at Older Ages to be guest edited by Richard W. Johnson of the Urban Institute. As the oldest Baby Boomers enter their 60s, the work and retirement landscape is shifting. Declining physical work demands and improving health make older people more employable than ever before, although disability rates are starting to creep upward at younger ages. Population aging may increase employer demand for older Americans as younger workers become scarce. Recent Social Security reforms have boosted work returns at older ages. Growing concerns about financial security in old age may influence retirement plans. Once the dominant type of employer-sponsored retirement plan, traditional pension plans that guarantee regular lifetime benefit payments to retirees are giving way to less certain 401(k)-type plans. Soaring health care costs may undermine retirement preparations, especially as employers cutback subsidized retiree health benefits. Changing family dynamics may also affect employment decisions. Care responsibilities for disabled spouses or parents may interfere with employment, especially for older women. Delayed childbearing leaves growing numbers of older people with dependent children, creating potential financial pressures that delay retirement. As more women enter the labor market, many husbands and wives now coordinate their retirement plans. These developments portend important changes in older adults' work and retirement decisions.

In this special issue, we invite papers focusing on employment patterns and trends at older ages and their determinants. Possible topics include (but are not limited to) differences in employment patterns and trends among different subgroups of the older population; patterns and trends in partial retirement and post-retirement employment; the characteristics of post-retirement jobs; trends in job demands; the impact of health insurance, health status, job characteristics, and pension and Social Security incentives on retirement decisions; and family influences on work decisions at older ages, such as the impact of caregiving responsibilities and spousal employment. Studies that focus on employer practices, including the recruitment and hiring of older workers and the availability of phased retirement programs, are also welcome.

Inquiries about this special issue may be directed to the guest editor, Richard W. Johnson, Urban Institute, 2100 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20037 (email: rjohnson@ui.urban.org).

Submissions should be sent to: Angela M. O'Rand, Editor, *Research on Aging*, Department of Sociology, Box 90088, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708. The deadline is October 1, 2007, although submissions before that date will receive immediate attention.

For manuscript guidelines please see a recent issue of the journal or visit the Manuscript Submission Guidelines online at <http://roa.sagepub.com>.