

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820772703321
Autore	Park Hyung Wook
Titolo	Old age, new science : gerontologists and their biosocial visions, 1900-1960 // Hyung Wook Park
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania : , : University of Pittsburgh Press, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	0-8229-8136-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (353 p.)
Classificazione	SCI034000MED032000
Disciplina	305.2609730904
Soggetti	Gerontology - History - 20th century Social gerontology - History - 20th century Aging - Social aspects - History - 20th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents ; Acknowledgments; Introduction; Chapter 1. Envisioning Age in Experimental and Social Contexts; Chapter 2. A Biosocial Vision and Textbooks in Starting a Multidisciplinary Science; Chapter 3. Projecting Visions and Cultivating a Science in American Society; Chapter 4. Calories, Aging, and Building a Biosocial Research Program; Chapter 5. Senescence, Science, and Society in Great Britain; Chapter 6. Growing Old and Biomedicine in the National Institutes of Health; Epilogue; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	"This book focuses on the "biosocial visions" shared by early gerontologists in American and British science and culture from the early to mid-twentieth century who believed the phenomenon of aging was not just biological, but social in nature. Advancements in the life sciences, together with shifting perspectives on the state and future of the elderly in society, informed how gerontologists interacted with seniors, and how they defined successful aging. Park shows how these visions shaped popular discourses on aging, directly influenced the institutionalization of gerontology, and also reflected the class, gender, and race biases of their founders"-- "Between 1870 and 1940, life expectancy in the United States skyrocketed while the percentage of senior citizens age sixty-five and

older more than doubled--a phenomenon owed largely to innovations in medicine and public health. At the same time, the Great Depression was a major tipping point for age discrimination and poverty in the West: seniors were living longer and retiring earlier, but without adequate means to support themselves and their families. The economic disaster of the 1930's alerted scientists, who were actively researching the processes of aging, to the profound social implications of their work--and by the end of the 1950's, the field of gerontology emerged. *Old Age, New Science* explores how a group of American and British life scientists contributed to gerontology's development as a multidisciplinary field. It examines the foundational "biosocial visions" they shared, a byproduct of both their research and the social problems they encountered. Hyung Wook Park shows how these visions shaped popular discourses on aging, directly influenced the institutionalization of gerontology, and also reflected the class, gender, and race biases of their founders"--
