

Liat Ayalon, Ph.D.

Professor at International Federation on Ageing

Ramat Gan, , IL

I am a clinical psychologist and a Professor at Bar Ilan University.

Biography

I was trained as a clinical psychologist, but did my internship in a psychiatric hospital and my post-doc in a geriatric department. I am currently in the school of social work and coordinate an international, multi-disciplinary, inter-sectorial Ph.D. program. As a result of these diverse exposures, my perspective has shifted from the micro-level, focused on the individual and his or her psychopathology to the meso- and macro-levels as they relate to normative processes in the lives of older adults.

A major interest of mine for the past decade has been the topic of ageism, defined by the World Health Organization as the stereotyping, discrimination and prejudice of people because of their age. Because ageism is not a purely theoretical concept, but has real life implications, I have been striving to use research to support policies and legislations of relevance to older adults.

Specifically, for the past four years, I have served as the chair of a COST Action on Ageism (COST IS1402; notoageism.com). COST stands for Cooperation in Science and Technology. It is the oldest funding mechanism in Europe which aims to connect researchers around a specific topic in order to enhance the field. Our COST Action encompassed over 200 researchers from 35 countries. We met regularly in order to develop a more comprehensive understanding of what ageism is and what we should do to reduce it. This resulted in an edited book on ageism published by Springer (Contemporary perspectives on ageism). We also collaborated with several policy stakeholders, including the World Health Organization and Age-Platform Europe in order to ensure that our research informs policy and legislations. In collaboration with researchers and policy stakeholders, I developed an international Ph.D. program, funded under H2020, under the Marie Curie Scheme (Euroageism.eu). This program aims to train 15 early stage researchers to bridge the gap between science and policy.

I see these various projects as opportunities not only to improve the lives of older adults in society, but also to potentially impact my own life and the lives of my children. I realize it takes time and effort to modify current societal discourse and thinking. Yet, I am optimistic that we are heading in the right direction, towards a world for all ages.

Areas of Expertise

Combating Ageism, Formal and Informal Care for Older Adults, Mental Health, Health Policy Research, Mental Health Service Use and Clinical Outcomes in Older Adults, Ageism Discrimination

Event Appearances

The challenges and new directions in the conduct of transnational elder care research
Long term care crisis: Tapping into labour resources within and across national borders

Keynote Speaker - Ageism: Challenges and new directions

The bi-annual meeting of IAGG-ER

Active aging

The Prime Minister's round table on aging

Recommended measures for the assessment of ageism: Results from a systematic review of the psychometric properties of ageism measures

The bi-annual meeting of IAGG-ER

From a Bird's Eye View: Whole Social Networks in Adult Day Care Centers and Continuing Care Retirement Communities

Gerontological Society of America

Will You Still Need Me? The Longitudinal Associations of Social Usefulness and Aging Self-perceptions Symposium on Ageism from a Multi-Disciplinary Perspective

Push and pull factors of job seekers who consider employment as home care workers for older adults

Annual meeting of Espanet-Israel

Education

University of California San Francisco

HRSA Postdoctoral Clinical/ Research Fellow Geriatrics

University of California San Francisco

Internship Clinical Psychology

Illinois Institute of Technology

Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Illinois Institute of Technology

M.S. Psychology

Ben-Gurion University

B.A. (Cum Laude) Behavioral Sciences

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