

Zeng Yi, Duke University Durham, NC, USA; Peking University, Beijing, China; Dudley L. Poston, Jr., Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA; Denese Ashbaugh Vlosky, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, USA; Danan Gu, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA (Eds.)

Healthy Longevity in China

Demographic, Socioeconomic, and Psychological Dimensions

China is aging at an extraordinary speed and has the largest quantity of elderly persons in the world. Scholars utilize this unprecedented living experience of human being and the unique Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (CLHLS) datasets with the aim to answer in this volume the following questions critical to the aging population world wide. Is the period of disability compressing or expanding with increasing life expectancy and what factors are associated with these trends in the recent decades? Is it possible to realize morbidity compression with a prolongation of the life span in the future? The first section of the book presents the CLHLS project's study design, sample distribution, contents of data collected, and assessments of age reporting and data quality. The remaining chapters are grouped into sections dealing with the demographic, social, economic, familial and psychological dimensions of healthy longevity. This volume contributes to the development of scientific knowledge related to the „slowing down“ of the pace of progression of morbidity with mortality declines at older ages. Research findings reported in this book are instrumental in the ultimate realization of the long-term dream of healthy longevity, that is, not only living longer, but living a healthier life.

Contents: Preface: James W. Vaupel. Acknowledgement.- Introduction: Aging and Aged Dependency in China: Dudley L. Poston, Jr. and Zeng Yi.- Part I: CLHLS and Its Data Quality Assessment: Dudley L. Poston, Jr.- Part II: The Effects of Demographic and Socioeconomic Factors: Danan Gu.- Part III: Living Arrangements and Elderly Care: Zeng Yi.- Part IV: Subjective Wellbeing and Disability: Denese Ashbaugh Vlosky.

“The research in this book captures the highlight of a decade of effort on CLHLS study and represents an important milestone in our emerging understanding of how individuals can endeavor to live a long, healthy life and how societies can help them do so. We still have only a partial understanding of the determinants of healthy longevity, but we have a considerably better understanding than we had a decade ago. Moreover, we can look forward to prospects for a deeper understanding based in significant measure on the further analysis of data from the ongoing CLHLS endeavor.”

-- James W. Vaupel, Director of Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research
and Professor of Duke University

“The CLHLS casts valuable light on important features of the aging process in the world's largest country. This volume will serve as a basic reference work both for Chinese studies and for comparative analyses.”

-- Samuel Preston, Frederick Warren Professor of Demography,
University of Pennsylvania

“The CLHLS is a fantastic enterprise which started 10 years ago and which will leave a benchmark of the social, economic, and familial situation of the Chinese elderly at the time when they comprised 7% of the whole population and when China entered a new period of accelerated aging. From now on population aging in China and its social consequences, as well as individual lengthening of life and its health consequences will be carefully assessed in reference to the CLHLS. We dream to have such studies for the other large countries on the point of also experiencing similar demographic changes”

-- Jean-Marie Robine, Research Director at the French National Institute of
Health and Medical Research and Professor of University of Montpellier

2008. Approx. 350 p. Hardcover, ISBN: 978-1-4020-6751-8
The Springer Series on Demographic Methods and Population Analysis, Volume 20