Abstract

Based on the notion of maturescence, this paper advances a characterization of women's aging process from the critical perspective of differential aging, critical gerontology, and feminist gerontology. First, it synthesizes the meta-theoretical debate in social gerontology, highlighting the critical contributions of feminist gerontology. In the second section, the article discusses from a gender perspective the process of maturescence as both a personal and sociocultural time of identity rebuilding. Female maturescence, defined as a phenomenon of the last decades, results from a combination of factors: advances in gender equality, increased life expectancy, and the feminization of longevity. These changes created a new identity field for women's early old age. Several studies have shown that the dominant features of maturescence are crisis and the recreation of personal identity. From a theoretical perspective, the article describes different psychological dimensions of female maturescence from a sociocultural approach.

Keywords

Differential Aging, Female Aging, Maturescence, Critical Gerontology, Feminist Gerontology.