CALL FOR PAPERS | SPECIAL ISSUE: Cumulative Dis/Advantage: Innovations in Research and Theory

Cumulative dis/advantage (CDA) perspectives are among the most influential theoretical frameworks in social gerontology. These perspectives argue that relatively small differences early in life can widen over the life course, as early advantages beget further advantages, and early adversities give rise to additional and accumulating adversities. Together, these processes contribute to increasing inequality with age. The CDA model has been critical to understanding and delineating life course influences that contribute to disparities in older adults’ economic, physical, and psychological well-being.

Three decades have passed since the initial statements of CDA were published. Sociologist Dale Dannefer has revisited key themes of this influential model in his new article “Systemic and Reflexive: Foundations of Cumulative Dis/Advantage and Life-Course Processes” (doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gby118). This article sheds light on underdeveloped and sometimes misunderstood aspects of the framework, and offers an updated model that incorporates micro-, meso-, and macro-level processes that contribute to inequalities over the life course. This rich and thought-provoking article provides an ideal springboard for launching a new generation of research on CDA.

In this special issue, we invite original research reporting cutting-edge empirical assessments of cumulative dis/advantage perspectives, with an eye toward identifying conceptual advances and expansions. Quantitative and qualitative approaches are welcome, and the use of longitudinal data is encouraged.

Before submission, authors should carefully read the Social Sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology Series B, Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences Author Guidelines located at: bit.ly/B-ITAs. Queries regarding submissions should be sent to Deborah Carr (Editor) at carrds@bu.edu. Manuscripts should be uploaded to mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jgss according to the following timetable. Articles will be available in Online Advanced Access shortly after final acceptance with an anticipated print publication date of July or September 2020.