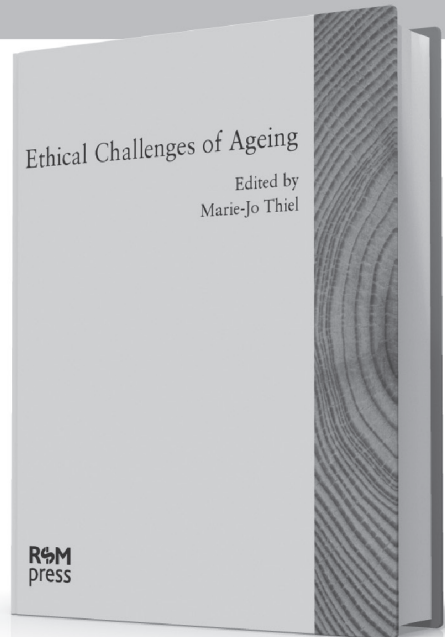


Ethical Challenges of Ageing

Marie-Jo Thiel

For many years, representations of old age were dominated by medical considerations, focused on disease, suffering and more broadly on decline. Medical progress, better diet, improved working conditions and many other factors, have however led to significant increases in life expectancy and radical change in the demographic structure of society, at least in the wealthier nations. Someone giving up work for retirement today can generally look forward to at least another ten years of good health. This observation should not, however, disguise the many inequalities between classes and geographic areas, nor the disparities between pensioners themselves, nor the increasing numbers of old people coping with reduced autonomy, nor the serious questions around care, age-based discrimination, loss of dignity, and so on.

It is these challenges that contributors to this volume take up, inviting us to join them in an examination of issues that have at their core the question of life in society itself.



Marie-Jo Thiel is a professor at the University of Strasbourg (France). She is the director of the CEERE (the European Center for the Study and Teaching of Ethics) and a member of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE).

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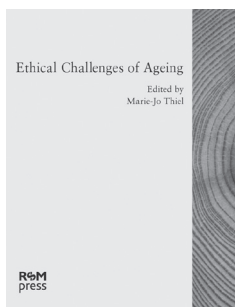
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