

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments | 9

Introduction | 13

1 Age and Aging in Theory and Practice | 37

- 1.1 Positions in Age Studies | 37
- 1.2 Age as a Metaphoric Practice | 63
- 1.3 Method: Defining the Age Reading | 72

2 Conflicts of Timing | 79

- 2.1 Joel Zwick's *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* | 79
- 2.2 Ageism and the Disciplinary Functions of Age Discourses | 91
- 2.3 Sam Mendes' *Away We Go* | 101

3 Living Across the Life Course | 113

- 3.1 Shifting Meanings of Adulthood:
Perpetual Adolescence and Delayed Adulthood | 113
- 3.2 Tom Perrotta's *Little Children* | 122
- 3.3 Normativity and the Life Course | 144
- 3.4 Jonathan Franzen's *The Corrections* | 157

4 Mental Health and Age | 175

- 4.1 Positive Thinking and Entrepreneurial Selves | 175
- 4.2 Benjamin Kunkel's *Indecision* | 186
- 4.3 Consumer Cycles, Obsolescence, and (Im)Mortality | 200
- 4.4 Don DeLillo's *Cosmopolis* | 209

5 Positive Age Metaphors:

Miranda July's *The Future* and *It Chooses You* | 231

Conclusion | 251

List of Figures | 259

List of Works Cited | 261

For Ursula and Matthias

