

## Acknowledgements

---

This book comes out of a collaborative friendship that emerged through mutual interests in how the humanities could re-think old age, especially its stigmatizing association with nursing homes. On separate continents, we had been reading and writing about the same novels and films with similar goals in mind. Coming together to ask questions about what stories offer to re-thinking the institutionalization of late life has led to scholarly fulfilment and personal joy. So, we start by thanking each other.

Our scholarly partnership was made possible entirely by the support of our mentors and colleagues, especially in the development of the European and North American Networks on Aging Studies (ENAS & NANAS). The contributions of its members are too many to enumerate, but we are grateful to the scholarly and administrative work that has pushed the field to grow by leaps and bounds. We have received impressive feedback to our panels about the book topic at ENAS and NANAS conferences. We hope this book adds to the richness of the field while provoking new critical questions that can only be answered through fulsome debate and listening across differences.

We especially thank the scholarly and collegial support offered to our work on this book by Annmarie Adams, Pat Armstrong, Hugh Armstrong, Katie Aubrecht, Suzanne Bailey, Susan Braedley, Andrea Charise, Jacqueline Choinière, Thomas R. Cole, Tamara Daly, Charmaine Eddy, Amelia DeFalco, Michelle Gadpaille, Lesley Gillis, Marlene Goldman, Maureen Daly Goggin, Peter Goggin, Alisa Grigorivich, Hannah Grist, Jaber Gubrium, Heike Hartung, Sara Humphreys, E. Ann Kaplan, Stephen Katz, Janice Keefe, Pia Kontos, Rüdiger Kunow, Valerie Lipscomb, Martha MacDonald, Roberta Maierhofer, Teresa Mangum, Barbara Marshall, Kate de Medeiros, Raquel Medina, Derek Newman-Stille, Desmond O'Neill, Cynthia Port, Dana Sawchuk, Mark Skinner, Margaret Steffler, and Aagje Swinnen. Martin Boyne was a gracious yet meticulous copyeditor, for which we are very grateful. For other technical and administrative support, we thank Sylvia Dick, Justin Sutton, Wendy Winters, and Julia Prochinig. For explicit financial support, we are most grateful to the Trent Centre for Aging and Society, Reimagining Long-Term Residential Care: An

International Study of Promising Practices (PI: Pat Armstrong file# 412-2010-1004), the Center for Inter-American Studies and the University of Graz, and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (Insight Grant file# 435-2015-1787).

Rhonda graces the cover of the book thanks to the generosity of Nelson McDonald, who granted permission without cost to use Holly Crooks's image of Marguerite McNeil in the title role of the short film *Rhonda's Party*.

We express the deepest gratitude to our contributors who have offered us a delightful and provocative array of personal and scholarly writing about care homes. To a one, they have been models of collegiality and rigour, making this process as enjoyable as it could have been.

For moral support, we are so fortunate to have our families, especially Doug, Sepp, and Lena. We thank them from the bottom of very full hearts.