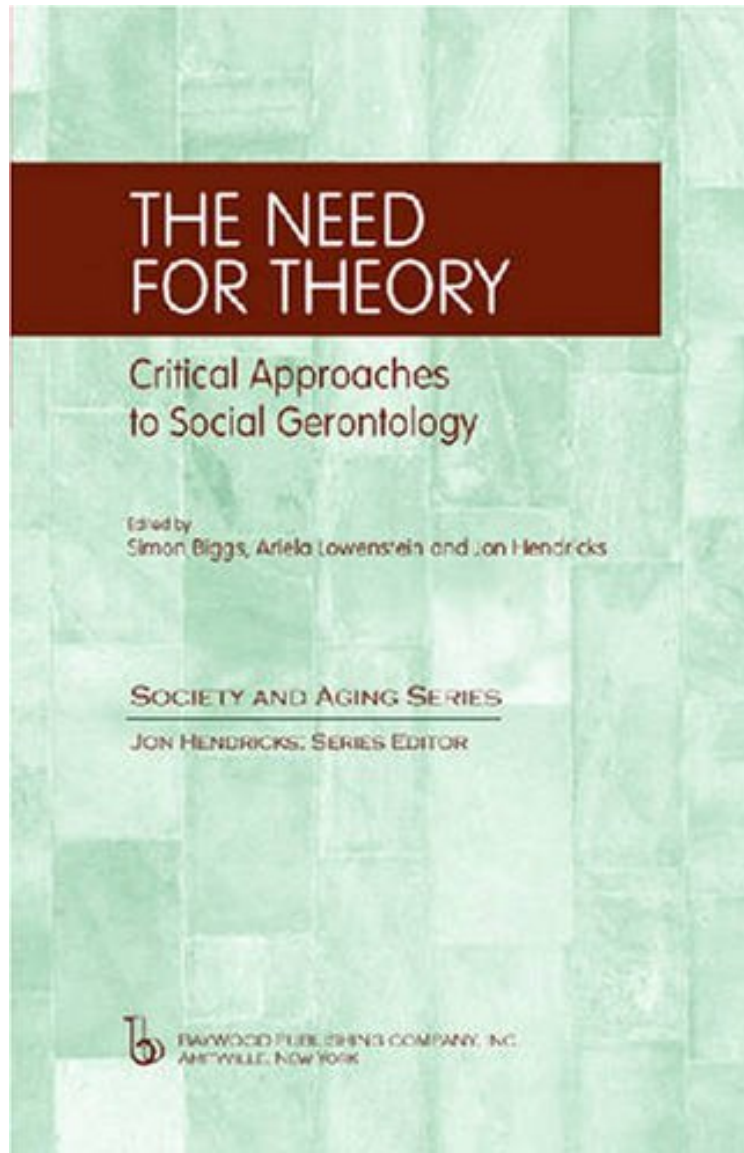


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## The Need for Theory: Critical Approaches to Social Gerontology (Society and Aging Series)

*Simon Biggs, Jon Hendricks, Ariela Lowenstein*  
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**Simon Biggs, Jon Hendricks, Ariela Lowenstein : The Need for Theory: Critical Approaches to Social Gerontology (Society and Aging Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Need for Theory: Critical Approaches to Social Gerontology (Society and Aging Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Navigating the waters of Gerontological theoryBy Larry M.

AndersonI teach a third-year course in aging. Many of my students are just deciding what areas they will explore in preparation for their careers. This book presents the challenges confronting those who wish to understand the aging process. Frankly, I face those same challenges. I have just completed a research project on Ageism and critical analysis comes closer to meeting my need to understand the results. Finally, I am 67 years old and am seeking a deeper understanding of my own life course.

The "Need for Theory" speaks to the burgeoning need for critical thinking in social gerontology. The editors have brought together some of the foremost contributors to theoretical advances in the field. This volume incorporates state-of-the-art theorizing with a focus on selected topical areas facing gerontologists around the world. Using their keen insights into substantive issues, the contributors examine personal and structural changes affecting individuals over the life course. Extolling the need for theory is not enough; the contributors focus their insights on a panoply of substantive issues, linking the personal with the political and with the structural parameters that shape the process of aging, no matter where it occurs.

This provocative book presents a different, and hopefully, more productive discussion about theory and theorizing in gerontology. -- Marquis D. Foreman, PhD, RN, FAAN(University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing), Doody Publishing Weekly Updates, Doody.com  
About the AuthorSimon Biggs is professor of social gerontology, Keele University, United Kingdom. He has worked as a community psychologist and as a social work policy adviser, and has written widely in the areas of aging identity, social policy, and social theory. In addition to formal academic publications, he has authored training materials, including *Confronting Ageing and Understanding Elder Abuse*. From 1989 until 1993, he coordinated a National Community Care program, and he has also been a consultant on a number of initiatives in the areas of health and social care. Biggs is an executive committee member of the European Masters Degree in Gerontology. His latest book is *The Mature Imagination: The Dynamics of Identity in Midlife and Beyond*.  
Ariela Lowenstein is professor of gerontology and director of the Center for Research and Study of Aging, Faculty of Welfare and Health Studies, University of Haifa, Israel. She has written extensively in the areas of aging and family, intergenerational relations, family care giving, educational gerontology, and social theory. She works closely with national and international organizations in the field of aging and has produced several interdisciplinary manuscripts and training manuals. Lowenstein currently coordinates a five-country research study of family relations and quality of life. She is past chair of the Israeli Gerontological Society and currently serves as chair of the Behavioral, Social Science and Research Section, International Association of Gerontology, European Region. She is a fellow in the Gerontological Society of America.  
Jon Hendricks is dean of University Honors College, Oregon State University. He has published widely in social gerontology. He is past president of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, past chair of the Section on Social Gerontology and the Life Course of the American Sociological Association, and past chair of Behaviors and Social Sciences, Gerontological Society of America. Hendricks is currently co-editor-in-chief of *Hallym International Journal of Aging* and serves on the editorial boards of four other journals. He is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America.