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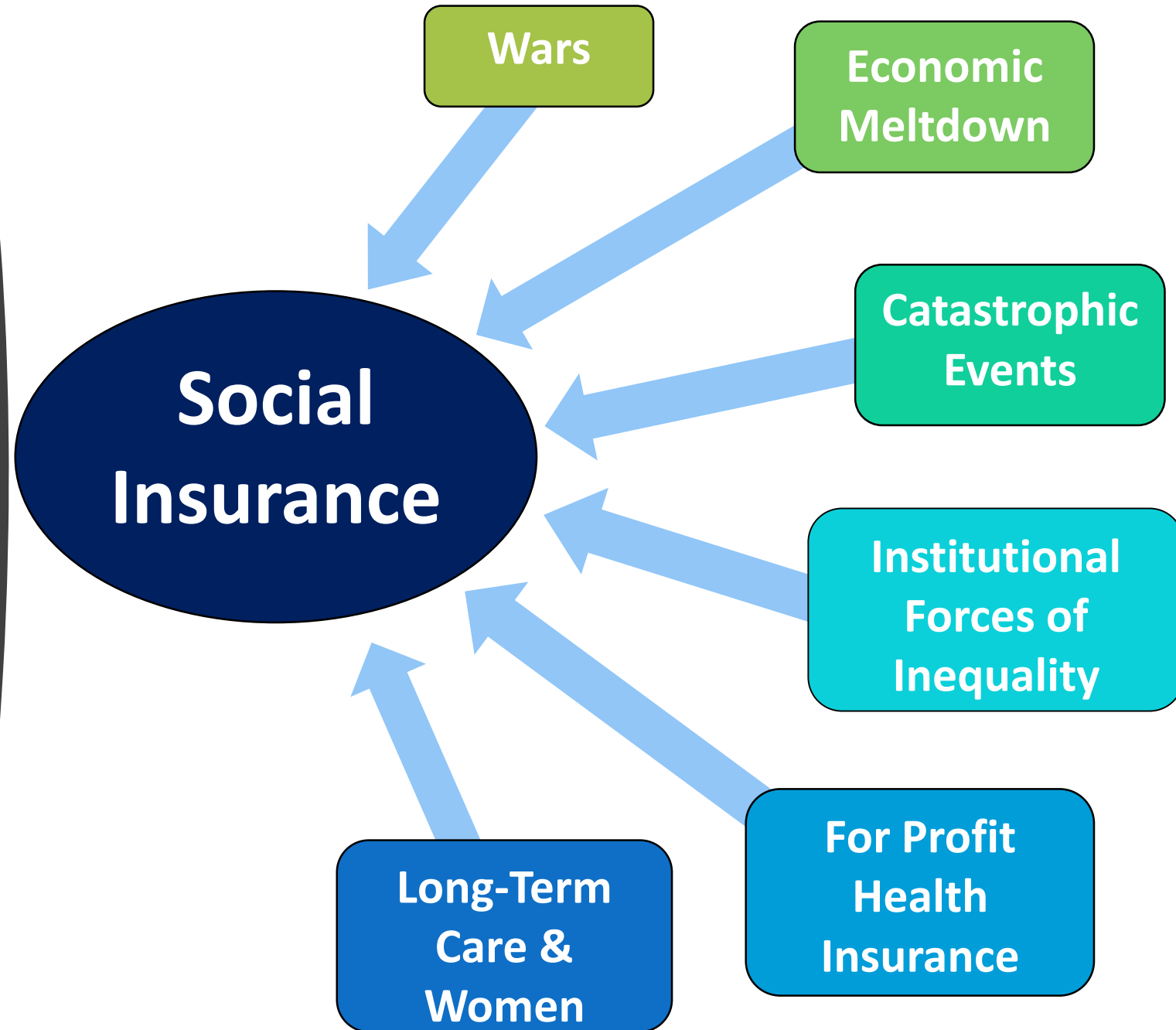
# Universal Access to Care Supports in the Context of Emancipatory Gerontology



## Carroll L. Estes, PhD

Credited as a founding scholar of the political economy of aging and critical gerontology.

Large Scale Social & Economic Forces Drive the Need for Social Insurance



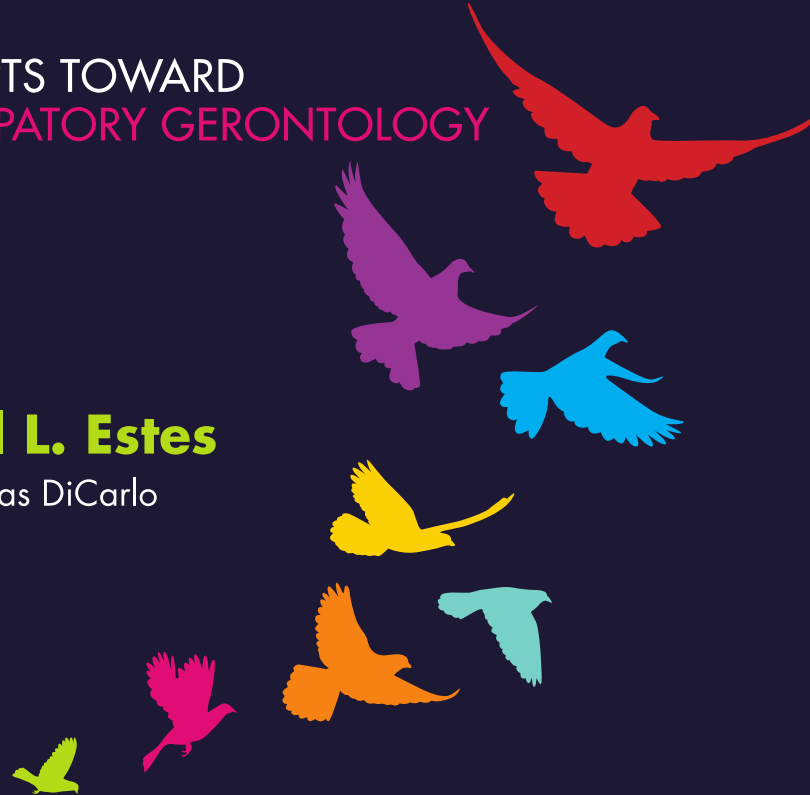
AGING AND SOCIETY

ROUTLEDGE

# Aging A-Z

CONCEPTS TOWARD  
EMANCIPATORY GERONTOLOGY

**Carroll L. Estes**  
with Nicholas DiCarlo



# Emancipatory Sciences



There is no value-neutral knowledge



Power relations inform science and technology



Language carries power messages



Research and knowledges have cultural, political, economic, and social grounding



Social oppressions are not natural or fixed

# Cumulative Advantage and Disadvantage

The Problem:

- A Lifetime of Risks and Benefits that Accumulate
- Research: Inequality increases with Age.
- Disparities in Premature Aging Chronic Illness
  - Race, Ethnicity Class, Gender, Ability, Sexualities
  - Institutional Forces, Environmental, Global Toxicities
- Intergenerational linkages
- Gene-Environment Epigenetics
- Disappearance of The SOCIAL, The Commons, Community

Target macro, meso and micro social processes, policy structures, and interventions as early in life as possible.

# Gene- Environment

## Human Social Genomics

- How and why different social factors and processes (social stress, inequality, conflict, violence, attachment) influence human gene expression via the expression of pro-inflammatory genes, anti-viral/anti-body responses or synthesis – Health Disparities

# Statelessness

- Citizenship, imperiled: “marketization creates social exclusion, statelessness, and rightlessness” (Somers, 2008, p. 61):
- The conversion of “the ethos of a socially inclusionary citizenship to one of contractual morality.
- A complete inversion: triadic balance of power, in which the social state protects citizens in civil society against the exposure to the market, to one in which citizenship collapses into a dyadic instrument of unbalanced power.
- The alliance of state and market are pitted VS. individuals – now bereft of both state protection and membership in civil society” (Somers, 2008, p. 37).



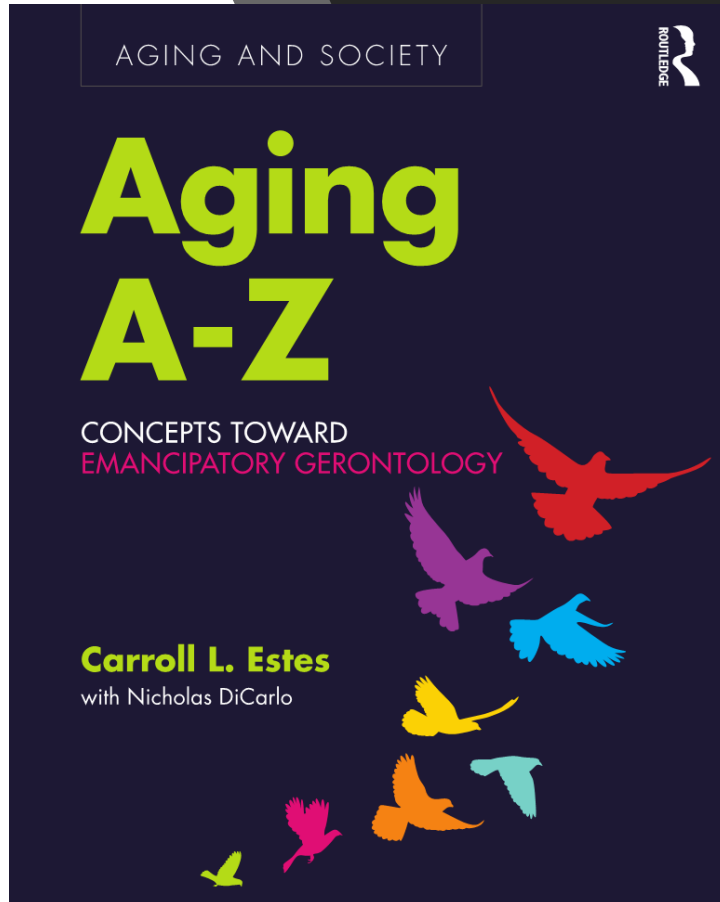
# Right to have Rights

- Foundational to *Human Rights Perspectives*
- How the State extends protection and safeguards the rights of its people, animals, lands, air, water

# Equity

- Ensure that all social groups have equal opportunity to reach their full potentiality as healthy as possible over their lifespan,
- Systematic policy analyses of regulations, laws and procedures, criminal and legal, that promote health and social equity

# In conclusion:



- An imperative is accessible public knowing of the individual and social consequences of major policy and institutional forces in relation to aging and generations across the life course.
- Emancipatory gerontology aims to advance knowledge and the realization of dignity, access, equity, healing, and social justice through individual and collective agency and social institutions.
- Universal access to care and supports, as seen in the concept of social insurance, is an agreement of intergenerational solidarity and reciprocity that is emancipatory and needed as part of the way forward.

Thank you!

