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This comprehensive text focuses on the social contexts of ageing, looking at the diversity of ageing and older people, and at different factors that are important to experiences of old age and ageing. It includes key chapters on:

theoretical and methodological bases for the study of ageing

demographic context of the 'ageing' population

health and illness

family and social networks

formal and informal care and other services for older people.

Providing an invaluable introduction to the major issues involved in the study of ageing, this book is essential reading for students of sociology, gerontology, social policy, health and social care, and professionals working with older people.