

My Father And The Bum -Charles Bukowski

my father believed in work.
he was proud to have a
job.
sometimes he didn't have a
job and then he was very
ashamed.
he'd be so ashamed that he'd
leave the house in the
morning
and then come back in the
evening
so the neighbors wouldn't
know.

me,
I liked the man next door:
he just sat in a chair in
his back yard and threw darts
at some circles he had
painted
on the side of his garage.
in Los Angeles in 1930
he had a wisdom that
Goethe, Hegel, Kierkegaard,
Nietzsche, Freud,
Jaspers, Heidegger and
Toynbee would find hard
to deny.

The “mother of all protests” meets Israeli older persons: When age and gender intersect in the framing of political protests

Liat Ayalon & Sarit Okun
The School of Social Work
Bar Ilan University, Israel



**Bar-Ilan
University**
אוניברסיטת בר-אילן

The present study

- The judicial overhaul proposed by the 37th government of Israel.
- An unprecedented number of protesters as of March 2023:
 - 23% of all Israeli Jews over the age of 18
 - 39.5% of all Israeli Jews over the age of 65 participating in the protests.
- To examine the intersection between age and gender in political protests.



The role of age in political activism

- Older persons are more likely to vote but are less likely to participate in political protests (Wiltfang & McAdam, 1991).
- Older persons are more likely to have formal political representation (Stockemer & Sundström, 2023)
 - Israeli members of the parliament (PMs) are relatively old, with a median age of 51 compare with a median population age of 29.1.
 - The prime minister is 73 years-old and the president is 62 years-old



The role of gender in political activism

- Women still represent a minority among MPs and are less likely to take a leadership role (Kunovich et al., 2007).
 - In the case of Israel, only 24% of all MPs are women, and in four of 10 elected parties, women did not capture realistic positions, with two of the parties not having any woman representative.
- Men are more likely to be active and to engage in social movements including protests (Sherkat & Blocker, 1994).
- Women take the backstage and engage in non-confrontational activism (Craddock, 2019).



The theoretical grounds of the present study

- Hegemonic masculinity (Connell & Messerschmidt, 2005).
- It is not gender alone, but gender in intersection with age (and many other attributes), which shape people's life.
- Ageism (Ayalon & Tesch-Römer, 2018).
- Ageism differentially impacts men and women (Krekula, Nikander, & Wilińska, 2018).



Methods

- 30 protestors : 17 women and 13 men. The average age of the protestors was 73 (range 65-93).
- Interviews were conducted online and lasted from 45 minutes to an hour and a half.
- Two independent coders (Clark, Braun, & Hayfield, 2015).
- Relevant social media.
- Observational data.



Conclusions



- A gendered distinction in the time orientation employed by older men versus older women.
 - Men employed a past time orientation to present themselves, but also when discussing the motives behind the protests.
 - Women employed a time orientation, which vacillated between the present and the future.
- In old age, it is men, who become disadvantaged in the public sphere even more so than women.
 - Older women benefit from an intersectional escape (Martin, North, & Phillips, 2019).
 - Older women possess two devalued characteristics: being women and being older. However, in old age, these characteristics intersect to serve as protectors (Martin et al., 2019).

Conclusions

- Men viewed the protests as an act of war:
 - Bloodshed is inevitable
 - To fight back, they presented their youthful and powerful selves.
 - Israel is a militaristic society (Horowitz, 2021).
 - Older men must rely on the past to fight their current war.
- Women's achievements were attributed to their childbearing
 - Highly valued in Israeli society (Shenhav-Goldberg, Brym, & Lenton-Brym, 2019).
 - Older women's strength is derived from their provision for the younger generations rather than from their looks.
 - A similar strategy was employed in the climate change movement by the "Raging grannies" (Sawchuk, 2009).



Conclusions

- Both men and women addressed issues of inequity and diversity in their protests.
- Women were more likely to view themselves as a minority group which is being personally threatened by the current government
- Women represent a social group that is already lower in the hierarchy, as such, they reported concerns for their own safety and lack of voice.
- Israel is ranked last in gender equality among OECD countries (i24news, 2023).
- Men tended to view their public political views as being threatened by the current regime.
- As a hegemonic group, men's values were threatened.



**בלי דמוקרטיה
אין אקדמיה**

**NO ACADEMIA
WITHOUT DEMOCRACY**



Thank you

Liat.Ayalon@biu.ac.il



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