



# Some 'Age-Friendly' Advice?: Ableism, Austerity, and New Stories of 'Active Aging'

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This talk comes from a larger research project that asks how gender and culture matter in creating age-friendly environments. Understanding that austerity thought warps age advice, making it anything but friendly, I will explore the WHO Age-Friendly framework as a form of 21st century advice literature. The research situates the focus on "active aging" within neoliberal processes and discourses of responsabilization. I will illustrate how humanities perspectives meaningfully challenge that model and offer promising paths to critical work on equity and diversity within the Age-Friendly movement.

Sally Chivers is Professor of English and Gender & Women's Studies at Trent University, Canada, where she teaches about illness, disability, and aging in literature, film and popular culture. She is the author of numerous books, including the seminal *The Silvering Screen: Old Age and Disability in Cinema* (2011).