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Faculty of Psychology

Colloquium lecture by Prof. Karl Pillemer

Climate Change Action and Older People: A Powerful Resource for Prevention and Resilience

Environmental challenges are increasing globally, as all countries face the negative consequences of climate change. To date, however, little attention has been paid to the intersection of climate change and the older population. Existing research has focused almost exclusively on the heightened vulnerability of older persons to climate change effects (such as extreme heat events and climate-related disasters). In this presentation, I argue that older people also constitute a unique, invaluable resource for environmental action, focusing on three major factors: the potential impact of mobilization of the older population; the benefits of environmental participation in later life; and the critical need for citizen activists to address climate change prevention and mitigation. Drawing on psychological and sociological research, I examine individual and organizational barriers to climate change engagement by older persons and how they can be overcome. I propose ways in which research, practice, and policy can work in concert to facilitate older people's climate change action, including an example of an evidence-based intervention program that promotes such engagement.

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**This lecture takes place at Liebiggasse 5, 1010 Vienna,
Lecture Hall G 2nd floor and will be streamed.**

Thursday, April 25, 2024; 3pm