

# PANDEMIC PRECARITY: AGING AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Shannon Hebblethwaite, Laurel Young & Tristana Martin Rubio (2020) Pandemic Precarity: Aging and Social Engagement, Leisure Sciences, DOI: [10.1080/01490400.2020.1773998](https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2020.1773998)

## → COVID-19 + RESTRICTED LEISURE AND ARTS ACTIVITIES

Exposed and made compelling the **underlying social pathologies** in Canada that contribute to the marginalization of older adults including:

- FINANCIAL INSTABILITY** (Dollar sign icon)
- HOUSING PRECARITY** (House icon)
- LACK OF SOCIAL SUPPORT AND INCLUSION** (Two people icon)
- INEQUALITIES IN THE HEALTH SYSTEM** (Cross icon)

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated **social distancing practices** have brought into relief the experiences of people who regularly experience **marginalization** and **isolation**.

## → DIGITIZING LEISURE AND ARTS TO STAY CONNECTED



Although these initiatives can result in some **benefits**, they are an **oversimplification** of the myriad of ways in which leisure and arts programs can actually **support** a **diverse** population of older persons and this should not be regarded as "**one size fits all**" solution. However,

## THEY DO NOT ADDRESS CRUCIAL ISSUES OF

### ACCESSIBILITY PERSONALIZATION CONTEXTUALIZATION QUALITY CONTROL SAFETY

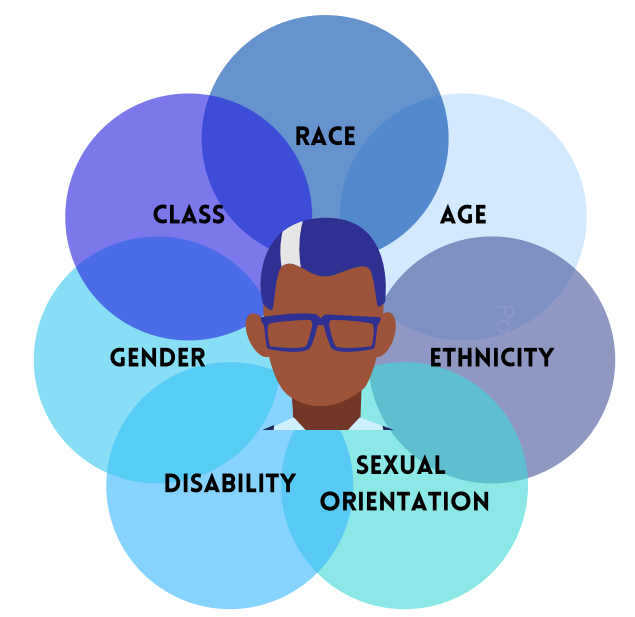
<p>Only <b>50%</b> of older adults over <b>75</b> have accessed Internet in 2018 (CEFRIQ, 2018)</p>	<p>Older <b>activists</b> have harnessed the power of <b>digital media</b> to facilitate activism and raise awareness of issues such as food insecurity, elder abuse and accessibility (RECAA, 2018)</p>	<p>These technologies all require rich <b>technological infrastructure</b> and some level of computer familiarity.</p>	<p>Older people have a <b>complex relationship with technology</b>, benefitting from new leisure opportunities while also experiencing challenges related to <b>confidence, privacy</b> and <b>security</b>, as well as the dreaded <b>software updates</b> (Genoe et al, 2018).</p>	<p>Adopting digital media without careful consideration if its implications can only lead to ineffective practices but also result in direct <b>harm</b> to participants if issues of <b>privacy</b> and management of <b>personal data</b> are not considered.</p>
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(Young, 2017; 2019a; 2019b).

## → INTERSECTIONAL LENS



It illuminates the **precarity** experienced by older adults that contributes to **social isolation** and a **diminished quality of life** among **particular segments** of the aging Canadian population.



Traditionally, **intersectionality** has the goal of bringing to light the **intimate relationship** among **identities** - such as **race, gender, and class** - with oppressive influence of systems of power that structure them (Crenshaw, 1989) but it has largely rendered age (Calasenti & Giles, 2018) and (dis)ability (Tremain, 2020) invisible.