the report presents some important messages for service providers about overcoming barriers to recruiting clients to services. Successful strategies from some of the demonstration projects included:

- Configuring and advertising respite care as a supplement to rather than a replacement for family care-giving.
- Emphasising the ‘social’ aspects of care, such as providing a homely atmosphere in day care settings, planning activities that were familiar to the clients and renaming support groups ‘clubs’.
- Strategies for raising awareness of dementia were similarly tailored to each cultural group, for example, by acknowledging that folk beliefs about dementia and dementia care in some cultures are a good starting point for talking to people about dementia and the help available.

A useful summary of findings, which incorporate some of the lessons learnt and limitations of the project, is included. Findings are linked to recommendations for policy and practice. The report ends with case presentations of five successful demonstration projects, which offer constructive frameworks for anyone seeking to develop respite service provision for under-served populations.

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This Haworth Press volume was co-published simultaneously as a special issue of the *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*, 11 (2000), 2/3 and as this edited book. The publishers note that dual publishing enables libraries and others who do not need or cannot justify a subscription to the journal to purchase specific thematic issues of interest. In this case, the theme is ‘ageing policy’, and the editors argue that the start of the 21st century is as an opportune time to examine advances in this field. To this end, they present 21 policy-oriented chapters that make up an Introduction, an Overview section (4 chapters) and eight more sections including ‘Employment and retirement’ (4 chapters), ‘Long-term care’ (5 chapters), five single chapter sections on ‘Economic security’, ‘Aging prisoners’, ‘Latino elders’, ‘Family medical leave’ and ‘Transportation’, and a two-chapter section on ‘End-of-life issues’. As might be expected with so many chapters, they are short (10–12 pages) and are easy reading. The invited authors, an impressive array of predominantly United States gerontologists, are respected and well published in their fields. An international perspective is provided by four chapters on ageing policy in Switzerland, Germany and Japan and on the United Nations International Year of Older Persons (IYOP).

The four chapters in the Overview provide a solid start, avoid the usual rehash of the projected increases in the number of older people, and present a good
introduction to the complexities of ageing policy in the 21st century. Scott Bass argues that while the two key policy areas of health and income security can never be neglected, the emergence of ‘third age’ baby boomers, with their associated better health and wealth, suggests new possibilities for policy development which might enhance this large group’s social and economic integration. He also alerts us to the dangers of affluent baby boomers using their political clout to get policy precedence. Robert Binstock takes this issue further in a policy analysis of political sensitivities to the so-called ‘grey vote’. He provides an incisive insight into factors that will influence which policy issues are put forward and their chances of success. Employing devices such as ‘time to start-up’, for a policy to be phased in over a long period, reduces the immediate threat to the status quo, as with controversial proposals to raise the retirement age. Charlotte Nusberg similarly points out how the policy theme of the 1999 IYOP, ‘A society for all ages’, was more acceptable because it moved the spotlight from a narrow focus on the problems of older people to holistic and multi-generational perspectives. Achenbaum completes the Overview with an analysis of the future policy influence of lobby and interest groups, and highlights the power of the American Association of Retired Persons with its 37 million members aged over 50 years.

The extensive array of thematic policy chapters will be of great interest to most gerontologists and of course older people, not only within the United States. That on ‘Economic security’ is primarily about economic gender equity, while policies relating to diversity and family responsibilities emerge in those on ‘Elder Latinos’ and ‘Family medical leave’. The volume has a useful index with around 1,000 entries. I would have liked more on the balance between residential and community care, and on how policy decisions about ‘who pays’ are determined, because these are perennial and regionally pervasive issues. My major criticism of the publication, particularly as a separate volume, is the lack of an introductory chapter that explains and defines ‘policy’ and discusses methodologies for policy development and analysis. To enhance the stand-alone version, particularly for the less initiated, more basic definitions of policy concepts and frameworks and of what policy is and how it works would have been useful. Overall, however, the separate monograph is a useful and interesting read.

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As patterns of health and illness change, so do patterns of dying – the starting point for this book. We are less likely to die of an acute illness, and more likely to die after a lengthy period of chronic and multiple illnesses, and some of us will die in care-homes. Realising this has implications for the way that we manage and support care in care-homes, where the understandable emphasis has been on promoting active and engaged living. Acknowledging that many residents will die