

Abby Day

Old Ladies and Their Belief in Belonging

Older Christian laywomen have broadly been ignored as the focus in the literature has been mostly on their children and grandchildren, the so-called baby-boomers, and, increasingly, their grandchildren, the Generations X, Y and Millennials. What is often neglected by academics and policy-makers is the labour of their mothers and grandmothers, the Christian 'Generation A', a diminishing generation who will not be replaced in churches worldwide or in the communities that depend on their voluntary and mostly invisible labour. This paper reflects on ethnographic fieldwork that discusses how the women's informal social work is disappearing, and what the effect may be on the dispossessed.

Dr. Abby Day
Reader in Race, Faith and Culture
Department of Sociology
Goldsmiths, University of London