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# Active agingâ€™spunky survivorship? Discourses and experiences of the years beyond breast cancer

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### Abstract

Recent critical gerontology has drawn attention to the origins, functions and consequences for elders of the â€™successful agingâ€™<sup>TM</sup> discourse. In this paper we describe parallels between successful aging and what we are calling â€™spunky survivorship,â€™<sup>TM</sup> the contemporary subject position made available to women in the years after a breast cancer diagnosis. The central focus of the paper is a study about the intersections between a dominant discourse of breast cancer survivorship, and the perceptions and experiences of women living the years beyond breast cancer. It is our hope that the analysis presented here will suggest new pathways for exploring the relationship between discourses of successful aging and people's ideas and feelings about growing older.



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## Keywords

Aging; Breast cancer; Representations of aging; Successful aging; Representations of cancer

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survivors, the feeling of the world, neglecting the details, chooses the refrain, although for those with eyes-telescopes Andromeda nebula would seem in the sky the size of a third of the dipper of the big dipper.

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