

Editorial: A Question of Ethics for Gerontological Social Workers

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Within Volume 10, Number 1 (2013) *Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*, I wrote an editorial titled [Is Infantilization Ethical? An Ethical Question for Gerontologists](#). I was surprised by the number of responses we received from our readers.* In fact, the interest generated on the topic of “infantilization” far exceeded the responses we have received on the topic of abortion. I seemed to have opened up a hornet’s nest.

With the hats that I wear as a gerontologist, professor, and practitioner, I have become profoundly frustrated when I see professionals (physicians, nurses, AND social workers) interacting with elderly clients in a childlike manner. There is *nothing* in the literature that supports such an interaction.

If you are a gerontologist, I strongly recommend that you read the material housed within the following two links.

[Letters to the Editor](#) – These represent the replies from our readership.

[Letter Replying to Letters to the Editor](#) – After I read these letters, I invited Sonia Salari, Ph.D., to respond to them. Dr. Salari is the author of the 2005 article titled “Infantilization as Elder Mistreatment: Evidence from five adult day centers” cited in *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, 17(4), 53-91.

If you have additional comments, email them to smarson@nc.rr.com. In order to publish your comment; authors must include a statement granting permission to publish.

* Our current number of subscribers is approximately 11,000.