



# The Third Sense: Dual Sensory Impairment in Older Adults

AUTHOR Annmaree Watharow and Moira Dunsmore  
COLLECTION EDITED BY Damian Mellifont, Jennifer Smith-Merry

COLLECTION  
Education Studies

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scholarly

## This course reading...

- Draws from lived experience to explore the experiences of older adults living with dual sensory loss, a population group often rendered invisible along with the unique challenges they face.
- Is written by Dr Annmaree Watharow MD PhD, an academic and medical doctor with lived experience of dual sensory impairment, and Dr Moira Dunsmore BSN PhD, an academic and registered nurse with first-hand experience caring for older adults with multiple sensory loss.
- Is crucial reading for higher education students of Disability Studies, Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, and related courses; medical practitioners, clinicians, healthcare providers, and social care providers in practice and in training.

## Is a decline in vision and hearing just a “fact of life” for people as we age?

Dual sensory impairment is an under-explored and little understood type of disability, but one which can have an enormous impact on those living with it and their partners, families, and carers. The number of people who are living with impairments to both sight and hearing is rapidly increasing as the global population ages, yet the challenges faced as a result are largely invisible. **The Third Sense** explores the experiences of older adults living with multiple or dual sensory loss, the social consequences, barriers, and stigma faced by people and their loved ones.

Drawn from the lived experience of both the authors and their research participants, this book is necessary and urgent reading for medical practitioners, clinicians, health workers, and social care providers in practice and training; higher education students of Disability Studies, Medicine, Social Work, Sociology, and Cultural Anthropology.

**Annmaree Watharow MD, PhD** is an academic and medical doctor with lived experience of dual sensory impairment. **Moira Dunsmore RN, PhD** is an academic and registered nurse with first-hand experience caring for older adults with multiple sensory loss. They are co-founders of a dual sensory impairment special interest group, and the dual sensory impairment project ([www.dsiproject.org](http://www.dsiproject.org)), based at the University of Sydney.

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