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Werner Z. Hirsch is professor of economics at UCLA and has been the founding director of public policy institutes at two universities. Dr. Hirsch has served on numerous boards, committees and councils and in an advisory capacity to various federal, state and local governments in the United States, as well as international agencies and the RAND Corporation.

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Valentine M. Villa is an adjunct assistant professor of the Department of Social Welfare and associate director of the Center for Policy Research on Aging at the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research. Dr. Villa's area of research is documenting the health and economic status of minority elderly populations and examining the differential impact that public policy can have across minority and low-income populations.