Alan Cohen Abstract:
What is aging and how do we measure it? Bridging biology and social science perspectives
Social scientists from various disciplines regularly have need of ways to quantify biological aging, such as in panel data with biomarkers. A number of measures of biological age or related metrics have been proposed, but there is still substantial controversy among aging biologists as to what aging is and how it can be measured. I will discuss existing metrics of biological aging, including some developed by our group, and will consider their pros and cons, situating them in the context of current debates, complex systems theory, and philosophy-of-science perspectives.