Parallel lines: nothing has changed?

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This article discusses the use of the Gompertz law of mortality as an estimate for the rate of senescence. Classic inference from the Gompertz law has led to the conclusion that the rate of senescence is unaffected by environmental conditions. Here we propose a different approach to the Gompertz law of mortality when estimating the rate of senescence. Our approach concurs with the notion that the rate of senescence results from the interaction of both genes and environment. This article calls into question previous claims that the rate of senescence cannot be influenced positively.