

time and place, such as income, education, prosociality, and perceived corruption (i.e. REF). Given the benefits of well-being to both individuals and nations, and that subjective well-being is often predicted by variables that are not easily altered, this study aims to better understand the relationships between subjective well-being and some of its known predictors, in the context of India. Three hypotheses were tested and found significant with nationally representative samples of a total of 57,077 survey respondents in India, using data from Gallup World Poll for 2006-2019. Hypothesis #1 tests for having someone one can count on as a mediator. Hypothesis #2 tests for age as a moderator. Hypothesis #3 is a moderated mediation that best explains how the known predictors of subjective well-being make their influence, and with whom. This study's findings give insights into the ways in which subjective well-being in India can be better understood and thus improved. Such understanding may also help local Indian nonprofit organizations, as well as other researchers and mental health providers, with shared interests in the growing prevalence of suicide in India.

Session 9460 (Poster)

SOCIAL SUPPORT, SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS, AND LONELINESS II

BIRTH OF THE SOCIETY OF DIVOREES – CHANGING PATTERNS OF CIVIL STATUS IN LATER LIFE

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Half a century ago Lopata used the concept “society of widows” to describe the gendered reality of late life singlehood, where widowed women were excluded from coupled social life, depended on a community of other widows for social integration, and refrained from initiating new relationships due to “sanctification” of their former husbands. We use Swedish, American and EU census data and a national survey to Swedes 60-90 years old (n=1225; response rate 42%) to illustrate a substantial change in the demographic landscape of late life singlehood. More people enter later life as divorcees or become divorced at a high age. Among Swedes 60+ divorcees outnumber widowed people, and the incidence of late life divorce has more than doubled since the millennium in what has been called the “grey divorce revolution”. Many other Western countries follow the same demographical trend, posing important questions about the transformation of late life singlehood. Based on two Swedish studies we will show that the structure of the late life single community is becoming less gender skewed as a consequence of the emerging society of divorcees, and that in this society relationship careers are increasingly complex, attitudes to repartnering increasingly liberal and partner sanctification seldom an issue. We conclude by proposing the concept “society of divorcees” for this new demographic landscape of late life singlehood, argue that research is needed to capture this new reality, and discuss the implications of this change for access to social support later life.

EFFECTS OF LONELINESS AND STRESS MANAGEMENT ON PERCEIVED STRESS IN OLDER ADULTS

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In older adulthood, individuals may experience acute and chronic stressors, such as the loss of independence, mobility, or the experience of chronic diseases. Loneliness is also a concern in older adulthood as many experience the loss of close others and smaller social networks. Loneliness is well-established as being associated with higher stress levels in younger adults, but there are mixed findings on the impact in older adulthood. Furthermore, while older adults may engage in behaviors designed to reduce and manage stress, it is not known whether these behaviors modulate the relationship between loneliness and chronic stress. The current study examined the relationship between loneliness and stress in older adulthood and the degree to which stress-management moderated this relationship (note: data collected prior to COVID-19 pandemic). We hypothesized that loneliness and perceived stress would be positively associated, but that stress-management would moderate this relationship. Participants included 40 healthy older adults (Mage= 69.18, Range:55-86yrs; 29 females) who completed the UCLA-Loneliness Scale, the Perceived Stress Scale, the NEO-FFI (to assess neuroticism), and demographic information about participation in stress management activities. We found that loneliness was significantly associated with chronic stress, $r(38) = .539$, $p < .001$. Furthermore, loneliness and neuroticism were significant predictors of perceived stress, $F(2, 37) = 10.657$, $p < .001$, $R^2 = .366$. These findings demonstrate that loneliness is a significant predictor of perceived stress in older adulthood and point to a need for further exploration of effective stress-management tools in later life.

ENHANCING GROUP BONDING IN AN ACTING CLASS OF OLDER ADULTS IN URBAN SUBSIDIZED HOUSING

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Creative arts such as acting can promote social contact and bonding among socially isolated populations. Yet the benefits of art programming among older adults in low-income urban settings remain unexplored. A professionally administered theater group comprised of older adults living in urban low-income housing met for 12 weeks to learn acting skills and perform a play. The purpose of this study was to identify: 1) why participants enroll in a residence-based acting and improvisation course, and 2) what aspects of the course contribute to group bonding. Participants (n=14) were African American. The average age was 63 years, 14% were men, 57% had a high school degree or less, 79% reported good to excellent health, and the mean ADL score was 1.45 (range: 1-2.5). A researcher was present at each class session to observe and take field notes. Pre-post interviews included closed