

**TALKING ABOUT LONELINESS**

Michael Thomas<sup>1</sup>, *1. Brunel University London, Uxbridge, United Kingdom*

his paper draws on insights from a mixed methods study on temporal variations in loneliness among older people (aged 50 years plus) in England. The paper highlights alternative strategies available to participants in research interviews, including engaging with personal experience of loneliness or avoidant tactics such as digression, projection onto others or claiming ignorance of the topic. The data point towards complicating factors including a reluctance to disclose loneliness as a socially undesirable phenomenon, as well as difficulties in articulating the complexities of this topic. These considerations remind researchers of the need for reflection on the use of qualitative interviews when investigating loneliness and other difficult aspects of personal experience.

**SESSION 1540 (SYMPOSIUM)****INTEREST GROUP SESSION—AGING WORKFORCE: WORK AND PRODUCTIVE AGING: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

Chair: Jim Emerman, *Encore.org, San Francisco, California, United States*

Co-Chair: Cal J. Halvorsen, *Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, United States*

Discussant: Jim Emerman, *Encore.org, San Francisco, California, United States*

With much of the world experiencing population aging and a strong need—and desire—among many approaching later life to work longer than past norms, individuals and institutions are experimenting with new ways of working. Yet given the complexities of navigating the work environment in later life, including aspects of cumulative (dis)advantage that help or hinder one's work prospects, the pull to socially impactful work in the nonprofit sector, and the day-to-day experience of such work in later life, outcomes from this work can vary. Consequently, this symposium will focus on the challenges and opportunities of working longer and their relevance to a productive aging model. The first paper will provide a framework for engaging in the conversation on productive engagement in later life. It will give particular consideration to older workers with lower levels of socioeconomic status in OECD countries. The second paper will discuss results from more than 1,400 surveys of fellows and organizational hosts that have participated in the Encore Fellowships Network, which matches mid- and late-career workers (typically corporate retirees) to non-profit organizations seeking their skills and experience. The third and final paper will reveal findings from an experience sampling methods study of two groups of older adults over the age of 60: founders or leaders of social purpose organizations, and older volunteers. We will conclude by facilitating a discussion on ideas for future scholarship on longer working lives, with particular emphasis on individuals with less advantage as well as those pursuing social purpose work.

**CAN PRODUCTIVE AGING BE MADE TO WORK FOR ALL WORKERS?**

Philip Taylor<sup>1</sup>, *1. Federation University Australia, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia*

This paper considers the changing status of older workers in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and addresses the questions of if and how they can be supported to age productively. This paper questions the utility of the dominant pro-work policy framework which, while ostensibly aimed at all older workers, mostly benefits those for whom greater choice around work and retirement was always available. Analysis of OECD data concerned with employment and unemployment demonstrates that, for a significant proportion of older workers, choice in terms of labor force participation is severely constrained, with potentially adverse consequences for the transition to old age. The soundness of the pro-work agenda is challenged and it is argued that older people's advocacy, in particular, has an important role to play in offering a vision of what it means to grow old successfully that is not limited by narrow conceptions of productivity.

**THE ENCORE FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM: FINDINGS FROM HOST AND FELLOW FOLLOW-UP EVALUATIONS**

Cal J. Halvorsen<sup>1</sup> and Jim Emerman<sup>2</sup>, *1. Boston College School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, United States, 2. Encore.org, San Francisco, California, United States*

The Encore Fellowships Network (EFN) began as a pilot program in 2009 to match mid- and late-career for-profit employees in the San Francisco Bay Area to non-profit organizations seeking their skills and experience. After a successful pilot, the EFN expanded nationally, reaching 26 states and placing close to 2,000 Fellows in 10 years. This presentation will reveal analysis from more than 1,400 linked surveys of fellows and their organizational hosts both pre- and post-fellowship, totaling more than 350 observations. Results indicate a high sense of program satisfaction and enduring impact on the work of the non-profits. Further, the efficiency of the matching process was positively associated with fellows' recommendation of the program to friends or colleagues and a higher sense of enduring impact among fellows was positively associated with the likelihood of pursuing post-fellowship non-profit work. Implications for the EFN and the broader nonprofit sector will be discussed.

**THE DAY-TO-DAY EXPERIENCES OF LATER-LIFE PROSOCIAL WORK: AN EXPERIENCE SAMPLING METHOD STUDY**

Jeanne Nakamura,<sup>1</sup> Dwight C.K. Tse,<sup>1</sup> Ajit Mann,<sup>1</sup> Laura Graham,<sup>1</sup> Jordan Boeder,<sup>1</sup> and Kelsey Finley<sup>1</sup>, *1. Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California, United States*

As one form of productive aging, many older adults undertake significant prosocial activity. Alongside its contribution to the welfare of others, prosocial activity has been linked to a variety of positive outcomes for those undertaking it (e.g., higher life satisfaction). However, little is known about the impact of this activity on older adults' day-to-day lives. We studied a national sample of about 150 older adults who give back to their communities on a regular basis in one of two ways: either by playing leadership roles in social-purpose organizations or as more traditional volunteer workers in such organizations. We employed the experience sampling

method to describe and compare the experience of prosocial activity during a typical week for these two groups of highly engaged adults. While prosocial activity carries both costs and rewards, these show differences as well as similarities for the two groups. Implications for research and practice are discussed.

## SESSION 2000 (SYMPOSIUM)

### INTEREST GROUP SESSION—INTERNATIONAL AGING AND MIGRATION: AGING SOCIETY: INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Chair: Noriko Toyokawa, *California State University San Marcos, San Marcos, California, United States*

Discussant: Vivian W. Lou, *The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, P.R.C., Hong Kong*

The purpose of this symposium is two-fold: (1) to promote mutual understanding and communication regarding the long-term caregiving plans for older immigrants/refugees between policymakers and researchers in the fields of behavioral and social sciences and (2) to discuss the needs for connecting local needs of older immigrants/refugees and their families with a global plan for aging society. The symposium is structured by three empirical studies on older adults and their caregivers by behavioral and social sciences researchers, followed by a presentation of the needs for an international convention on the rights of older people by an advocate in the global network to promote older people's health. Miyawaki and colleagues focus on the residential status quo, family relations, and prevalence of chronic diseases among older Vietnamese refugees in Houston, TX, U.S.A. Liu's qualitative study on Taiwanese professional caregivers' perceptions of clients in adult daycare services reveals the relation between staff's negative image of aging and their practice. Toyokawa conceptualizes middle-aged Mexican immigrants' sense of family obligation, as their obligation for reducing children's caregiving burden and the endorsement predicts their well-being. Three presenters point out the need for standards for basic needs of refugees/immigrants, staff training, and the quality of long-term care, and discuss the meaning of culturally sensitive support based on their studies. Finally, Marumoto advocates the need for an international convention of the rights of older people and standardization of the quality of long-term care. Specific approaches to 'harness the network' between local and global efforts are discussed.

### I WILL KEEP CONTRIBUTING TO MY FAMILY: FAMILY OBLIGATION AMONG OLDER ADULTS WITH MEXICAN IMMIGRANT BACKGROUNDS

Noriko Toyokawa<sup>1</sup>, *1. California State University San Marcos, San Marcos, California, United States*

Providing care of older parents is a family obligation for children with Mexican cultural contexts (Knight et al., 2010). Nevertheless, little is known about how parents with Mexican cultural backgrounds believe about their family obligations. The current study conceptualized Mexican American older adults' sense of family obligation. Data was collected from 307 Mexican Americans (Mage=54, SD=8, range 45-77 years old, females=56%) through an

online survey. A 2-factor model: Expectation on children's caregiving (3-item) and Efforts to reduce children's burden (7-item) were identified as the best-fit model through EFA and CFA analyses (CFI=.96, SRMSA=.4). The component of efforts to reduce children's burden predicted participants' generativity assessed by the scale of McAdams and Aubin (1992). The findings suggest that Mexican American older adults expect their children to take care of them, as they feel obligated to reduce their children's caregiving burden. The function of the cultural value in intergenerational relations is discussed.

### WHY DO WE NEED AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PEOPLE?

Mika Marumoto<sup>1</sup>, *1. HelpAge International, London, United Kingdom*

This presentation discusses the increasing need for an international convention on the rights of older people. Such a convention would contextualize global, regional and national demographic shifts and identify gaps in existing international human rights laws, so as to better protect older persons' rights to health and well-being. Persons aged 60 or above are expected to more than double from 2015 to reach 2 billion in 2050, with their proportion of the world population rising from 12% to 21%. By 2050, 80% of older persons are expected to live in societies that are currently labeled developing countries. Existing international human rights instruments fall short regarding pensions and protection from poverty. The presentation demonstrates ongoing global efforts, specifically through the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, to set global rights-based standards, and the roles played by civil society organizations that use network approaches in advocating for the rights of older people.

### HEALTH STATUS OF OLDER VIETNAMESE REFUGEES: RESULTS FROM THE VIETNAMESE AGING AND CARE SURVEY (VACS)

Christina E. Miyawaki,<sup>1</sup> Nai-Wei Chen,<sup>2</sup> Oanh L. Meyer,<sup>3</sup> Mindy Thy Tran,<sup>4</sup> and Kyriakos S. Markides<sup>5</sup>, *1. Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, United States, 2. Beaumont Research Institute, Beaumont Health, Royal Oak, Michigan, United States, 3. University of California, Davis, Sacramento, California, United States, 4. University of Houston, Houston, Texas, United States, 5. University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas, United States*

Over 1.3 million Vietnamese including refugees migrated to the U.S., after the Vietnam War. Vietnamese are the 4th largest Asian ethnic group in the U.S. Despite the number, little is known about their health conditions. To fill this gap, the Vietnamese Aging and Care Survey (VACS) was developed, and sociodemographic and health data on 132 refugees (≥65 years) were collected in Houston, Texas. They were on average 75.4 years-old, retired (77%), married (58%), female (55%) with less than high school education (86%) in poor/fair health (76%). They immigrated around age 49 years-old, and have hypertension (74%), arthritis (48%), and diabetes (41%). They manage their lives by living in a multi-generation tightly-knit enclaves, and show resilience to their low sociodemographic status (≤25K, 94%).