

THE USE OF ELDERCARING COORDINATION FOR RESOLVING CASES INVOLVING OLDER ADULTS AND HIGH-CONFLICT FAMILY DYNAMICS

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The Association for Conflict Resolution and The Florida Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts developed a model of Eldercaring Coordination for use in guardianship/probate cases involving high-conflict family dynamics that interfere with the well-being and safety of an older adult, limit adherence to court orders, impede court processes, or detract from the efficacy of guardianship and other appointments by the court. Developed by 40 organizations and entities in the United States and Canada, Eldercaring Coordination focuses on improving family dynamics so that the older adult, family members, and other involved parties can better work together and with professionals to make thoughtful and informed decisions and to support each other during times of transition. The purpose of this research was to gather information about participant experiences with Eldercaring Coordination. A pre-post test design was employed in which data were collected from older adults or their surrogates, family members and other court-ordered participants, judges and court administrators, and the Eldercaring Coordinators themselves. Findings from post-tests of 23 judges and court administrators revealed that the most common advantages of Eldercaring Coordination were that the intervention prioritized the older adults' needs and improved family relationships. Post-test surveys from 17 Eldercaring Coordinators indicated some positive outcomes for older adults and their families, but also a need for enhanced authority, greater support from attorneys, and more cooperation from participants. Preliminary findings support the assertion that Eldercaring Coordination holds promise for intervening in high-conflict court cases involving older adults.

SESSION 3030 (PAPER)

EMOTIONS AND WELL-BEING IN LATER LIFE

CHILDHOOD HAPPINESS, SELF-MASTERY, AND LATER-LIFE HEALTH

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Considerable work has documented that positive childhood memories, especially childhood happiness, predict better health among young adults. However, it is not known whether growing up happy has enduring health consequences across the life course. Using two waves of the National Social Life, Health and Aging Project (2010-2011 and 2015-2016; N = 1,937), we investigate the relationship between childhood happiness and changes in physical, mental, and biological functioning in later life. Childhood happiness was retrospectively assessed using a question: "When I was growing up, my family life was always happy." Self-rated health, depressive symptoms, and frailty over a five-year period were examined to reflect changes in functional status. Childhood SES and living arrangement were examined to assess childhood sociodemographic background. Educational

attainment, family support and strain, and self-mastery were considered as potential mediators. We find that, among other childhood factors, childhood happiness significantly predicts older adult health. Specifically, childhood happiness was associated with better self-rated health and lower depressive symptoms at follow-up, net of baseline health conditions. We did not find a relationship between frailty and childhood happiness. Unlike prior work, we found no significant effect of childhood SES on the measured outcomes. Associations between childhood happiness and self-rated health and depression were mediated by psychosocial resources including self-mastery and perceived social support from family members. This implies that growing up in nurturing, cherished family environment has the potential to cultivate social relationships and build resilience which could provide an important pathway to successful aging.

DAILY EMOTIONS AND STRESS: AGE CHANGES AND DIFFERENCES

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Developmental processes differ between individuals (interindividual differences), fluctuate within them on a short-term basis (intraindividual variability), and change over time on a longer-term basis (intraindividual change; Nesselroade, 1991). We situate the relationship between stress and emotions in this process-oriented perspective by examining how the daily relationship between stress and negative affect (NA) as well as stress and positive affect (PA) change over time, while considering cross-sectional age and stress differences. Participants (N = 966) completed daily questionnaires assessing stress, NA, and PA. Three-level multi-level models depicted how cross-sectional age, within-person age changes, and global stress differences impact the daily stress-affect relationship. Findings illustrate that cross-sectional age and the aging process uniquely buffer the stress-NA relationship whereas global stress exacerbates it. Furthermore, older adults as well as adults with low global stress experience a weaker relationship between daily stress and PA as they age, but mid-life adults and adults with high global stress experience a stronger relationship. These results depict differences in aging trajectories for both midlife and older adults and thus inform intervention and preventative care strategies aimed toward promoting emotional well-being, suggesting that targeting these strategies at the daily level can promote better stress regulation. Furthermore, we see that midlife adults and adults with greater global stress perceptions are most in need of these interventions, and encouraging these adults to maintain PA in the face of daily stress can be particularly beneficial.

LINKING FAMILY TRANSITIONS AND LATER-LIFE DEPRESSION: DOES LIFE-COURSE SOCIOECONOMIC STANDING MATTER?

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Research documented the impact of marital transitions—particularly marital loss—on depression in old age, yet its severity depends on multiple factors. Individuals' capability to cope with transitions depends on available resources and previous exposure to stressors, such as early-life adversity, which buffers or aggravates the impact of marital transitions on later-life depression. Although studies documented the pivotal link between early-life adversity and negative health trajectories, our study is the first attempt to examine whether early-life adversity influences the relationship between prospectively-tracked, later-life marital transitions and depression. We drew data from SHARE, which samples individuals aged 50+ across Europe (N = 13,258; 2004-2016). Using multilevel linear models, we found that women who became widowed had higher levels of depression compared to coupled and single women, but experienced lower increases in depression over time. After adjusting for early-life and adulthood SES, losing a partner remained significantly associated with depression. Life-course SES was associated with levels of depression, yet interactions between marital transitions and SES were not, with some exceptions: single women who reported difficulties in their ability to make ends meet experience higher increases of depression over time. Overall, results were similar for men. Interactions between family transitions and SES were again not significant, with a few exceptions for single men: those born in more childhood conditions, and those with high education, had lower levels of depression. We interpret and discuss our findings through the lens of life-course and stress-resiliency perspectives and in light of changing family dynamics for this age group.

THE EXPERIENCE OF HAPPINESS IN LATE-LIFE REPARTNERING: SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT

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Late life repartnering among those aged 65 and older is a phenomenon developing along with the increase in life expectancy. Although research indicates that older people are happier than adults at other life phases, the common lay person perception among the young as well as the old is that old age is associated with less happiness. Late life repartnering in Israel, culturally located between tradition and modernity, is not officially recognized as an option in old age. Exploring the experience of happiness within a social context that perceives late-life repartnering as the exception, using a naturalistic paradigm, has the potential for understanding lay persons' perceptions of happiness. The aim of this qualitative research is to explore the experience of happiness in late-life repartnering relationships from a dyadic perspective of each and both partners. 20 couples (40 participants) functionally independent, aged 66-92 who entered their late-life repartnering at old age (men aged 65+; women aged 60+) after widowhood or divorce from a lifelong marriage raising a family, were interviewed separately. Interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim. Data was analyzed using a dyadic interview analysis method. Findings indicate that happiness in late-life repartnering relationships include experiences of surprise and disappointment in three sub-themes: a. "A gift from heaven": Surprised of being happy; b. Disappointment not being happy; c. No surprise – No disappointment. Findings are discussed based on

disappointment theory, and empirical literature on expectations and happiness. Implications are addressed.

SESSION 3035 (SYMPOSIUM)

EMPOWERING VULNERABLE GROUPS IN LATER LIFE: FOCUS ON THE ROLE OF ACTIVITIES, SOCIAL NETWORK, AND ROUND-THE-CLOCK CARE

Chair: An-Sofie Smetcoren, *Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium*

Discussant: G.A. Rixt Zijlstra, *Maastricht University, Care and Public Health Research Institute (CAPHRI), Department of Health Services Research, Maastricht, Netherlands*

Europe has been challenged with an intense rise of aging populations facing for example multiple chronic health problems, functional limitations and social and psychological challenges. With increasing age people may become vulnerable, nevertheless, they can still report high levels of well-being despite their deficits. Older adults' strengths and resources can balance negative experiences and increase positive well-being outcomes. These resources can be personal (e.g. have sufficient income) or stemming from the social environment of the older person (e.g. an involved social network). Hence, this symposium focusses on these strengths and resources and how they might (positively) affect the well-being of vulnerable groups ageing in place. The main objective of the symposium is to give insights into different aspects and strategies that can protect older adults against negative outcomes. Four different studies from Belgium will be presented: Sarah Dury starts with explaining the potential buffering predictor of leisure and civic activities, by uncovering the mechanisms underlying the relationship between multidimensional frailty and well-being. Lise Switsters examines if the absence of social and emotional loneliness can act as a buffer to maintain a good well-being for older adults at risk of frailty. An-Sofie Smetcoren examines how 'living in solidarity' in a co-housing project can contribute to ageing in place. Finally, Sylvia Hoens explores the experiences of the older care users and their informal caregivers with live-in migrant care workers and examines how this care can increase their well-being.

SHAPING LIVING IN SOLIDARITY AMONG OLDER VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN BRUSSELS

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This research explores how older people construct their view on 'living in solidarity'. The data was collected during a cohousing project (from construction till occupation). Co-creation sessions with residents and project coordinators were analyzed. 7 conditions and success factors were unraveled that deemed important to realize 'solidary housing': 1) The challenge to unite individual and collective needs; 2) Continuous task to engage (candidate-) residents, from early beginning; 3) A targeted selection of residents; 4) Maximizing the competences of older people; 5) Developing a group identity consciousness; 6) Involving