

between perceived social isolation and impaired functional status may be partially explained by perceived neighborhood danger. These findings suggest that older adults who perceive their neighborhoods as dangerous, may be more socially isolated, and at risk for functional decline. These results support the Reserve Capacity Model, which posits that social resources are of increased importance for socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals. Additional research is needed to examine how such factors as stress, environment, and access to care contribute to our understanding of health outcomes among this population of adults.

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND THE PET EFFECT

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Social capital such as positive relationships and social support play an important role in older adults' well-being. Typically, researchers have investigated family and friends as providers of interpersonal resources to older adults but there has been an increasing trend to explore companion pets as providers of social capital and to investigate the impact of pet companionship on older adults' psychological well-being. Inconsistencies have appeared in the literature though as to whether there is a "pet effect," the positive benefit of companion pets on older adults' psychological health. The purpose of this study was to investigate whether having a companion pet would provide greater social connection and better psychological well-being among 83 community-residing older adults (meanage = 62.87 years; males = 38; females = 45) who owned a companion pet, a dog (n= 53), cat, (n= 21) or both (n= 9), versus 42 community-residing older adults (meanage = 65.69 years; males = 25; females = 17) who didn't own companion pets. Analyses revealed that no "pet effect" was found for any measure of psychological well-being: self-reported loneliness, happiness, life satisfaction, or mental health. This was especially true for cat owners in that the more one viewed a cat as a family member, the lower one's life satisfaction and happiness. In addition, as the number of cats in the household increased, the perceived social support from a significant other, family, and friends lowered. Discussion will focus on the implications of these results for pets as providers of social capital.

IMPACT OF ICT AND SOCIAL NETWORKS SITES UTILIZATION ON OLDER PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING AND LONELINESS: A SCOPING REVIEW

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In the last decade the debate on ageing issues has been powered by the relationship between older people wellbeing, loneliness, Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Social Networks Sites (SNSs). A scoping review on social experiment studies, analysing the casual effect of technologies use on older adults' wellbeing and loneliness, has been realized to support the randomized controlled trial included in "Aging in a Networked Society" project. The study aims to review the social experiments on the relationship between technology-use, older people wellbeing and loneliness, to provide a critical analysis of studies, to

underline drivers and barriers in existing literature and to provide recommendations for future study and policy. 133 papers have been selected using interdisciplinary search engines (Scopus, Pubmed, Web of sciences, Google Scholar), taking into account contents and methods used. An in-depth examination of 9 experiences of social experiment have been provided, focused on six dimensions: "aims", "design", "sampling", "intervention", "findings" and "limitations". The literature show the positive effects of ICT, internet and SNSs use on older people wellbeing and quality of life. Our review underlines how the older people shown interest in ICT use to support their social relations, and how it should become a social driver. The low widespread of experimental studies impacts on the literature evidences. The main limits are related to the recruitment and sampling. Social experiment practices, based on controlled randomized trial, should be widespread to better support the evidences in ageing issue.

LONELINESS SHAPES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ICT USE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT AMONG OLDER ADULTS

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Background: Given findings that generally support the benefits of information and communication technology (ICT) for older adults' psychosocial adjustment, one might surmise that lonely older adults, who have a stronger need for psychological support, would reap more psychosocial benefits from ICT use. However, scant research has examined this view, much less the likelihood that ICT use might worsen the psychological well-being of lonely older adults, as has been shown to be the case in younger adults. Objective: To examine whether the association between ICT use and psychological adjustment (i.e., psychological distress and sense of community [SOC]) among older adults depends on their loneliness levels. Methods: A representative sample of 738 Hong Kong SAR Chinese older adults aged 60 years or older (56% female) was interviewed in 2017 on loneliness, frequency of ICT use (i.e., Internet and smart devices), psychological distress (6-item Kessler scale; K6), and SOC. Results: Regression analyses showed that loneliness significantly moderated the relationship between ICT use frequency and psychological adjustment (psychological distress and SOC); more frequent ICT use was associated with more psychological distress and less SOC, with higher levels of loneliness. Conclusion: These findings suggest that ICT use may be a mixed blessing for older adults, i.e., using more ICT might predict worse psychological adjustment among lonelier older adults. Efforts that promote ICT use among older adults should take their loneliness levels into account.

DETECTION OF DEPRESSION USING THE UCLA THREE-ITEM LONELINESS SCALE IN OLDER CHINESE

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Loneliness is a significant and independent risk factor for later life depression. This study aimed to validate the Chinese version of the UCLA 3-item Loneliness Scale and to ascertain the cut-off point in detecting depression in community-dwelling older adults. The English version of the UCLA was translated into Chinese by six experienced social workers, clinical psychologists and researchers, and content validity was established by consultation and revision with 10 older adults. 1,919 older adults aged 60 years and over (average age = 76.3±8.0) were recruited from local NGOs, they were interviewed for demographic information, and assessed using the 3-item loneliness scale and the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9). Cronbach's α of the Chinese loneliness scale was 0.87; the average score was 4.0 ± 3.0 out of 9, and it significantly correlated with living alone ($r = 0.18$, $p < 0.001$), unmarried ($r = 0.12$, $p < 0.001$), no emotional support ($r = 0.14$, $p < 0.001$), and depression ($r = 0.41$, $p < 0.001$). Using PHQ-9 cut-off score of 5 for mild and above depression, the area under the curve (AUC) was 0.73 ± 0.1 ($p < .001$, 95% CI 0.71-0.76) with 77% sensitivity and 61% specificity. We determined a cut-off point of 3 for loneliness using the Youden index, which revealed better sensitivity over alternative definitions of loneliness. A cut-off point of 3 in the Chinese UCLA 3-item loneliness scale can reliably identify possible depression in community-dwelling older Chinese.

RAMBLE ON: LONELINESS AND OFF-TOPIC VERBOSITY IN OLDER ADULTS

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Numerous studies have found off-topic verbosity occurs more frequently in older adults than younger adults. Previous theories have attributed this to age-related decline, emotion recognition, and communication style. Previous research has linked lower loneliness with more off-topic verbosity; however, the precise nature of this relationship remains unclear. Loneliness has been defined as an inconsistency between an individual's actual and desired social relationships, and previous research has found that loneliness is associated with lower cognitive and social outcomes among diverse populations including older adults. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between loneliness and off-topic verbosity among older adults. Healthy, community dwelling older adult participants (N = 82; age 60-99, M = 76.66, SD = 8.52) completed the Three-Item Loneliness Scale and provided a verbal sample in which they recounted an autobiographical memory (a vacation) and a procedural memory (how to make a breakfast); the verbal samples were transcribed and rated by three independent judges. In contrast with previous research, results found that loneliness was associated with a greater tendency to engage in tangential verbal topics. This suggests that social factors such as loneliness may impact the way some older adults express themselves verbally.

HOPE AND RESILIENCE AMONG VULNERABLE, COMMUNITY-DWELLING OLDER PERSONS

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Community-dwelling older adults in the U.S. are at risk for experiencing a number of physical, emotional, and social issues including poverty, social isolation, and deteriorating health and daily functioning. Despite such challenges, research indicates that many older adults remain resilient and that factors such as social support, spirituality, and self-esteem contribute to resilience and improved outcomes. One factor that has been found to be particularly important for resilience among older adults is a sense of hopefulness. However, research has not looked specifically at the effects of hope on older adults experiencing severe economic and psychosocial challenges. Utilizing survey data drawn from a unique sample (n = 64) randomly drawn from 224 clients of a Meals on Wheels program, we explore the relationship between hope and resilience among a group of at-risk, community-dwelling older adults in one central Texas community. We find that hope, after accounting for the effects of social support, spiritual experience, health (ADL), and ethnicity, is a strong and significant predictor of resilience among at-risk older adults and that hope tends to mediate the effect of spiritual experience on resilience. Drawing on these findings, we discuss potential implications for social workers and congregational leaders working with older adults and for future scholarship on hope and resilience.

LONELINESS AND HYPOCHONDRIASIS AMONG OLDER ADULTS: THE MEDIATING ROLE OF INTOLERANCE OF UNCERTAINTY AND ANXIETY

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Loneliness is prevalent among older adults and is associated with adverse outcomes for health and mortality. Additionally, researchers have suggested that loneliness may cause a person to direct attention inward and become preoccupied with bodily symptoms which may subsequently lead to health anxiety. However, little extant research has examined the association among older adults. In this study, we proposed a loneliness model of hypochondriasis in which loneliness contributes to hypochondriasis through intolerance of uncertainty and anxiety. Healthy, community-dwelling older adults (N = 280; 64.4% female; age range: 65-95; M = 76.08, SD = 7.59) completed an interview survey. Loneliness was associated with higher hypochondriasis and had an indirect effect on hypochondriasis through intolerance of uncertainty and anxiety. Lonelier older adults may have an activated threat system which prompts greater intolerance of uncertainty and anxiety and thereby results in greater hypochondriasis.