

their parents' country of origin. Immigrants who have origins in countries with strong family ties are significantly more likely to report a high value of informal care. Finally, we show that children who report a high value of informal care are significantly more likely to provide informal care to a parent in need. Part of a symposium sponsored by the International Aging and Migration Interest Group.

BUILDING TRUST IN ETHNICALLY DIVERSE OLDER ADULTS USING TECHNOLOGY-BASED PHYSIO-FEEDBACK

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There is no research exploring how to build trust in the context of falls risk assessment and prevention. This study describes strategies to build trust in ethnically diverse older adults using technology-based physio-feedback from two studies. The technology includes a portable BTrackS balance plate and BTrackS Balance Software running on a computer device. Participants were provided instant playback showing their static balance performance with a scale from 0 to 100. Sixty-seven community-dwelling older adults participated in the first study, and 41 of them (61.2%) participated again in the second study using the same procedures. 70% were women, 43% were immigrants, 34% Hispanics, 15% African Americans, and 9% Asians. Three reasons for participation were reported: 1) specific objective feedback on the test results that supported by technology, 2) ability to record changes over time; and 3) ability to access the fall risk technology-based test at a place of their convenience. Part of a symposium sponsored by the International Aging and Migration Interest Group.

SESSION 5335 (SYMPOSIUM)

AGING IN CONTEXT: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF RESEARCH ON OLDER ADULTS' SOCIAL TIES

Chair: Christina Marini

Co-Chair: Stephanie Wilson

Discussant: Katherine Fiori

This symposium will examine positive and negative aspects of older adults' relationships and their impacts on health and well-being. We will begin by reviewing the past decade of research on family gerontology. Seidel's meta-analysis of 995 articles will identify prominent theories and methods, as well as remaining research gaps. The subsequent presentations provide current, cutting-edge research. Marini examines how associations between rumination and sleep unfold within a social context. The findings highlight how spousal support protects older adults' sleep quality from rumination, whereas support from family and friends is vulnerable to rumination. Using an actor-partner approach, Novak investigates the dynamics of support and control on health among older gay couples. Results reveal the benefits of support and risks of control for partners' diet quality and depression. Ermer adopts a dyadic perspective to examine links between self-perceptions of aging and inflammation. Results highlight how wives' inflammation is sensitive to husbands' aging perceptions, particularly if marital strain is low. Finally, Wilson characterizes age-graded patterns of

relationship narratives and their protective effects on emotional well-being. The findings demonstrate how older-adult couples' narratives are less self- and present-focused, which helps explain protective linkages between age and negative mood. The symposium will conclude with remarks from discussant Katherine Fiori, a GSA Fellow and internationally recognized scholar on older adults' social networks. She will synthesize the research and put forth her new theory about the importance of peripheral ties in later life to help direct the future of research on older adults within a social context.

LINKS BETWEEN RUMINATION AND SLEEP QUALITY AMONG OLDER ADULTS: AN EXAMINATION OF THE ROLE OF SOCIAL SUPPORT

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Rumination is a maladaptive coping strategy that gives rise to and sustains stress. Individuals who ruminate more, therefore, tend to sleep more poorly. Studies of rumination and sleep often neglect the role of social context. Social support may buffer the degree to which rumination predicts poorer sleep quality. Further, individuals with more support may ruminate less, resulting in better sleep quality. Finally, rumination may also erode social support, resulting in poorer sleep quality. The current study tested these three hypotheses within a sample of 131 partnered older adults. We examined support from spouses and friends/family separately. Findings indicated that spousal (not family/friend) support buffered the negative association between rumination and sleep quality. Neither type of support predicted rumination; however, rumination predicted lower levels of family/friend (not spousal) support. Thus, spousal support protects older adults' sleep quality from rumination, and support from their peripheral ties may be more vulnerable to rumination.

THE STORY OF US: OLDER AND YOUNGER COUPLES' LANGUAGE AND EMOTIONAL RESPONSES TO JOINTLY TOLD RELATIONSHIP NARRATIVES

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Social-emotional well-being is said to improve with age, but evidence for age differences in couples' behavior and emotions—studied primarily during marital conflict—has been mixed. Characteristics of jointly told relationship stories predict marital quality among newlyweds and long-married couples alike, yet younger and older couples' accounts have never been compared. To examine age differences in couples' emotional responses and in their I/we-talk, emotion word use, and immediacy (i.e., self-focused, present-tense style), 42 married couples ages 22–77 recounted their relationship's history then rated the discussion and their moods. Compared to younger couples, older couples used