196 residents across 28 NHs on why residents were satisfied (or not) with the fulfillment of their individual preferences. Most residents were female (70.4%) and white (80.1%) with a range of cognitive/physical abilities. Content analysis revealed six thematic codes classifying barriers/facilitators to preference fulfillment: resident agency, values, and physical characteristics; social support systems; staff competence; communication success; built environment; access to resources. Discussion will include implications for ameliorating barriers to preference fulfillment while meeting government mandates. Part of a symposium sponsored by the Research in Quality of Care Interest Group.

RISKY PREFERENCES: NURSING STAFF PERCEPTIONS OF RISKS MAY IMPEDE DELIVERY OF PERSON-CENTERED CARE
Liza Behrens,1 Kimberly Van Haitsma,2 Ann Kolanowski,3 Marie Boltz,2 Mark Sciegaj,2 Katherine Abbott,4 and Caroline Madrigal,3 1. University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States, 2. Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, United States, 3. PSU, University Park, Pennsylvania, United States, 4. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, United States, 5. Providence VA Medical Center, Providence, Rhode Island, United States

Nursing home (NH) staff perceptions of risks to residents' health and safety is a major barrier to honoring resident preferences, the cornerstone of person-centered care delivery. This study examined direct-care nursing staff perceptions of risk (possibilities for harm or loss) associated with honoring residents’ preferences for everyday living and care activities. Participants (N=27) were mostly female (85%), had more than 3 years of experience (74%), and worked in NHs experiencing 6-12 health citations. Content analysis of 12 focus groups indicated nursing staff perceptions of risks may impede delivery of PCC. This is supported by the overarching theme: pervasive risk avoidance; and sub-themes of: staff values, supports for risk-taking, and challenges to honoring preferences. Findings will be discussed considering a newly modified risk engagement framework meant to understand and inform the clinical management of older adult preferences perceived to carry risks. Opportunities for future research will be discussed (e.g., measurement development). Part of a symposium sponsored by the Research in Quality of Care Interest Group.

STAFF BARRIERS TOFULFILLING ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENT DAILY CARE AND ACTIVITY PREFERENCES
Tonya Roberts,1 Jillian Parks,2 Ella Greenhalgh,2 Josephine Hansen,2 Olivia Wheelis,2 and Sara Wilke,2 1. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, United States, 2. University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, United States

Person-centered care (PCC), or delivery of care consistent with preferences, has been associated with improved care and quality of life for residents in long-term care (LTC). However, research has shown PCC has not been universally adopted. While general implementation barriers have been identified, little research has focused on barriers to meeting specific types of resident daily care and activity preferences. The purpose of this study was to describe LTC staff barriers to fulfilling specific types of resident preferences. A descriptive, qualitative study with 19 assisted living staff from nursing, dietary, and activities was conducted. Semi-structured interviews focused on identifying work system barriers to meeting specific types of resident preferences were analyzed using thematic analysis. Findings suggest shift assignments, staffing challenges, and facility schedules influence staff ability to meet certain types of preferences. The results suggest innovative design of shift schedules and assignments may help staff meet certain types of preferences. Part of a symposium sponsored by the Research in Quality of Care Interest Group.

THE IMPACT OF PREFERENCE-BASED, PERSON-CENTERED CARE ON REGULATORY OUTCOMES
Xiao Qiu,1 Katherine Abbott,1 John Bowblis1 and Kimberly Van Haitsma,2 1. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, United States, 2. Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, United States

The Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory (PELI) was mandated as a pay for performance indicator by the Ohio Department of Medicaid in 2015. This study explored the impacts of PELI implementation on regulatory outcomes in 2017.

The level of PELI implementation from n=551 Ohio nursing home providers between 2015 and 2017 were linked with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Nursing Home Compare data. Fixed effects panel regression analyses assessed the effects of time-varying PELI implementation on 2015-2017 regulatory outcomes that could be correlated with quality of life including fines, substantiated complaints, health scores, deficiency counts and deficiency scores.

Results show a significant increase in substantiated complaints among providers that were slow adopters of the PELI. Overall, the extent of PELI implementation was not associated with regulatory outcomes.

The use of the PELI may not impact substantiated complaints suggesting further research is needed to identify person-centered outcomes of interest. Part of a symposium sponsored by the Research in Quality of Care Interest Group.

SESSION 7635 (SYMPOSIUM)

MEANINGFUL AGING IN THE FACE OF VULNERABILITY: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE HUMANITIES AND ARTS
Chair: Kate de Medeiros
Discussant: Desmond O’Neill

This symposium interprets GSA’s 2020 leading conference theme, “Why Age Matters”, as touching upon fundamental existential questions about the meaning of old age. Although meanings of aging have always been implicitly present in a variety of disciplinary gerontological studies, scholars from the humanities and arts have traditionally taken the lead in the field to provide thorough reflections and analyses about what makes later life meaningful. In this symposium,
we aim to present a selection of perspectives from the humanities and arts that explore how meaningful aging can be realized in circumstances of the increasing vulnerability that inevitably accompanies old age. First, Hanne Laceulle uses a practice-theoretical philosophical framework to argue that the common assumption that vulnerability constitutes a threat to meaningfulness deserves to be nuanced, because meaning can also occur in the process of integrating vulnerability in one’s life. Second, Theresa Allison, Jennie Gubner and Alexander Smith show how vulnerable older adults living with dementia and their caregivers seek meaning in daily life, adapting meaningful activities to circumstances of increasing vulnerability. Third, Kate de Medeiros and Ulla Kriebenneg discuss how a dialogue between facts and fictions, narrative and literary gerontology, can contribute in seeing vulnerability as a form of resistance. Fourth, Margaret Perkinson illustrates the power of visual images as elicitors of reflections on meaning among the older inhabitants of a Guatemalan village. Documenting villagers’ own perspectives through PhotoVoice methodology underscores the fundamental importance of taking first-person perspectives into account when studying meaning.

MEANING AND LATE-LIFE VULNERABILITY: A PHILOSOPHICAL PRACTICE-BASED APPROACH
Hanne Laceulle, University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, Netherlands

The quest for meaning constitutes one of the fundamental human existential motivations. At first glance, late life vulnerability appears to pose a threat to meaningfulness. Sources of meaning associated with certain activities or relations may seem less accessible once vulnerabilities, caused by social losses or diminishing health, start to dominate people’s daily life experience. On the other hand, some theorists have argued that it is particularly in the confrontation with our human vulnerability that the need for meaningfulness is most urgently felt. This paper presents a philosophical-conceptual exploration of meaning as a dynamic, context-dependent social practice. Contrasting theoretical approaches that analyse meaningfulness and/or meaninglessness in terms of the presence or absence of certain components or qualities, a practice-based approach enhances our sensitivity for concrete ways in which people manage to find or create meaning in situations of vulnerability, thereby integrating this vulnerability in their life narratives and sense of self.

MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES AMONG VULNERABLE OLDER ADULTS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA
Theresa Allison,1 Jennie Gubner,2 and Alexander Smith,3
1. UCSF Division of Geriatrics/San Francisco VA Medical Center, San Francisco, California, United States,
2. University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, United States,
3. University of California San Francisco Division of Geriatrics, San Francisco, California, United States

This paper examines self-identified meaningful activities in the daily lives of 21 vulnerable older adults living with dementia and the people who care for them at home (dyads). Using ethnographic observation and interviews, we asked the dyads to identify which aspects of daily life were most meaningful and how these activities changed as dementia progressed. Results ranged from pleasure-seeking activities like cigarette smoking and eating, to spiritual or mindfulness activities like hymn-singing, prayer and tai chi. Dyads identified specific examples of the ways in which meaningful activities and meaning-making both persisted and adapted throughout the progression of dementia. Using these identifiable moments of meaning-making as a starting point for inquiry, we explore underlying questions of how to adapt to dementia progression while retaining meaning in relationships.

FACTS AND FICTIONS: RETHINKING VULNERABILITY AND RESISTANCE IN LATE-LIFE NARRATIVES AND WHY AGE MATTERS
Ulla Kriebenneg,1 and Kate de Medeiros,2
1. University of Graz, Graz, Steiermark, Austria, 2. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, United States

Narrative gerontology examines the experience of aging through life stories and other first-person accounts. Literary gerontology explores cultural narratives (e.g., novels, films) that link us to our own aging through stories of others, real or imagined. Our paper focuses on narrative constructions of vulnerability, resistance, subjectivity and agency in life stories, interviews and fictional texts (e.g., Margaret Atwood’s short story “Torching the Dusties.”) It considers how aspects of vulnerability are embedded in stories and what they reveal about the cultural construction of age and aging or what makes us vulnerable as we age. Overall, our paper highlights the socio-cultural construction of vulnerability in narratives related to age and aging, focusing on the representation of vulnerability as a form of resistance and position of strength.

COMMUNICATING GUATEMALAN VILLAGERS’ EXPERIENCE OF AGING THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY OF LOCAL AGING ADVOCATES
Margaret Perkinson, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, United States

What does it mean to grow old in a remote Guatemalan village? How do locals perceive the experience and meaning of later life, and how can a non-local access those perceptions? Volunteers from the village church’s committee on aging learned PhotoVoice methodology to document townpeople’s experiences of aging. Team members reassembled to discuss reasons for selecting a particular subject, how the photos’ contents related to their own lives, what the images said about aging in their village, and possible actions to consider in response. Qualitative analysis of the discussions revealed perceptions and meanings attached to family relationships, living environments, work and leisure activities, and health issues of their older subjects. The images evoked exchanges, commentary, and reflections among group members, creating an “eliciting context” in which processes of negotiated, shared meaning-making regarding later life emerged.