care to formal or informal providers is linked with higher well-being among Northern and Western European women, but with lower well-being among women in Southern Europe, where traditional female caregiving responsibilities are stronger. Among men, outsourcing partner care is linked to higher well-being regardless of context.

CHILD-PARENT RELATION AND OLDER ADULTS’ HEALTH: A CROSS-CULTURAL COMPARISON BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES

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Western culture emphasizes independence in the child-parent relationship while Chinese culture values interdependence between adult children and older parents. This study compared the association of child-parent relationships with older adults’ multidimensional health over time in the U.S. and China. Two waves of data (2012-2015) from HRS and CHARLS were used (n=6,641, aged ≥65). Linear regression models were estimated. Results showed that, compared to Chinese older adults, fewer older Americans co-resided with or lived nearby their children, had less weekly contact, and fewer financial transfers from/to their children. Most child-parent relationship variables were nonsignificant predictors of older Americans’ health. However, a closer child-parent relationship was linked to fewer depressive symptoms and better cognition among older Chinese. Co-residence was associated with poorer health among Chinese parents. The associations of child-parent relationships with older adults’ health exhibited cross-cultural differences. A cultural perspective is recommended in understanding how family relations affect older adults’ health.

OLDER ADULTS’ SOCIAL STRESS PROFILES: A CROSS-COUNTRY COMPARISON OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

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Older adults face heightened risks for loneliness due to social isolation. Low-quality relationships also fuel loneliness. Because living arrangements and family norms differ between countries, cultural differences may arise in the stress of isolation, loneliness, and difficult relationships. To examine social stress profiles in the US and Mexico, HRS (N=17,878) and MHAS (N=15,001) participants rated their loneliness, whether they lived alone, and relationship quality with their spouse, children, and friends. Five latent classes emerged in both samples: lonely and isolated; lonely with poor relationships; moderately lonely with amicable relationships; moderately lonely and unhappily married; and low social stress. Lonely isolation was most common among Americans (23.4%), but least common among Mexicans (14.0%). The highest risks for loneliness coincided with living alone in the US, but with low-quality relationships in Mexico. Results reveal undercurrents of older adults’ social stress that were common to both countries, as well as important cultural differences.

FAMILY AND INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS II

Session 3530 (Paper)

ALL IN THE FAMILY: AGE, PERIOD, AND COHORT DIFFERENCES IN KINSHIP TIES AMONG OLDER U.S. ADULTS

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In general, older adults’ social networks—characteristics of which (e.g., size, type, frequency) have been linked to important health and well-being outcomes—tend to be kin-centered, although this has changed over time. Disentangling these changes, however, is difficult given typical mobility decline and shrinking networks in old age (age), the rapid social and demographic changes that occurred during the 20th century (cohort), and, in recent decades, the 2008 Recession and technological advances (period). This study uses data from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP), a nationally representative sample of older adults (ages 57-85; 2005-2016), to examine patterns in older adults’ social networks, with particular emphasis on the role that family plays. Specifically, we ask: 1) Have older adults’ social networks become less kin-centered over the past decade (2005-2016)? 2) Are they less kin-centered among younger cohorts? And 3) Does the recession explain part of these period effects? We find that, between 2005 and 2016, family still comprises the majority of older adults’ social networks, although their network size and range have grown larger and become less family-centric. They also report fewer close family members and friends, living with fewer family members, and less frequent interaction with network ties. Results from multi-level regression models suggest that age, and to a much lesser extent, cohort, plays a key role in many of these changes, although this varies between the first and second 5-year intervals of data collection, underscoring older adults’ adaptivity to current social and economic circumstances.

COSTS OF RAISING GRANDCHILDREN ON GRANDMOTHER-ADULT CHILD RELATIONS IN BLACK AND WHITE FAMILIES

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The cost of raising grandchildren on grandmothers’ mental and physical health has been well-documented; however, little is known about whether raising grandchildren also costs on grandmothers’ relationships with the adult children whose children the grandmothers have raised. Drawing from theories of exchange and affect, stress process model, and racial differences in intergenerational solidarity, we tested how raising grandchildren affects grandmothers’ relationships with their adult children.