of phone calls initiated by the adult child (r = 0.29, p < 0.05). Frequency of in-person visits to parents was not significantly associated with conversations. Infrequent contact may limit opportunities for care conversations.

SESSION 3315 (POSTER)

FAMILY & INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONS II

COULD CHASING GRANDKIDS KEEP US YOUNG? THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CUSTODIAL GRANDPARENT STATUS AND HEALTH

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There are approximately 7.2 million grandparents living with their grandchildren in the United States. Of these, roughly 2.5 million are skipped-generation households in which grandparents are solely responsible for meeting the needs of their grandchildren (U.S. Census, 2017). Previous research has established that custodial grandparents suffer from added strain and burden compared to their peers, which negatively impacts their health (Lo, M., Liu, Y., 2009). A decline in functional ability has a negative impact on not only the lives of these older adult grandparents but also their family members who are dependent upon them for care. The current study examines adults aged 65 and older using data from the American Community Survey 2016 to assess the extent to which raising one’s grandchildren is associated with five areas commonly subject to decline in older adulthood: cognitive performance, self-care ability, ambulatory difficulty, hearing, and vision abilities. Hierarchical binary logistic regression analyses found that after controlling for the effects of age, sex, race, and income-to-poverty ratio, custodial grandparents (those who reported having primary responsibility for their grandchildren in their own home with no parents present) were significantly less likely than their peers to report experiencing any of these five disabilities. Details of each model and clinical implications will be discussed.

HUSBAND’S EMOTIONAL SUPPORT PROVISION TO ADULT CHILDREN AND WIFE’S MARITAL SATISFACTION IN LATER LIFE

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The current study examined the association between intergenerational support exchange and marital satisfaction among older Korean couples. Prior work has not paid due attention to the fact that older parents and adult children often exchange various types of support in the context of marital relationships, and that provision or receipt of support could influence their marital relationships (see Lee, Zarit, Rovine, Birditt, & Fingerman, 2010; Polenick, Birditt, & Zarit, 2018, for exceptions). Using the 2008 Actual Living Condition of the Elderly and Welfare Need Survey (ALCEWNS), a nationally representative survey of community-dwelling adults 60 years and older, we evaluated the links between marital satisfaction and each spouse’s reports of emotional and instrumental support provided to or received from adult children. For analyses, a series of actor-partner interdependence models were estimated. Findings revealed that wives’ marital satisfaction was associated with their husband’s exchange of emotional support with adult children. By contrast, husbands’ marital satisfaction was unaffected by their wife’s emotional support exchange with adult children. More specifically, wives were more satisfied with their marriage when their husband reported providing greater emotional support to adult children than receiving it from adult children. In addition, wives indicated higher marital satisfaction when the couple provided similar levels of emotional support to their children. Provision or receipt of instrumental support had no bearings on marital satisfaction of either spouse. Taken together, our findings highlight how older couples may evaluate their relationship quality in the Korean cultural context.

THE PERSISTENCE OF TRADITIONAL VALUES: GRANDPARENTS REARING GRANDCHILDREN

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The goal of this study is to examine how cultural values are preserved and transmitted by grandparents rearing grandchildren in one community in the southeast region of the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area in Alaska. The eight participants (six females and two males) lived in a community in the Kusilvak Census Area, with ages ranging from 47 to 73 years old. Participants took part in a semi-structured interview, which were then transcribed and coded into larger themes of 1) loss of traditional values, 2) continuing traditional values, 3) practicing traditional values, and 4) transmitting traditional values. The participants provided examples of how the cultural values that were strong at one point in their lives, were no longer exemplified in their community, and, in fact, behaviors that went against accepted values were seen. Participants spoke most often of how community members were cared for, how the community was valued over the individual, and the connections within families. The GRGs practiced those traditional values by caring, supporting, and loving the people in their families and communities, and by practicing humor and sharing with others. While this community has been influenced by modern ways of living currently found in the United States and Canada, it still remains relatively isolated from the technological and social influences that dominate what is considered “typical, modern” family life. The findings from this study illustrate the important roles that GRGs play in the persistence of cultural values, and the importance of incorporating these values in programs to assist this community.

OBSERVING SUPPORT INTERACTIONS BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN ADVANCED AGE

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Studies on support exchanges in older parent-child dyads have so far not used observational approaches. Rather, they have mostly relied on self-report/questionnaire approaches. However, support exchanges represent a dyadic phenomenon that goes beyond individual perspectives on the quality of support; thus, self-reports offer only a part of the picture and are subject to bias (e.g., memory bias). In contrast, observations are better suited to capture specific support behaviors and allow for studying the dyad “in action.” Our study purpose was to examine mutual support during interactions between older adults and their children, and to investigate the links of support behaviors to relationship quality and health. Fifty dyads living in Switzerland, composed of individuals aged 70 and over and the child involved in their care, participated in a standardized interaction task: The parent described and discussed a personally challenging situation with the child for ten minutes; then roles were reversed. The videotaped interaction was analyzed using the Social Support Behavior Code Adapted for Elders (Meystre et al., submitted). Relationship quality and subjective health were assessed via standardized questionnaires. Various types of support were observed, ranging from positive to negative. Children provided more informational support than parents. Dyads with poor relationship quality showed more informational support. Better participant health was associated with fewer negative behaviors. In sum, observing the dyads in real time offered unique insights into interacting patterns of support among older parents and their children, and enabled us to capture the nature of their relationship above and beyond individual self-reports.

BLOOD THICKER THAN WATER? STEPGAP IN INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS
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The increasing prevalence of ageing stepfamilies and stepchildren’s potential to act as a source of support for older parents has prompted research about intergenerational cohesion in step-relationships. Previous research has hypothesized a qualitative gap (a step-gap) between step and biological relationships to the advantage of the latter. In this Swedish study we compare emotional closeness between older parents and adult children among parents (aged 66-79) who have had both biological and stepchildren, and children (aged X-Y) who have had both biological and stepparents. Qualitative interviews (n=24) of family histories including a hierarchical convoy model of family relationships were collected and analyzed. Results show that with few exceptions biological relationships are rated as emotionally closer than step-relationships, both by parents and adult children, supporting the step-gap hypothesis. While the older parents tend to deemphasize the importance of blood for their ratings, the adult children often emphasize the importance of blood. The difference is explained by a parental adherence to an ideology of equal treatment of children, while the adult children stress the importance of biology for their identity and belonging.

ARE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS A PROTECTIVE RESOURCE AMONG ADULTS WITH FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT?
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Health-related declines that affect physical functioning are a common stressor among older adults. Functional impairment can take a toll on older adults’ psychological well-being as it limits one’s capacities to independently carry out meaningful daily activities. The extent to which impairment affects mental health may vary based on the levels of support and strain in one’s personal relationships. Stress buffering perspectives suggest that support mitigates the detrimental psychological consequences of impairment, whereas stress amplification perspectives predict that strain will amplify these consequences. We use data from 2012 and 2016 waves of the Health and Retirement Study (N=3800) to explore: (a) the direct effects of functional limitation on depressive symptoms (CES-D); (b) the extent to which these associations are moderated by spouse, child, other relative, and friend support/strain; and (c) gender and marital status differences therein. Using lagged endogenous regression models, we find that impairment significantly increases depressive symptoms among men and women, and these effects are intensified by marital strain for both married men and women. However, buffering effects are found for women only, such that marital support mitigates against depressive symptoms in the face of current impairment. These results may reflect the gendered nature of marriage, where men with impairment uniformly benefit from marriage although women may experience protective effects of only in highly supportive unions. Results for other strain and support moderators also reveal gender differences, reflecting the distinctive ways that men and women interact with kin and friends over the life course.

IS ME IMPORTANT TO US? ACTOR AND PARTNER EFFECTS OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE ON SPOUSAL SUPPORT
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Marital relationship is influenced by substantial and perceived support exchange. Therefore, it is important to find predictors of support-giving and support-receiving. However, very few studies attempted to do so. As some previous studies reported, individuals’ personality-related characteristics seem to play a significant role in the support exchange within couples. This study aimed to assess the effect of individuals’ self-acceptance on support exchange within older couples. Data of 2,082 heterosexual older couples aged between 50 and 85 in 2006 from the Health and Retirement Study were assessed utilizing an actor-partner inter-dependence model and growth curve model. For the actor effects, both husbands’ and wives’ higher levels of self-acceptance predicted their own perception of the support from a spouse. For the partner effects as well, individuals’ self-acceptance positively predicted their spouse’s perception of the received support. Husbands’ self-acceptance, however, was associated with a decrease in wives’ perceived support. We discuss the possible mechanism with regard to older adults’ self-acceptance and...