

Personalized Itinerary Planner and Abstract Book

The Gerontological Society of America
November 18 - 22, 2009

To make changes to your itinerary or view the full meeting schedule, visit <http://gsa2009.abstractcentral.com:80>



Wednesday, November 18, 2009

You have nothing scheduled for this day

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Time	Session Info
8:00 AM-9:30 AM, Marquis M301 (M), Biosocial Studies of Health and Aging in the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study	
8:00 AM-9:30 AM	Biosocial Studies of Health and Aging in the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study R.M. Hauser
8:00-8:00 AM	Characterizing the Magnitude and Long-Term Temporal Course of the Psychological Stress Response Before and After a Cancer Diagnosis J.R. Schumacher ; M.A. Smith
8:00-8:00 AM	Can Young Adults' Social Participation Explain Variation in Older Adults' Health? E. Siegl
8:00-8:00 AM	Parental Ages at Birth Are Associated with Major Chronic Diseases and Somatic Symptoms of the Offspring in Later Adulthood D. Kuo
12:30 PM-2:00 PM, Galleria Exhibit Hall (H), Demography	
12:30 PM-2:00 PM	THE ROLL OF INCOME SOURCE AND SECURITY ON PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT TO WIDOWHOOD AND DIVORCE K. Holden ; B. Novak
2:30 PM-4:00 PM, Imperial Salon A (M), Psychological Adjustment, Well-Being, and Cognitive Functioning among the Elderly: The Wisconsin Longitudinal Study	
2:30 PM-4:00 PM	Psychological Adjustment, Well-Being, and Cognitive Functioning among the Elderly: The Wisconsin Longitudinal Study R.M. Hauser
2:30-2:30 PM	Religious Involvement and Healthy Cognitive Aging - Analysis of the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study K. Tanaka ; J. Ho
2:30-2:30 PM	The Impact of Work and Family Trajectories on Financial Well-Being at Older Ages J. Raymo ; J. Warren
2:30-2:30 PM	Smoking, Abstinence, and Cognitive Function at Age 65 D. Kuo
2:30-2:30 PM	INCOME SOURCE AND SECURITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT TO WIDOWHOOD AND DIVORCE IN THE U.S. K. Holden ; B. Novak

2:30-2:30 PM	Fathers' Education and Offspring's Psychological Well-Being at Midlife <u>T. Pudrovska</u> ; J.O. Ebot
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Friday, November 20, 2009

You have nothing scheduled for this day

Saturday, November 21, 2009

Time	Session Info
2:30 PM-4:00 PM, Marquis Salon D (M), Health Behaviors and Health Control in Mid- and Later Life: Evidence from Quantitative and Qualitative Studies	
2:30 PM-4:00 PM	Breadwinning and Weight: Examining the Effect of Employment and Occupational Characteristics on the Body Mass Index of Older Men <u>J. Storccch</u>
4:30 PM-6:00 PM, Marquis M103 (M), New Perspectives on Social Relations in Adults: Considering Heterogeneity	
4:30 PM-6:00 PM	Social Support Networks and Health across the Lifespan: A Longitudinal, Pattern-centered Approach <u>K. Fiori</u> ; J. Jager

Sunday, November 22, 2009

You have nothing scheduled for this day

Final ID:

Biosocial Studies of Health and Aging in the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

R. M. Hauser,¹;

1. Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA.

Objective 1: (Required) "After attending this session participants will be able to...": gain a new appreciation of the complex, multi-directional, and long-term relationships among genetic makeup, social circumstances, and health in later life

Objective 2: "After attending this session participants will be able to...": understand the scientific and policy value of multi-purpose, longitudinal studies of the life course and aging

Program Overview (Required; Limit 250 Words) : The most important scientific development in life-course and aging research in the past decade has been the increasing overlap and integration of socio-behavioral and biomedical research facilitated by the collection of biomarkers in longitudinal social surveys. This symposium brings together several exemplars of biosocial research, drawing in common on a single, rich longitudinal set of data from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS). The Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS) is a long-term study of a random sample of 10,317 men and women who graduated from Wisconsin high schools in 1957 and who have been followed for more than half a century. The WLS provides an opportunity to study the life course, intergenerational transfers and relationships, family functioning, physical and mental health and well-being, and morbidity and mortality from late adolescence through the retirement years. WLS data also cover social background, youthful aspirations, schooling, military service, labor market experiences, family characteristics and events, social participation, psychological characteristics, and retirement. The papers in this symposium focus on several of the complex relationships among genetic makeup, social characteristics, and health, ranging from the effect on chronic disease conditions of parental age at birth, to the psychosocial stress response to a cancer diagnosis, genetic sources of impulsivity and their consequences for education and careers, to relationships between youthful social participation, social support, and health in later life.

Final ID:

Characterizing the Magnitude and Long-Term Temporal Course of the Psychological Stress Response Before and After a Cancer Diagnosis

*J. R. Schumacher*¹; *M. A. Smith*¹;

1. Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA.

Individual Symposium Abstract (Required; Limit 150 Words) : Forty percent of cancer survivors report psychological distress, which is costly in terms of well-being and health care use. It is unknown whether stress predates the illness or differs from non-cancer patients because studies are limited to patient follow-up after diagnosis. We estimate the magnitude and temporal course of the stress response pre- to post-cancer diagnosis using data from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study. The change in stress (depression, anxiety, psychological well-being) in participants diagnosed with cancer between 1992-1993 and 2003-2004 was compared to participants without cancer. Cancer survivors were more likely to experience clinically significant worsening of depression and anxiety symptoms compared to no-cancer controls. Within five years of diagnosis, cancer survivors were more likely to experience worsening, while after five years were more likely to experience improvements in depression relative to no-cancer controls. Characterizing the stress response is a pre-requisite for identifying patients at-risk and facilitates proactive resource provision.

Final ID:

Can Young Adults' Social Participation Explain Variation in Older Adults' Health?

E. Siegl¹;

1. Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA.

Individual Symposium Abstract (Required; Limit 150 Words) : A growing body of evidence links health and adult social participation. What remains unclear is whether these relationships are unique to adulthood or have their roots in adolescence. Because many studies of adolescent participation end in early adulthood, little is known about how participation-health relationships develop across the life course. This study employs longitudinal panel data from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study to assess whether adolescent social participation has lingering direct or indirect effects on health in late adulthood using three indicators of mental and physical health: depressive symptoms, body mass index and activities of daily living. Initial results indicate that relationships between health and participation are strongest in adulthood. However, adult participation is predicted by adolescent levels and types of participation. Both cross-sectional and some longitudinal indicators of participation predict lower levels of depressive symptoms and less difficulty with activities of daily living, but a higher body mass index.

Final ID:

Parental Ages at Birth Are Associated with Major Chronic Diseases and Somatic Symptoms of the Offspring in Later Adulthood

D. Kuo¹;

1. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA.

Individual Symposium Abstract (Required; Limit 150 Words) : In this paper, I used Wisconsin Longitudinal Study to examine the relationships between parental age at birth and physical symptoms and major chronic diseases of the offspring in later adulthood. In an earlier study, I found that parental ages were associated with self-reported health status, total number of diagnosed illnesses, and number of physical symptoms, using both multivariate regression analysis and structural equation model. In the current study, the observed outcomes were specific medical conditions and systems of physical symptoms. The chronic conditions included high blood pressure, angina, stroke, high blood sugar, diabetes, allergy, asthma and cancer. Parental socioeconomic status, childhood health, family environment and one's own socioeconomic status were controlled. Multivariate logistic regression was employed in the current study. The following research questions were addressed:

- 1) Whether paternal age and maternal age were associated with those conditions and types of symptom of the offspring in later adulthood;
- 2) Whether the relationships were independent of parental socioeconomic, for example, parental education, occupation, maternal employment, and family income; and early family environment, for example, family structure, health environment in the household/family, and violence/abuse in the family; and
- 3) Whether socioeconomic status of the offspring explain the relationship.

The multivariate logistic regression analysis showed that parental age, especially father's age, have small but robust relationships with many chronic conditions and most types of physical symptoms.

Final ID:

THE ROLL OF INCOME SOURCE AND SECURITY ON PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT TO WIDOWHOOD AND DIVORCE

*K. Holden*¹; *B. Novak*¹;

1. Consumer Science, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA.

Objective 1: (Required) "After attending this session participants will be able to..." : Understand the relationship between financial and psychological (subjective) measures of economic well-being

Objective 2: "After attending this session participants will be able to..." : discuss the different consequence of widowhood and divorce on subjective measures of well-being

Abstract Body (Required; Limit 250 words) : This paper will examine the roll of levels and characteristics of financial assets in predicting levels of psychological wellbeing among widowed and divorced older women. From the Wisconsin Longitudinal Survey (WLS) and the Health and Retirement Survey (HRS) we have a sample of women observed from marriage into widowhood and divorce. There is an extensive literature on the economic status of widows and divorced women and on the changes in income and assets that occur as marital status changes. Another body of literature has examined the effect of marital status on psychological wellbeing. However, there is little literature that tries to distinguish the effects of companionship change from changes in economic resources that may have been a result of the loss of one income recipient. This paper seeks to understand the separate consequences to psychological well-being of financial resource loss and marital status change. Because the WLS is only one age cohort we cannot separate the effect of age at an event from the effect of its duration. The HRS is used to disentangle these effects. Both the WLS and HRS data allow us to examine whether particular types of assets and source of income have different effects on psychologically well-being following widowhood and divorce. An interesting finding is that when widows and divorced individuals are employed, holding income and assets constant, CES-D scores are lower and that the source of health care coverage also mattered to these scores.

Final ID:

Psychological Adjustment, Well-Being, and Cognitive Functioning among the Elderly: The Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

R. M. Hauser,¹;

1. Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA.

Objective 1: (Required) "After attending this session participants will be able to...": Understand the multiple, long-term sources of well-being or distress among the elderly

Objective 2: "After attending this session participants will be able to...": Learn more about the rich public data on aging available through the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

Program Overview (Required; Limit 250 Words) : These five papers bring together several sources of well-being or distress and cognitive functioning among the elderly, drawing in common on a single, rich longitudinal set of data from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS). The Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS) is a long-term study of a random sample of 10,317 men and women who graduated from Wisconsin high schools in 1957 and who have been followed for more than half a century. The WLS provides an opportunity to study the life course, intergenerational transfers and relationships, family functioning, physical and mental health and well-being, and morbidity and mortality from late adolescence through the retirement years. WLS data also cover social background, youthful aspirations, schooling, military service, labor market experiences, family characteristics and events, social participation, psychological characteristics, and retirement. The papers in this session address diverse sources of well-being -- income security of widows, pre-retirement work and family trajectories, smoking behavior and cessation, religious involvement, and socioeconomic origins. Thus, they cover a range of social influences, both proximate to and distant from the post-retirement years.

Final ID:

Religious Involvement and Healthy Cognitive Aging - Analysis of the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study

K. Tanaka¹; J. Ho¹;

1. Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA.

Individual Symposium Abstract (Required; Limit 150 Words) : The link between religion and health has been studied by sociologists, epidemiologists, and clinicians, and a great deal of academic work now appears in the gerontology journals. The reason for this current interest includes the role religion continues to play in the lives of many people despite the advance of education and medicine, and the great potential that religion might play in reducing the growing financial costs of health care, and the important criticism towards the overemphasis of impersonal and routinized nature of modern health care over spiritual support. Numerous studies show the positive relationship between socially engaged lifestyles and healthy cognitive aging. However, many questions remain unanswered in understanding the relationship between religious involvement as one form of social engagement and health in later life. Van Ness and Kasl (2003) used a sample of community-dwelling men and women in New Haven and found that frequent church attendance reduced the odds of cognitive dysfunction. Hill et al. (2006) reported that older Mexican Americans who attended church more frequently showed a slower rate of cognitive dysfunction. Since most of what we know about religious involvement and cognitive functioning in later life are limited only to these studies, Hill (2008) emphasized the importance of further research to test the association between religious involvement and healthy cognitive aging in other regions. To extend the research of church attendance and healthy cognitive function, this study uses the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study to examine whether the association holds among non-Hispanic Whites in Wisconsin.

Final ID:

The Impact of Work and Family Trajectories on Financial Well-Being at Older Ages

J. Raymo¹; J. Warren²;

1. Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA.

2. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Individual Symposium Abstract (Required; Limit 150 Words) : Using data from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study, we examine relationships between trajectories of work and family experiences across the life course and four measures of financial well-being at ages 64-65: (a) total personal income, (b) total household income, (c) health insurance coverage, and (d) household net worth. We construct work and family trajectories using group-based trajectory modeling techniques (finite mixture models) to characterize the trajectories of family circumstances and transitions from birth through age 65 and trajectories of labor force experiences from age 36 through age 65. Preliminary estimates (conducted separately for men and women) indicate that latent work and family trajectories are significantly associated with multiple measures of financial well-being net of more temporally proximate correlates, including work and family circumstances at age 53-54. Trajectories characterized by stable full-time employment and stable marriage across the life course are particularly predictive of more favorable economic circumstances at older ages.

Final ID:

Smoking, Abstinence, and Cognitive Function at Age 65

D. Kuo¹;

1. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA.

Individual Symposium Abstract (Required; Limit 150 Words) : Past findings on the relationships between smoking and cognitive functions in later adulthood were inconsistent. Cognitive function in early life was not controlled in most studies. Socioeconomic status was often measured poorly. Using multivariate regression analysis to analyze cognition data collected in 2004 Wisconsin Longitudinal Study, my early study showed that current smoking status was only modestly associated with cognitive ability at age 65. However, the length of abstinence was positively related to the reasoning ability and letter fluency for all ever smokers. In the current study, I will employ structural equation models to pool all measures of cognitive ability together in order to take into account of measurement error and the latent structure of cognitive ability. The dependent variables measure cognitive functions of verbal comprehension, letter fluency, word recall, and digit ordering at age 65 in 2004. The key explanatory variables include current smoking, ever smoking, and years of smoking or abstinence. Socioeconomic status (education, occupational status, and income), drinking behaviors, major chronic diseases, growing up with smokers, and other demographic characteristics are to be controlled. The cognitive ability in adolescence was measured by the Henmon-Nelson test at freshman and junior years in high school. I attempt to answer the following questions,

- 1) Are the cognitive abilities significantly different between smokers, non-smokers and former smokers?
- 2) Do the relationships between smoking behaviors and cognitive ability depend on the dimension of cognitive ability?
- 3) Does the early intelligence explain the association between smoking and later cognitive ability?

Final ID:

INCOME SOURCE AND SECURITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT TO WIDOWHOOD AND DIVORCE IN THE U.S.

K. Holden¹; B. Novak¹;

1. Consumer Science, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA.

Individual Symposium Abstract (Required; Limit 150 Words) : This paper examines the role of levels and characteristics of financial assets in predicting levels of psychological wellbeing among widowed and divorced older women. From the Wisconsin Longitudinal Survey (WLS) and the Health and Retirement Survey (HRS) we have a sample of women observed from marriage into widowhood and divorce. There is an extensive literature on the changes in income and assets that occur as marital status changes and another literature on the effect of marital status on psychological wellbeing. Little literature distinguishes the effects of companionship change from changes in economic resources that result from the death of an income recipient. This paper seeks to understand the separate consequences to psychological well-being of financial resource loss and marital status change and how financial security may modify the psychological consequences of a spouse's death or separation.

Final ID:

Fathers' Education and Offspring's Psychological Well-Being at Midlife

*T. Pudrovska*¹; *J. O. Ebot*¹;

1. Sociology, University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA.

Individual Symposium Abstract (Required; Limit 150 Words) : From a life course perspective, psychological well-being of older adults cannot be fully understood without considering early-life factors that may have important implications for mental health decades later. Using data from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study, we examine whether fathers' educational attainment is associated with offspring's sense of purpose in life at midlife. Our findings reveal that fathers' education is positively related to purpose in life among middle-aged adults. Yet, this effect of fathers' education is completely explained by offspring's own educational attainment. Individuals with well-educated fathers were more likely to obtain higher levels of education than their less advantaged peers. In turn, one's achieved education is strongly and positively associated with purpose in life even decades after the schooling was completed. Thus, our results suggest that higher socioeconomic status in the family of origin may lead directly to higher status attainment and indirectly to better mental health at midlife.

Final ID:

Breadwinning and Weight: Examining the Effect of Employment and Occupational Characteristics on the Body Mass Index of Older Men

*J. Storck*¹;

1. University of Texas, Pflugerville, TX, USA.

Individual Symposium Abstract (Required; Limit 150 Words) : Overweight and obesity have been studied extensively as important risk factors for multiple chronic conditions that develop with advancing age. However, researchers of aging have paid relatively little attention to the influence of later-life economic activity on older men's weight. Using two waves of the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study, I examine the effects of employment and occupational characteristics on men's body mass index (BMI) in late midlife and early old age. In this cohort of older White men who have adhered to clearly demarcated gender roles and placed a high emphasis on their breadwinning activity over the life course, employed men exhibited a greater increase in BMI with age than their peers who were out of the labor force. Yet, characteristics of men's occupation, such as occupational income and education, were associated negatively with men's BMI. I discuss these findings with respect to the social selection and causation mechanisms.

Final ID:

**Social Support Networks and Health across the Lifespan:
A Longitudinal, Pattern-centered Approach**

K. Fiori¹; J. Jager²;

1. Gordon F. Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY, USA.
2. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.

Individual Symposium Abstract (Required; Limit 150 Words) : Social support is a multidimensional construct that consists of the type of support (i.e., instrumental or emotional), the direction of support (i.e., given or received), the sources or targets of support (e.g., kin vs. non-kin), and whether support is actual or potential. We used latent class analysis to uncover network types based on these dimensions and to examine the association between network types and health among 6,824 adults (M age = 54 at T1) in the two most recent waves (1992-3 and 2003-5) of the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study. We found six classes, or types, of social support networks. Class membership at T1 significantly predicted emotional, cognitive, and physical health at T2 (e.g., the "restricted" network had higher depressive symptoms at T2 than the "high potential support" network). Our findings will be discussed in light of the utility of a pattern-centered approach for uncovering heterogeneity in the social networks of adults.