

SESSION 3200 (PAPER)

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, AND SEXUAL HEALTH

AFRICAN AMERICAN FAITH LEADERS IN FLINT, MICHIGAN, FACILITATING ACCESS TO SEXUAL HEALTH INFORMATION

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In 2006, to respond to the HIV pandemic, the Flint-based YOUR Center collaborated with the National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses to create an HIV Awareness and Prevention manual for African American faith communities. In 2006 this manual was transformed into Your Blessed Health (YBH), a community-level education and prevention intervention that provides HIV/STI health information to medically underserved communities throughout Michigan. Since then, YBH has trained over 200 faith leaders across 9 denominations in over 80 FBOs across Michigan to help disseminate information concerning the community-level impact of HIV. The YBH impact on congregants and community members has been detailed in peer-reviewed articles and presentations; however, the involvement of the faith leaders themselves has not been described. To address this gap in the literature, we conducted semi-structured interviews with African American faith leaders representing 20+ congregations in Flint who participated in YBH and welcomed the intervention into their congregations. Preliminary results show that faith leaders, whose median age is 65, embraced their role as conduits to health information in the interest of ministering to the "whole person". They remain committed to educating themselves, and their congregants, to providing health information for various health and wellness issues. Detailing this impact is critical because community-health education and promotion literature suggests that older adult faith leaders can facilitate access to sexual health information through faith-based organizations, and may possess untapped potential as sources of health information across various health conditions. Older adult faith leaders are vital sources of information for medically underserved communities.

EXPLORING THE CAREGIVING CAREER: VARIATIONS IN SPOUSES' CONCERNS

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Caregiver identity theory posits that family caregivers' relationship identity changes across five phases of the caregiving career. As the career unfolds, the relationship identity changes from one comprised primarily of the spousal role (phase 1) to one comprised equally by spousal and caregiver roles (phase 3), and one comprised primarily by the caregiver role (phase 5). This study investigated whether spouses/partners' most important concerns about caregiving varied across the caregiving career. Participants included 135 caregivers of spouses/partners with a chronic condition. They were asked to identify their most important concern related to caregiving, along with demographic questions. Thematic analyses of their concerns yielded eight themes focused on the caregiver or dyad. Caregiver focused themes included burden, providing best

possible care, worry about ability to care, physical health, financial concerns, and needing/managing help. Dyadic themes were communication and relational deprivation. Differences across the caregiving career were found in terms of ranked proportion of concerns. The most common concerns in phase 1 were equally distributed across communication, needing/managing help, and providing best possible care. Phase 2's most common concern was providing the best possible care. Phase 3's most common concern was worry about ability to care. The most common concerns in phase 4 were equally distributed across burden and worry about ability to care. Phase 5's most common concern was burden. Findings reveal there are differential concerns across the caregiving career that align with a greater focus on relational factors earlier in the career and caregiver burden later in the career.

PERSONAL GROWTH AFTER GRAY DIVORCE: A LONGITUDINAL VIEW ON THE DISSOLUTION OF LONG-TERM MARRIAGES

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Going through a divorce is one of the most stressful life events across the life course with far-reaching ripple effects for individuals' physical, mental, and often financial well-being. For some individuals, however, coping with marital dissolution and adapting to new social roles may lead to considerable gains in their reorientation in life and stimulate their personal development. This is captured in the concept of personal growth, which has been studied primarily in the context of becoming widowed, and through a cross-sectional lens. In our study, we track trajectories of personal growth after ending a long-term marriage of at least 15 years. We focus on divorce among adults in their second half of life because rates of grey divorce have been on the rise since the 1980s, yet longitudinal research on personal growth after marital dissolution remains sparse. We further examine whether trajectories of personal growth vary by gender, SES, reasons of divorce (e.g., sexual infidelity or drifted apart), and social support. Data stem from a Swiss panel on intimate relationships and marital dissolution among long-term married individuals conducted between 2012 and 2016 (N = 530). Random-effects group-specific growth curve models yielded similar—and slightly decreasing—trajectories of personal growth for divorced women and men over time. However, highly significant gender differences indicated that women showed higher levels of personal growth over the whole observation period. Because gender differences seemed to be fueled by social capital rather than economic assets, we discuss these results through the lens of a linked-lives perspective.

RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCE, MARITAL SATISFACTION, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF CHINESE MIDDLE-AGED AND OLDER ADULTS

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Objectives: Religion plays an important role in people's individual and interpersonal life. Spousal religious difference is