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TRENDS IN HOUSEHOLD MATERIAL RESOURCES AND COGNITIVE HEALTH IN A LONGITUDINAL COHORT STUDY OF AGING IN SOUTH AFRICA

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in LMICs, and low-resource settings may have unique social and economic determinants of cognitive health. However, little population-based research focuses on these regions. The papers in this symposium use high-quality population survey data from Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, and China to study critical social determinants of cognitive function in countries across the globe. These papers cover a range of social and economic factors, including food insecurity, education, household material resources, and urban-rural settings and policy. First, Saenz will present findings on how food insecurity, throughout life, relates with cognitive function among older Mexican adults. Next, Farina will present evidence on both indirect and direct pathways from education to cognitive function among older Brazilians. Third, Kobayashi will present longitudinal data evaluating level and change in household resources in relation to subsequent cognitive function in South Africa. Finally, Zhang will present evidence on the interplay of rural/urban residence and household registration system across the life-course in creating cumulative advantage/disadvantage in cognitive aging using longitudinal data from China. The papers in this symposium provide new insights into social determinants of cognitive health in diverse contexts and have significant policy implications for improving cognitive health in LMICs across the globe.

FOOD INSECURITY ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE AND COGNITIVE FUNCTION AMONG OLDER MEXICAN ADULTS

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Food insecurity is a global public health problem and is related with poorer cognition among older adults. Few have examined how food insecurity, throughout life, relates with cognition among older Mexican adults. Data came from the 2015 Mexican Health and Aging Study (n=11,507, aged 50+). Early- and late-life food insecurity were self-reported. We evaluated how food insecurity related with cognition (Verbal Learning, Verbal Recall, Visual Scanning, and Verbal Fluency), controlling for health and sociodemographic confounders. In descriptive analyses, respondents who experienced food insecurity in early- or late-life performed worse on all cognitive tasks compared to the food secure. When adjusting for health and sociodemographic confounders, early-life food insecurity predicted worse Verbal Learning performance and late-life food insecurity related with poorer Visual Scanning. Food insecurity negatively related with cognition among older Mexican adults. The significance of effects depended on cognitive task and when in life food insecurity was experienced

DIRECT AND INDIRECT PATHWAYS FROM EDUCATION TO COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING AMONG OLDER BRAZILIANS

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Cognitive impairment in Brazil is a growing population health concern. Studies suggest that Brazil may have one of the highest age-standardized prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) in the world. However, improving education attainment among older adults may lead to a decline in cognitive impairment across the population in the coming years. The purpose of this study is to examine the pathways that link educational attainment to cognitive functioning in Brazil, a highly unequal, resource rich society. I use the 2016 Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Aging, a nationally representative study of Brazilian older adults 50+. I use linear regression models to predict overall cognitive functioning as well as specific domains of cognition (memory vs. non-memory). Preliminary findings provide evidence of both indirect and direct pathways from education to cognitive functioning. The indirect pathways, however, were only found for adults with 8+ years of education.

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Material resources that affect daily living conditions may be salient for cognitive aging in low-income settings, but evidence is limited on this topic. We investigated relationships between long-term trends in household material resources and subsequent cognitive function among 4,580 adults aged ≥40 in a population-representative cohort in Agincourt sub-district, South Africa, from 2001-2015. Household material resources (dwelling materials, water, sanitation, sources of power, modern amenities, and livestock) were assessed biennially from 2001-2013. We evaluated mean resources, volatility in resources, and change in resources over this period in relation to cognitive function in 2014/2015. Higher mean household resources and larger improvements over time in resources were positively associated with subsequent cognitive function, independent of confounders. Findings were largely driven by modern amenities for food preparation, transportation, and communication outside of the household. Access to these amenities may support cognitive aging through boosting nutrition and cognitive reserve and should be investigated further.

CUMULATIVE (DIS)ADVANTAGE IN COGNITIVE HEALTH: RURAL/URBAN RESIDENCY, HUKOU, AND COGNITIVE AGING IN OLDER CHINESE

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Urban residency benefits cognition in later life. In China, the household registration system (hukou) creates another place-based advantage/disadvantage for cognitive aging. We exam the interplay of rural/urban residence and hukou across the life-course in creating cumulative advantage/disadvantage