



Nationaal
Psychotrauma
Centrum

Naoorlogse generaties alertering

Updates februari 2024

Oorlogservaringen van ouders kunnen een enorme impact hebben op hun kinderen, ook als deze de oorlog zelf niet hebben meegemaakt. De soms zeer indringende of zelfs traumatische ervaringen van (een van) de ouders kan van invloed zijn op de wijze waarop de kinderen worden opgevoed. Als volgende generaties hiervan hinder ondervinden, spreken we van 'intergenerationele overdracht'.

Elke kwartaal zet de ARQ-bibliotheek nieuwe publicaties over *Naoorlogse generaties* met focus op de Tweede Wereldoorlog op deze lijst. Wilt u liever een mail ontvangen met referenties naar geselecteerde publicaties, geef dan uw e-mailadres door aan de [ARQ-bibliotheek](#). Ook voor eerdere updates kunt u mailen naar de [ARQ-bibliotheek](#).

Deze alertering hoort ij het themadossier [Naoorlogse generaties WO2](#)

1 Februari 2024

Brunner, S. L. (n.d.). *Reactivity of Intergenerational Trauma in Children and Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors - ProQuest*. Retrieved January 30, 2024, from <https://www.proquest.com/openview/9b857f891527a760fa34c88248cb6f38/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>

Chou, F., & Buchanan, M. J. (2021). Intergenerational Trauma: A Scoping Review of Cross-Cultural Applications from 1999 to 2019. *Canadian Journal of Counselling and Psychotherapy*, 55(3), 363–395. <https://doi.org/10.47634/cjcp.v55i3.71456>

It has been over 20 years since the publication of Danieli's (1998) *International Handbook of Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma*, a seminal cross-cultural compilation examining the generational effects of mass trauma and intergenerational trauma (IGT). In the years since this book appeared, research on IGT has continued to be applied to many cultural groups, including those who have survived the Indian Residential Schools, the Khmer Rouge regime, or the Rwandan genocide. Previous reviews of IGT research have focused mainly on survivors of the Holocaust, which limits the cross-cultural application of this field of study. The purpose of this article is to provide a scoping review of scholarship published between 1999 and 2019 that aims to understand how IGT has been studied in cross-cultural applications. Overall, 29 articles were identified and reviewed. In light of the fact that cross-cultural perspectives on IGT are still emerging (Sirikantraporn & Green, 2016), the methodology and the cultural considerations described in this review can inform future cross-cultural IGT research.

DeAngelis, T. (n.d.). *War's enduring legacy: How does trauma haunt future generations?* <https://www.apa.org/topics/trauma/trauma-survivors-generations>

Researchers and clinicians are examining the long-term impacts of war and other traumatic events on survivors, as well as their children and grandchildren.

Greenblatt-Kimron, L., Shrira, A., Ben-Ezra, M., & Palgi, Y. (2023). Echoes of ancestral trauma: Russo-Ukrainian War salience and psychological distress among subsequent generations in Holocaust survivor families. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, No Pagination Specified-No Pagination Specified. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0001633>

Objective: The Russo-Ukrainian War intensified when Russian troops invaded Ukraine in February 2022. The current study examined whether children (second generation; G2) and grandchildren (third generation; G3) of Holocaust survivors are more preoccupied with the war relative to comparisons. Moreover, whether there was more exacerbation in psychological distress in Holocaust survivor families relative to comparisons since the escalation of the war. Method: A random sample from a web-based survey company included 1,071 Jewish Israeli adults (297 Holocaust G2, 224 comparison G2, 379 Holocaust G3, and 171 comparison G3). The average age of the participants was 62.95 ± 10.25 , 61.79 ± 10.13 , 34.02 ± 8.65 , and 33.55 ± 8.26 , respectively. Participants answered questionnaires on background characteristics, Russo-Ukrainian War exposure, Russo-Ukrainian War salience, and general psychological distress before and since the escalation of the war. Results: Findings showed that Holocaust G2 and G3, relative to comparisons, reported more Russo-Ukrainian War salience. Moreover, more psychological distress symptom exacerbation was found in Holocaust survivor families relative to comparisons since the escalation of the war. Finally, Holocaust G2 and G3 with more Holocaust survivors in the family showed higher anxious preoccupation with the war and Holocaust G3 with more survivor grandparents showed more exacerbation in psychological distress. Conclusions: Findings suggest a specific vulnerability due to intergenerational transmission of trauma in Holocaust survivor families, including increased preoccupation with and perceptiveness to potential threats of human-induced trauma. Strengthening previous recommendations, mental health practitioners should focus on reducing the preoccupation with threat and the increased psychological distress of Holocaust survivor families when faced with current adversity. (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2023 APA, all rights reserved)

Grossman, D. S., Khalil, U., & Panza, L. (2023). *The Intergenerational Health Effects of Forced Displacement: Japanese American Incarceration during WWII* (Working Paper 31992). National Bureau of Economic Research. <https://doi.org/10.3386/w31992>

We study the intergenerational health consequences of forced displacement and incarceration of Japanese Americans in the US during WWII. Incarcerated mothers had babies who were less healthy at birth. This decrease in health represents a shift in the entire birthweight distribution due to exposure to prison camps. Imprisoned individuals were less likely to have children with fathers of other ethnic groups but were more likely to receive prenatal care, invest in education, and participate in the labor market. To the extent human capital effects mitigate the full negative effects of incarceration on intergenerational health, our results are a lower bound.

Kang, S.-H. (n.d.). *Taiwanese comfort women survivors and their families: The complexity of identity, motherhood, and intergenerational implications*. Retrieved January 30, 2024, from <https://escholarship.mcgill.ca/concern/theses/0k225h645>

During World War II, the Imperial Japanese Army forced many girls and women from Taiwan, Korea, China, and other Asian countries to serve as sexual slaves to the soldiers. Although the exploitative system of “comfort women” was widespread, its effects on the survivors’ identities throughout their lifetimes as well as its intergenerational effects on their families remain insufficiently explored in the

existing literature. This doctoral dissertation aims to address this gap by analyzing how a complex interplay between early-life sexual trauma and certain structural factors influenced older Taiwanese comfort women survivors' multiple identities (i.e., as women, as sexual violence survivors, as older adults). Additionally, the study retraces the ramifications of sexual trauma on the second and third generations of these women's families, such as their experiences of mother–daughter relationships. To this end, an autobiographical reflection is utilized to study how Taiwanese comfort women survivors were supported by the NGOs and social worker activists, and analyzes how they were socially and politically positioned, at the local and international levels, in the comfort women redress movement. Additionally, a life-history analysis of two deceased Indigenous Truku comfort women is conducted, drawing on existing literature. Furthermore, in-depth, semi-structured interviews are conducted with ten family members of one Truku and three Han-Chinese comfort women (all deceased). Several important findings emerged from these interviews. First, the survivors' sexual trauma interplayed with multiple structural factors (i.e., colonialism, patriarchy, class exploitation, cultural and gender norms, local and global social-political factors), to shape their life trajectories. Second, family members recognized the survivors' intersectional roles (as women, as sexual violence survivors, as older adults, etc.) and generally empathized with survivors' sexual victimization, although the second generation expressed more ambivalence compared to the third generation. Third, important contextual factors influenced family responses, including participant-survivor relationships, local and global activism campaigns, and changing societal gender norms. Fourth, although the second and third generations were profoundly affected by their (grand)mothers' experiences as comfort women, the family members demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of this challenging history. Based on these findings, the study advocates for increased attention and support for the descendants of comfort women, emphasizing the involvement of families in the recovery process of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) survivors. The dissertation concludes by proposing a culturally-driven, multilayered approach to support comfort women and other CRSV survivors and their families

Kaplan, S. (2022). The conspiracy of silence: Family communication effects on interpersonal functioning and differentiation of self in children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. *Selected Full-Text Dissertations 2020-*. https://digitalcommons.liu.edu/brooklyn_fulltext_dis/2

Findings have been inconsistent regarding the existence of intergenerational transmission of trauma in offspring of Holocaust survivors (OHS) and grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors (GHS). Some studies have indeed found that OHS have more psychosocial problems than their counterparts with no family members in the Holocaust (e.g., Scharf, 2007), while others have not found any differences (e.g., Sagi-Schwartz et al., 2003). One reason for these mixed findings is the quantity and quality of communication on the part of the Holocaust survivor within their families about their trauma (e.g., Danieli et al., 2017). Another reason for the inconsistent findings is that much of the research on OHS has focused on psychopathology instead of focusing on the vulnerabilities in the areas of interpersonal difficulties and problems with separation and individuation that have been more frequently observed by clinicians working with OHS patients (e.g., Solkoff, 1992). To address these limitations with past research, the present study predicted that a lack of explicit communication between Holocaust survivor parents and their children would detrimentally impact OHS in the areas of interpersonal functioning and ability to separate from others and regulate their emotions. The study also examined the relationship between these variables in a subset of the OHS participants and their GHS children. Self-report measures were completed and analyzed from 412 OHS and 71 of their GHS children. There were

several important findings, including that OHS-rated parental numbness predicted both greater OHS interpersonal problems and lower OHS differentiation of self. Additionally, OHS differentiation of self mediated the relationship between OHS-rated parental numbness and OHS interpersonal problems. Interestingly, none of these effects carried over to the GHS generation.

Lishner Freud, E., & Berant, E. (2023). Holocaust communication, attachment orientation and distress among descendants of female holocaust survivors. *Family Process, 62*(4), 1655–1670.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12848>

The multiple studies that have examined the transgenerational transmission of Holocaust trauma from survivors to their descendants have yielded inconsistent results. These can be attributed to differences in assessment tools and to individual differences between survivors, such as their specific experiences during the Holocaust. This study examined the differences between daughters and granddaughters of female Holocaust survivors (HS) of concentration camps (CCS) versus survivors of other circumstances (ghettos, concealment, etc.; OCCS) in terms of communication about their mothers' or grandmothers' Holocaust trauma (Holocaust communication), their attachment orientations, and their psychological distress. The sample was composed of 79 dyads of daughters of HS and their own daughters, divided into two groups according to the survivors' Holocaust experiences (CCS—47 dyads; OCCS—32 dyads). The findings indicated that daughters of CCS reported a higher number of conversations about the Holocaust with their mothers, perceived their mothers as more distant during Holocaust communication, and reported more guilt feelings than daughters of OCCS. Holocaust communication between daughters and granddaughters was characterized by shorter conversations, and granddaughters perceived their mothers as sadder in the CCS group than in the OCCS group. No difference between groups was found in Holocaust communication between survivors and their granddaughters. No difference was found between groups in their psychological distress. The granddaughters of CCS scored higher on attachment anxiety than the other group. Most of the significant differences between groups were linked to subtle differences in the characteristics of communication and in the inter-personal sphere.

Moskowitz, G. (2023). Like daughter, like grandson: Queering post-traumatic memory. *Memory Studies, 16*(4), 794–818. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1750698020982017>

Queer and trauma theory both concern internal experiences that challenge normative social frameworks. Considering the roles of queerness within trauma and memory studies opens interpretive pathways for otherwise discredited or inaccessible meanings. It also relates survivors' receding knowledge to those currently "queered" or endangered. With a focus on childhood and mother-child relationships, this article maps intersections of memory studies, queer theory, and trauma theory, applying subsequent insights to an "autotheoretical" analysis of the author's own transnational, post-Holocaust family across four generations. It explores the possibility through queer studies of excavating new post-traumatic meanings and relating those meanings to present contexts.

Oren, G., & Shavit, T. (2023a). "Radioactive identification" with the holocaust: An empirical study of holocaust trauma's effect on the third generation. *Current Psychology. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-023-05343-0*

The literature shows that trauma caused by the Holocaust is transmitted to the third generation, as evident in several aspects of their life. This supports the notion of "radioactive identification" with the

Holocaust in subsequent generations. We aimed to explore the depth of this identification further, mostly from a non-pathological perspective, focusing on daily life and habits. We conducted a survey of 1,027 Israelis whose grandparents are Holocaust survivors, using the Subjective Holocaust Influence Level (SHIL) index. The survey included questions about participants' attitude towards the Holocaust and that of their families, as well as questions regarding well-being, emotions, daily life, financial behavior and habits in the present and in the home where they grew up. Categorizing the third-generation participants in groups based on their SHIL reveals the heterogeneity of the Holocaust's influence on their daily lives. The results showed a connection between SHIL and many components of daily life, evidence that Holocaust trauma is transmitted to the survivors' grandchildren, but its influence is heterogenic. It seems that the heterogeneity of the third generation's SHIL and the impact of the Holocaust on their life is also related to the life and habits in the homes where they grew up. Thus, the power of the "radioactive identification" with the Holocaust depends also on the habits and daily life in their childhood homes (level of exposure). We infer that the transmission of the Holocaust trauma has characteristics of posttraumatic growth.

Owczarski, W. (n.d.). Postmemory dreaming: Nightmares of war in third-generation descendants of Polish and Russian survivors of World War II. *Ethos*, n/a(n/a). <https://doi.org/10.1111/etho.12405> Various manifestations of intergenerational memory transmission have been discussed in many scientific fields. Surprisingly, little attention has been paid to these phenomena in the context of dreams. Yet, the sphere of dreaming seems the most informative illustration of how the tragic past influenced the second and third-generation descendants of trauma survivors. Based on my talks with two descendants of WWII survivors—a Russian woman and a Polish man—I define "postmemory dreams" as night visions affected by cultural representations of historical events. The theoretical background of my study is Hirsch's concept of postmemory, Hall's continuity hypothesis of dreaming, and anthropological dream research. Postmemory dreams reflect and are shaped by the ethos of remembering and commemorating the war—the ethos often imposed by political forces and propaganda—in which the dreamers live. In the cases of my interviewees, these are the Polish ethos of victimhood and the Russian ethos of heroism.

Prizel, L. (n.d.). *Intergenerational Symptomatology in Third Generation Shoah Survivors: Using Creative Arts Therapy to Treat Echoes of Trauma* - ProQuest. Retrieved November 30, 2023, from <https://www.proquest.com/openview/654df5aab3487a9c6b6f707de94a3c2/1?cbl=18750&diss=y&pg-origsite=gscholar&parentSessionId=EYfF%2BXawucnHOLUdCp5Px4srUFzvITX2bxaEL%2Bh9ljo%3D> A creative arts therapy heuristic self-study and its use to explore intergenerational trauma will be the focus of this research. Specifically, this research will center on a single-participant study pursuant to the Shoah and how a genogram and collage creative arts therapy directive can be used in this population to treat intergenerational trauma, and to raise one's awareness of the patterns of behavior and mental hygiene that may be passed down by Shoah survivors to their offspring.

Rzeszutek, M., Dragan, M., Lis-Turlejska, M., Schier, K., Holas, P., Pięta, M., Van Hoy, A., Drabarek, K., Poncyliusz, C., Michałowska, M., Wdowczyk, G., Borowska, N., & Szumił, S. (2023). Long-lasting effects of World War II trauma on PTSD symptoms and embodiment levels in a national sample of Poles. *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), 17222. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-44300-6>

The main aim of this study was to investigate the long-lasting influences of World War II (WWII) trauma in a national sample of Poles, based on Danieli's (1998) survivors' post-trauma adaptational styles (fighter, numb, victim) and their link with current post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms and embodiment level among participants. We also sought to investigate whether the level of knowledge about WWII trauma among ancestors could moderate that association. The study was conducted among a representative sample of 1598 adult Poles obtained from an external company. Participants filled out the Danieli Inventory of Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma, the knowledge about traumatic World War II experiences in the family questionnaire, the Posttraumatic Diagnostic Scale-5, and the Experience of Embodiment Scale. We observed a positive relationship between all survivors' post-trauma adaptational styles and current levels of PTSD symptoms among participants. In addition, PTSD level mediated the relationships between those adaptational styles and embodiment intensity; that mediation was additionally moderated by a lack of knowledge about WWII trauma among ancestors in our participants. Our study adds to the literature on intergenerational trauma by highlighting the importance of evaluating embodiment in understanding the mechanisms of trauma transmission. Furthermore, it highlights the moderating effect of knowledge of family history in this mechanism and the need to share family histories with subsequent generations.

Tolmacz, R., Aisenberg-Shafran, D., Ofek, S., & Lev-Ari, L. (2024). Aging second-generation Holocaust survivors and well-being: The mediating role of relational attitudes. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 02654075241226486. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075241226486>

For many years, clinical case studies that have focused on the intergenerational effects of Holocaust trauma have indicated that second-generation Holocaust survivors (SGHSs) often face relational challenges in their intimate relationships. The relational attitudes of SGHSs during childhood, as well as during adulthood, have been studied. However, only in recent years has this cohort entered the "aging adult" group. In this study, we hypothesized that well-being among Israeli aging SGHSs would be associated with parentification and with specific relational attitudes toward their adult offspring. We examined whether parentification, sense of relational entitlement, pathological concern, and authenticity in relationships mediated the association between family background and well-being. A total of 329 participants (60% SGHSs; 19% men) completed questionnaires tapping retrospective accounts of parentification during childhood, inflated and restricted senses of entitlement, pathological concern, relational authenticity, and subjective well-being. Aging SGHSs reported higher levels of parentification, inflated sense of entitlement toward offspring, pathological concern, lower levels of authenticity, and subjective well-being. The association between family background and subjective well-being was mediated by parentification, inflated sense of relational entitlement, pathological concern, and authenticity. Findings suggest that especially for aging SGHSs, childhood parentification takes a heavy toll on their sense of well-being via the hindering of a balanced sense of relational entitlement and concern and the authentic expression of self.

Yoo, G. J., Kim, E. H., & Jeong, S. (n.d.). *Remembering the "Comfort Women" Intergenerational Asian American Care Work* - ProQuest. Retrieved January 30, 2024, from <https://www.proquest.com/openview/9094d886ac439b9ef017496ef03ef300/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=436384>

Asian American activists have been key to remembering the "comfort women" in the U.S. and globally. The act of remembering is often done through creating memorials, exhibits, films, conferences, and



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educational efforts. This paper examines Asian American activists' remembrance work in building a memorial in the city of San Francisco. This paper utilizes a content analysis of the September 17, 2015 San Francisco Board of Supervisors hearing to identify key frames that Asian Americans have used to advocate for the building of a "comfort women" memorial. A key theme is that the act of remembering is often done with "care." Additional key themes of the care work to build this memorial highlighted the role of breaking silences and speaking personal truths and stories; demonstrating pan-ethnic compassion and solidarity; and building to remember and teach the next generation. Understanding remembrance work as care work across generations has implications for voice and empowerment, solidarity, and healing for "comfort women" and all who are connected and exposed to this work.