



Nationaal
Psychotrauma
Centrum

Naoorlogse generaties alertering

Updates maart 2023

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](#).

16 maart 2023

Bergamin, F., & Zurich, E. T. H. (n.d.). *How the effects of trauma can be inherited through epigenetic mechanisms*. Retrieved March 21, 2023, from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-03-effects-trauma-inherited-epigenetic-mechanisms.html>

Our parents and grandparents form part of who we are. They reared us and served as our role models, and they also passed on their genes. That's why we are similar to them, and why we share a genetic predisposition to develop certain diseases. Yet genes may not be the only molecular factors we inherited from them. The effects of the lifestyle and experiences of previous generations—including how well they ate and whether they suffered emotional trauma—can also be passed down through the generations via biochemical markers in sperm and egg cells.

Kim, E., & Shin, E. K. (2023). Double-Edged Network Effects on Disclosing Traumatic Experiences Among Korean "Comfort Women." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 08862605221148218. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605221148218>

This study examines the effects of social networks on the disclosure of stigmatizing and traumatic sexual assault experiences. We analyzed publicly archived oral histories of Korean 'comfort women' from World War II, employing an innovative method combining word embedding analysis, word frequency comparison, and grounded theory. By extracting their significant social relationships from narrated survivor stories, we parsed two distinctive disclosure patterns according to timing of disclosure: early disclosers and late disclosers. The latter were more socially embedded than the former, indicating the constraining aspect of social networks, in which the size of social networks was positively associated with delayed disclosure. Qualitative findings further elaborated that social networks have double-edged effects. Survivors' familial networks functioned as both social constraints and social support for public disclosure. Yet, the late disclosers tend to exploit it more as constraints for the fear of transgenerational transmission of social scorn and stigma. The findings contribute to enhancing a culturally relevant understanding of trauma and the repercussions of human trafficking.

Krauskopf, Irene Esther; Bates, Glen William; Cook, Roger, Children of Holocaust Survivors: The Experience of Engaging with a Traumatic Family History. (n.d.). *Genealogy | Free Full-Text* | 2023, 7(1), Retrieved March 16, 2023, from <https://www.mdpi.com/2313-5778/7/1/20>

This study explored the motivation and the experiences of children of Holocaust survivors who were actively engaged with the traumatic histories of their parents. Our findings are consistent with contemporary views of the intergenerational transmission of the effects of trauma to descendants of Holocaust survivors and reflect a mixture of resilience and vulnerabilities. We interviewed 24 siblings from 11 families who were adult children of Holocaust survivors, alongside the experience of the first author (IK), also a child of Holocaust survivors. An interpretative phenomenological analysis of those interviews identified two overarching themes related to the motivation to gather information about their parents' stories and their experience of seeking this knowledge. Two themes relate to motivation. The first captured a sense of immersion without choice in the family story emanating from extreme loss and grief and a deep awareness of the communal nature of Jewish history. The second theme encompassed a compulsion and desire to leave a meaningful legacy of their parents' experiences for future generations. These themes were linked to themes capturing the experience of engaging with their parents' traumatic stories and describing intense ambivalence. One theme reflected a reluctance to gather information detailing the parents' trauma. Yet, the other theme emphasised positive outcomes derived from knowledge, including appreciation of their parents' resilience and opportunities to bear witness to and support their ageing parents. Overall, the data reveal the close links between family histories and adjustment to a traumatic past.

Glick, L., & Romem, A. (n.d.). Threat and challenge: Holocaust survivors, succeeding generations, and the coronavirus pandemic. *Family Relations*, n/a(n/a). <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12860>

Objective To examine the “sense of threat” and “sense of challenge” among Holocaust survivors and second- and third-generation cohorts during the first coronavirus lockdown in Israel. **Background** Aging, especially among people who experienced trauma during their early years, as did Holocaust survivors, can be challenging when unusual circumstances, such as the coronavirus pandemic, coincide with it. Studies are inconclusive regarding the effect of transgenerational transmission of trauma of survivors to their offspring. **Methods** 129 participants filled out a questionnaire based on Lazarus and Folkman's cognitive theory of psychological stress and coping. Data were collected through online questionnaires or phone interviews. **Results** All generations reported “feeling this is a difficult situation.” Compared with the second generation, survivors reported a significantly higher “sense of threat” and significantly lower “sense of challenge.” **Discussion** This study found that all generations felt some degree of vulnerability, although their response overall was resilient. **Implications** Awareness of the harmful effects of stressful life events on the vulnerable Holocaust survivors and their descendants has prompted the need to establish support systems that can be activated to assist them. Future research should also investigate whether these reactions were prevalent among Holocaust survivors and their descendants in other countries.

Raza, Z., Hussain, S. F., Foster, V. S., Wall, J., Coffey, P. J., Martin, J. F., & Gomes, R. S. M. (2023). Exposure to war and conflict: The individual and inherited epigenetic effects on health, with a focus on post-traumatic stress disorder. *Frontiers in Epidemiology*, 3. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fepid.2023.1066158>

War and conflict are global phenomena, identified as stress-inducing triggers for epigenetic modifications. In this state-of-the-science narrative review based on systematic principles, we summarise existing data to explore the outcomes of these exposures especially in veterans

and show that they may result in an increased likelihood of developing gastrointestinal, auditory, metabolic and circadian issues, as well as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). We also note that, despite a potential “healthy soldier effect”, both veterans and civilians with PTSD exhibit the altered DNA methylation status in hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis regulatory genes such as NR3C1. Genes associated with sleep (PAX8; LHX1) are seen to be differentially methylated in veterans. A limited number of studies also revealed hereditary effects of war exposure across groups: decreased cortisol levels and a heightened (sex-linked) mortality risk in offspring. Future large-scale studies further identifying the heritable risks of war, as well as any potential differences between military and civilian populations, would be valuable to inform future healthcare directives.

Rodax, N. (2021). On the Sociality and Immersiveness of the Introspective Encounter. *Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science*, 55(3), 566–581.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12124-021-09621-z>

Scientifically accessing and systematically approaching self-reports and a research subject’s reflection is a central task of psychological research. However, psychological research often fails to account for the sociality of the individual’s self-reports and reflection. In fact, addressing the complexity of the multi-faced reciprocal relations, how individuals get in touch with themselves through the encounter with the ‘other’ occupies psychology since its beginning up to the present day. A recently published volume edited by Gobodo-Madikizela (2021) delivers an in-depth analysis of the mutual encounters of second-generation descendants of perpetrators and survivors of the Holocaust and stresses the importance of “engaging with the past through second generation dialogue”, showing that the introspective, dialogical encounter offers fruitful insight to processes that frequently remain ‘invisible’ and under the surface of intergenerationally travelling trauma, shame and guilt. Using the example of Gobodo-Madikizela’s volume (2021), this article seeks to highlight contemporary applications of the introspective encounter and shows its value for locating psychology beyond a strict natural scientific discipline-understanding. By developing the notion of the introspective encounter ‘of the first and the second degree’, this article aims at showing how Gobodo-Madikizela’s volume immerses readers, not only showing how psychology can produce a scientific outcome by crossing the border of the classic subject-object separation (first degree), but also facilitating the reader to enter an introspective dialogue with herself (second degree). By this analysis, this article challenges the way we currently converse in psychological research.

Yasui, M., Jeong, E., Anam, S., & Kim, K. (2023). Historical Trauma and Loss Among South East Asians: Examination of a Modified Scale of Historical Loss. *Adversity and Resilience Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42844-023-00091-3>

Historical trauma and loss are central to the mental health of Southeast Asian refugees who have endured collective grief due to multiple losses stemming from genocide, civil war, and political violence. This study examines the relevance of historical loss for the mental health of Southeast Asian refugee populations by examining the reliability and validity of the modified Historical Loss Scale, originally developed for Native Americans. To validate the modified Historical Loss Scale, data from 212 Southeast Asian adults was examined. Confirmatory factor analyses were conducted to determine the factor structure and construct validity was examined via bivariate correlations and multivariate regression analyses with measures of depression and anxiety. Results indicated that the modified scale appropriately assesses experiences of historical loss and related distress, following the structure identified in the



**Nationaal
Psychotrauma
Centrum**

original scale for Native Americans, and indicated good internal consistency reliability and satisfactory construct validity. The measure will be an important tool for examining historical loss and trauma among refugee populations, and their effects continue in the subsequent generations through intergenerational trauma.