

Monday, May 15, 2023
(All times EDT)

(Virtual) Seminar on Kinlessness and Living Alone at Older Ages

Fertility decline, increasing non-marriage, and differential changes in life-expectancy by gender have led to an increasing share of older population around the world who have no kin, no kin support, and are living and sometimes aging alone. Kinlessness and living alone at older ages may occur through diverse and complex paths. This half-day seminar will identify some of the key research and data questions and priorities regarding: definitions and estimates of kinlessness and living alone, population-level data sources, data gaps, and measurement needs; mechanisms through which individuals end up becoming kinless or living alone; positive and negative consequences of these statuses for health and well-being; and cross-national variation in social contexts and public policies that moderate the impact of aging alone on health outcomes.

1:00 – 1:15 pm	Welcome and Introductions; Goals for the Seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Elena Fazio</i>, National Institute on Aging- <i>Emerald Nguyen</i>, National Institute on Aging- <i>Anne Pebley</i>, University of California at Los Angeles (Chair, Committee on Population)
1:15 – 2:00 pm	Session 1: Aging Alone: Overview, Trends, and Data Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Rachel Margolis</i>, University of Western Ontario
2:00– 2:45 pm	Session 2: Aging Alone: Mechanisms and Consequences <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Deborah Carr</i>, Boston University
2:45 – 3:00 pm	BREAK
3:00 – 3:45 pm	Session 3: Racial/ethnic and Socioeconomic Disparities in Aging Alone <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Robert Joseph Taylor</i>, University of Michigan
3:45 – 4:30 pm	Session 4: Cross-National Perspectives and the Role of Public Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Christine Mair</i>, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
4:30 – 5:00 pm	Wrap-Up Discussion; Summary Discussion of Data Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none">- MODERATOR: <i>Fernando Riosmena</i>, University of Texas at San Antonio (Member, Committee on Population)
5:00 pm	Adjournment

PRESENTER BIOSKETCHES

Deborah Carr is a professor of sociology and director of the Center for Innovation in Social Science at Boston University. She has published widely on later-life health and family relationships, including more than 100 articles and chapters and several books. Her latest book, *Aging in America* was published by University of California Press in 2023. She is principal investigator of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79) and a co-investigator on or advisor to several national surveys of aging. She is former editor-in-chief of *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* (2015-2020), and current editor-in-chief of *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (2022-2025). Carr received the 2022 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Sociological Association section on Aging and the Life Course. Her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *CNN*, and other media outlets. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Christine Mair is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Gerontology and Director of the Center for Health, Equity, & Aging (CHEA) in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Public Health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). She also holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health in the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Her research examines the presence or absence of family and non-family ties and seeks to document how social integration and support (or lack thereof; e.g., "kinlessness") shape mental health, physical health, end-of-life experiences, and other aspects of well-being especially cross-nationally. Her work has been published in *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *Social Forces*, *European Journal of Aging*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Health & Place*, *Journal of Aging & Human Development*, *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, and other outlets. She also serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *Research on Aging*, and *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from North Carolina State University.

Rachel Margolis is a professor of sociology at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada. Her academic work focuses on how family dynamics shape population change over time. Her research on aging addresses how and why grandparenthood is changing over time, how family networks are evolving, and how the thinning of kinship networks affects older adults. She is also interested in gender, parenthood and social policy. Margolis holds a PhD in demography and sociology from the University of Pennsylvania, MSc in population and development from the London School of Economics, and BA in government from Cornell University.

Robert Joseph Taylor is the Harold R. Johnson Endowed Professor of Social Work and the Sheila Feld Collegiate Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan. He is also the Director of the Program for Research on Black Americans at the Institute for Social Research. Professor Taylor has published extensively on the informal social support networks (i.e., family, friends, and church members) of adult and elderly Black Americans. He has been principal investigator of several grants from the National Institute on Aging that examine the role of religion in the lives of Black and White elderly adults. He has been co-principal investigator with James Jackson on several grants from the National Institute of Mental Health on the correlates of mental health and mental illness among Black Americans, including the only major national study of the prevalence of mental illness among Black Americans (The National Survey of American Life). He has edited two books, *Family Life in Black America* (1997) and *Aging in*

Black America (1993) with James S. Jackson and Linda M. Chatters. He is also the lead author of the book, *Religion in the Lives of African Americans: Social, Psychological, and Health Perspectives* (2004) with Linda Chatters and Jeff Levin. He is the founding editor of *African American Research Perspectives*. Professor Taylor received his Ph.D. in social work and sociology from the University of Michigan.