



Studying the Gendered Experience of Intergenerational Relationships: Limitations and Opportunities

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Introduction



- ▶ Intergenerational ties in later life influenced by structured social relations (Matthews, 2002; Stelle et al., 2010)
- ▶ Feminine bias in conceptualization & study of these ties (Mann, 2007; Matthews, 2002; 2005; Stelle, et al., 2010; Timonen & Arber, 2012)
- ▶ Needed: A gender inclusive approach to intergenerational ties




Conceptual Framework

- ▶ Combined elements of (Connidis, 2010, 2012, 2015; Connidis & Barnett, 2019):
 - ▶ Life course perspective
 - ▶ Critical perspective
 - ▶ Feminist perspective
 - ▶ Concept of ambivalence
- ▶ Micro-, meso-, & macro levels of analysis (Allen & Henderson, 2017; Baars et al., 2006; Calasanti, 2009; Connidis & Walker, 2009; Dannefer & Kelley-Moore, 2009; Holstein & Minkler, 2012; Huinink & Feldhaus, 2009)




Life Course Perspective

- ▶ Family ties & gender relations across life course
 - ▶ Historical & social time
 - ▶ Life stage
 - ▶ Linked lives
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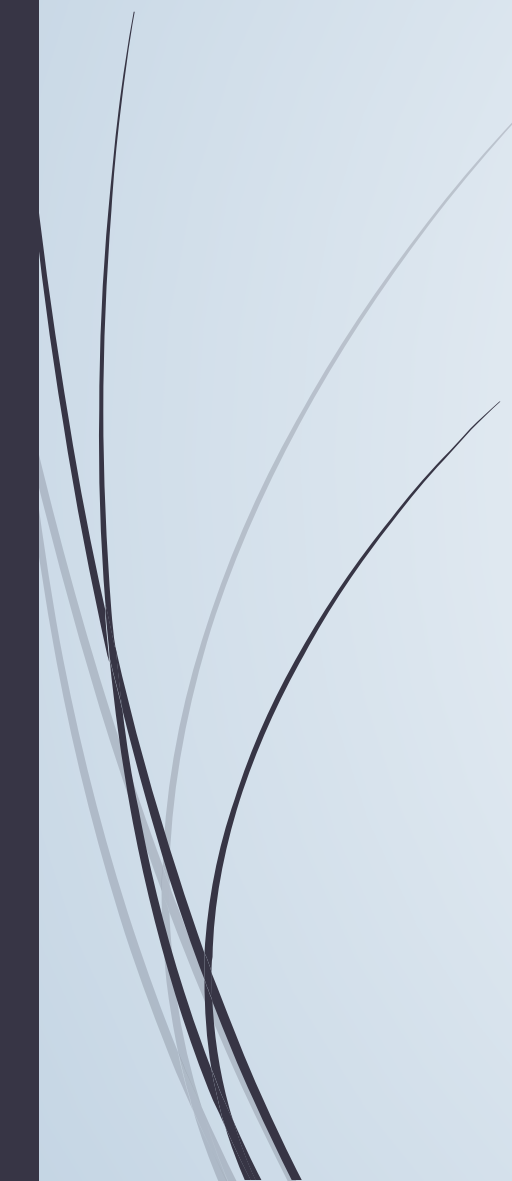


Critical and Feminist Perspectives

- Inequality of structured social relations has consequences for social institutions & family life
 - Agency within the constraints & opportunities of structured social relations
 - Status quo versus change
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Concept of Ambivalence

- Contradiction & paradox in
 - Intergenerational ties
 - Institutional arrangements
 - Structured social relations
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A Critical Literature Review

- Women more available than men as parents & grandparents (Leopold & Skopek, 2015; Margolis, 2016; Margolis & Wright, 2017; Metlife, 2011)
- Women more involved with & emotionally close to their intergenerational ties (Barnett et al., 2010; Davey et al., 2009; Fuller-Thompson et al., 2014; Geurts et al., 2009; Grigoryeva, 2017; Harrington-Meyer, 2014; Mahne & Huxhold, 2012)
- Non-traditional women and men under-researched & misrepresented (Bates, 2009; Davidson et al., 2003; Mann, 2007; Matthews, 2002b, 2005; Matthews & Heidorn, 1998; Moore & Rosenthal, 2017; Stelle et al., 2010)



A Critical Literature Review

- More varied ways to be involved as a:
 - **grandfather** (Bates, 2009; Bates & Goodsell, 2013; Goodsell et al., 2011; Moore & Rosenthal, 2017)
 - **grandmother** (Hank et al., 2018; Harrington Meyer, 2014)
 - **adult son & daughter** (Campbell, 2010)



A Critical Literature Review

- ▶ Intergenerational ambivalence linked to contradictions in social institutions & structures.
 - ▶ Gendered work & pressures to meet needs of multiple generations (Chappell et al., 2015; Lahaie et al., 2013; Lin et al., 2012; Sarkisian & Gerstel, 2004)
 - ▶ Changing expectations for work & family lives of women (Harrington-Meyer, 2014)
 - ▶ Macro-level influences (Hagestad, 2009; Heinz et al., 2009; Herlofson & Hagestad, 2012; Marshall, 2009)

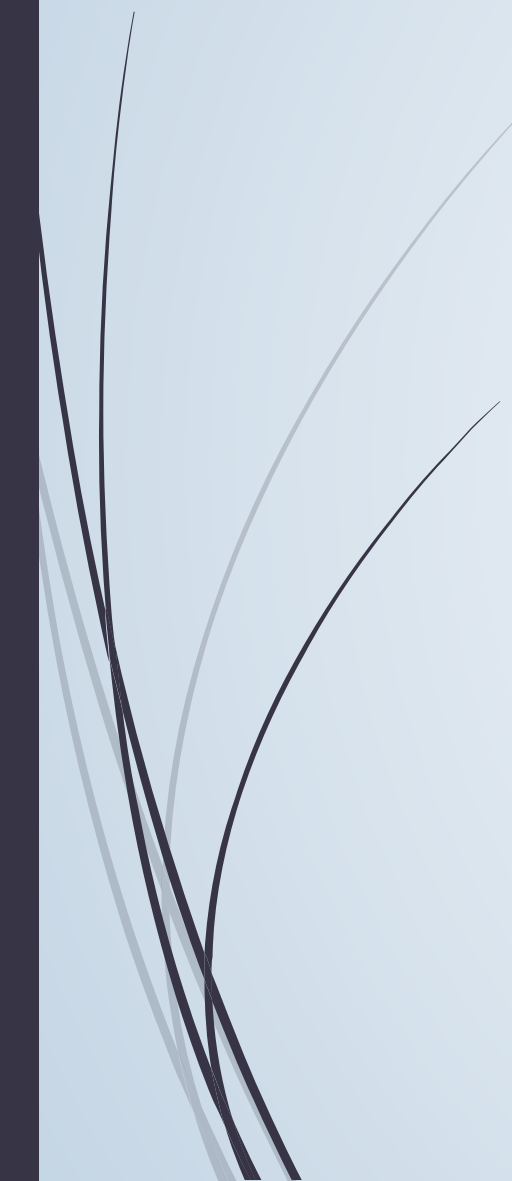


Directions for Future Research

- ▶ Research Questions
 - ▶ Micro-, meso-, & macro level connections
 - ▶ Linked lives & ambivalence



Directions for Future Research

- ▶ Methodological Approaches
 - ▶ Representative samples & baseline data
 - ▶ Research across families
 - ▶ Comparative studies
 - ▶ Research within families
 - ▶ Multiple voices from multiple generations
 - ▶ Multigenerational, multi-actor designs
- 



Directions for Future Research

- ▶ Methodological Approaches (Cont'd)
 - ▶ Longitudinal data
 - ▶ Retrospective data
 - ▶ Qualitative research
 - ▶ Inclusion of historical and social context for different groups



Conclusion



- This conceptual framework advances our understanding of intergenerational ties in the 21st century.
 - Dynamic, multi-level
 - A more inclusive view of women *and* men & their intergenerational relationships across the life course.

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