



Nationaal
Psychotrauma
Centrum

Ouder worden met de oorlog - alertering

Updates januari 2024

Voor veel mensen wordt het verleden belangrijker naarmate ze ouder worden. Voor mensen die de Tweede Wereldoorlog hebben meegemaakt kunnen ervaringen, herinneringen en emoties die men voorheen nog door bijvoorbeeld hard werken en vermijden verre van zich kon houden, nu alsnog naar boven komen.

Elk kwartaal zet de ARQ-bibliotheek nieuwe publicaties over *ouder worden met de oorlog* 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 attentering hoort bij het themadossier [Ouder worden met de oorlog](#)

30 januari 2024

Bělín, M., Jelínek, T., & Jurajda, Š. (2023). Preexisting social ties among Auschwitz prisoners support Holocaust survival. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(29), e2221654120. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2221654120>

Survivor testimonies link survival in deadly POW camps, Gulags, and Nazi concentration camps to the formation of close friendships with other prisoners. To provide evidence free of survival bias on the importance of social ties for surviving the Holocaust, we study individual histories of 30 thousand Jewish prisoners who entered the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp on transports from the Theresienstadt ghetto. We ask whether the availability of potential friends among fellow prisoners on a transport influenced the chances of surviving the Holocaust. Relying on multiple proxies of preexisting social networks and varying social-linkage composition of transports, we uncover a significant survival advantage to entering Auschwitz with a larger group of potential friends.

bloomsbury.com. (n.d.). *Genocide, the Holocaust and Israel-Palestine*. Bloomsbury. Retrieved January 30, 2024, from <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/genocide-the-holocaust-and-israel-palestine-9781350332317/>

This book discusses some of the most urgent current debates over the study, commemoration, and politicization of the Holocaust through key critical perspectives. Omer Bartov adeptly assesses the tensions between Holocaust and genocide studies, which have repeatedly both enriched and clashed with each other, whilst convincingly arguing for the importance of local history and individual testimony in grasping the nature of mass murder. He goes on to critically examine how legal discourse has served to both uncover and deny individual and national complicity. *Genocide, the Holocaust and Israel-Palestine* outlines how first-person histories provide a better understanding of events otherwise perceived as inexplicable and, lastly, draws on the author's own personal trajectory to consider links between the fate of Jews in World War II and the plight of Palestinians during and in the aftermath of the establishment of the state of Israel.

Drori, E. (2023). From Vulnerability to Resilience: How do Elderly Holocaust Survivors Living in a Nursing Home in Israel, Cope with the Threat of COVID-19? A Group Therapy Case Study. In M. K. Shankardass

(Ed.), *Handbook on COVID-19 Pandemic and Older Persons: Narratives and Issues from India and Beyond* (pp. 189–207). Springer Nature. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-1467-8_13

In addition to being an external event, the COVID-19 outbreak is a psychological event. As such, it elicits associations, memories, and metaphors around which threat perceptions are organized. These processes are likely to be especially significant among individuals who have experienced traumatic life events. In this chapter, Holocaust survivors', living in a nursing home in a central city in Israel reactions to group psychotherapy during the Pandemic, are discussed. Themes from two timepoints demonstrate the participants' shift in self-perceptions—from vulnerable, helpless victims of the COVID-19 threat and its multiple and complex implications, to a more resilient, resourceful, and efficacious self-perception. The case study presented in this chapter supports previous research studies, which recommend encouraging a strength-based approach when working with survivors, in order to foster better adaptation and more effective coping. This approach is especially important during times of uncertainty and adversity.

Felsen, I., Frumer, J., Safir, M. P., Farber, T., & Quaranta Morrissey, M. B. (2023). Vibrant Older Adults. In C. R. Figley, L. E. A. Walker, & I. A. Serlin (Eds.), *Pandemic Providers: Psychologists Respond to Covid* (pp. 75–102). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-27580-7_5

This chapter presents the work of the Older Adults Work Group (OAWG), which has focused on the experiences of active older adults, whom we termed “vibrant older adults,” during the COVID-19 pandemic. The chapter describes the origin story of the OAWG, which led to the articulation of its mission, i.e., advancing awareness and knowledge among other professionals about the psychological experiences of this less-visible group within the wide and diverse population of older adults during COVID-19. Consistent with the work of group members, the OAWG mission had an additional focus: the exploration of the impact of the trauma of the Holocaust on the reactions of Holocaust survivors, and the impact of intergenerational transmission of effects related to the trauma of the Holocaust on the reactions of offspring of Holocaust survivors, during the pandemic. This chapter reviews observations from multiple levels of interventions during COVID, including individual clinical sessions with child survivors of the Holocaust conducted in home visits, challenges faced within a large healthcare system offering social services to Holocaust survivors, and psychosocial online interventions with offspring of Holocaust survivors (2G), as well as research findings from an empirical study with this group. The chapter concludes with insights and actionable suggestions gleaned from the different interventions and offers a public health perspective for continued coping with the uncertainty associated with waves of the pandemic, better preparedness for future crises, and improved services for active older adults during the pandemic and beyond.

Fňašková, M., Říha, P., Nečasová, M., Preiss, M., & Rektor, I. (2023). Lifelong effects of prenatal and early postnatal stress on the hippocampus, amygdala, and psychological states of Holocaust survivors. *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), 13835. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-40618-3>

This study focuses on hippocampal and amygdala volume, seed-based connectivity, and psychological traits of Holocaust survivors who experienced stress during prenatal and early postnatal development. We investigated people who lived in Central Europe during the Holocaust and who, as Jews, were in imminent danger. The group who experienced stress during their prenatal development and early postnatal (PreP) period (n = 11) were compared with a group who experienced Holocaust-related stress later in their lives: in late childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood (ChA) (n = 21). The results of

volumetry analysis showed significantly lower volumes of both hippocampi and the right amygdala in the PreP group. Seed-based connectivity analysis revealed increased connectivity from the seed in the right amygdala to the middle and posterior cingulate cortex, caudate, and inferior left frontal operculum in the PreP group. Psychological testing found higher levels of traumatic stress symptoms (TCS-40) and lower levels of well-being (SOS-10) in the PreP group than in the ChA group. The results of our study demonstrate that extreme stress experienced during prenatal and early postnatal life has a profound lifelong impact on the hippocampus and amygdala and on several psychological characteristics.

Leno, P. (2023). Historical Memories in Transcarpathia: Oral Historical Reflections on the Second World War. *Etnografia Polska*, 67(1–2). <https://doi.org/10.23858/EP67.2023.3399>

Transcarpathia is a border and mostly mountainous region with a rather complex ethnographic and religious mosaic. It borders 4 countries (Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia), and geographically is the westernmost part of Ukraine. These factors contributed to the shape of a local multicultural population with fluid identities and very specific worldviews. The deepening of cultural ruptures is increased by regional historical memory, which shows the past in a way that is not described in the official historical grand narrative. This situation is also influenced by ethnic diversity and the presence of ethnic minorities, in particular local Hungarians and Germans, whose reflections on World War II and Sovietization differ both from the official grand narrative and from the memories of local Ukrainians. This study exhibits these differences and attempts to generalize and explain them. The ethnographic data was collected during the author's fieldwork. Among the respondents, there are representatives of various Transcarpathian ethnic groups, direct witnesses of the XX century's most significant events. Memories of these events are analysed through their impact on the everyday life of ordinary people.

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.

Stessman, J., Paris, B., & Jacobs, J. M. (2023). Holocaust survivors: Health and longevity 70 years later. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 71(10), 3199–3207.

<https://agsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jgs.18485>

Background Holocaust survivors (HS) alive today form a unique and disappearing population, whose exposure to systematic genocide occurred over 70 years ago. Negative health outcomes were widely documented prior to age 70. We examine the hypothesis that the experience of remote trauma continues to negatively affect health, functional status, and survival between the ages of 85–95. Methods The Jerusalem Longitudinal Study (1990–2022) followed a representative sample of Jerusalem residents born 1920–1921, at ages 85, 90 and 95. Home assessment included medical, social, functional, and cognitive status, and mortality data. Subjects were classified: (1) HS-Camp (HS-C): survived slave-labor, concentration, or death camps; (2) HS-Exposed (HS-E): survived Nazi occupation of Europe; (3) Controls: European descent, outside Europe during WWII. We determined Hazards Ratios (HR), adjusting for gender, loneliness, financial difficulty, physical activity, ADL dependence, chronic ischemic heart disease, cancer, cognitive deficits, chronic joint pain, self-rated health. Results At ages 85 (n = 496), 90 (n = 524), and 95 (n = 383) the frequency of HS-C versus HS-E versus Controls was 28%/22%/50%, 19%/19%/62%, and 20%/22%/58%, respectively. No consistent significant morbidity differences were observed. Mortality between ages 85–90 and 90–95 years was 34.9% versus 38% versus 32.0%, and 43.4% versus 47.3% versus 43.7%, respectively, with no significant differences in survival rates (log rank p = 0.63, p = 0.81). Five-year mortality adjusted HRs were insignificant for HS-C and HS-E between ages 85–90 (HR 0.87, 95% CI 0.54–1.39; HR 1.14, 95% CI 0.73–1.78) and ages 90–95 (HR 0.72, 95% CI 0.39–1.32; HR 1.38, 95% CI 0.85–2.23). Conclusions Seventy years following their trauma and suffering during the Holocaust, the significant impairments of health, function, morbidity, and mortality which have accompanied survivors throughout their entire adult life, were no longer observed. Indeed, it is likely that survivors living >85 years old represent a uniquely resilient population of people, whose adaptation to adversity has accompanied them throughout their lives.

Tinning, K. (2023). Courage, resistance and vulnerability in memory culture: Swedish Museum education and the representation of the Holocaust survivor at the turn of the twenty-first century. *Memory Studies*, 16(5), 1240–1263. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17506980221122227>

This article provides a Swedish perspective on critical memory culture and the use of difficult history in museum education. It is based on a detailed study of the educational resource the Teacher's Guide, published by the Swedish Museum of Cultural History in Lund named *Kulturen* in 2006 in connection with their permanent exhibition, *To Survive. Voices from Ravensbrück*. The Guide shows how women, imprisoned in the Ravensbrück concentration camp, found ways to resist their situation and overcome their victim position. It also relates to the role Sweden played in the rescue of the women from the camp. First, the article explicates the narrative structure of the guidebook and examines how it characterises the survivors as resistance heroines and presents their story as a story of courage. Then, the article relates the Teacher's Guide to two contemporary phenomena in Sweden: a governmental educational campaign to raise young people's awareness of the Holocaust and foster engagement in resistance to present neo-fascism and a historiographical debate taking issue with negative and difficult aspects of Sweden's involvement in the Second World War. The Teacher's Guide is discussed based on Aleida Assmann's concept of self-critical memory culture, Judith Butler's notion of vulnerability and the concept of difficult history in museum pedagogy. It is argued that by emphasising courage and

neglecting vulnerability in its story of resistance, the Guide deprives the audience of the opportunity of responding adequately to the difficult history of surviving the Holocaust as a history of ambiguity. Ultimately, it is argued that the Guide constitutes a hindrance to the emergence of a self-critical memory culture on the Holocaust in Sweden.

Zait, J. (2023). "I'm not a person anymore": The "survivor syndrome" and William G. Niederland's perception of the human being. *History of Psychology*, No Pagination Specified-No Pagination Specified. <https://doi.org/10.1037/hop0000250>

Psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, and neurologist William Guglielmo Niederland (1904–1993) received widespread acclaim for his research on Holocaust survivors, yet his other psychoanalytic work has yet to achieve comparable recognition. In this article, I will examine the affinities between Niederland's study of the Holocaust survivors and other major works in his canon to demonstrate the cohesive nature of his worldview, philosophy, and psychoanalytic trajectory while also illuminating Niederland's portrait of the human being. This work is divided into two sections. The first section will deal with what I have termed as "the phenomenological sensitivity" which articulates Niederland's unique intellectual approach of subjectively retracing his patients' phenomenal experiences. The second section will discuss Niederland's image of the human being at the nexus of space and time, as it emerges from a comparative reading across his various writings. Ultimately, the article will present these two recurrent elements not only to help identify Niederland's integrated worldview which extends throughout, but also beyond his trauma work with Holocaust survivors. (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2023 APA, all rights reserved)

Zhou, R., & Hou, C.-L. (2023). How Holocaust Survivors Cope with Life: A Cross-Sectional Study of Financial Exploitation in Israel. *International Psychogeriatrics*, 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1041610223000947>

An abstract is not available for this content so a preview has been provided.