



Nationaal
Psychotrauma
Centrum

Generaties en trauma alertering

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Familiepatronen kunnen worden overgedragen van generatie op generatie wat betreft gevoelens, gedragingen en herinneringen. In het onderbewuste worden herinneringen opgeslagen. Het zijn met name de niet verwerkte verlieservaringen en trauma's die apart worden opgeslagen en een individu kan sturen in het opnieuw creëren van situaties waar zijn of haar (voor)ouders zich in bevonden.

Regelmatig zet de ARQ-bibliotheek nieuwe publicaties over *Generaties en trauma* op deze lijst. Voor eventuele fulltext of voor eerdere updates kunt u ook mailen naar de [ARQ-bibliotheek](#). Deze alertering en meer vindt u ook in ons [themadossier Generaties en Trauma](#)

Bachem, R., Levin, Y., Yuval, K., Maercker, A., Solomon, Z., & Bernstein, A. (2024). The role of maternal postmigration living difficulties in intergenerational trauma transmission among asylum-seeker mother–child dyads: Exploring complex posttraumatic stress disorder as a mechanism. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, No Pagination Specified-No Pagination Specified. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0001767>

Objective: Among forcibly displaced people, maternal trauma and stress have been implicated in poor child socioemotional outcomes via intergenerational trauma transmission. This study explored the role of maternal postmigration living difficulties (PMLD) in the pathway linking maternal trauma, trauma-related psychopathology, and child socioemotional outcomes among mother–child dyads seeking asylum in a high-risk urban setting. Method: Participants were East African (Eritrean) mothers (N = 127) of preschool-aged children seeking asylum in Israel. Using moderated mediation analysis, we tested whether and how PMLD may moderate the mediating role of current maternal International Classification of Diseases, 11th revision (ICD-11) posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and complex posttraumatic stress disorder disturbances in self-organization (DSO) symptoms between past maternal trauma exposure and current postdisplacement child internalizing and externalizing difficulties. Children's direct exposure to adverse life experiences was controlled for. Results: Maternal PTSD symptoms mediated the association between past maternal trauma exposure and child internalizing difficulties, but not externalizing difficulties, across all levels of current maternal PMLD. However, maternal DSO symptoms mediated internalizing and externalizing child outcomes, but only among mothers reporting high levels of current PMLD. Conclusion: This study provides novel evidence that PMLD may amplify the toxicity of past maternal trauma exposure for poor child socioemotional outcomes via ICD-11 DSO symptoms. The intergenerational transmission pathway via the narrower fear-based ICD-11 PTSD, however, is independent of the degree of maternal PMLD. Findings suggest that policies designed to buffer intergenerational trauma transmission among forcibly displaced people may need to consider the toxicity of PMLD as well as enable mothers to heal from PTSD. (PsyInfo Database Record (c) 2024 APA, all rights reserved)

Bonumwezi, J. L., Grapin, S. L., Uddin, M., Coyle, S., Habintwali, D., & Lowe, S. R. (2024). Intergenerational trauma transmission through family psychosocial factors in adult children of Rwandan survivors of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. *Social Science & Medicine*, 348, 116837. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.116837>

Thirty years after the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, children of survivors are being increasingly documented to be at higher risk compared to their peers for adverse mental health outcomes. However, no studies in Rwanda have empirically explored family psychosocial factors underlying this intergenerational transmission of trauma. We investigated family psychosocial factors that could underlie this transmission in 251 adult Rwandan children of survivors (mean age = 23.31, SD = 2.40; 50.2% female) who completed a cross-sectional online survey. For participants with survivor

mothers (n = 187), we found that both offspring-reported maternal trauma exposure and maternal PTSD were indirectly associated with children's PTSD via maternal trauma communication (specifically, nonverbal and guilt-inducing communication), and that maternal PTSD was indirectly associated with children's PTSD, anxiety, and depression symptoms through family communication styles. For participants with survivor fathers (n = 170), we found that paternal PTSD symptoms were indirectly associated with children's anxiety and depression symptoms via paternal parenting styles (specifically, abusive and indifferent parenting). Although replication is needed in longitudinal research with parent-child dyads, these results reaffirm the importance of looking at mass trauma in a family context and suggest that intergenerational trauma interventions should focus on addressing family communication, trauma communication, and parenting.

Chen, M.-F. (2024). *Ripples of trauma: an exploration of the intergenerational legacy of the descendants of Taiwan's White Terror political prisoners*. <https://doi.org/10.7488/era/4907>

This thesis explores the longer-term effects of political repression on the descendants of political prisoners in Taiwan. The White Terror (1949-1992) was a four-decade-long period of political repression in which anyone who was under suspicion of opposing the Kuomintang (KMT) regime could run the risk of being arrested, imprisoned or executed. While Taiwan's democratisation process, beginning in the 1990s, ushered in significant changes in sociopolitical circumstances, the legacy of the White Terror continued to affect its political prisoners, their families and descendants. This thesis investigates these intergenerational effects on the descendants of political prisoners by aiming to unfold their lived experiences, taking into account the impact of tensions between wider society, local communities and their families and the influences of familial dynamics on the descendants. In-depth individual qualitative interviews were conducted with six research participants from three families. Two members from each family were recruited, one of whom was a child of a political prisoner and the other a grandchild. The three families come from the three main population groups in Taiwan, namely indigenous peoples, early Han immigrants and Chinese diasporas. Analysing these participants' accounts phenomenologically and hermeneutically, the research finds that the experience of political imprisonment and the stigma of being a political prisoner has led these families to encounter multiple relational ruptures during the White Terror, regardless of their ethnic backgrounds. There were ongoing tensions between the families, local communities and wider society under political repression. Being an ethnic minority, the indigenous participants also experienced intersecting oppressions. Encountering the first generation's long-term political imprisonment, the early Han immigrant participants recounted the ambivalent relationship between them and the people around them and the constant uncertainty that pervaded their lives. In contrast, the Chinese diaspora participants grew up in an environment where they were more distanced from their family's troubled past through the reinvention of the first generation and the supportive community in which the family flourished. These offered protective effects against the intergenerational impact of political violence. Multifaceted silence forms a dominant theme in these accounts. Being embedded in a society that was being politically oppressed, all politically sensitive topics became taboo. Although the event of political imprisonment significantly affected these families, they were muted throughout the White Terror. This also generated more silence in their families. Muteness and silence permeated these families, and they had to suffer and live with political repression silently. Nevertheless, the tensions between these families and wider society and the silence within these families did not vanish as Taiwan became a democratic country but continued to emerge in different forms. Drawing on these findings, the thesis revisits the concept of intergenerational trauma with a situational perspective and the interwoven relationships between wider society, local communities, political prisoners' families and individuals. This thesis argues that intergenerational trauma can also be described as a continuing experiential phenomenon. The descendants have not left the trauma situation these families live in, this situation still exists and is maintained by ongoing traumatising circumstances and the dynamics of traumatised families.

Cohen, M., & Teles, R. (2024). L'appropriation de la transmission des traumatismes par le droit: le préjudice transgénérationnel dans la jurisprudence de la Cour pénale internationale / The appropriation of trauma transmission through law: transgenerational harm in the jurisprudence of the International Criminal Court. *Canadian Yearbook of International Law/Annuaire Canadien de Droit International*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cyl.2024.3>

The International Criminal Court recently examined the novel question of reparation for transgenerational harm. In its analysis, the court relied on a type of harm that goes beyond direct victims and targets individuals who only indirectly experienced the original traumatic event. Regarding reparation, it must be established whether this harm is specific and autonomous, justifying recognition and, therefore, a measure of reparation. The question of repairing transgenerational harm is topical and yet to be studied much in international criminal law. This article aims to contribute to the literature in this area by examining how transgenerational harm is legally elaborated in certain examples taking place in the context of gross violations of human rights. Finally, the article analyzes the jurisprudence of the International Criminal Court, highlighting the difficulties and dilemmas generated by the recognition of transgenerational harm in the criminal legal sphere.

Dini, Z., & Solheim, C. (2024). Making Sense of Complexity in Refugee Family Systems: Second-Generation Somali and Hmong Refugee Adults' Reflections on Their Relationships with Their First-Generation Refugee Parents. *International Journal of Systemic Therapy*, 0(0), 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2692398X.2024.2403851>

The current study aimed to understand the relationships of 2nd generation (2G) refugees during their formative years with their 1st generation (1G) parents. We used a phenomenological approach to conduct individual interviews with six 2G refugees (three Hmong-Americans and three Somali-Americans) in the U.S. who fit the study's inclusion criterion of being affected by their parents' migration trauma. Themes emerging from participants' narratives describe 1) 2G Refugee Relationship Quality with 1G Refugee Parents; 2) Integrating All Dimensions of 2G Intersectional Identities; 3) 2G Resiliency Resources; and 4) Moving Forward. The current study's findings suggest ways that intergenerational trauma affected 2G refugees' relationships with their parents and added layers of complexity to the normative challenges of adolescent development. Researchers are encouraged to employ a family system lens to consider the effects of migration trauma across generations when examining relationship dynamics in refugee families. It is important for clinicians to consider the systemic impacts of refugee stress and trauma when working with refugee adolescents and their families.

Foster, A. D., Gökçe, M. B., & Kırdar, M. G. (2024). Intergenerational Power Shift and the Rise of Nonarranged Marriages Among Refugees. *Demography*, 11555087. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370-11555087>

The experiences of war and refugee status can alter intrafamily dynamics, with implications for family formation, including marriage. We use the nationally representative Syrian Migrant Sample of the 2018 Turkey Demographic Health Survey (TDHS-S) to conduct a duration analysis of marriage outcomes among Syrian refugees in Turkey, tracking women throughout their residence in prewar Syria (before the conflict began in 2011), postwar Syria (after the conflict began but before arrival in Turkey), and Turkey. We find that early marriage was more prominent among refugees who were unmarried at the time of migration than among those married before migration; the mean marriage age dropped from 19.6 in prewar Syria to 19.1 in postwar Syria and 18.1 in Turkey. Using the TDHS-S and prewar Syrian surveys, we show that this finding aligns with the observed declines in household income and young women's opportunity cost of marriage. Our duration analysis also reveals a notable shift from traditional arranged marriages to more modern marriage forms among refugees in Turkey. An intergenerational power shift might drive the shift toward nonarranged marriages. After arrival in Turkey, wealth and employment of parents decline among refugees. In contrast, Syrian youth in Turkey have higher age-adjusted employment rates than in prewar Syria. Moreover, nonarranged marriages increase more among demographic groups with stronger intergenerational power shifts than among groups with weaker shifts.

Jeon, A. (2024). Beyond trauma: Positive postmemories among second- and third-generation North Korean war refugees. *Memory Studies*, 17(4), 955–969. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17506980241232566>

In this article, I discuss how children and grandchildren of North Korean war refugees who were displaced during the Korean War construct identity and belonging in relation to their North Korean heritage. Drawing from the concept of postmemory, I examine how their northern heritage is experienced, constructed, mediated, and even solidified across generations who did not directly experience the Korean War. Unlike existing literature that predominantly focuses on the traumatic aspects of postmemory, I found that one's construction of postmemory also encompasses positive family memories. These affirming memories exist alongside traumatic ones, countering the overdetermined paradigm of trauma across memory studies. Thus, I propose alternative ways of remembering that capture a nuanced understanding of how the second and third generations construct positive postmemories alongside the traumatic memories of their ancestors.

Koga, C., Tsuji, T., Hanazato, M., Nakagomi, A., & Tabuchi, T. (2024). Intergenerational Chain of Violence, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Elder Abuse Perpetration. *JAMA Network Open*, 7(9), e2436150. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.36150>

It is widely known that individuals with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) have an increased risk of abusing their own children, thereby perpetuating the cycle of violence. However, the association between ACEs and elder abuse perpetration has not been fully examined. To examine the association between ACEs and elder abuse and the mediating factors. This cross-sectional study used data collected via the self-administered Japan COVID-19 and Society Internet Survey from September 12 to October 19, 2022. Men and women aged 20 to 64 years who responded to related questions were included. Data were analyzed from July 2023 to April 2024. ACEs, defined as the experience of any of 7 items—interpersonal loss (parental loss and parental divorce), family psychopathology (parental mental disease and violence in family), abuse (physical and psychological abuse), and neglect—before the age of 18 years. The primary outcome was the perpetration of physical and/or psychological abuse against an older person (aged ≥ 65 years) self-reported via questionnaire. The direct and indirect effect estimates were determined using logistic regression analyses. Of a total of 13 318 participants (mean [SD] age, 41.1 [12.1] years; 6634 female [49.8%]), 1133 (8.5%) reported perpetrating violence against older adults. Compared with individuals without ACEs, the odds ratios (ORs) for perpetrating violence were 3.22 (95% CI, 2.74-3.79) for those with 1 ACE and 7.65 (95% CI, 6.41-9.13) for those with 2 or more ACEs. In the mediation analysis, factors with large indirect effect estimates included depression (OR, 1.13; 95% CI, 1.11-1.14; proportion mediated [PM], 18.6%), mental illness other than depression (OR, 1.12; 95% CI, 1.10-1.14; PM, 17.3%), and self-rated health (OR, 1.04; 95% CI, 1.03-1.05; PM, 6.0%). These findings suggest that intergenerational cycles of violence may extend to any vulnerable group, not only children but also older adults. Further research into the prevention of ACEs and breaking these cycles of violence is warranted.

Pilkay, S., Riffer, A., & Carroll, A. (2024). Trauma context exerts intergenerational effects on child mental health via DNA methylation. *Epigenetics*, 19(1), 2333654. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15592294.2024.2333654>

Many people experience traumatic or negative events, but few develop mental health issues as a result. This study investigated whether newborn DNA methylation (DNAm) previously associated with maternal childhood physical abuse by her father affected the child's mental health and physical growth, as well as whether it mediated or moderated developmental outcomes. Methods: Study sample (N = 903) and data came from Bristol University's Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children. DNAm was measured in cord blood at birth. DNAm data was preprocessed, normalized, and quality controlled before subsetting to 60 CpG sites of interest from previous research. Linear regression analysis examined newborn DNAm and child development outcome associations. Sobel test examined the mediating relationship between mother's history of childhood abuse by father, newborn targeted gene DNAm of significant CpG sites,

and child's mental health and physical growth. Moderation analyses examined the interaction effects between the significant CpG sites and mothers' physical abuse by their fathers on child's mental health and physical growth. Results: Full cohort analyses showed that newborn DNAm of several different CpG sites associates with separation anxiety, fear, and unhappy/tearful presentations in children aged 6–7 y. Sex-specific associations emerged with boys showing associations with anxiety and fear, and girls showing associations with fear and unhappiness. In boys only, cord blood DNAm mediates the effect of maternal childhood trauma on offspring mental health. No moderation effects emerged. Conclusion: Intergenerational effects of mother's relationship to her abuser present in newborn DNAm associate with 7-year-old child's mental health, show sex-specific effects, and newborn DNAm does mediate maternal childhood trauma effects on offspring mental health in early-life.

Ryan, J., Phyo, A. Z. Z., Krasniqi, S. P., Carkaxhiu, S. I., Fransquet, P., Kaas-Petersen, S. H., Limani, D. A., Xhemaili, V. D., Salihi, M., Prapashtica, Q., Zekaj, N., Turjaka, V., Wang, S.-J., Rushiti, F., & Hjort, L. (2024). An epigenome-wide study of a needs-based family intervention for offspring of trauma-exposed mothers in Kosovo. *Brain and Behavior*, 14(9), e70029. <https://doi.org/10.1002/brb3.70029>

Introduction Maternal stress and trauma during pregnancy have been shown to influence cortisol levels and epigenetic patterns, including DNA methylation, in the offspring. This study aimed to determine whether a tailor-made family intervention could help reduce cortisol levels in children born to traumatized mothers, and to determine whether it effected offspring DNA methylation. The secondary aim was to determine whether the family intervention influenced DNA methylation aging, a marker of biological aging. Methods A needs-based family intervention was designed to help address relational difficulties and family functioning, and included a focus on family strengths and problem-solving patterns. Women survivors of sexual violence during the Kosovar war in 1998–1999, and their families (children with or without partners) were randomly assigned to 10 sessions of a family therapy over a 3–5-month period, or to a waitlist control group. Both mothers and children completed assessments prior to and after the intervention phase. Children's blood samples collected at these two time points were used to measure cortisol and epigenome-wide DNA methylation patterns (Illumina EPIC array). Cortisol levels, and genome-wide DNA methylation changes pre-/postintervention were compared between children in the intervention and the waitlist groups. DNA methylation age and accelerated biological aging were calculated. Results Sixty-two women–child dyads completed the study, 30 were assigned first to the intervention group, and 32 to the waitlist control group. In adjusted linear regression, the family intervention was associated with a significant decline in cortisol levels compared to the waitlist control ($\beta = -124.72$, 95% confidence interval [CI]: -197.4 to -52.1 , $p = .001$). Children in the intervention group, compared to the waitlist control group, showed $>1\%$ differential methylation degree at 5819 CpG (5'—C—phosphate—G—3') sites across the genome ($p < .01$), with the largest methylation difference being 21%. However, none of these differences reached genome-wide significant levels. There was no significant difference in DNA methylation aging between the two groups. Conclusion We find evidence that a tailored family-based intervention reduced stress levels in the children (based on cortisol levels), and modified DNA methylation levels at a number of sites across the genome. This study provides some preliminary evidence to suggest the potential for tailored interventions to help break the intergenerational transmission of trauma, however, large studies powered to detect associations at genome-wide significant levels are needed.

Salberg, J., & Grand, S. (2024). *Transgenerational Trauma: A Contemporary Introduction* (1st edition). Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Transgenerational-Trauma-A-Contemporary-Introduction/Salberg-Grand/p/book/9780367541422?srsId=AfmBOoo97vNbdrg0Qbmb8aBLG4kfNzvFhzr6clQ1HxaN2Bd9VT7uSMZU>

In this book, Jill Salberg and Sue Grand offer an overview of the psychoanalytic work on transgenerational trauma, rooting their perspective in attachment theory, and the social-ethical turn of Relational psychoanalysis. *Transgenerational Trauma: A Contemporary Introduction* is a cutting-edge study of trauma transmission across generations. Salberg and Grand consider how our forebears'

trauma can leave a scar on our lives, our bodies, and on our world. They posit that, too often, we re-cycle the social violence that we were subjected to. Their unique approach embraces diverse psychoanalytic and psychodynamic theories, as they look at attachment, legacies of violence, and the role of witnessing in healing. Clinical and personal stories are interwoven with theory to elucidate the socio-historical positions that we inherit and live out. Social justice concerns are addressed throughout, in a mission to heal both individual and collective wounds. *Transgenerational Trauma: A Contemporary Introduction* offers a nuanced and comprehensive approach to this vital topic, and will be of interest to psychoanalysts, psychologists and other mental health professionals, as well as students and scholars of trauma studies, race and gender studies, sociology, conflict resolution, and others.

Wilkins, K. V. (2024, August). *Generations After Us (Undergoing Stress): An Exploration of Interpersonal Violence and Loss on Psychosocial Functioning at the Parent, Child, and Family Level*

<https://www.proquest.com/openview/8517494b39cac9186593f4f2d20bf420/1?cbl=18750&diss=y&pq-origsite=gscholar&parentSessionId=HW1d7n7eEJet8VMPY3Rd6i1qLONTPd%2B4iYE1GEWMaMI%3D>

Previous studies propose that interpersonal violence and loss, parenting, and attachment each individually contribute to child and family distress. The following studies aimed to further explore these effects across and within various generational groupings. The first study explored exposure to community violence at the parent level and at the child level in an attempt to understand how such stress impacts parents' perceptions of family functioning in AfricanAmerican and Latine families. Findings suggested that family functioning is weakened the most when both a parent and adolescent are exposed and when just a parent was exposed. The second study examined differences in the effects of community violence exposure on posttraumatic stress in African-American boys and girls, and their parents' attachment as a moderator. Findings suggested that community violence exposure, when paired with both caregiver alienation behaviors and mother-only alienation behaviors, negatively influence posttraumatic stress for girls. Findings were not significant for boys. The third study examined the effects of traumatic childhood adversities on one's parenting abilities and one's children's psychosocial outcomes in African-American and Latine families. Findings suggested that parent's trauma in childhood predicted less exposure to community violence, more posttraumatic stress, and inappropriate empathy attitudes. Altogether, these studies findings continue to exemplify the influence of stress across generations, encourage researchers' consideration of context when conceptualizing participants', and emphasize the utility of clinicians' skills' to support important, and sometimes life-changing, healing, and growth in clients' and their families.

Willmot, J., Hamer, J., Riggs, D. W., & Rosenberg, S. (2024). Healing from intergenerational trauma: narratives of connection, belonging, and truth-telling in two Aboriginal healing camps. *Settler Colonial Studies*, 14(2), 125–139. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2201473X.2023.2260547>

Addressing intergenerational trauma caused through the impacts of colonization requires healing processes that are specific to the experiences and needs of First Nations peoples. This paper details an evaluation of two Aboriginal healing camps held in South Australia in 2021 and 2022. The camps focused on supporting members of the Stolen Generations, through a combination of First Nations and western healing practices. This paper details the framework used to structure the camps and provides an analysis of interviews with attendees. For the 2021 camp, nine attendees were interviewed before the camp and eight took part in a follow-up interview after the camp. For the 2022 camp, four attendees took part in a single time point interview. Thematic analysis of the interviews resulted in the development of five interrelated themes, focused on connections, belonging, healing, and truth-telling. The paper concludes by considering what the findings suggest for institutional change and growth in terms of future iterations of the camps, and the importance of First Nations-led opportunities for healing from intergenerational trauma.