

**Call for Papers for Supplemental Issue:  
Cross National Comparisons of Family, Social Environments and Aging,  
using the HRS Family of Surveys**

**Overview**

The global aging of the population, combined with shifts in the structure and composition of families, has led to increased attention to the role of family and social relationships in the aging experience. Of particular interest is the extent to which family members provide support for healthy independent living through middle to old age. The importance of family in determining healthy aging, however, may largely depend on the social, political, and economic context in which individuals are embedded. Most theoretical and empirical work on aging and the family has been conducted in high income countries. Yet, rates of population aging and structural and compositional changes in family differ globally, particularly between low and high income countries. Cross-national investigations offer a unique opportunity to understand how family and social environments influence health and well-being among older adults by comparing family and social environments across different national populations with varied experiences with population aging and family change. The role of the family in old age care, for instance, may be a larger factor determining health and well-being for older adults in countries that lack social service provisions for supporting older adults.

Despite the potential knowledge gained from global comparisons of the role of the family and social environments in health and aging, conducting cross-national examinations can be challenging. The HRS-family of surveys provides remarkable opportunities for cross-national studies as they were designed with harmonization as a goal. **The Gateway to Global Aging Data** ([g2aging.org](http://g2aging.org)) is a data and information platform developed to facilitate cross-country analyses on aging, especially those using HRS-family surveys.

We are preparing a supplemental issue for the *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences* and seek submissions of cross-national comparative studies using data from the HRS-family of surveys. We encourage the use of the Harmonized Data files and concordance information available from the Gateway to Global Aging Data. Potential topics include but are not limited to:

- Quality of relationships with spouse/partner, children, and other family members
- Relationship formation, dissolution, bereavement
- Family size, composition, and living arrangements
- Caregiving for or from a spouse, parent, child, or other family member
- Social contact and social isolation
- Health concordance between spouses
- Effects of family and social environments on physical and mental health as well as psychosocial well-being

Extended abstracts of 500-1,000 words (plus tables and figures) should be emailed to [jgss@g2aging.org](mailto:jgss@g2aging.org) no later than June 15, 2018 for consideration.

**Supplemental Issue Editors:** Jennifer Ailshire and Jinkook Lee, *University of Southern California*

**Submission Timeline:**

Abstract submission deadline: **JUNE 15, 2018**  
Invitations to submit full manuscripts: **JULY 15, 2018**  
Manuscript submission deadline: **NOVEMBER 1, 2018**  
Reviews completed: **JANUARY 31, 2019**  
Final submission deadline: **MAY 1, 2019**