

Secure Old Age Lab: Representing USC Davis at GSA 2015

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Conference provides a platform for showcasing research and establishing professional academic connections across the U.S. and abroad. The Secure Old Age Lab had a considerable presence at the 2015 GSA Conference in Florida, representing some of the social aging research being conducted at the USC Davis School of Gerontology.

Both veterans and newcomers to the lab contributed to 14 posters, papers, and symposium papers, presenting timely research in the areas of elder abuse, long-term services & supports, and economic security. Notably, Jeanine Yonashiro-Cho, a third-year PhD student, earned the Outstanding Student Poster Award from GSA's Social Research, Policy and Practice section. Jeanine's poster focused on characteristics of intentional and non-intentional injuries in older adults seen in the emergency department, analyses that can be used as a tool in the detection of abuse and the administration of appropriate services.

Additional elder abuse presentations weaved throughout the Secure Old Age repertoire, including a symposium featuring presentations by Dr. Zach Gassoumis ("On the Measurement of Physical Abuse in Older Adults") and former lab member Dr. Marti DeLiema ("They're Not All Bad: Using Latent Class Analysis to Categorize Abusers"), who began her research in elder financial exploitation with the USC Davis School. An elder abuse presentation was also made by former lab member Dr. Adria Navarro ("The Case Review Process of an Elder Abuse Forensic Center").

Newer members of the Secure Old Age team also made contributions to the USC Davis School presence at GSA, such as Kylie Meyer's presentation on informal caregiving ("Finding a Way Through the 'Maze': Information and Advice Seeking Among Informal Caregivers in the UK"). Undergraduate students Brian Kuang and Gerson Galdamez, possibly the youngest individuals at GSA 2015, presented posters highlighting their work in the Secure Old Age lab. Brian's work focused on costs and recurrence in Adult Protective Services, while Gerson explored occupational standing as a measure of income and wealth disparities in elder Latinos.

The careful research and thoughtful presentations highlighted the contributions to gerontological research made by the Secure Old Age lab's team members: veteran and newcomer, current and former. The Secure Old Age lab now shifts its focus to preparing a range of aging research for presentation at future conferences, with its eye set on GSA 2016 and beyond.

A full list of Secure Old Age Lab presentations at GSA 2015:

- SYMPOSIUM: Unifying California's home- and community-based service assessment: A stakeholder-driven process. (Co-chairs: Saliba & Wilber)
 - Building an assessment through science and stakeholder engagement: Approaches & challenges. (Saliba, Fulbright, Gassoumis, Leland, Newcomer, Yamasaki, & Wilber)
 - Transforming existing state models into an assessment framework and recommendations. (Ray, Wilber, Newcomer, Fulbright, & Saliba)
 - California: Where are we starting from? (Fulbright, Wilber, Gassoumis, Ray, & Saliba)

- Collecting caregiver data during universal assessment. (Gassoumis, Madigan, Wilber, & Saliba)
- Stakeholders' perspectives on assessing function: Capturing preferences and priorities. (Leland, Gassoumis, Fulbright, Wilber, & Saliba)
- SYMPOSIUM: Defining financial exploitation: Policy, practice, and research. (Chair: Navarro)
 - Inside the black box: The case review process of an elder abuse forensic center. (Navarro, Wysong, DeLiema, Schwartz, Nichol, & Wilber)
- SYMPOSIUM: Testing theoretical formulations in elder abuse with a focus on abuser characteristics (Co-chairs: Conrad & Iris)
 - On the measurement of physical abuse in older adults. (Gassoumis, Yon, Yonashiro-Cho, DeLiema, & Conrad)
 - They're not all bad: Using latent class analysis to categorize abusers. (DeLiema, Gassoumis, Yonashiro-Cho, Yon, & Conrad)
- PAPER: Fraud vs. Financial abuse: The etiology of two types of elder financial exploitation. (DeLiema)
- POSTER: Characteristics of intentional injuries among older adults presenting to hospital emergency departments in 2001-2010. (Yonashiro-Cho, Gassoumis, & Wilber) *Winner of SRPP section's Outstanding Student Poster award*
- POSTER: Integrating occupational standing into analyses of life-course economic disparity, by race/ethnicity. (Galdamez, Gassoumis, Wilber, & Torres-Gil)
- POSTER: Investigating the cost of recurrence to Adult Protective Services. (Kuang, Gassoumis, Wilber, & Nichol)
- POSTER: Finding a Way Through the "Maze": Information and Advice Seeking Among Informal Caregivers in the UK. (Meyer)
- POSTER: An elder abuse prevention intervention: Characteristics of persons with dementia and their caregivers. (Olsen, Gironde, Gassoumis, Weber, Burnight, & Mosqueda)