Published in final edited form as:

Res Aging. 2015 January ; 37(1): 3–17. doi:10.1177/0164027513519450.

The role of family social background and inheritance in later life volunteering: Evidence from SHARE-Israel

Iaroslav Youssim, M.A.,

Sociology, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, iaroslav.youssim@mail.huji.ac.il, the Israel Gerontological Data Center, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem 91905-IL, Israel, +39 3667254332

Karsten Hank, PhD [Professor], and

University of Cologne University of Cologne and DIW Berlin, hank@wiso.uni-koeln.de

Howard Litwin, PhD [Professor]

School of Social Work and Social Welfare, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, howie.litwin@mail.huji.ac.il

Abstract

Building on a tripartite model of capitals necessary to perform productive activities and on work suggesting that cumulative (dis-) advantage processes are important mechanisms for life-course inequalities, our study set out to investigate the potential role of family social background and inheritance in later-life volunteering. We hypothesized that older individuals who inherited work-relevant economic and cultural capitals from their family of origin are more likely to be engaged in voluntary activities than their counterparts with a less advantageous family social background. Our main findings from the analysis of a representative sample of community-dwelling Israelis aged 50 and over provide strong support for this hypothesis: the likelihood to volunteer is significantly higher among those who received substantial financial transfers from their family of origin ('inherited economic capital') and among those having a 'white collar' parental background ('inherited cultural capital'). We conclude with perspectives for future research.

Keywords

Volunteering; life course analysis; inheritance; habitus; SHARE

INTRODUCTION

A large body of research has shown that both contemporary individual resources (e.g. education, health; see Tang, 2006; Wilson & Musick, 1997) as well as the experience of critical life-course events (e.g. retirement, widowhood; see Donnelly & Hinterlong, 2010; Mutchler, Burr, & Caro, 2003) are important factors in determining whether older people engage in voluntary activities. While the importance of taking a life-course perspective is thus generally acknowledged (cf. Hank & Erlinghagen, 2010), we are not aware of research on later life volunteering that explicitly considers the potential role of individuals' family

social background (but see Brown and Lichter (2006); Janoski and Wilson (1995) for related studies on volunteerism in early adulthood).

This research gap requires attention for two reasons. First, recent research has traced the origins of ‘successful aging’ (which commonly implies sustained engagement in productive and social activities) back to individuals’ childhood living conditions (e.g., Brandt, Deindl, & Hank, 2012; Schafer & Ferraro, 2012). Previous studies may thus have missed an important (early) life-course *determinant* of and resource for elders’ voluntary engagement. Second, by not taking into account individuals’ family background, we might have missed the starting point of a process of cumulative (dis-) advantage that amplifies social inequalities over the life-course (e.g., Dannefer, 2003; Willson, Shuey, & Elder, 2007). The evolution of health inequalities is a particularly good example of this dynamic, because the salutary effect of socially productive activities clearly stands out among their beneficial *consequences* (e.g., Hinterlong, Morrow-Howell, & Rozario, 2007; Wilson, 2000). Assuming a positive cycle of selection and social causation processes in the relationship between volunteering and well-being, individuals with a more favorable family background should be more likely to be endowed with the resources that are necessary to engage in productive activities (e.g. health, education, etc.) and which further (re-) produce the resources necessary to continue one’s voluntary engagement and to maintain one’s capacities at older ages (cf. Li & Ferraro, 2005; Li & Ferraro, 2006). Initial advantages thus increase exposure to opportunities. Wilson (2000, p. 232) has observed in this context that: “Good health is preserved by volunteering. It keeps healthy volunteers healthy.”

Our study contributes to closing the existing research gap by investigating whether family social background (particularly the inheritance of resources that facilitate production) is associated with older adults’ engagement in socially productive activities, namely formal volunteering. *Theoretically*, we build on a comprehensive tripartite model of capitals necessary to perform productive activities as well as on work suggesting that cumulative (dis-) advantage processes are important mechanisms for life-course inequalities. *Empirically*, we draw on data from the Israeli component of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE-Israel; see Litwin, 2009). While the Israeli setting is similar to, for example, Continental Europe in terms of the proportion of older people participating in voluntary activities (Hank & Erlinghagen, 2010: Table 1), it exhibits several distinct features making it a particularly interesting case to study. Its population, although still young compared to other developed countries, is aging relatively fast and is ethnically very heterogeneous (with significant proportions of Arab-Israelis and immigrants from the former Soviet Union). Moreover, we observe a high level of economic inequality in older Israeli cohorts (e.g., Semyonov & Lewin-Epstein, 2011), which has been suggested to be negatively related to elders’ engagement in social and productive activities and to reduce their odds of aging ‘successfully’ (see Brandt et al., 2012: Table 3).

A comprehensive resource-model of volunteering in later life

Productive activities require resources (or ‘capital’) to perform them. Therefore, a common finding is that older adults with a higher socio-economic status, for example, exhibit a higher likelihood to engage in both paid and unpaid work (e.g., Komp, Van Tilburg, & Van

Groenou. 2010; Tang, 2008). However, socio-economic resources (education in particular) are not the only input necessary to facilitate production. With specific reference to volunteering, Wilson & Musick (1997, p. 696; italics not in the original) have suggested a tripartite conceptual model of capitals needed to perform productive activities: “At the *individual level*, capital refers to work-relevant skills and material resources [...] that individuals bring to jobs. At the *relational level*, capital is any aspect of social organization that constitutes a productive resource. At the *cultural level*, capital consists of attitudes, knowledge, and preferences (that may be embodied in objects and practices) to which the word ‘taste’ is often applied.”

This model very much resembles Bourdieu’s (1986) distinction of various forms of capitals. In line with Wilson and Musick (1997), we believe that cultural capital in particular might be a potentially important but usually overlooked determinant of elders’ engagement in voluntary work. Bourdieu has claimed that practice is produced by the embodied predispositions (*habitus*) of individuals to behave in ways meaningful for their native social milieu; it is “the law, inscribed in the bodies by identical history” (Bourdieu, 1990, p. 59). *Habitus* exists in the form of patterns of perception, thinking and acting inherent to a subject. One’s *habitus* therefore supplies the active presence of the past experience, thereby guaranteeing the permanence of practices over time, because when a new situation emerges, it invents new means for performance of old functions.

Specifically this example shows that *inheritance* is an important means of resource acquisition. There is ample evidence for an intergenerational transmission of economic status and educational advantage (e.g., Martin, 2012; Nau & Tumin, 2012), social capital (including volunteering; cf. Mustillo, Wilson, & Lynch, 2004; Weiss, 2012), as well as cultural orientation and tastes (e.g., Vollebergh, Iedema, & Raaijmakers, 2001; ter Bogt, Delsing, van Zalk, Christenson, & Meeus, 2011). While there are a few studies investigating the direct and indirect associations of such ‘inherited capitals’ with volunteering in early adulthood (e.g., Brown & Lichter, 2006; Caputo, 2009; Janoski & Wilson, 1995), we are not aware of any research addressing this issue in the context of an older population. This is surprising, because cumulative (dis-) advantage and, more recently, *cumulative inequality theories* have received particular attention in social gerontology (e.g., Dannefer, 2003; Ferraro, Shippee, & Schafer, 2009) and it has been suggested that one of their primary contributions to the study of aging is the consideration of intergenerational transmission of inequalities.

We hypothesize that, *ceteris paribus*, older individuals who inherited work-relevant capitals from their family of origin are more likely to be engaged in voluntary activities than their counterparts with a less advantageous family social background. The focus of our empirical analysis is on the inheritance of ‘economic’ and ‘cultural’ capitals. The former constitute (additional) socio-economic resources needed to perform volunteer work, whereas the latter refer to inherited class identities that are assumed to affect individuals’ “taste for social housekeeping” (Wilson & Musick, 1997, p. 697).

DATA AND METHOD

The present study draws upon data from the first wave of the Israeli component of the *Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe* (SHARE-Israel; release 2.5.0), which was carried out between October 2005 and July 2006 (see Litwin, 2009). The survey collected information on individuals' social, economic, and health circumstances from a representative national household sample of the community-dwelling population aged 50 and older ($n=2,498$). Our *dependent variable* is a binary indicator that equals 1, if respondents reported to have done any voluntary or charity work in the month preceding the interview, and equals 0, if otherwise. The two main *explanatory variables* used in our analysis are indicators of inherited economic and cultural capitals. The first one, '*inherited economic capital*', equals 1, if the respondent reported that (a) s/he ever received a gift or inherited money, goods, or property worth more than the new Israel Shekel equivalent of 5,000 Euros from a member of his or her family of origin or (b) acquired the property s/he lives in with help from the family, and equals 0, if otherwise. The second variable, '*inherited cultural capital*', comprises a set of three dummy variables indicating the parental generation's highest occupational status (unskilled worker, including housewives; skilled blue collar; skilled white collar), measured on the basis of the 1988 International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88). Note that, unfortunately, alternative measures of inherited cultural capitals are not available in the SHARE data.

In addition, we account for a comprehensive set of *control variables* which represent various forms of capital and which previous research has shown to be important in determining elders' voluntary engagement (e.g., Hank & Stuck, 2008; Tang, 2006). The individual's *social capital* endowment is approximated by binary indicators of his or her partnership and employment status as well as by an indicator of whether s/he provided practical help to someone living inside or outside the household. These variables also account for the close interrelation between volunteering and engagement in other paid and unpaid productive activities (e.g., Hank & Stuck, 2008; Mutchler et al., 2003). The core *human capital* variables are the individual's highest educational degree according to the 1997 International Standard Classification of Education (three binary indicators: 'low' = lower secondary level of education or less; 'medium' = upper secondary or post-secondary, non-tertiary level of education; 'high' = first stage of tertiary education or higher) and position in the wealth distribution (measured by the household's financial net-worth divided by the number of equivalent adults; cf. Christelis, Jappelli, Paccagnella, & Weber, 2009), indicated by quintiles. Moreover, we also consider health as a human capital variable, accounting for limitations in (instrumental) activities of daily living ('any' vs. 'none') as well as for symptoms of depression (4+ on the Euro-D scale; cf. Castro-Costa et al., 2008). Finally, we account for standard *demographic* variables, namely age (three dummies: 50–64, 65–74, and 75+), sex (where the binary indicator equals 1, if the respondent is male), and population group, distinguishing between (a) Veteran Jewish Israelis, i.e. those who were born in the area that now constitutes the State of Israel or immigrated to it (but not including recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union who constitute a unique grouping), (b) Arab-Israeli citizens, and (c) immigrants who arrived from the former Soviet Union after October

1989 when the wave of mass immigration from the former Soviet Union began (cf. Semyonov & Lewin-Epstein, 2011).

After exclusion of cases with missing values on one or more of our measures, the analytic sample for the multivariate analysis consists of 2,395 observations (see Table 1 for an overview of descriptive sample statistics). The results of our logistic regression models are presented as odds ratios (see Table 2).

RESULTS

To begin with, we estimated a model that only included our main explanatory variables indicating inheritance of economic and cultural capitals (*Model 1*). As expected from our theoretical considerations, we find a significantly higher likelihood to volunteer among those who received substantial financial transfers from their family of origin and among those having a ‘white collar’ parental background. To investigate whether the strong association of voluntary engagement with inherited economic and cultural capitals remains once we account for demographic characteristics as well as for the individual’s contemporary social and human capital endowment, we included these as controls in *Model 2*. While the inclusion of these variables significantly improved the model fit, it did not change in any substantively meaningful way the results of the coefficients indicating an important role of family social background in later life volunteering.

In addition to inherited capitals, social and human capital variables were also found to contribute to explaining elders’ participation in voluntary activities. Those who are still working for pay on the labor market are less likely to volunteer, whereas those who are providing practical helping to others are more likely to do so. Moreover, while higher levels of education are paralleled by higher odds of reporting being engaged in volunteer work, the household’s position in the wealth distribution remains insignificant. Reporting symptoms of depression bears a negative association with volunteering; the coefficient for ‘functional limitations’ points in the same direction, but is not statistically significant. Controlling for health as a necessary resource for production might explain why age shows no significant association with the likelihood of older Israelis to volunteer (see Cutler and Hendricks (2000) for a related discussion). The other demographic variables in *Model 2* indicate that men are less likely to be volunteers than women and that it is important to account for population group: Arab-Israelis as well as immigrants from the former Soviet Union are significantly less likely to volunteer than Veteran Jewish Israelis.

DISCUSSION

While the issue of elders’ engagement in voluntary activities has received considerable attention in the social science literature, the potential role therein of family social background and inheritance has, as yet, been largely ignored. Building on a comprehensive tripartite model of capitals necessary to perform productive activities and on work suggesting that cumulative (dis-) advantage processes are important mechanisms for life-course inequalities, our study set out to contribute to closing this research gap. We hypothesized that older individuals who inherited work-relevant economic and cultural

capitals from their family of origin are more likely to be engaged in voluntary activities than their counterparts with a less advantageous family social background.

Our main findings from the analysis of a representative sample of community-dwelling Israelis aged 50 and over indeed provide strong support for this hypothesis: the likelihood to volunteer is significantly higher among those who received substantial financial transfers from their family of origin ('inherited economic capital') and among those having a 'white collar' parental background ('inherited cultural capital'). These associations remain robust even if an array of further social and human capital variables, reflecting individuals' contemporary resources to perform voluntary work, is controlled for. Because the coefficients of the dummies representing the individual's current position in the wealth distribution turned out to be insignificant for her odds to engage in voluntary activities¹, the receipt of a large financial gift or inheritance might also be interpreted as a further reflection of the family of origin's social class (the individual's inherited social class identity, respectively) and not – as we initially operationalized it – as an additional economic resource needed for production.

We interpret our findings as evidence for Bourdieu's assertion that the power and ability to act in the social world stems from the possession of different capitals accumulated by and transmitted from one generation to the other within social groups. These capitals may take different forms and human action is guided not only by (inherited) economic opportunities and constraints, but by cultural capital, that is, one's *habitus* or inherited repertoire, from which individuals build lines of action. Bourdieu particularly has emphasized the formative role of the early life stage, claiming that practice is produced by the "embodied predispositions" of a person to behave in ways meaningful for her or his native social milieu (Bourdieu, 1990, p. 59). This line of reasoning thus also seems consistent with Durkheimian theory, which suggests an important role of parental socialization and family status in the intergenerational transmission of volunteering (see Janoski & Wilson, 1995).

Another important result of our analysis of elders' voluntary engagement in the Israeli setting is that – in addition to family social background – *ethnicity* seems to play a major role. Since the different composition of Veteran Jewish Israelis, Arab-Israeli citizens, and immigrants from the former Soviet Union as population groups (in terms of human capital characteristics, etc.) is controlled for, the differences we observe might be explained by two interrelated 'contextual' mechanisms. First, volunteering – or, more generally, civic engagement – seems to be more deeply rooted in the Veteran Jewish cultural context, which, secondly, also offers a more favorable opportunity structure (e.g. a higher density of volunteer associations) for individuals who want to engage in such activities (see Hank (2011); Rotolo and Wilson (2012) for related discussions in the context of inter- and intra-national variations in volunteering). Moreover, we cannot exclude the possibility that the

¹This finding differs from recent US evidence reported in Han and Hong (2013), whose longitudinal study suggests that older adults with more liquid assets were likely to volunteer more hours at baseline (but subsequently decreased their volunteering hours). We can only speculate about the reasons underlying these seemingly inconsistent results. One explanation might be a different association between 'time' and 'money' volunteering (Choi & Chou, 2010) in the US and Israel, possibly resulting from structural differences in the voluntary sector (e.g. differences in the dominant volunteer organizations or activities) and assuming a greater complementarity between donations of time and money in the former country.

perception of what actually defines a voluntary activity varies between different ethnic groups (e.g., Meijs et al., 2003).

Our study has several *limitations*, which – however – also bear in them potentials for future research. Three aspects in particular seem worth mentioning here. *First*, our data neither provide information on the number of hours respondents spend volunteering, nor do they allow distinguishing between different types of voluntary engagement. Previous work by Janoski and Wilson (1995), for example, has suggested that transmission of socio-economic status rather explains ‘self-oriented’ volunteering (related to one’s occupation and profession), whereas family socialization is more powerful in explaining ‘community-oriented’ voluntary participation (related to church or neighborhood activities). The authors observe younger volunteers moving from high school to parenthood, though, and it is not clear whether the mechanisms linking family social background and volunteering remain the same over the entire life-course.

Second, SHARE provides only very limited information on respondents’ parents. While, for example, we were able to account for the parental generation’s highest occupational status (presumably reflecting inherited class identities that affect individuals’ ‘taste’ for volunteering), no information on the parents’ educational degrees (or any other more refined measure of ‘inherited cultural capital’) is available in the data. Most importantly, though, we do not know whether the parents ever volunteered. Parental volunteering may influence children’s voluntary engagement either through the intergenerational transmission of social capital (e.g., Weiss, 2012) and/or through socialization, where parents act as a role model (e.g., Caputo, 2009). Not being able to account for such ‘inherited social capital’ or socialization effects, respectively, clearly limits the scope of our analysis. However, Mustillo et al. (2004) have found in their study – which, again, referred to a sample younger than ours – that women whose mothers volunteered initially donate more hours, but that only family socioeconomic background increases volunteering over the life-course.

Third, and finally, we were not able to identify whether the differences in family social background that determine elders’ likelihood to volunteer also affect the consequences resulting from voluntary work. In other words: do older people with a privileged family background (as it was measured here) benefit more from volunteering than their less privileged counterparts? Answering this question – and understanding the mechanisms underlying this proposed relationship – would be important from the perspective of advancing our knowledge about the role of cumulative (dis-) advantage mechanisms in later life inequalities.

In sum, we have empirically confirmed the contribution of the transmission of capitals, and particularly cultural capitals, in enhancing later life volunteering. Our findings imply that one’s social action in the latter part of life is at least partly the result of inputs differentially received over the life course. These results challenge current sentiments that still tend to blame older people for being unproductive, suggesting instead that later life productivity is mostly the culmination of life-long processes.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank anonymous reviewers for their constructive comments. In addition, we are grateful to Itay Greenspan for having provided us with information on the voluntary sector in Israel. – This paper uses data from SHARE wave 1 release 2.5.0, as of May 24th 2011. The SHARE data collection has been primarily funded by the European Commission through the 5th Framework Programme (project QLK6-CT-2001-00360 in the thematic programme Quality of Life), through the 6th Framework Programme (projects SHARE-I3, RII-CT-2006-062193, COMPARE, CIT5-CT-2005-028857, and SHARELIFE, CIT4-CT-2006-028812) and through the 7th Framework Programme (SHARE-PREP, N° 211909, SHARE-LEAP, N° 227822 and SHARE M4, N° 261982). Additional funding from the U.S. National Institute on Aging (U01 AG09740-13S2, P01 AG005842, P01 AG08291, P30 AG12815, R21 AG025169, Y1-AG-4553-01, IAG BSR06-11 and OGHA 04-064) and the German Ministry of Education and Research as well as from various national sources is gratefully acknowledged (see www.share-project.org for a full list of funding institutions).

In addition, the first wave of the Israeli component of SHARE was carried out in 2005-6 through funds received from the US National Institute on Aging (R21AG2516901), the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (GIF), and the National Insurance Institute of Israel.

Biographies

Iaroslav Youssim is currently a PhD candidate in Economics at the Graduate School of Economics and Management, University of Padua, Italy. Beforehand he served as a Country Coordinator of SHARE-Israel and a research associate at the Israel Gerontological Data Center, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Karsten Hank is Professor of Sociology at the University of Cologne and Research Professor at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Berlin. He is Co-Editor of the *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie* and – from 2014 – Co-PI of the German Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics (pairfam).

Howard Litwin is a Professor at the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work & Social Welfare at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the founding Director of the Israel Gerontological Data Center, the Principal Investigator of SHARE-Israel and the Coordinator of the social area for the SHARE project in Europe.

REFERENCES

- Bourdieu, P. The Forms of Capital. In: Richardson, J., editor. *Handbook of theory and research for the sociology of education*. New York: Greenwood Press; 1986. p. 241-258.
- Bourdieu, P. *The logic of practice*. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press; 1990.
- Brandt M, Deindl C, Hank K. Tracing the origins of successful aging: The role of childhood conditions and social inequality in explaining later life health. *Social Science & Medicine*. 2012; 74(9):1418–1425. [PubMed: 22398143]
- Brown JB, Lichter DT. Childhood disadvantage, adolescent development, and pro-social behavior in early adulthood. *Advances in Life Course Research*. 2006; 11:149–170.
- Caputo RK. Religious Capital and Intergenerational Transmission of Volunteering as Correlates of Civic Engagement. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. 2009; 38(6):983–1002.
- Castro-Costa E, Dewey M, Stewart R, Banerjee S, Huppert F, Mendonca-Lima C, Bula C, Reisches F, Wancata J, Ritchie K, Tsolaki M, Mateos R, Prince M. Ascertaining late-life depressive symptoms in Europe: an evaluation of the survey version of the EURO-D scale in 10 nations. The SHARE project. *International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research*. 2008; 17(1):12–29. [PubMed: 18286461]

- Choi NG, Chou RJ-A. Time and money volunteering among older adults: the relationship between past and current volunteering and correlates of change and stability. *Ageing & Society*. 2010; 30:559–581.
- Christelis D, Jappelli T, Paccagnella O, Weber G. Income, wealth and financial fragility in Europe. *Journal of European Social Policy*. 2009; 19(4):359–376.
- Cutler SJ, Hendricks J. Age differences in voluntary association memberships: Fact or artifact. *Journals of Gerontology Series B-Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. 2000; 55(2):S98–S107.
- Dannefer D. Cumulative advantage/disadvantage and the life course: Cross-fertilizing age and social science theory. *Journals of Gerontology Series B-Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. 2003; 58(6):S327–S337.
- Donnelly EA, Hinterlong JE. Changes in Social Participation and Volunteer Activity Among Recently Widowed Older Adults. *Gerontologist*. 2010; 50(2):158–169. [PubMed: 19556394]
- Ferraro, KF.; Shippee, TP.; Schafer, MH. Cumulative Inequality Theory For Research On Aging And The Life Course. In: Bengtson, VL.; Gans, D.; Putney, NM.; Silverstein, M., editors. *Handbook of Theories of Aging*. 2nd ed.. New York: Springer; 2009. p. 413-433.
- Han C-K, Hong S-I. Trajectories of Volunteering and Self-Esteem in Later Life: Does Wealth Matter? *Research on Aging*. 2013; 35(5):571–590.
- Hank K. Societal Determinants of Productive Aging: A Multilevel Analysis across 11 European Countries. *European Sociological Review*. 2011; 27(4):526–541.
- Hank K, Erlinghagen M. Dynamics of Volunteering in Older Europeans. *Gerontologist*. 2010; 50(2): 170–178. [PubMed: 19666783]
- Hank K, Stuck S. Volunteer work, informal help, and care among the 50+ in Europe: Further evidence for 'linked' productive activities at older ages. *Social Science Research*. 2008; 37(4):1280–1291. [PubMed: 19227703]
- Hinterlong JE, Morrow-Howell N, Rozario PA. Productive engagement and late life physical and mental health - Findings from a nationally representative panel study. *Research on Aging*. 2007; 29(4):348–370.
- Janoski T, Wilson J. Pathways to Voluntarism - Family Socialization and Status Transmission Models. *Social Forces*. 1995; 74(1):271–292.
- Komp K, Van Tilburg T, Van Groenou MB. Paid work between age 60 and 70 years in Europe: a matter of socio-economic status? *International Journal of Ageing and Later Life*. 2010; 5(1):45–75.
- Li Y, Ferraro KF. Volunteering in middle and later life: Is health a benefit, barrier or both? *Social Forces*. 2006; 85(1):497–519.
- Li YQ, Ferraro KF. Volunteering and depression in later life: Social benefit or selection processes? *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 2005; 46(1):68–84. [PubMed: 15869121]
- Litwin H. Understanding aging in a Middle Eastern context: the SHARE-Israel survey of persons aged 50 and older. *Journal of cross-cultural gerontology*. 2009; 24(1):49–62. [PubMed: 18626759]
- Martin MA. Family structure and the intergenerational transmission of educational advantage. *Social Science Research*. 2012; 41(1):33–47. [PubMed: 23017695]
- Meijs, L.; Handy, F.; Cnaan, R.; Brudney, J.; Ascoli, U.; Ranade, S.; Hustinx, L.; Weber, S.; Weiss, I. All in the eyes of the beholder? Perceptions of volunteering across eight countries. In: Dekker, P.; Halman, L., editors. *The Values of Volunteering. Cross-Cultural Perspectives*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers; 2003. p. 19-34.
- Mustillo S, Wilson J, Lynch SM. Legacy volunteering: A test of two theories of intergenerational transmission. *Journal of Marriage and Family*. 2004; 66(2):530–541.
- Mutchler JE, Burr JA, Caro FG. From paid worker to volunteer: Leaving the paid workforce and volunteering in later life. *Social Forces*. 2003; 81(4):1267–1293.
- Nau M, Tumin D. Wealth transfer receipt and later life wealth. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*. 2012; 30(3):233–245.
- Rotolo T, Wilson J. State-Level Differences in Volunteerism in the United States: Research Based on Demographic, Institutional, and Cultural Macrolevel Theories. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. 2012; 41(3):452–473.

- Schafer MH, Ferraro KF. Childhood Misfortune as a Threat to Successful Aging: Avoiding Disease. *Gerontologist*. 2012; 52(1):111–120. [PubMed: 21746836]
- Semyonov M, Lewin-Epstein N. Wealth Inequality: Ethnic Disparities in Israeli Society. *Social Forces*. 2011; 89(3):935–959.
- Tang F. What resources are needed for volunteerism? A life course perspective. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*. 2006; 25(5):375–390.
- Tang F. Socioeconomic disparities in voluntary organization involvement among older adults. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. 2008; 37(1):57–75.
- ter Bogt TFM, Delsing MJMH, van Zalk M, Christenson PG, Meeus WHJ. Intergenerational Continuity of Taste: Parental and Adolescent Music Preferences. *Social Forces*. 2011; 90(1):297–319.
- Vollebergh WAM, Iedema J, Raaijmakers QAW. Intergenerational transmission and the formation of cultural orientations in adolescence and young adulthood. *Journal of Marriage and Family*. 2001; 63(4):1185–1198.
- Weiss HE. The Intergenerational Transmission of Social Capital: A Developmental Approach to Adolescent Social Capital Formation. *Sociological Inquiry*. 2012; 82(2):212–235.
- Willson AE, Shuey KM, Elder GH Jr. Cumulative advantage processes as mechanisms of inequality in life course health. *American Journal of Sociology*. 2007; 112(6):1886–1924.
- Wilson J. Volunteering. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 2000; 26:215–240.
- Wilson J, Musick M. Who cares? Toward an integrated theory of volunteer work. *American Sociological Review*. 1997; 62(5):694–713.

Table 1

Descriptive sample statistics (unweighted percentages; n=2,395)

	%
Volunteering	12
Inherited economic capital (financial transfers)	30
Inherited cultural capital (parents' occupational status)	
Unskilled worker (including housewife)	11
Skilled blue collar worker	57
Skilled white collar worker	33
Living with a partner	79
Participating in the labor market	39
Providing help	48
Education	
Low Education	37
Medium education	40
Higher education	23
Wealth (household wealth per capita, in Euro)	
1 st quintile (up to 29,011 €)	20
2 nd quintile (29,011 – 71,063 €)	20
3 rd quintile (71,063 – 113,288 €)	20
4 th quintile (113,288 – 209,011 €)	20
5 th quintile (more than 209,011 €)	20
Functional limitations	25
Symptoms of depression	35
Age	
50 – 64	54
65 – 74	29
75+	18
Gender (Male)	45
Population group	
Veteran Jewish Israelis	79
Arab-Israelis	14
Immigrants from the former Soviet Union	08

Table 2

Determinants of volunteering in older Israelis – logistic regression results (n=2,395)

		Model 1	Model 2
Family social background	Inherited <i>economic</i> capital (financial transfers)	1.81***	1.50**
	Inherited <i>cultural</i> capital (parents' occupational status) ^a		
	Skilled blue collar worker	1.39	1.62
	Skilled white collar worker	2.44***	2.10**
Social Capital	Living with a partner		.77
	Participating in the labor market		.55***
	Providing help		1.76***
Human Capital	Education ^b		
	Medium education		1.45*
	Higher education		1.87**
	Wealth ^c		
	Second quintile		1.12
	Third quintile		.90
	Fourth quintile		1.22
	Fifth quintile		1.23
	Functional limitations		.67
	Symptoms of depression		.69*
Demographics	Ethnicity ^d		
	FSU immigrants		.16***
	Arab-Israelis		.16***
	Age ^e		
	65 –74		1.08
	75+		.99
	Male ^f		.74*
Nagelkerke R-Square		0.04	.15

Significance:

*
p < .05

**
p < .01

p < .001

^a – Reference: Unskilled worker;

^b – Reference: Low Education;

^c – Reference: First quintile;

^d – Reference: Veteran Jewish Israelis;

^e – Reference: 50 – 64;

^f – Reference: Female