Psychosocial Data in the HRS
April 30, 2019
12:00 pm–1:00 pm EDT

This webinar will provide an overview of the psychosocial data resources in the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). It will also provide practical guidance on using the data, including how to: merge two half-sample waves, apply the appropriate weights, and construct analytic files to conduct dyadic analyses. A question and answer portion of the webinar will allow users to pose specific questions related to survey content and to their analyses. Joining Amanda Sonnega in the question and answer session will be Jacqui Smith, the HRS co-investigator who leads the development of HRS psychosocial content, and Lindsay Ryan, who is a key member of the HRS psychosocial group.

Visit GSA’s YouTube Channel to view videos of previous installments of the HRS webinar series on the following topics: Introduction to the HRS; Biomarkers Data; Data on Cognition; and HRS Sample Design, Weighting, and Complex Variance Estimation.

Presented by:

**Amanda Sonnega, PhD**, is an Associate Research Scientist in the Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan (UM), where she is responsible for integrating communication, outreach, and education efforts for the Health and Retirement Study. She received her doctorate through the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society at the Johns Hopkins University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship within the ISR program in Social Environment and Health. Dr. Sonnega has lectured in the UM School of Public Health on psychosocial factors in health-related behavior. Her research focuses on life course trajectories of physical and mental health; institutional and personal factors associated with vulnerability and resilience in aging individuals; and work transitions and their broad effects on health and well-being.

**Jacqui Smith, PhD**, is Professor of Psychology and Research at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan and co-investigator of the Health and Retirement Study. Her research deals with the heterogeneity of psychological functioning, well-being, and health in midlife and older age. She uses experimental and survey methodologies to investigate age-cohort differences and age-related change in cognitive functioning, self-regulation, and well-being. Her current research focuses on subjective well-being in individuals after age 50, psychological vitality in the oldest-old, early-life and life course predictors of outcomes in later life, self-perceptions of aging, and cognitive aging.
Lindsay Ryan, PhD, is an Assistant Research Scientist at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research. She received her doctoral degree in Human Development and Family Studies in 2008 from the Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Ryan is an investigator on several ongoing research projects, all of which involve an interest in better measuring and understanding the processes by which adults change over the life course. Her research interests include investigating individual and contextual influences on well-being, physical health, and cognition across adulthood, with a particular focus on the impact of social relations. She has worked on the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) for 10 years and is involved in the development and management of the cognition and psychosocial content within the HRS.

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