

Human Wellbeing Transfer From a Gender And Life Course Perspective

**The Case of Latin American Migrant
Mothers and Their Daughters in London,
UK.**

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Overview

- Intergenerational transfers over the life course – where does the literature fall short?
- What does a human wellbeing lens add to understandings of intergenerational transfer in the context of migration?
- Contextualizing IGT and human wellbeing in London
- Intergenerational Transfer and Human Wellbeing Transmission: The Case of Latin American migrant women and their daughters in London
- Conclusions and Implications for Theory and Policy

1. INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFERS OVER THE LIFE COURSE: ADDRESSING GENDERED AND TEMPORAL COMPLEXITIES

2. INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION AND MIGRATION

- **Intergenerational transfers and impact on social and occupational mobility** (e.g. Portés and Rumbault 2001, 2014; Portés, Aparicio, Haller, 2016).
- **Social remittances literature** typically smaller though is now growing (Levitt, 2008); (Moser, 2011).
- **IGT from an intergenerational life course perspective in the context of migration** (Brannen, 2015). Human wellbeing approaches build on this (Wright, 2012; Wright, 2017).

3. HUMAN WELLBEING ANALYSIS

- **Sen's work on capabilities and functionings. Nussbaum's work on central human capabilities (including expression of non-economic aspects of life such as emotions, affiliation and play).**
- **Doyal and Gough's Theory of Human Need (1991) that provides a conception of needs that are universal.**
- **Human wellbeing concept – interdisciplinary insights from economics of happiness (Frey and Stutzer, 2002; Di Tella et al, 1997; Layard 2005)., psychology (Deci and Ryan 1985, 2000) Ryan (1995), sociology (Bevan, 2007)) and health research (Marmot, 2004; Skevington, Lotfy, and O'Connell 2004; WHO, 1993).**

What does an intergenerational life course perspective and human wellbeing analysis add to existing debates around IGT and IM?

- Focuses attention on the interplay between material and psychosocial transfers - how far psychosocial transmissions can be used to offset the material deprivations that migrant families face?
- Examines how constructions of wellbeing vary by age and gender, how they vary across the life course – how are transfer processes rooted in gendered and other inequalities?
- Considers inter-subjective impacts of international migration and how lives are linked.

3. CONTEXTUALISING INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION AND HUMAN WELLBEING IN LONDON

- Objective conditions typifying Latin American migrants in London
- Socio-economic context of lives they had left; historicization of migrant's accounts in periods before their international migration trajectories had begun.
- Dominant social discourses pertaining to lives they had had left; embedded in social policy.

**4. INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF
HUMAN WELLBEING:
THE CASE OF LATIN AMERICAN MIGRANT
WOMEN AND THEIR DAUGHTERS IN LONDON**

- Data set of 50 semi-structured interviews.
- Onward migrants from Spain
- Mothers engaged in multiple cycles of relationship dissolution and repartnering

Mothers

- Aged 40-45
- Born in Latin America in 1970s
- Educated (mainly to secondary and university level)
- Mostly onward migrants from Spain

Daughters

- Average age of 19
- Born in Latin America in late 1990s
- Long periods of separation from mothers
- Mostly onward migrants from Spain

How Far Could Psychosocial Transfers By Mothers Be Taken Up By Daughters To Achieve Human Wellbeing?

- Case 1: Bonding difficulties and trauma experienced during separation weakening prospects for take up of inter-generational transfers).
- Case 2: Take up of Inter-Generational Transmissions and Conversion into Educational Attainment
- Case 3: Conversion of intergenerational transfers into educational attainment frustrated by intersectional inequalities
- Case 4: Transmission of gendered ideologies undermining achievement of human wellbeing the relational domain.

Case Study 1: Sara (M) and Dona (D)

**Bonding difficulties caused by separation
weakening prospects for take up of inter-
generational transfers**

- Sara, aged 42 from Palmira (Colombia), was born around 1970. First migrated regionally to Aruba, then to Spain and onwards to the UK.
- Expressed disappointment that her daughter Dona (aged 14) was actively resisting take of up these transfers by rejecting study and falling into bad company.
- She rationalised Dona's conduct in part in terms of material inequalities in London undermining human wellbeing in the relational domain.

Dona (Daughter, aged 14)

- I go out and get home at 6am - after leaving school at 3pm. I don't answer her [mother] when she's phoning me. I go out and don't ask permission...she tells me "Dona...you need to arrive home early from school, read, study" but I can't be bothered.....**Advice can be useful, but for me it's not".**

Case Study 2 Carmina (M) and Cara (D)

**Take up of Inter-Generational Transmissions
and Conversion into Educational Attainment**

Case Study 2 Carmina (M) and Cara (D)

“Despite all of what she [Cara, daughter] has been through, she has not given up... she has not abandoned her studies”. **(Carmina, Mother, Aged 31).**

“My mother has taught me to learn that things don’t just come to you- you have to find them. You have to do things for yourself because if you don’t do them they will never happen...”. **(Cara, Daughter Aged 11).**

Case Study 3: Dolores (M) and Miriam (D)

**Conversion of intergenerational transfers into
educational attainment frustrated by
intersectional inequalities**

Case Study 3: Dolores(M) and Miriam(D)

- “I’m not bringing up Miriam to be like me – but to be better than me – I never completed by studies. Miriam sets goals in terms of study – she sees nothing else”. **Dolores M, aged, 34)**
- “I want to study and achieve my dreams – because that way in future you can go to university - to grab life if you have a stable future. Though I don’t think badly of my mother ... not to end up like her”. **(Miriam D, aged 14)**

Case Study 4: Tara (M) and Sofia (D)

- **Transfer of patriarchal gendered ideologies – echoes across the generations.**

“Women have more responsibility [for the marriage] than men. The woman is always the head of the home. One tries to struggle to sustain [the marriage] if the man is a womaniser. If you see that happening you have to put up with the man...and also for the children...A man is made for being on the street. I tell Sofía [daughter] that one has to be very intelligent, not tire the man out because if you reproach him, he will simply leave. One needs to be able to withstand it. (Tara, Mother aged 41)

“My mother tells me not to let things get on top of me – for example I’m in a situation where I’ve just had a problem – to get on with things and not let it affect me. She’s told me tolet go of bad stuff and.... carry on which I try to use everyday – but it’s difficult....I was so young when I met him, not being able to say ‘I’ve reached my limit’ and that’s how my mum was with my dad – for years. I’m hoping that my partner has gone through his years of teenage craziness and has settled because of what he has lived. You always hope for the best don’t you? I don’t have a child. If they [my parents] hadn’t had me they would have split up a long time ago. That was the breakdown of my parents’ relationship – not being able to let go was the reason she tolerated it for so long. (Sofia, Daughter, aged 23).

5. CONCLUSIONS

- Human wellbeing concept evidences **how in a context of marked material deprivations, agency and resourcefulness are expressed via use of psychosocial transfers.**
- Potential of psychosocial transfers deserves greater attention.
- Yet despite the development of psychosocial competencies such as privileging study, **intersecting inequalities often frustrated daughters being able to translate these into educational attainment and broader wellbeing outcomes.**

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR THEORY AND POLICY

- This study contributes to existing international migration theory by highlighting **how processes of transmission are themselves gendered and rooted in a range of inequalities.**
- Strong case for **reformulating policy interventions to support international migrant families by taking longer intergenerational relations perspectives** whilst concurrently **exploring gendered, raced, classed as well as other pathways of transmission.**