

**SPECIAL ISSUE: CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Trauma, Aging, and Well-Being:**

*Invoking Human Rights, Intergenerational Family Justice, Peace, and Freedom*

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*“What after all has maintained the human race on this old globe, despite all the calamities of nature and all the tragic failings of mankind, if not the faith in new possibilities and the courage to advocate for them.” – Jane Addams*

**Traumatology: An International Journal (TMT)** is a primary reference for professionals world-wide who study and treat people exposed to highly stressful and traumatic events, such as terrorist bombings, war disasters, fires, accidents, criminal and familial abuse, hostage-taking, hospitalization, major illness, abandonment, and sudden unemployment. Whether you are a psychologist, medical professional, social worker, lawyer, or other disaster/trauma professional, *Traumatology* will help you better understand how to work with trauma survivors and their families, as well as other caregivers. *Traumatology* welcomes submissions of original articles that focus on innovations in understanding and helping traumatized people. The Journal intends to bring fresh new ideas about the challenges and the opportunities of traumatic events for individuals, groups, families, communities, and cultures.

**Why This Special Issue is Critical**

In response to a large gap in the literature, *Traumatology* is pleased to announce a call for papers with a forensic and interdisciplinary focus, on the topics of trauma, aging, and well-being, particularly life course and cumulative trauma among older persons from diverse backgrounds and locations. Advancing research, practice, and policy in this area has important prevention, assessment, and intervention implications that will ameliorate human suffering and illuminate the issues pertaining to human rights and social justice. Further, it will advance individual, family, and community rights to safety, dignity, respect and fair treatment, across the life course. Shedding light on these topics is a critical step toward improving society’s response to achieving peace, freedom, justice and well-being around the globe.

**Defining the Key Issues and Definition**

For this special issue, trauma is broadly conceptualized to traumatic and stressful life experiences that accumulate during the life course that engender a subjective response. These experiences may include being a victim of or witness to family, community or structural violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, natural or human made disasters, war and mass trauma, the unexpected or expected death of a loved one, widowhood, receiving a serious diagnosis, poverty, homelessness, incarceration, retraumatization in healthcare, separation or divorce, sudden unemployment, caregiver stress, historical or cultural discrimination, stigma, or oppression. These experiences of may be of varying degrees of

severity and may be a singular childhood experience of significant magnitude, such as being a victim of physical or sexual assault, or an accumulation of traumatic or stressful life experiences. Later life biopsychosocial consequences of trauma may include revictimization, physical, cognitive or emotional impairment, dementia, serious mental illness, post traumatic stress disorder, depression, psychological distress, substance abuse, social isolation, and/or early mortality.

In later life, many older persons are particularly vulnerable due to age discrimination and other barriers that impact their access to quality services and justice, especially if they reside in poverty-stricken and violent neighborhoods. Older persons may also be subject to elder abuse in public housing, community medical centers, social service agencies, or in short- and long-term residential facilities such as nursing homes and prisons. Yet, despite an accumulation of traumatic and stressful experiences, evidence suggests that individuals of any age who use adaptive coping, such as physical, cognitive, emotional, social, spiritual, and empowerment practices, are more likely to maintain biopsychosocial resilience in later life.

### Seeking Thought and Practice Innovations and Courageous Scholarship

We are seeking manuscripts that demonstrate courageous scholarship that examine trauma, aging, coping resilience, and well-being from a human rights and social justice perspective. These contributions should target innovation and new possibilities for theory, research, practice, program evaluation, policy, and advocacy in one of the following key areas:

1. **Causes, Correlates, and Consequences:** The etiology and/or consequences of trauma and well-being in later life.
2. **Mediating and Moderating Mechanisms:** Mediating and moderating mechanisms that may be associated with cumulative health and well-being in later life (e.g., age, race, gender, sexual orientation, social class, education, geographic location, religion, cognitive ability, immigration or legal status), and those that may foster biopsychosocial resilience in later life (e.g., cognitive, physical, emotional, social, and/or spiritual coping).
3. **Prevention, Assessment, and Intervention:** Development and testing of innovative interdisciplinary theory, primary, secondary, or tertiary intervention models or practices that target psychological, emotional, social, cultural, spiritual, and structural factors that influence the relationship between trauma, aging, and well-being. Papers that examine the effectiveness of micro, mezzo, macro level practices in reducing risk and fostering resilience among older adults, their families, and their communities are strongly encouraged. These multi-level practices may include evidence based practice and policy, DSM-V trauma assessment for older adults, organizational assessment, community mapping, trauma informed care, crisis and grief interventions, anti-oppressive/empowerment practices, stress management, culturally responsive family and community interventions, empathy/moral and compassion training, care coordination, palliative care, victim advocacy and conflict resolution, reconciliation, restorative justice, forgiveness, cultural arts programming, spiritual and alternative modalities (e.g., yoga, expressive arts, pet therapy) and peace building. It may also include the development of interdisciplinary training and scientist-advocate models that address forensic practice and incorporate key stakeholders in decision-making or illustrate ways to incorporate collaborative governance, human rights and grassroots activism, coalition building, public awareness campaigns, and social media for healthy and safe communities.
4. **Human Rights, Policy, and Advocacy.** Analysis of existing or pending human rights guidelines and laws, evidence-based and evidence informed policy and advocacy efforts and alternative research methodologies that improve the response to trauma and justice and the treatment of victims and offenders trauma and justice, their families and their communities. Some examples for policy analysis include national/international and state level policy reforms (e.g., U.S. Affordable Care Act-Elder Justice Act and the Older Americans Act). Research findings may ultimately contribute to implementation of United Nations guidelines, including Conventions on Rights for Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities.

**The deadline to submit an APA style 20-25 page manuscript (including references) for this special issue is August 31, 2014.**

For more information about Traumatology's manuscript preparation and submission guidelines please visit:

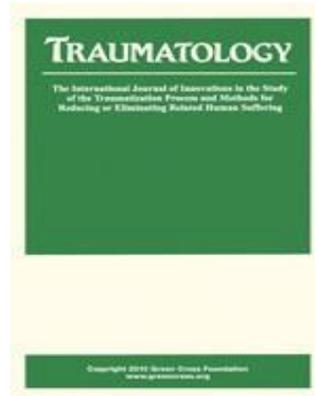
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For other questions, contact Dr. Tina Maschi at [tmaschi@fordham.edu](mailto:tmaschi@fordham.edu)

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