

CONVERGE COVID-19 Working Groups for Public Health and Social Sciences Research

Research Agenda-Setting Paper

This paper was written to help advance convergence-oriented research in the hazards and disaster field. It highlights areas where additional research could contribute new knowledge to the response to and recovery from the pandemic and other disasters yet to come. Questions about the research topics and ethical and methodological issues highlighted here should be directed to the authors who contributed to this paper.

Working Group Name:

Korean Families and COVID-19

Working Group Description:

Our Working Group will focus on Korean families with young children, and how they cope with the COVID-19 pandemic with special attention to the impact of social distancing. We will explore the coping mechanism (i.e., social support, resiliency) and vulnerabilities (i.e., parental stress, racial discrimination) as families survive the current situation. Comparing the differences in the Korean American families (i.e., immigrant population) in the United States, and the families in South Korea will provide valuable practice and policy implications.

Priority Research Topics and Specific Research Questions:

Priority Research Topics	Potential Research Questions
1. Impact of racial discrimination on Korean immigrants' psychological well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RQ1: What is the association between racial discrimination and psychological well-being among Korean immigrants' during COVID-19 pandemic? • RQ2: Do Korean immigrants perceive that they are experiencing an increased rate of racism since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic? • RQ3: What are the coping mechanisms of Korean immigrants that buffer them against the detrimental impact of racism?
2. Impact of risk salience on Korean immigrants' well-being during the pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RQ1: What is the association between Korean immigrants' risk salience of disease on their practice of social distancing? • RQ2: What is the association between risk salience of disease on Korean immigrants' psychological well-being and parental distress?
3. Korean immigrant children with disabilities and parental well-being during the pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RQ1: Do parents of children with disabilities experience higher levels of parental distress during COVID-19 than their counterparts? • RQ2: What are the coping mechanisms of parents of children with disabilities during COVID-19?

4. Working single mothers' childcare during COVID-19

- RQ1: What is the impact of COVID-19 on working single mothers' income and childcare?
- RQ2: What are the coping mechanisms of working mothers during COVID-19?

Ethical / Methodological Considerations:

To answer the above-mentioned questions, the Working Group will create an online survey composed of both available valid and reliable scales and tailored questions (both close-ended and open-ended ones). All the responses will be kept anonymous in order to ensure the protection of the respondents. Examples of scales include everyday discrimination, ethnic identity, risk salience of disease, resiliency, and parental stress. Respondents will be recruited in two countries concurrently by email advertisement and Social Network Services (SNS). Surveys will be provided in both English and Korean languages, and the researchers will back-translate the surveys in order to increase the rigor. Since the proposed study will be conducted in a timely manner in a non-obtrusive way, it will make a meaningful contribution in the literature of disaster management of diverse populations.

Contributors:

Shinwoo Choi, School of Social Work, Texas State University

Jooyoung Hong, Exceptional, Deaf, and Interpreter Education, University of North Florida

Jihyun Jane Min, Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School

Yong Je Kim, Department of Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering, University of Central Florida

Kiersten Klein, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, University of North Florida

Avonlea Veilleux, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, University of North Florida

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