Social Impacts on Resilience in Older Adults

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Stress Tests and Biomarkers of Resilience
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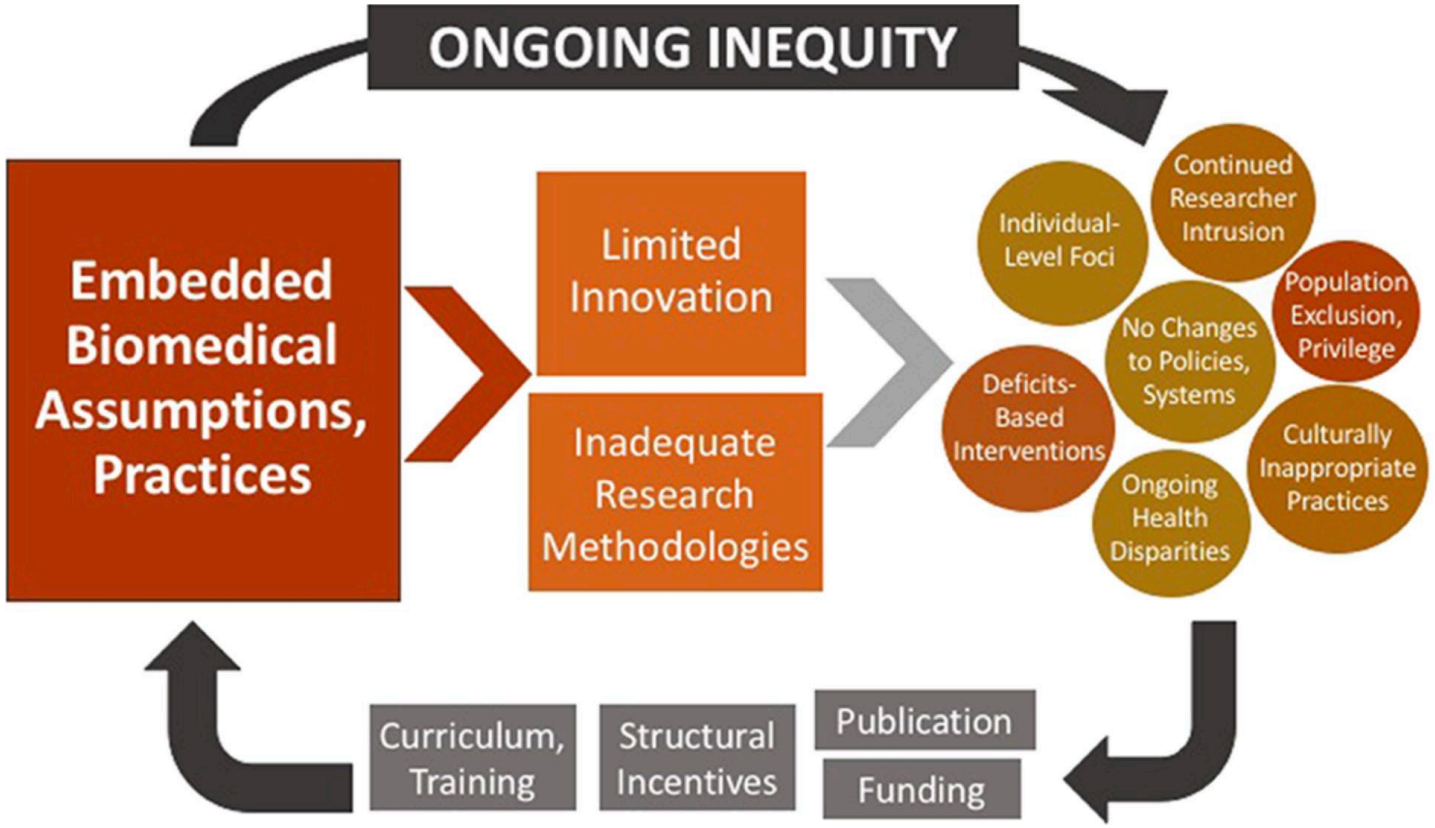
Disclosures

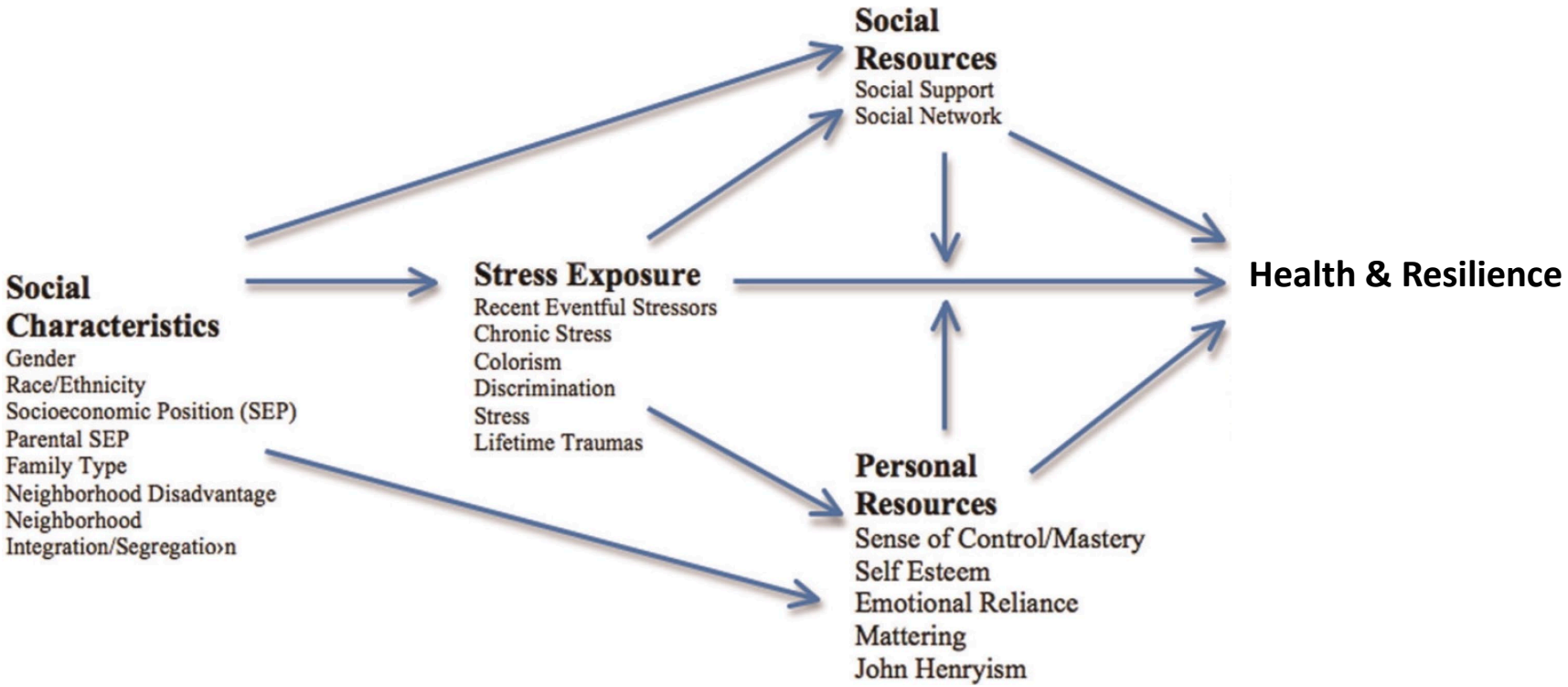
- No conflicts of interest

Limits of Biomedical and Individual-level Paradigms for Understanding Race and Gender Inequities in Resilience



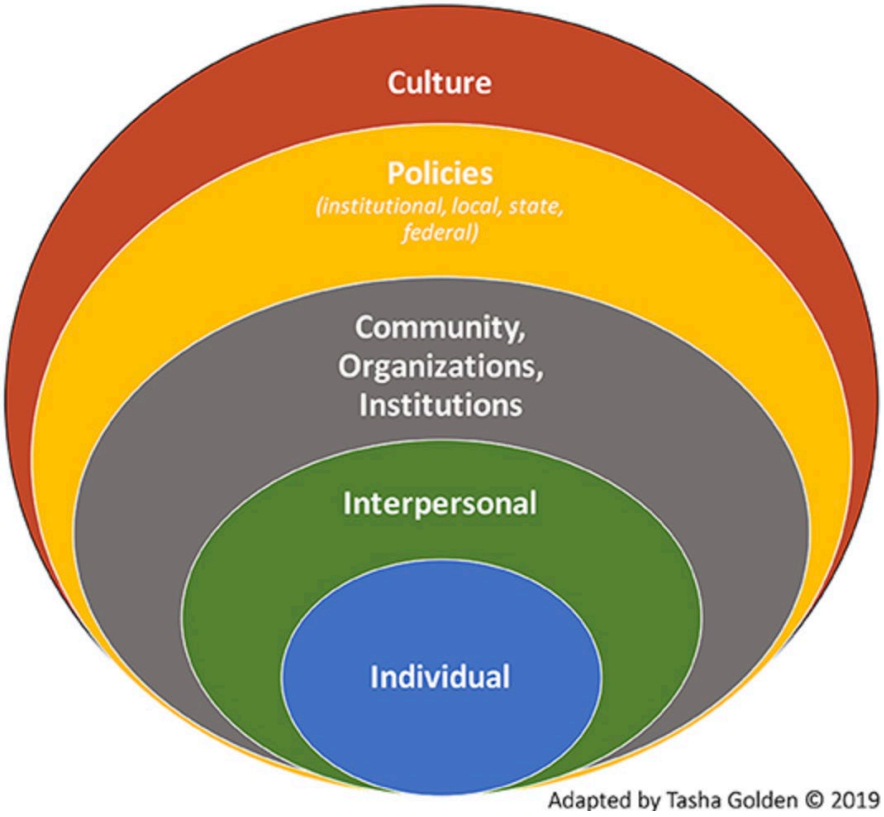
Golden and Wendel (2020)

Utility of the Stress Process Model for Understanding Social Inequalities in Resilience.



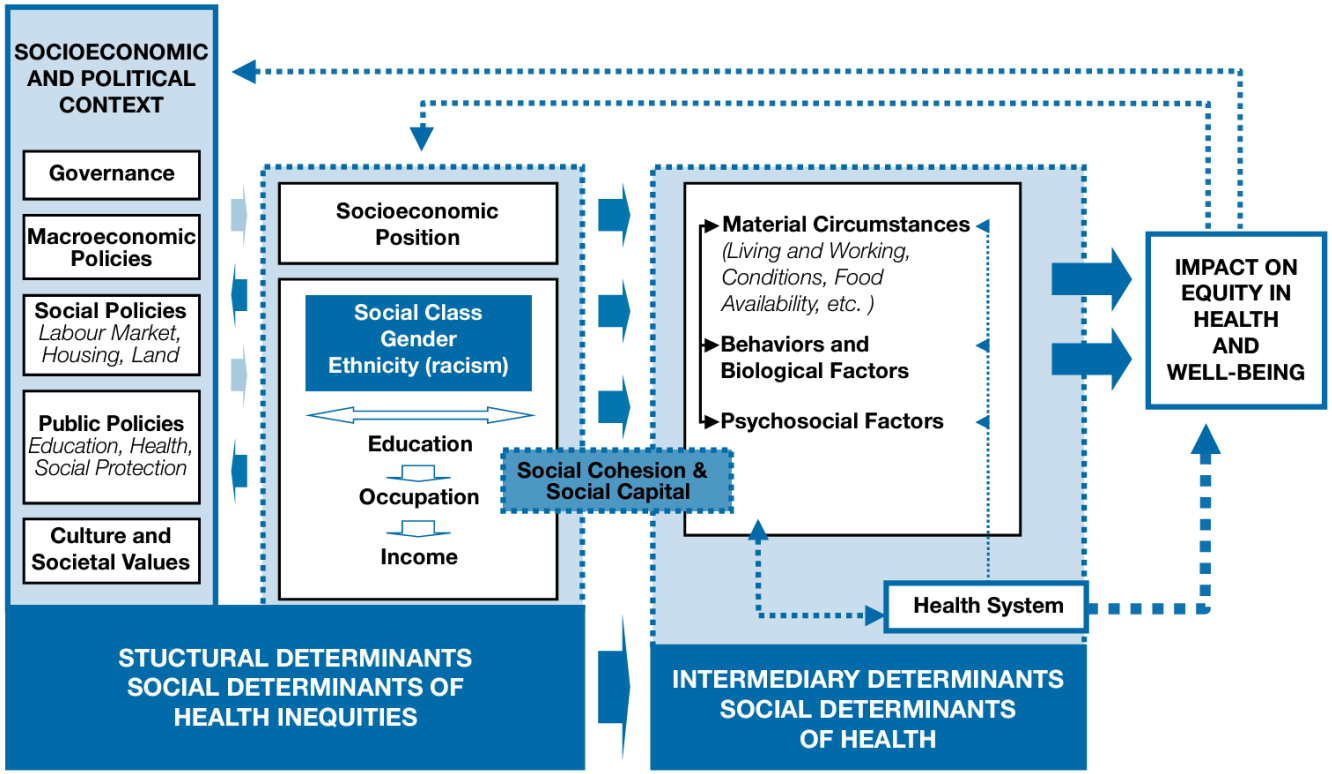
Turner (2013)

Advancing a Social Ecological Model of Resilience



- **Contexts beyond biomedical & individual-level factors influence resilience**
- **How is resilience shaped by institutional, political, cultural and other societal factors?**

(Golden and Wendel 2020; see also, Belsky 1980; Bronfenbrenner 1979; McLeroy et al. 1988)



WHO Framework on Social Determinants of Health

- Economic, social and political factors are upstream drivers of resilience
- Upstream structural factors influence resilience indirectly via social, psychological, biological and medical pathways.

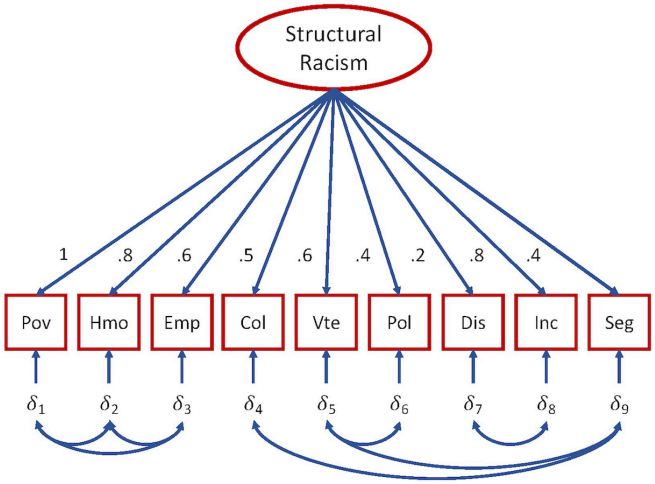
Solar and Irwin (2010)

Measuring & Mapping Structural Factors Shaping Resilience

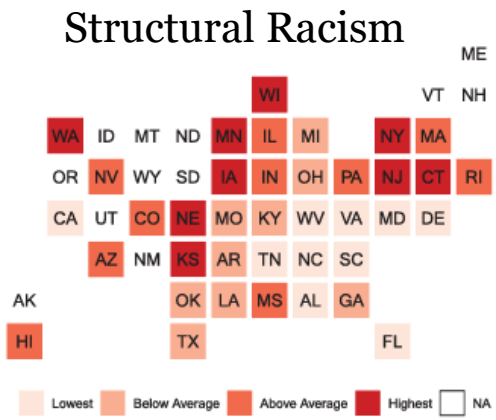
Panel A. Institutional Manifestations of Racism across Domains

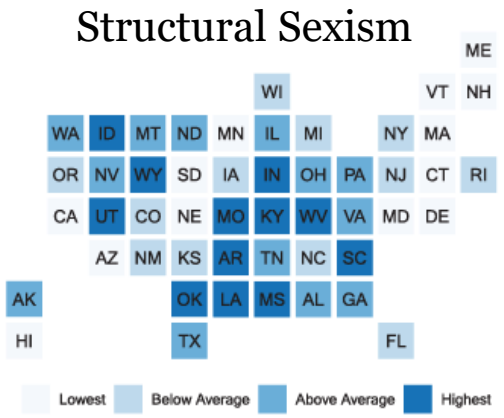
Domain	Abrev.	Measure	Mean	SD	Range
Economic	Pov	Ratio (B:W) of poverty rate[a]	3.00	.69	[1.7, 4.3]
	Hmo	Ratio (W:B) of homeownership rate[a]	1.75	.36	[1.2, 2.8]
	Emp	Ratio (B:W) of unemployment rate[a]	2.12	.56	[.9, 3.6]
Education	Col	Ratio (W:B) of proportion with a bachelor's degree[a]	2.00	.50	[1.2, 3.4]
Political	Vte	Ratio (W:B) of proportion who voted in 2008[b]	1.14	.25	[.8, 2.0]
	Pol	Degree of Black political underrepresentation in state legislatures[c]	.33	.32	[-.5, 1.0]
Criminal-Legal	Dis	Disproportionate rates of disenfranchisement among Black people[d]	3.01	.89	[1.6, 5.3]
	Inc	Ratio (B:W) of incarceration[e]	4.72	1.87	[2.6, 10.1]
Segregation	Seg	State-level dissimilarity index (Black-White)[f]	72.30	5.97	[55.9, 83.1]

Panel B. Structural Racism Latent Scale

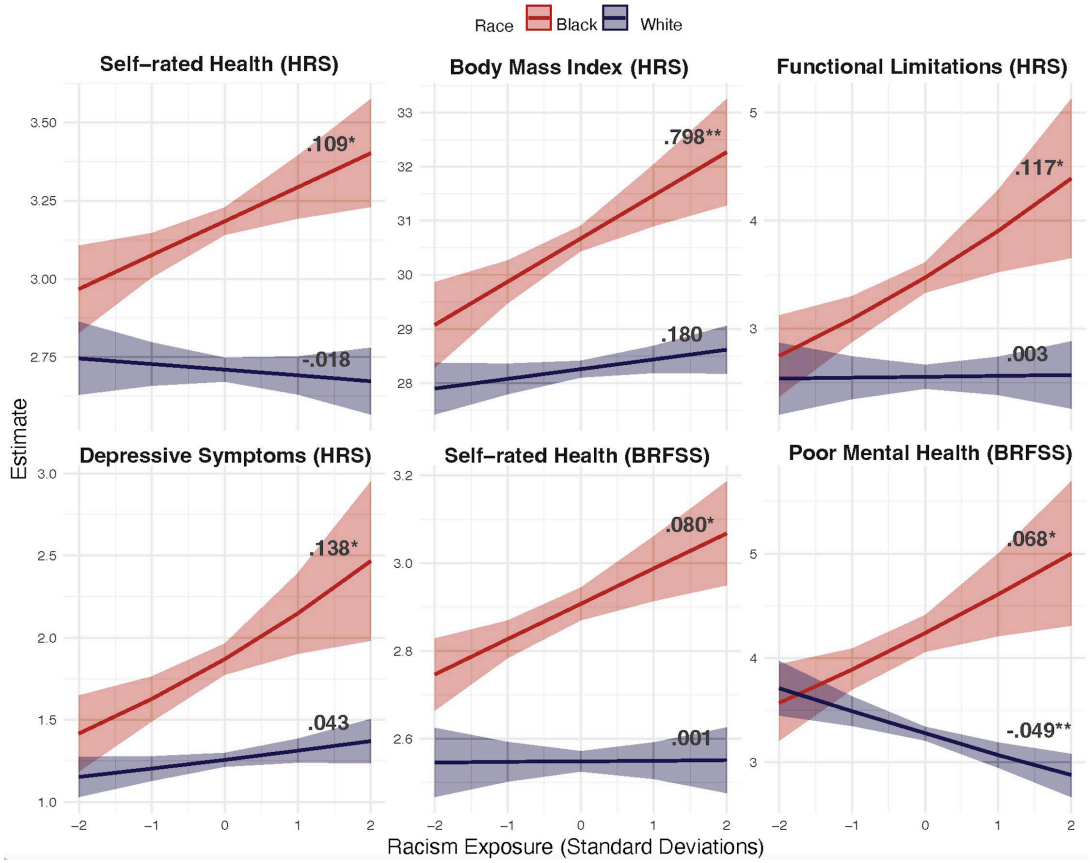


Brown & Homan (2024)





Homan et al. (2021)



Impact of Structural Racism on Health of Older Adults

Need empirical studies on how resilience is shaped by structural conditions such as racism, sexism, xenophobia, heteropatriarchy, etc.

Brown & Homan (2024)

Knowledge Gaps

How does the relationship between social ecological context and resilience vary across social groups and stages of the life course?

What is the relative impact of different social ecological contexts for resilience?

How do various ecological contexts jointly shape resilience?

How do social, psychological, biological and medical factors intersect to shape resilience?

What are key mediators, moderators and effective interventions?

Research Opportunities

- Use Social Ecological Theory to Guide Methods
- Develop Novel, Theory-Driven Methods to Study Structural Drivers
- Investigate the Geography of Structural Drivers
- Examine Social Pathways Connecting Ecological Context to Resilience
- Build a Data Infrastructure on Ecological Context Measures

Brown & Homan (2023)