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Relational Security - A future in Ageing Research?

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The question of what constitutes a fulfilling late life remains a crucial question in ageing research. Although individual experiences of ageing may vary depending on the context, the overarching factors that influence ageing across cultures are largely determined by the nature of individuals' relationships with individuals, family, community and institutions. Drawing on life history narratives from older adults living in conditions of extreme poverty in Bangladesh.

This paper introduces the concept of 'relational security' to illustrate how different types of relationships shape individuals' wellbeing, welfare and sense of security and happiness. 'Relational insecurity', a reverse condition to 'relational security', fosters othering of older adults, damaging their agency, forcing them to live a life in 'social death'. Further research is essential to understand the ways in which individuals are relationally embedded and how social policy interventions can enhance the 'relational security' of older adults without atomizing them.