Baby boomers, born between 1946 and 1964, comprise a significant portion of the United States' older adult population. Retirement is also a hallmark of their current life stage. While a body of literature points to the benefits of leisure activities in later life, the roles and relevance of leisure during the retirement transition among first-generation immigrant baby boomers are not well understood. The purpose of this study was to explore leisure throughout the lifespan among first-generation Korean immigrant men (N = 19) and how their cultural values and leisure involvement played out during the retirement transition. Guided by continuity theory of normal aging (Atchley, 1989) and leisure innovation theory (Nimrod, 2008), findings from interview data through interpretive phenomenological analysis (Smith et al., 1995) indicated that (1) perceptions and definition of leisure is shaped by their cultural backgrounds; (2) leisure in the working years mostly involved family leisure activities with an emphasis on providing their children with educational values; (3) leisure activities such as golf and fishing were a particular interest for this demographic, but meanings changed over time; (3) leisure provided continuity during the retirement; and (4) retirement was viewed as an opportunity for new leisure activities, but limited availability of sport and recreation programs was perceived as a barrier. These findings yield meaningful implications in that (a) leisure engagement can provide continuity in maintaining their social roles over the lifespan; and (b) more community-based sport and recreation programs targeting older adults would help them successfully transition to retirement.

STRESSOR REACTIVITY DEPENDS ON THE CORTISOL AWAKENING RESPONSE AND REACTIVITY TO WORK OVERLOAD

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Ecological momentary assessment (EMA) was used to understand the influence of individual differences in stress reactivity measured by the Perceived Stress Reactivity Scale (PSRS) and the cortisol awakening response (CAR) on emotional reactivity to stressors, operationalized as the within-person change in negative affect (NA) associated with stressor exposure. Five times per day for 10 days, 178 working adults ages 20-80 years old (M = 49.22, SD = 19.07) reported in EMAs their current NA and whether they had experienced a stressor since the previous survey. During the same period, participants provided seven salivary cortisol samples per day. Samples collected at awakening and 30-minutes post-awakening were used to calculate the CAR. Steeper CARs are hypothesized to have a role in preparing individuals to cope with upcoming daily demands. Before the EMA period, participants completed the PSRS, including its Work Overload Reactivity subscale. Multilevel models revealed a significant 3-way interaction between Stressor Exposure x CAR x Work Overload Reactivity predicting daily NA. Individuals with high Work Overload generally reported greater NA, regardless of stressor exposure or the magnitude of their CAR. Individuals with low Work Overload reported lower levels of NA on days they experienced more stressors than usual and had steeper CARs. Effects remained significant after controlling for neuroticism and the Perceived Stress Scale. Findings suggest the CAR's potential role of preparing individuals for upcoming demands is moderated by work-related stress reactivity. Steeper CARs on days with more stressor exposure may provide enhanced emotional benefits for individuals low in workload reactivity.

MEMBER CHECKING GERONTOLOGY: THE CASE OF RETIREMENT

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Gerontology has long been a public-facing field with an applied focus. As such, the credibility of gerontology's conclusions and guidance about aging are crucial, our advice having relevance and impact in proportion to its popular resonance. In 2021 I authored an article for a large-circulation newspaper that generated over 500 reader replies, creating an opportunity for member checking of a kind. The article reported my personal experience of having retired—what I expected and what was a surprise. All of my observations about emotions and lifestyle, while my own, were nonetheless grounded in the research literature. Public comments on the article came from a readership that skews male and highly educated, i.e., people like myself. Many comments affirmed my observations (e.g., about time use, awareness of finitude) as experiences we had in common. Some comments disputed my authority, as an academic, to say anything valid about the "real world." Opinion split on the value of continued work: it gives life meaning, it invites corrosive stress. Likewise, some retirees endorsed surrender to leisure while others urged engagement. One research takeaway: with no standard way to be retired or regard it, the quality of retired life remains a measurement challenge. Another takeaway: Retirees with partners commonly describe experience in the first-personal plural (we, us), suggesting that dyads are often apt units of analysis for retirement studies. This is but one case study, but it indicates that we must continually assess whether gerontology's knowledge is valid and whether the public is grateful for it.

OLDER ADULTS LEAVING THE WORKFORCE: SENSORY LOSS, RETIREMENT, AND DISABILITY

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Hearing loss (HL), vision loss (VL), and their combination (dual sensory loss, DSL) are common among older adults. Sensory loss impacts labor productivity which might result in departures from the workforce. Whether older adults leave due to retirement or a disability, and how these responses are associated with sensory loss remains unexplored. Using the 2004-2018 rounds of the Health and Retirement Study, self-reported sensory loss (No Impairment/HL/VL/DSL) at baseline, and reason for leaving the workforce (retirement or disability) were observed. Competing risk models models for departures from the workforce treating retirement or disability as a competing risk were estimated. Among 5,201

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