in wages are observable at early stages. However, disadvantages of men and women with direct migration experience arise and increase with age, resulting in lower earnings for older workers with direct migration experience. Finally, we observe that wages of individuals with an indirect migration experience grow even more than those with no migration background. No evidence of intersectionality between gender and migration status has been found.

**TRANSGNATIONAL FAMiLY RELATIONSHIPS AND CULTURAL IDENTITY: OLDER MIGRANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

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There is a very limited evidence base exploring the experience of ageing amongst older migrants in England and Wales. What research exists focuses upon the experiences of a single ethnic group (e.g. migrants from Pakistan) and / or emphasised issues of health, care and caring. Few studies have included a range of older migrant groups or considered broader issues of the experience of ageing such as ideas of identity and belonging. We draw on social identity theory to identify factors that are associated with older migrants' sense of belonging in a rapidly globalising world. We explore the influence of cultural heritage (ethnicity and place of birth), social class, social support network and global citizenship on cultural identity using a survey of 1200 adults across 2 generational groups (600 aged 45-64 and 600 aged 65+) for Black Caribbean, Black African, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Chinese migrants living in England and Wales.

**LONELINESS AMONG MOROCCAN AND TURKISH OLDER MIGRANTS IN THE NETHERLANDS**

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This study explores feelings of loneliness among 234 people born in Turkey and 177 born in Morocco, aged 55-64, who migrated more than thirty years ago to the Netherlands. They live in urban areas. Their average level of loneliness is much higher than is observed in a sample of indigenous older people (N = 293). Being married (vs. single) protected against loneliness. Migrants with a self-identification towards their own descent were lonelier than those who identified themselves as Dutch or those having a multiple identification. Migrants considering return migration were more lonely than those who want to stay in the Netherlands. For all migrants having frequent contact with family diminished loneliness. For Moroccan migrants frequent contact with neighbors in their own group and for Turkish migrants contact with indigenous neighbors resulted in less loneliness. It is concluded that the migrant perspective still plays a major role in their social integration.

**LONG-TERM CARE AMONG ELDERLY MIGRANTS IN LUXEMBOURG: ASPECTS OF WELL-BEING**

A. C. Ramos, U. Karl, INSIDE, University of Luxembourg, Walferdange, Luxembourg

Studies on long-term care have shown a clear preference among elderly people to be cared for at home as long as possible, relying mainly on paid care services. In this study, we analyse the use of professional care work among 10 first generation of elderly immigrants living in Luxembourg (from Portugal, Italy, Germany, Belgium and France), aged 65 years and older. By means of biographic and qualitative egocentric network interviews, we explore their life situations in three different contexts of care: the use of mobile care services, day care centers and public care homes. Our results show that although elderly migrants are satisfied with the care provision, many of them experience social isolation and institutional marginalization in their daily lives, boosted mainly by their language skills and cultural differences. Our study shows that to improve migrants’ well-being in old age, a more culturally sensitive care is needed.

**PAST EXPERIENCES AND FUTURE ORIENTATIONS OF PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANTS IN LUXEMBOURG**

I. Albert, S. Barros Coimbra, D. Ferring, University of Luxembourg, Walferdange, Luxembourg

In the next years Luxembourg will be confronted with an unprecedented number of older persons with migrant background. The present study has the aim to 1) explore the migration experiences and future plans of Portuguese immigrants in Luxembourg who are close to retirement age, and 2) to compare them to their Luxembourgish counterparts regarding future orientations and preferences for control strategies. The sample included n = 94 Portuguese first generation immigrants (52.1% female; average age: M = 57.05, SD = 6.84) and n = 102 Luxembourgish nationals (56.3% female, average age: M = 56.87, SD = 7.39). Preliminary results show that the majority of Portuguese immigrants plan to stay in Luxembourg after retirement. Regarding control strategies, Portuguese compared to Luxembourgish participants scored higher on lowering aspirations. Also, different correlational patterns between control strategies and future orientations were found. Results will be discussed taking into consideration cross-cultural differences and migration experiences.

**SESSION 2165 (SYMPOSIUM)**

**AGING AND VETERAN HEALTH CARE IN RURAL AMERICA: INNOVATIVE MODELS OF CARE DELIVERY**

Chair: B.L. Hicken, VA Salt Lake City Health Care System, Salt Lake City, Utah

Of the 9.1 million United States Veterans enrolled for health care through the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), 3.2 million (35%) live in rural communities. Though older (≥65 years) Veterans account for 49% of the total population of veterans receiving VHA health care, they comprise a disproportionately larger percentage of the rural Veteran population; 54% and 59% of Veterans in rural and highly rural areas, respectively, are over age 65, compared with 46% of urban Veterans. The health burdens common to aging coupled with accumulated physical and psychological traumas often experienced during military service make caring for the older Veteran population an especially difficult challenge. Furthermore, though VHA’s mandate is to provide health care to all eligible Veterans, the geographic distances...