

Measuring and assessing the social embeddedness of Montréal seniors

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 - Lise Gauvin, Université de Montreal
 - Kate Frohlich, Université de Montreal
 - Yan Kestens, Université de Montreal
 - Lucie Richard, Université de Montreal

Presentation outline

- Background
- Study Details
- Social network instruments
- Age & Social Embeddedness
- Final thoughts

Background

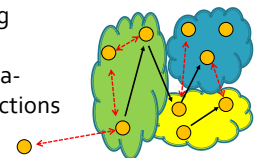
The Social-Ecological Approach



* Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Division of Nutrition & Physical Activity

Neighbourhoods and aging in place

- Aging adults are happier and safer when they live in a familiar environment.
- Social interaction is an integral and important aspect of healthy aging
- Focus has been on intra-neighbourhood connections



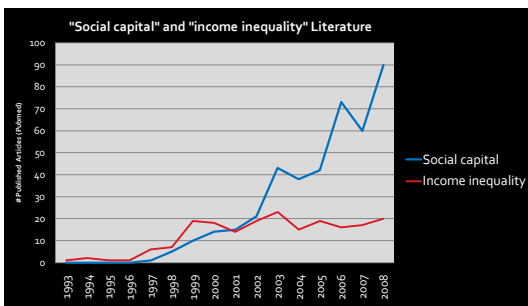
Differential vulnerability by age

- “Environmental docility hypothesis”
 - Lawton
- Aging processes may reduce competence, increase barriers to use of services, or vulnerability to environmental stressors.
- Aging may result in changes in the patterns of spatial use and cognition

How does social capital fit in?

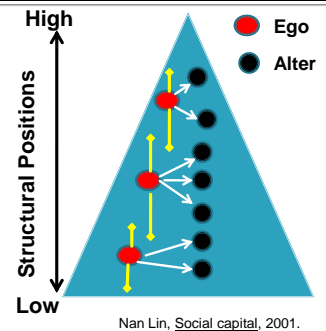
- Communitarian approaches
 - Views social capital as a feature of places, a *public good* available to all “equally” in an area.
- Network approaches
 - Views social capital as the resources that individuals and *potentially* groups have access to through their social ties.

Privileging of communitarian ideas



Network perspectives

- Social connections & resource accessibility
- Structural Inequalities
- Structural contingencies



Study Details

“Montreal Neighbourhood Networks: Social networks, social capital, and healthy aging”

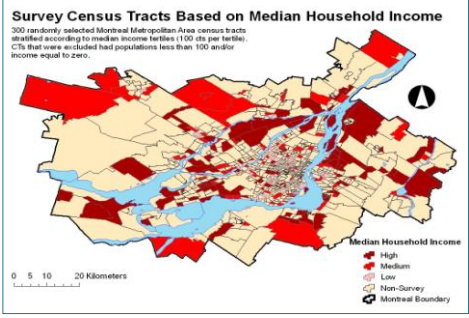
S. Moore (PI), U. Bockenholt, M. Daniel, K. Frohlich, L. Gauvin, Y. Kestens, L. Richard



Household questionnaires

- Sample size calculations
- Stratified cluster sampling design
 - 300 census tracts (stratified into median income tertiles)
- 9 respondents per CT (stratified by age cat.)
 - 25 -44 yrs. old (3)
 - 45-64 yrs. old (3)
 - 65 + yrs. old (3)

MoNNET-HA sampling design



Household Questionnaire

- Health Behaviour
- Self-reported health status/chronic disease report
- Depression Scale
- Locus of control
- Socio-demographic information

Social network instruments

- Social network module
 - Position generator dimensions:
 - Upper reachability
 - Network Diversity
 - Network Range
 - Name generator/interpreter

| | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| Please indicate if you know someone on a first name basis who is a ... | Family/Friends | neighbourhood ? |
| | Acquaintance | |
| | | |
| High School Teacher | | |
| Carpenter | | |

| Strength of Tie | Source/location of Tie | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|-----|-------------|
| | Household | Neighbourhood | MMA | Outside MMA |
| Relatives | | | | |
| Friends | | | | |
| Acquaintances | | | | |

MoNNET-HA sample information

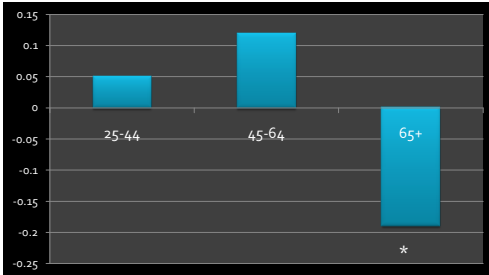
- Household questionnaire sample size
 - n=2707
- Response, cooperation and participation
- Sample coverage
 - Income (<50,000), Residence (>5years), Female, French household language

Age and social embeddedness

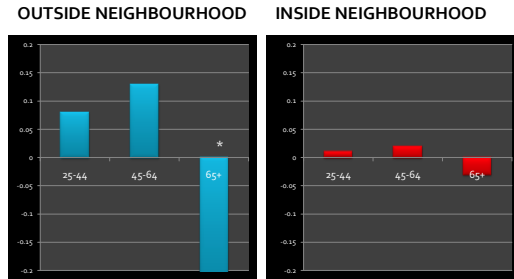
Differences between Montréal age groups

- ANOVA tests with Bonferroni multiple comparison test
- Social capital [position generator]
- Core support ties [name generator]
- Core support ties in the neighbourhood [name generator/interpreter]
- Neighbourhood perceptions
- Participation

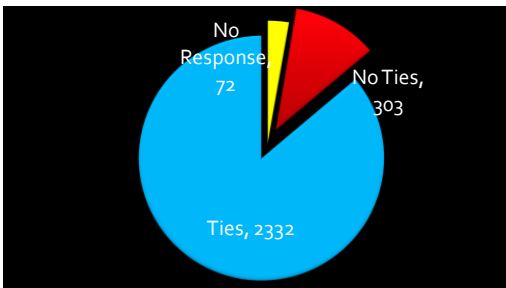
Social capital (pg)



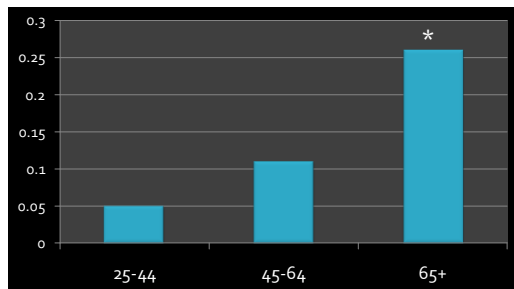
Social capital by neighbourhood



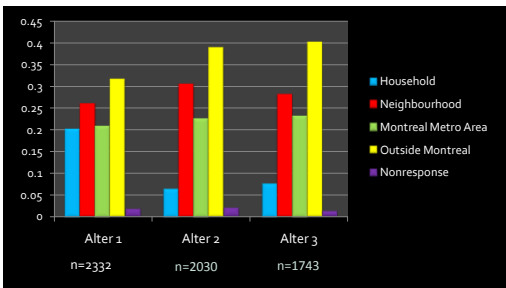
Core network ties



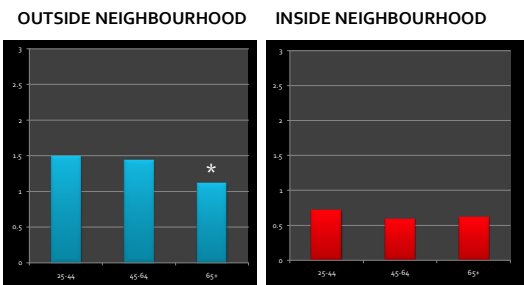
No Ties at All



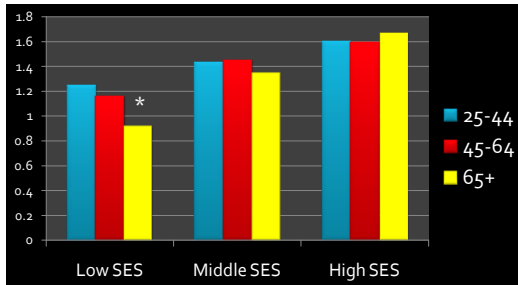
Where do members of a person's support network live?



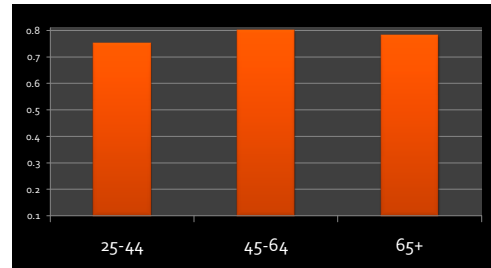
Core network ties by neighbourhood



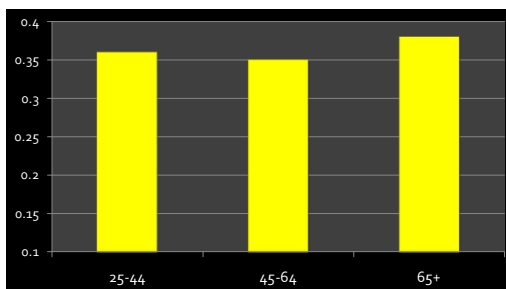
Core ties outside the neighbourhood by age group and SES



Perceived neighbourhood environment



Participation



Final thoughts

Observations

- No apparent differences among age groups in neighbourhood perceptions or participation.
- Significant differences in the spatiality of social ties among age groups tend to appear in having social ties outside the neighbourhood.
- Differences among age groups in lacking core ties outside the neighbourhood may be specific to low-income older adults.

Final point

- Enhanced consideration of the need for bridging ties linking people, particularly older adults, to resources outside neighbourhood.

Thank you.