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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME Kenneth F. Ferraro	Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Director, Center on Aging and the Life course		
eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login) ferraro			
EDUCATION/TRAINING ( <i>Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.</i> )			
INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY
Saint Vincent College	B.A.	1976	Sociology
Duquesne University	M.A.	1978	Sociology
University of Akron	Ph.D.	1981	Sociology

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### A. Personal Statement

My research on health in adulthood and later life has evolved over the past 30 years from a focus on salient health issues among older people to a focus on the long-term antecedents of health in later life. Although I continue to do some of the former, the bulk of my current and planned research examines the latter: life course health. I have analyzed cohort-inclusive samples in long-term longitudinal studies to advance our understanding of racial health inequality, the role of obesity on health, and the long-term consequences of childhood misfortune. My recent work also involves the development of cumulative inequality theory to better understand the accumulation processes that influence health.

The goal of the proposed project is to systematically examine racial and ethnic differences in the relationships between childhood misfortune and later-life health and mortality. In doing so, we examine differences in the accumulation of misfortune among Black, White, and Hispanic Americans as well as whether accumulated misfortune is associated with premature aging, as reflected in earlier onset of disease and disability as well as earlier mortality. The proposed project integrates two foci of my research program—*racial disparities in health* and *early origins of adult health*—to explicate the mechanisms that may mediate or moderate the relationships between childhood misfortune and adult health.

### B. Positions and Honors

#### Professional Experience

1981-1984 Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
1984-1987 Assistant Professor, Sociology, Northern Illinois University  
1986-1990 Director, Gerontology Program, Northern Illinois University  
1987-1990 Associate Professor of Sociology, Northern Illinois University  
1990-1994 Associate Professor of Sociology, Purdue University  
1994-2008 Professor of Sociology, Purdue University  
1995-2003 Director, Gerontology Program, Purdue University  
1998-2002 Resident Scientist, National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan  
2003- Director, Center on Aging and the Life Course, Purdue University  
2008- Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Purdue University

#### Selected Pertinent Experience

1988-1990 Associate Editor, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*  
1991-1995 Human Development and Aging Study Section (Subcommittee 2), National Institutes of Health  
1992-1997 Editorial Board, *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*  
2000-2002 Editorial Board, *American Sociological Review*  
2002-2005 Editorial Board, *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*

2003-2005 Associate Editor, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*  
 2006-2009 Editor, *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*  
 2008-present Advisory Board, General Social Survey (GSS) Module on *Aging and Intergenerational Relations*  
 2011-2013 Editorial Board, *American Sociological Review*

### **Selected Honors**

1990 Fellow, Gerontological Society of America  
 1993 Fellow, Center for Social and Behavioral Sciences, Purdue University  
 1995 Distinguished Alumni Award, Institute for Life-Span Development and Gerontology, University of Akron  
 1995 Named to *Profiles in Gerontology: A Biographical Dictionary*, Achenbaum and Albert  
 1997 Fellow, Association for Gerontology in Higher Education  
 2004-2005 Chair (Elected), Section on Aging and the Life Course, American Sociological Association  
 2007 Best Paper Award, Theoretical Developments in Social Gerontology, Gerontological Society of America  
 2009 Inducted into the Sociological Research Association (invitation only).  
 2011 Elected Chair of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section, Gerontological Society of America  
 2011 Distinguished Mentor Award, Behavioral and Social Sciences Section, Gerontological Society of America  
 2013 Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award, Behavioral and Social Sciences Section of the Gerontological Society of America  
 2014 Best Paper Award, Theoretical Developments in Social Gerontology, Gerontological Society of America

### **C. Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications (relevant or recent from over 100 refereed journal articles)**

Ferraro, K. F. & M. M. Farmer. 1999. "Utility of Health Data from Social Surveys: Is There a Gold Standard for Measuring Morbidity?" *American Sociological Review* 64:303-315.  
 Ferraro, K. F., Y. Su, R. Gretebeck, D. R. Black, & S. Badylak. 2002. "Body Mass Index and Disability in Adulthood: 20-Year Panel Study." *American Journal of Public Health* 92:834-840.  
 Ferraro, K. F. & J. A. Kelley-Moore. 2003. "Cumulative Disadvantage and Health: Long-Term Consequences of Obesity?" *American Sociological Review* 68:707-729.  
 Farmer, M. M. & K. F. Ferraro. 2005. "Are Racial Disparities in Health Conditional on Socioeconomic Status?" *Social Science and Medicine* 60:191-204.  
 Irving, S. M. & K. F. Ferraro. 2006. "Reports of Abusive Experiences During Childhood and Adult Health Ratings: Personal Control as a Pathway?" *Journal of Aging and Health* 18:458-485. [PMID: 16648396]  
 Schafer, M. H. & K. F. Ferraro. 2007. "Long-Term Obesity and Avoidable Hospitalization among Younger-, Middle-, and Older-Age Adults." *Archives of Internal Medicine* 167:2220-2225. [PMID: 17998495]  
 Ferraro, K. F. & T. P. Shippee. 2009. "Aging and Cumulative Inequality: How Does Inequality Get Under the Skin?" *The Gerontologist* 49:333-343. [PMID: 19377044]  
 Schafer, M. H., K. F. Ferraro, & S. A. Mustillo. 2011. "Children of Misfortune: Early Adversity and Cumulative Inequality in Perceived Life Trajectories." *American Journal of Sociology* 116: 1053-1091. [PMID: 21648247]  
 Schafer, M. H., K. F. Ferraro, & S. R. Williams. 2011. "Low Socioeconomic Status and Body Mass Index as Risk Factors for Inflammation in Older Adults: Conjoint Influence on C-Reactive Protein?" *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences* 66: 667-73. [PMID: 21350245]  
 Shippee, T. P., K. F. Ferraro, & R. J. Thorpe, Jr. 2011. "Racial Disparity in Access to Cardiac Intensive Care over 20 Years." *Ethnicity and Health* 16:145-165. [PMID: 21318914]  
 Schafer, M. H. and K. F. Ferraro. 2012. "Childhood Misfortune as a Threat to Successful Aging: Avoiding Disease." *The Gerontologist* 51:111-120. Editor's Choice, February issue. [PMID: 21746836]  
 Schafer, M. H., & Ferraro, K. F. 2013. "Childhood Misfortune and Adult Health: Enduring and Cascadic Effects on Somatic and Psychological Symptoms." *Journal of Aging and Health* 25:3-28. [PMID: 23160525]  
 Schafer, M. H., Wilkinson, L. R., & Ferraro, K. F. 2013. "Childhood (Mis)fortune, Educational Attainment, and Adult Health: Contingent Benefits of a College Degree?" *Social Forces* 91:1007-1034.

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- Morton, P. M., Mustillo, S. A., & Ferraro, K. F. 2014. "Does Childhood Misfortune Raise the Risk of Acute Myocardial Infarction in Adulthood?" *Social Science & Medicine* 104:133-141. [PMID: 24581071]
- Vuolo, M., Ferraro, K. F., Morton, P. M., & Yang, T-Y. 2014. "Why Do Older People Change Their Ratings of Childhood Health?" *Demography* 52:(in press).

## **D. Research Support**

### **Ongoing Research Support**

R01AG043544-A1 Ferraro (PI) 5/1/14-4/31/17

National Institute on Aging, NIH

Childhood Misfortune and Adult Health among Black, White, and Hispanic Americans?

The overall aim of this research is to examine the links between childhood misfortune and adult health, including potential mediators, and how these relationships may vary for Black, White, and Hispanic adults

NRF-2011-330-B00137 Ferraro (Co-PI) 9/1/11-8/31/14

National Research Foundation of Korea Grant

An Integrated Study for a Successful Transition to Active Aging Korea based on an Inter-disciplinary Approach of Social Science and Biomedical Science, (PI: Yoosik Youm)

The overall aim of this research is to study how social and environmental factors influence health and well-being among older residents of South Korea. The project collects data similar to those in the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project, including biomarkers, permitting comparisons of health and aging the USA and South Korea.

### **Completed Research Support (Past Three Years)**

R01AG033541-01 Ferraro (PI) 8/1/09-7/31/12

National Institute on Aging, NIH

Enduring Effects of Early Adversity on Adult Health?

The overall aim of this research was to build upon epidemiologic models of the life course to explicate the mechanisms by which multiple forms of early adversity compromise health. Drawing from cumulative inequality theory, the project examines how resources and perceived life trajectories influence adult health.

T32 AG 025671-01 Ferraro (PI) 5/1/09-4/30/11

National Institute on Aging, NIH

Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and the Life Course

The project enhanced the training of doctoral students interested in aging and public health by emphasizing a long-term and interdisciplinary view of the aging process. Our aim has been to augment the professional development of these students to become effective members of interdisciplinary research teams.