

# A Life Course Perspective on War Exposure, Migration History, and Later Life Wellbeing of Northern Vietnamese War Survivors

## Reference:

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## Abstract:

Building on a previous study that used retrospective individual-level data to investigate the association between pre-migration conditions, exposure to war, and lifelong patterns of voluntary and forced migration, this study examines how the migration patterns of older northern Vietnamese war survivors moderated their later life wellbeing, in particular, health and socio-economic wellbeing. We use the life course perspective, specifically, the principles of timing, context, agency, and linked lives, to frame our analysis of data detailing the early life experiences and conditions of 2,447 older Vietnamese men and women. The data come from Wave 1 of the Vietnam Health and Aging Study, collected in 2018, and comprising retrospective survey data capturing family background, early childhood circumstances, experiences during the Vietnam War, migration history, occupational history, current health, and current social support structures. We use this data to construct multilevel structural equation models for the purpose of understanding how migration volume, timing, and context intervenes in the life course to shape later life wellbeing. We look at the proximate, root, and demographic sources of migration; the reasons for migrating, whether for education, marriage, employment, military deployment, or wartime evacuation; and a host of demographic and behavioral predictors of health and wellbeing. We anticipate that the different reasons for migrating will exert different influences on traditional predictors of the health and economic wellbeing, differentially shaping the wellbeing of older northern Vietnamese war survivors.