

**OLDER ADULTS AND NONMETRO POPULATION GROWTH:
TOWARDS A LIFE-COURSE THEORY OF MIGRATION**

by

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Litwak and Longino (L&L, 1987) held that population growth in nonmetro U.S. counties from net immigration (in the 1970s and since the 1990s) is a life-course phenomenon, driven by the net immigration of healthy, married, rich, young-old people around the time of retirement from jobs in metro counties. These privileged immigrants are thought to be seeking natural amenities unique to nonmetro counties. However, L&L argued that a spouse's death or one's decline in health should motivate the return to a metro area, where health care should be more available informally from nearby kin and formally from a more fully developed health-care infrastructure.

This study uses an Event History Analysis of six consecutive waves gathered every two years from 1994 - 2004 for the longitudinal Health and Retirement Survey. Focusing on the first migration on/after 1994, when respondents were aged 53-63, we seek how changes in health and marital statuses prompt the risk of migrating between metro and nonmetro counties. In focusing on these origins and destinations, we extend the earlier studies by L&L.