

A LONGITUDINAL PERSPECTIVE ON FAMILY RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY-PI: Liat Ayalon, Ph.D.

The overall goal of this study is to explore family relationships in the context of early adjustment to the continuing care retirement community (CCRC) and subsequent adaptations over a period of up to six years. I will use two sources of information: older CCRC residents and their adult children, two cohorts (residents who entered a CCRC in 2009 and in 2013), and six waves of data collection: upon initial transition to the CCRC (already available for the first cohort) and up to six years afterwards. ***Expected products of this study include significant theoretical contributions in the field of family relationships and long term care and methodological innovations in the field of longitudinal qualitative research (LQR).***

This study is *innovative* for several reasons: a) a move to a CCRC represents an emerging global phenomenon that has received limited attention relative to other LTC alternatives. This is despite the fact that CCRCs are contrasted with other LTC alternatives where residents are already dependent at the time of transition and as a result, their move does not necessarily reflect their autonomous decisions; b) to date, family relationships following a transition to a CCRC have received minimal attention. Although the use of formal (paid) services does not take place in a void, but is often highly related to the perceptions, beliefs, attitudes, and availability of family members, most research has focused on CCRC residents, and has neglected to evaluate the perspective of their adult children. The decision to move to a CCRC reflects an explicit wish not to change the relationships between older adults and their adult children. A longitudinal design allows examining whether indeed, this external change in living arrangement brings stability to family relationships, or whether family relationships continue to evolve, with children increasingly taking additional caregiving roles; c) the unique position of Israeli society between modernization and traditionalism provides a fresh approach to examine how a move to a CCRC, which represents a choice in modernization, affects the relationships between family members of different levels of modernization; and d) the use of LQR as a methodology is underdeveloped. As such, an intended product of this study concerns significant methodological in addition to theoretical innovations. ***Given the increasing popularity of CCRCs in Israel and elsewhere around the world and in light of changing demographics, this study is crucial for the understanding of the interchange between formal and informal care (unpaid by family and friends) in the CCRC.***