As a family systems perspective suggests, intergenerational exchanges can have implications for other adult children's relationships. Most of these studies, however, have considered only exchanges between parents and parents-in-law. To examine the effects of covariates on latent class membership, multilevel logistic regression was used.

**Research Questions**

**QUESTION 1**: What is the pattern of exchanges of different types of support (e.g., emotional, instrumental, and financial) exchanged by married adult children with both parents and parents-in-law?

**QUESTION 2**: Are there differences in the pattern of exchanges between parents and parents-in-law by gender of adult offspring?

**QUESTION 3**: How are the patterns of intergenerational exchanges between parents and parents-in-law associated with marital quality of adult offspring?

**Participants**

- This study is based on data from “Successful Midlife Development: Mental Health and Life Course in Korea and the United States” (Hun, Lee, Ok, Park, & Kim, 2002). This study was designed by the Korean team corresponding with the MUSAS database.
- The original sample consisted of 1,667 adults aged 30~59 residing in 16 municipal cities and provinces in Korea. For this study, we analyzed 937 married adults who have at least one parent and parents-in-law alive.

**Measures**

- **Dependent Variables**
  - Support Exchanges
    - A total of 12 indicators of support exchanges with parents and parents-in-law were measured (2 types of support directions x 2 sets of parents).
    - The support items were originally rated on a 4-point scale, but we dichotomized them for analysis: 1 = Yes (exchanges and “other”) and 2 = No (exchanges and “other”).
  - Covariates
    - Demographic Characteristics
      - Age: M = 39.32 (SD = 6.3)
      - Gender: Female = 48.7%.
    - Education (4-point scale): 1 = elementary school and under to 4 = college and above: M = 3.3 (SD = 0.7).
    - Household income (unit of 10,000 won, Korean currency): M = 277,000 (SD = 95,900).
    - Employment of respondent and spouse: Dual earner = 48.5%.
    - Geographic Distance from Parents / Parents-in-law:
      - Distance (in kilometers) to the farthest parent or parents-in-law: M = 23.3 (SD = 1.3) for parents, M = 23.3 (SD = 1.3) for parents-in-law.
    - Marital Quality
      - Spouse support (mean of 6 items; 4-point scale; 1 = not at all to 4 = very often): M = 2.9 (SD = 0.5).
    - Spouse strain (mean of 6 items; 4-point scale; 1 = not at all to 4 = very often): M = 1.9 (SD = 0.5).

- The other 2 classes revealed an imbalanced pattern of exchanges between parents and parents-in-law (total = 40%): exchanges only with own parents (24%) and high emotional exchange with own parents, but giving fewer high exchanges with both sides of parents (16%).

**Analysis Method**

- To classify the pattern of intergenerational exchanges, Latent Class Analysis (LCA) was applied to the 12 indicators of support exchanges. SAS PROC LCA, Lanza, Collins, Lemmon, & Schmeller, 2007.

**Results**

1. **Latent Patterns of Intergenerational Exchanges with Parents and Parents-in-Law**

   - **5-class model** was identified as optimal for pattern of intergenerational exchanges between parents and parents-in-law (total = 40%): high exchanges with both sides of parents (16%), exchanges only with own parents (24%), high emotional exchange with own parents, but giving fewer high exchanges with both sides of parents (16%), exchanges only with own parents (24%), high emotional exchange with own parents, but giving fewer high exchanges with both sides of parents (16%).

   - **Table 2. Model Fit Comparisons of Latent Class Models**

<table>
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<th>Class</th>
<th>K = 2</th>
<th>K = 3</th>
<th>K = 4</th>
<th>K = 5</th>
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<td>2353.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-Class</td>
<td>1667.66</td>
<td>2015.90</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Gender Differences in Membership Probabilities of Latent Class (to be 2)**

   - Whereas men were more likely to be a member of Class 2 (exchanges only with both sides of parents), women were more likely to be a member of Class 3 (giving more than receiving).
   - Whereas men were more likely to belong to Class 4 (exchanges only with own parents), women were more likely to be in Class 5 (giving only tangible support to parents-in-law).

   - These gender differences reflect gendered role of women as support provider/keeper as well as paternalistic patterns in Korean families.

**Discussion**

- Intergenerational exchanges in Korean families have been traditionally characterized as a patrilocal pattern with strong filial obligations on sons and daughters-in-law. However, the five classes of support exchanges between parents and parents-in-law suggest that there is a substantial variability in the exchange pattern, showing a mixed form of patrilocal and bilateral changes. Also, the pattern of exchanges showed significant associations with adult children’s marital quality.