

Abstracts

Do extreme wartime violence and the consequent foreign policy preferences transmit to subsequent generations? What mechanisms explain this intergenerational transmission? I examine whether family transmission applies to the most extreme forms of wartime violence and whether memorial institutions reinforce or substitute for this family socialization in the context of the atomic bombings of Japan. I collect original data through field research in Japan from both direct descendants of atomic bomb survivors and comparable non-exposed individuals. The results show that family socialization plays a crucial role in intergenerational transmission and that this socialization is reinforced by local memorial institutions. Descendants of atomic bomb survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki are more likely to hold stronger anti-nuclear, anti-militarist foreign policy preferences than descendants outside those cities. These results highlight the importance of family socialization and the reinforcing role of memorial institutions in sustaining the legacy of violence.