Fear of Crime an

Lawton & Yaffe, 1980; Lebowitz, 1975; Yin, 1980). In fact, the existing research was pointing to a number of variables other than age that appeared to be more strongly associated with the fear of crime such as victimization rates, housing, gender, and income (Akers, LaGreca, Sellers & Cochrane, 1987; Burt and Katz, 1985; Gomme, 1988; Janson & Ryder, 1983; Jeffords, 1983; Sacco & Glackman, 1987; Yin, 1985). These conflicting results led to a sense of increasing scepticism towards the early literature on fear of crime and aging. For example, in an analysis of the existing survey data up to the 1980's, Yin (1982) found that fear of crime was a less severe problem for the elderly than had been previously reported. In another study, Clarke and Lewis (1982) found that fear of crime did not increase with increasing age. By the late 1980's, Ferraro and LeGrange were suggesting that fear of crime in the elderly had been exaggerated in the gerontological, sociological, and criminological literature due to "conceptual cloudiness and operational obfuscation of the fear of crime concept" (Ferraro & LaGrange,

These contradictory findings have continued to generate a significant body of literature on the topic of fear of crime and older adults. This is perhaps not surprising. As Greenhalgh and colleagues have noted in their review of the outcomes of systematic literature reviews such as Hale's (1996), ambiguous and/or contradictory results in an area of research are typically resolved with claims of methodological flaws that can only be addressed with additional research (Greenhalgh, Macfarlane, Bate, & Kyriakidou, 2004; Greenhalgh & Peacock, 2005; Greenhalgh, Macfarlane, Bate, Kyriakidou & Peacock, 2005). Certainly, the majority of the articles published since early 2000 on the topic of fear of crime and older adults have been

from this large body of international research utilizing the meta-narrative perspective

empirical papers addressing key theoretical aspects of the fear of crime literature were also included when judged to be relevant.

While the perspectives and approaches have differed by discipline and sometimes within a discipline, the research issues and questions have remained remarkably consistent and include the following: 1) the need to understand how measurement decisions impact the understanding of the construct of fear of crime; 2) identifying the nature, frequency, and intensity of fear of crime experienced by older adults; 2) determining if fear of crime is a significant social problem for older adults, with characteristics unique to the aging process and, 4) exploring the impact of fear of crime on the quality of life experienced by older adults. However, while the same "problem" has been analyzed, contradictory results have been frequent and according to Greenhalgh and colleagues, the "meaning" of these contradictory results can be better understood when approached from a metanarrative perspective This review of the literature will follow the steps of the meta-narrative process as outlined earlier, in order to explore the particular historical, ideological, political, and social context of the key narratives used to explore these four research questions. In addition, the specific research parameters and questions, and seminal conceptual and empirical papers will be presented, along with an analysis of each narrative's relationship to earlier research. The review will conclude with a review of the strengths and weaknesses of each narrative and an

design, validity or credibility of research method, sample size and power if quantitative, nature and strength or relevance of findings, and validity or significance of conclusions and recommendations for future research.

Data Extraction Table for Empirical Studies

Reference	Research Question	Conceptualization of Fear of Crime	Study Design	Sample Size and	Research Results	Limitations	Significance of Results	Future Research Recommendations
				Power				

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