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Negotiating the cultural to create the  
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# Women narrate later life remarriage: Negotiating the cultural to create the personal

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### Abstract

Narrative provides a window to experience in a way that is different from traditional research methods. In this study, narrative affords both a holistic vantage point on later life relationships, and at the same time, a “view from the inside” older women's own accounts of single life, relationship development, and remarriage. The narratives were obtained in interviews with eight recently remarried women between the ages of sixty-five and eighty. A two-stage analysis addresses, first, the narrative content—the phenomenology of remarriage for these older women. The second stage focuses on process, analyzing how cultural-level narratives are drawn upon in the creation of the women's personal stories. Based upon these analyses, we discuss the ways that a narrative approach can inform our understanding of later life relationships, and we comment on the potential of narratives such as these to rewrite a script for older

women's relationships.



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## Keywords

Older women; Identity; Relationships; Remarriage; Master narrative; Counter narrative; Narrative processes

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