notable gender differences. Compared with dyads in which
tation is more manifest. Results from OLS regressions reveal
pants were approximately 80 years old and cognitive vari
2004 and the impact of concordance or discordance in these
the dyad's evaluations of their similarity and closeness in
emerging literature examines the impact of marital attributes
relationships and, in contrast, social isolation. Drawing on rich data
trum of social relationships, including both intimate partner
 Abstract citation ID: igad104.0897
SESSION 3105 (SYMPOSIUM)

This symposium considers the cognitive impacts of a spec
frequent sex is informative for health care practitioners who
domains may be maintained through more
This research draws upon the life course perspective to

Traditional life course studies often focus on how one pre-
dictor influences one health outcome that may not be able to
capture the interdependence of two or more health trajec-
tories very well.

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IMPACT OF HUSBAND’S DEMENTIA: INNOVATIVE
METHODS TO STUDY HEALTH PROFILES AND
CO-TRAJECTORIES BETWEEN COUPLES
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Traditional life course studies often focus on how one pre-
dictor influences one health outcome that may not be able to
capture the interdependence of two or more health traject-
tories very well.
Objectives: (1) demonstrate an innovative method to create a 3-dimensional health profile cube that presents physical, mental, and cognitive health and the changing trajectories over time; (2) display how a woman’s health profile may change due to the onset of their male partner’s dementia; and (3) visualize how couple’s co-trajectories of health profiles may vary by their age, race/ethnicity, and household wealth.

Methods: We focus on married and partnered couples, drawing longitudinal data from the Health and Retirement Study (2000-2016; n=3,578). Physical, mental, and cognitive health were respectively measured by functional limitation, depression symptoms (CESD-II), and modified version of the Telephone Interview for Cognitive Status (TICS). We use vector autoregression (VAR) models to analyze these multivariate paths in the same visual representation as the original data.

Results: The approach provides both an analytic framework and a visualization tool that depicts data and model in the same spatial representation to permit assessment of model fit and model comparison. This study advances the traditional life course studies by representing underlying processes as a multidimensional time vector of health outcomes, which better reflect the interdependent co-trajectories of health outcomes and the essence of the life course conceptual framework.

Discussion: This paper provides a blueprint for studying complex health profiles or trajectories.