

Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0165-0327(17)31047-9
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2017.11.010>
Reference: JAD9324

To appear in: *Journal of Affective Disorders*

Received date: 25 May 2017
Revised date: 20 September 2017
Accepted date: 4 November 2017

Cite this article as: Lena Eckholdt, Lynn Watson and Maja O'Connor, Prolonged grief reactions after old age spousal loss and centrality of the loss in post loss identity, *Journal of Affective Disorders*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2017.11.010>

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Prolonged grief reactions after old age spousal loss and centrality of the loss in post loss identity

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Abstract

Background

The loss of a spouse is a major life event. Previous research found that centrality of the loss to one's identity using Centrality of Event Scale (CES) is related to complicated bereavement reactions, such as depression, posttraumatic stress symptoms (PTS), and prolonged grief symptoms (PGS). This study aims to examine loss-centrality in elderly bereaved people up to 4 years post loss, to determine the relation of loss-centrality to complicated bereavement reactions, such as PGS, depression, and PTS, and to identify early predictors of loss-centrality.

Method

Self-reported data were collected from 208 elderly bereaved people (mean age 72 years, 63.9% women), who completed measures of psychological distress

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