


## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Toward an integrative framework of intergenerational coparenting within family systems: A scoping review

Xue Bai<sup>1,2</sup>  | Mengtong Chen<sup>3</sup> | Ranran He<sup>4</sup> | Tongling Xu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Active Ageing (Research Centre for Gerontology and Family Studies), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong

<sup>3</sup>Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong

<sup>4</sup>Department of Sociology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, 47907, USA

## Correspondence

Xue Bai, Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong.  
Email: [xuebai@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:xuebai@polyu.edu.hk)

## Funding information

Lee Kum Kee Family Foundation; Research Matching Grant Scheme by the University Grant Council of the Hong Kong SAR Government

## Abstract

Intergenerational coparenting has become increasingly prevalent globally. Based on 42 papers identified from a comprehensive search of published studies in five databases, this scoping review identified five major themes related to intergenerational coparenting: power and authority, division of labor, conflict, coping and adaptation, and reciprocity. Guided by family systems theory and an intersectionality perspective, we developed an integrative intergenerational coparenting framework that covers five key themes, illustrates their interrelationships, and links them to influential factors at the individual, familial, sociocultural, and policy levels. This framework can guide future studies on intergenerational coparenting and inform the development of interventions for effectively addressing pragmatic needs of joint childcare, preventing conflict in intergenerational and coparenting relationships, devising useful coping and adaptation strategies for obtaining desirable coparenting outcomes, and nurturing cooperation and reciprocity in the process of coparenting to safeguard the well-being and functioning of the entire family system.

## KEYWORDS

coparenting, grandparenting, intergenerational relationship, parent–grandparent, scoping review

## INTRODUCTION

Intergenerational coparenting, defined as joint caregiving by parents and grandparents, has become increasingly prevalent globally owing to factors such as increasing maternal employment, high costs of childcare services, parental migration, single parenthood, teenage pregnancy, and parental incarceration (Baker et al., 2010; Da, 2003; Goh, 2006; Harper & Ruicheva, 2010; Li & Liu, 2020; Sjöberg & Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist, 2017; Xiao, 2016). Asian societies, such as

This is an open access article under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

© 2022 The Authors. *Journal of Family Theory & Review* published by Wiley Periodicals LLC on behalf of National Council for Family Relations.

China, have a long tradition of intergenerational care transfer, and grandparents are commonly involved in childrearing (Chen et al., 2011). As of 2014, 66.47% of Chinese grandparents were involved in caring for their grandchildren (China Research Center on Aging, 2014, as cited in Xia, 2020). In Western societies, which hold individualistic values, grandparents have not traditionally been involved in caring for grandchildren; however, this is gradually changing. In 2018, approximately 1.1 million grandparents in the United States aged  $\geq 60$  years had childrearing responsibilities for one or more coresidential grandchildren aged  $< 18$  years (Administration on Aging, 2021). In Europe, 47% of grandchildren reported that their grandparents were involved in their care (Žilinčíková & Kreidl, 2018). Despite this global trend of grandparents' increased involvement in childcare, studies on coparenting have generally focused on joint childcare by two spouses and overlooked the role of grandparents and intergenerational coparenting (Shorey & Ng, 2022). Therefore, this study attempted to construct an integrative framework of intergenerational coparenting based on a scoping review of existing global evidence guided by family systems theory and an intersectionality perspective.

## Theoretical perspectives guiding the scoping review

Family systems theory suggests that the family should be regarded as a system consisting of interdependent subsystems, such as marital, parental, and sibling subsystems (Cox & Paley, 2003). Families have the ability to adapt to new circumstances and change as required for the system's sustainability (Anderson & Sabatelli, 2011; Cox & Paley, 2003). The need for adult children and older parents to adapt to new caregiving roles affects both generations individually as well as interactions between generations. In addition, the hierarchy and boundaries within the family system can influence parental authority and the process of intergenerational coparenting (Arnold et al., 2011). Within the subsystem of older parents and adult children, differences in roles as caregivers and attitudes toward childrearing may trigger changes in the intergenerational relationship. Intergenerational relationships may further influence the well-being of family members and the ability of the family system to cope with or adapt to challenges (Bai, 2018; Bai, Guo, & Fu, 2018; Bai, Liu, et al., 2018; Derlan et al., 2018).

Consistent with family systems theory, empirical evidence indicates that grandparental care can meet the instrumental and developmental needs of grandchildren (Pong & Chen, 2010; Schrijner & Smits, 2018), enable parents' participation in the labor market and pursuit of career advancement (Aassve et al., 2012), improve grandparents' health, well-being, and a sense of worth (Arpino et al., 2018; Xu et al., 2017), and strengthen family bonds and functioning (Chen & Lewis, 2015; Noriega et al., 2017; Xiao, 2016). However, grandparents who have negative childrearing experiences, such as those who are overburdened with caregiving responsibilities and experience frequent conflict with coparenting allies, are vulnerable to physical decline and poor psychological well-being (Goodman et al., 2008; Muller & Litwin, 2011; Xu et al., 2017). Strained coparenting relationships may lead to behavioral issues among children (Li & Liu, 2019) and parents' feelings of incompetence at performing their roles (Greenfield, 2011). Previous review studies have focused more on antecedents or impacts of intergenerational coparenting than on processes and dynamics. Investigations of intergenerational coparenting from comparative perspectives in a global context are lacking.

Intersectionality theory provides an additional lens for deepening the understanding of intergenerational coparenting. Intersectionality captures how individuals' multiple social identities, such as race, gender, class, are embedded within cultural and structural contexts that privilege or oppress some individuals over others (Collins, 2019; Crenshaw, 1991; Curtis et al., 2020; Dolbin-MacNab & Few-Demo, 2018; Lai & Bai, 2016). When applied to grandparenting, intersectionality theory explains how grandparents' race, gender, class, immigration, or ability may intersect to cultivate different sources of resilience and risk and interact with sociostructural

systems of privilege and oppression to shape grandparents' experiences and well-being (Dolbin-MacNab & Few-Demo, 2018; Greenwood, 2008). For instance, an old, poor, unhealthy, immigrant Latina grandmother may find that she has to negotiate ageism, classism, racism, and sexism simultaneously. As Dolbin-MacNab and Few-Demo (2018) suggested, dominant discourses on reasons for older adults' involvement in grandparenting and their family context, such as parental employment, substance abuse, and death from terminal illness, may intersect with other social identities, such as race, class, and marital status, which may result in some grandparents' disempowerment.

Crenshaw (1991) identified three types of intersectionality: representational, structural, and political. Representational intersectionality focuses on how cultural constructions, through creating certain images of specific groups in mass media, shape our views toward these groups and influence the creation of related laws and policies, which may further lead to stereotypes and oppression (Crenshaw, 1991; Few-Demo, 2014). Structural intersectionality refers to the connections of systems and structures in society and how those systems influence individuals and groups (Few-Demo, 2014). Political intersectionality emphasizes the importance of examining variation within and across groups and investigates how a specific minority group is situated within two or more subordinated groups and how this minority group may experience discrimination and difficulties owing to conflicting political agendas related to their social identities (Dolbin-MacNab & Few-Demo, 2018).

To comprehensively understand the diversity in intergenerational coparenting, it is crucial to acknowledge that the experience of intergenerational coparenting is influenced by individual, familial, and sociocultural factors. For instance, intergenerational coparenting in Asian families is mostly driven by a strong sense of familism, whereas grandparents in Western families are more likely to participate in a coparenting arrangement to accommodate the specific needs of an individual family member or in response to parent's temporary role crises (Baker et al., 2010; Derlan et al., 2018; McHale et al., 2013; Moffatt et al., 2019; Xie & Xia, 2011). In countries where public childcare services are inadequate and daycare and domestic helper costs are high, grandparents are more likely to be viewed as optimal and trustworthy individuals to take on caregiving responsibilities (Aassve et al., 2012; Bordone et al., 2017; Goh, 2006). Previous studies have mainly focused on intergenerational coparenting in a single cultural or social context (Hoang & Kirby, 2020), which has limited the discussion of the interaction of multilevel factors shaping the experience of intergenerational coparenting. Based on these two theoretical perspectives, we argue that intergenerational coparenting should be understood as part of a multilevel system, embedded in the intersections among factors such as policy, culture, family structure, race, age, gender ideology, socioeconomic status, and immigration status.

## Knowledge gaps and the present study

Previous studies have not utilized the available global evidence to construct an integrative framework for conceptualizing and examining intergenerational coparenting. As intergenerational coparenting has yet to be examined within broader family systems in a global context, the following questions remain unanswered: (a) What is the structure or distribution of power and authority in intergenerational joint care coalitions? (b) How is labor divided between parents and grandparents in joint childrearing? (c) What are the common coparenting challenges encountered by parents and grandparents, and how do they cope with those challenges? (d) How do parents and grandparents cooperate and reciprocate as coparents to safeguard the well-being and functioning of the whole family? (e) How do multilevel factors independently and jointly shape the experience of intergenerational coparenting?

To address these questions, this study adopted a scoping review approach, which is useful for determining the scope of extant research and current analytical dimensions for emergent

and broad topics that have not been adequately conceptualized and analyzed (Munn et al., 2018; Pham et al., 2014). This study adopted family systems and intersectionality theories to (a) map key concepts, characteristics, and dynamics underpinning the multifaceted process of intergenerational coordination in childcare, and (b) synthesize the available global research evidence to develop an integrative framework that articulates the essence and complexities of intergenerational coparenting. This framework provides a strong conceptual and analytical basis for future research, assessment, and service development.

## METHODS

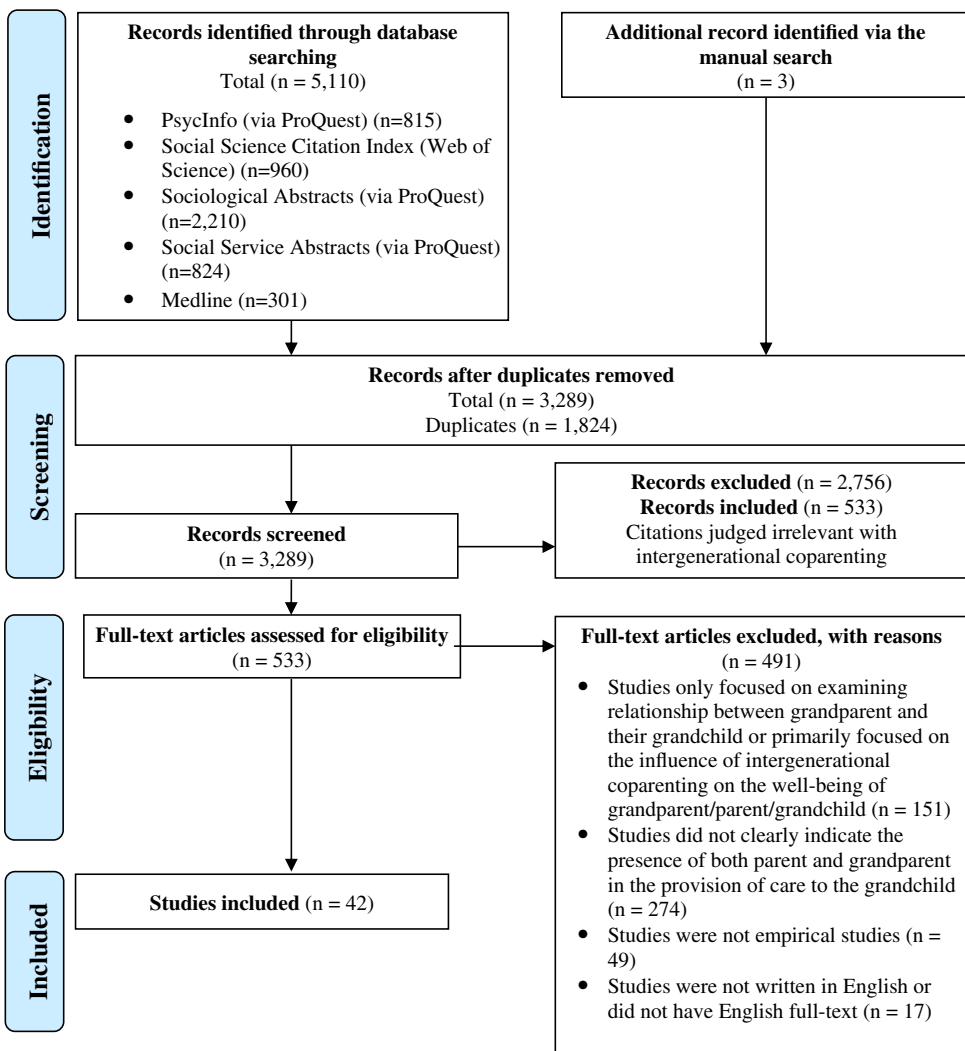
### Search strategy

The study adopted a systematic and transparent literature search strategy to ensure the review's credibility and comprehensiveness (Peters et al., 2015). A review protocol was developed based on the PRISMA checklist (Moher et al., 2009) before the literature search was performed. Subsequently, the research team discussed and decided on search terms, databases, and inclusion and exclusion criteria. To ensure high quality and appropriate scope of the literature search, a pilot search was conducted using the selected databases. The search terms were revised after the pilot search, and the review protocol was finalized. The specific time span for this study (2000–2021) was selected for the following reasons. First, the year 2000 marks the inception of modern research into coparenting dynamics (McHale et al., 2004; Mchale & Lindahl, 2011), making it an appropriate starting point. Second, in 2000, the United States Census introduced the question of whether coresident grandparents were caregivers of their grandchildren (Sadrudin et al., 2019). Third, the past two decades marked an industrial shift toward globalization, which resulted in more dual-income households and migrant families (i.e., where parents and children are physically separated in different countries or cities) in many countries, urging grandparents into the role of caregivers (Stevenson et al., 2007).

In November 2021, we conducted a systematic search of five comprehensive databases in the areas of social science and biomedicine: PsyInfo (via ProQuest), the Social Science Citation Index, Sociological Abstracts (via ProQuest), Social Service Abstracts (via ProQuest), and Medline (via EbscoHost). The following search term combinations were used: (co-parenting OR coparenting OR childrearing) AND (grandmother\* OR grandfather\* OR grandparent\* OR three-generation OR multigenerational), (parent-grandparent OR grandparent-parent) AND ([co-parenting OR coparenting], grandparenting, grandfathering, and grandmothering). Peer-reviewed articles published between January 2000 and November 2021 were searched. In addition, because some relevant studies may be differently indexed in different electronic databases, a manual search was performed through reference harvesting and forward citation searching, which yielded three additional studies.

### Screening eligibility and study selection

Figure 1 illustrates the study selection process using the PRISMA flow diagram. EndNote X9 was used to manage references and select studies. The initial search returned 5113 articles, and 1824 duplicates were removed. After screening the abstracts of the remaining 3289 citations, we excluded 2756 irrelevant studies and included a final sample of 533 studies for full-text assessment. Furthermore, we applied inclusion and exclusion criteria to full-text screening. Empirical studies published in English were included if they investigated coparenting dynamics and interpersonal relationship between parents and grandparents jointly involved in childrearing. We excluded studies if they exclusively focused on the relationship between grandparents and their



**FIGURE 1** Literature search based on the PRISMA flow diagram [Color figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jftr.12478)]

grandchild or did not clearly indicate the presence of parents as well as grandparents in childcare provision. After the exclusion of 491 studies, 42 were included in our review. The screening process was separately performed by two research assistants who cross-checked each other's selection results to ensure consistency and accuracy.

## Data analysis

Data analysis involved three steps: data extraction, quality assessment, and data synthesis. First, relevant information was extracted from the included studies and entered into an extraction table (Appendix A), which contained (a) references; (b) sample characteristics, namely the target population, country or region, and sample size; (c) type of coparenting alliance; (d) methodology; (e) measurement; and (f) related findings. Second, the methodological quality

of the selected studies was evaluated using the mixed-methods appraisal tool (MMAT), which has been adopted to evaluate the quality of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods studies for systematic reviews (Hong et al., 2018). The MMAT was used to assess sample selection, appropriateness of measurements, and data analysis of quantitative studies and relevance, adequacy, and coherence of data of qualitative studies.

Second, prior to formal data analysis, 10 studies were selected and independently reviewed by all research team members. A meeting was held to discuss discrepancies and questions that emerged during the first two stages of data analysis, and a consensus was reached on the principles of data extraction and quality evaluation. All papers were subsequently divided into three groups, and each group of papers was independently analyzed by two reviewers. The interrater reliability was examined by calculating the intraclass correlation coefficients, and a high degree of reliability was identified in all the three groups (0.938, 0.886, and 0.873).

Third, a thematic analysis was performed to synthesize the findings of all the studies (Pope et al., 2006). Each paper was repeatedly read by more than one reviewer, and the major concepts and key findings were highlighted and coded. Themes and subthemes were generated. Cross-case analysis was performed to compare the findings of several studies that examined similar themes or subthemes, and data synthesis was conducted by identifying differences and similarities between these findings. At the descriptive level, the prevalence of grandparents' involvement in intergenerational coparenting, grandparents' profile, and types of coparenting alliances were identified. Other findings were synthesized into several key domains.

## RESULTS

### Characteristics of included studies

The 42 studies were conducted in 14 countries or regions, with the highest numbers in the United States ( $n = 17$ ), China ( $n = 9$ ), and the United Kingdom ( $n = 5$ ), followed by Singapore, Japan, Vietnam, Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, Russia, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand, and Australia. This scope represented diverse geographical locations and socio-cultural contexts. The sampled studies captured diverse family contexts, including low-income ( $n = 2$ ), dual-worker ( $n = 3$ ), transnational migrant ( $n = 11$ ) families, families with children with disabilities ( $n = 2$ ), and families with children of incarcerated ( $n = 3$ ), teenage ( $n = 4$ ), and single ( $n = 1$ ) parents. Study methodologies were mostly qualitative ( $n = 25$ ), followed by quantitative ( $n = 11$ ) and mixed-methods ( $n = 6$ ). Multiple data collection approaches were used; the methodology details are presented in Appendix A.

### Five domains of intergenerational coparenting

This study synthesized the interaction and process of intergenerational coparenting and categorized them in five partly related but individually distinct themes: power and authority, division of labor, conflict, coping and adaptation, and reciprocity. A summary of the themes, subthemes, and corresponding findings is provided in Appendix B.

### Power and authority in intergenerational coparenting

#### *Parent-as-manager alliance*

Among the 18 studies that evaluated the childrearing power structure, the majority ( $n = 13$ ) indicated a parent-as-manager structure, whereas the remaining studies demonstrated a



collaborative or grandparent-led hierarchy. Parents who believe that the grandparenting style is often overly indulgent insist on their own dominance in childrearing (Conn et al., 2013; Goh & Kuczynski, 2010; Sivak, 2018). Correspondingly, grandparents who believe in parental obligation frequently occupy an assistant role in coparenting and adhere to the norms of “being there” and “non-interference” (Breheny et al., 2013; Chen & Lewis, 2015; Moffatt et al., 2019; Nagata et al., 2010; Yang et al., 2018). Such norms indicate that grandparents are concessive and tolerant, believe that parents make the best choices for children (Harman et al., 2021), leave space for parental autonomy (Moffatt et al., 2019; Yang et al., 2018), facilitate parents’ exercise of power (Mason et al., 2007; Xiao, 2016), and maintain harmonious family relationships while preserving their own emotional and physical space (Chiu & Ho, 2020; Yang et al., 2018). Media depictions of the ideal retirement as self-reliance with an enriching life of leisure outside of families and the nuclear family structure in pro-individualism societies, such as the United States, Europe, and Japan, may lead to deficient legal support in recognizing grandparental help, further bolstering this power structure (Breheny et al., 2013; Sjöberg & Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist, 2017; Thang et al., 2011). However, the parent-as-manager alliance may suffer from norms and exhibit inconsistency when grandparents are involved in intensive childcare owing to sociocultural contexts such as a lack of formal daycare services and traditional culture construction of grandparents as major caregiving figures (Leung & Fung, 2014; Sandel et al., 2006; Thang et al., 2011).

#### *Grandparent-led coparenting and equal cooperation*

Grandparents, as a stabilizing force in the family, sometimes voluntarily or involuntarily assume primary childcare responsibilities (Conn et al., 2013; Harper & Ruicheva, 2010). They often possess more resources or are more capable of providing childcare when parents are devoid of childrearing capacity owing to some family crisis. Furthermore, some coparenting alliances feature equal cooperation and participation by grandparents and parents (Conn et al., 2013; McHale et al., 2013). For instance, studies in the United States revealed that an egalitarian alliance can occur when grandparents and parents maintain close and affectionate relationships (McHale et al., 2013). Similarly, the traditional cultural value of filial piety and respect for older individuals, which is emphasized in Chinese immigrant families, creates such alliances (Conn et al., 2013).

#### *Authority in the childrearing decision-making process*

Parents in the parent-as-manager alliance usually have a dominant voice in childrearing decisions. Grandparents are easily marginalized in family discussions on child development owing to their perceived lack of knowledge in formal education and modern nurturing styles (Xiao, 2016). In grandparent-led coparenting alliances, an inconsistency can be observed between the power structure and authority in the childrearing decision-making process. Grandparents who provide primary care often do not have clear legal status, which limits their ability to make decisions (Hayslip et al., 2019). By contrast, under traditional hierarchical grandparenting styles in African and Asian families, grandparents must “teach” their adult children (Bhopal, 1998; Goh, 2013; Leung & Fung, 2014; Sandel et al., 2006). This phenomenon is particularly observed among adolescent parents whose parents insist on educating them regarding childrearing (Perez-Brena et al., 2021) and in ethnic minority or immigrant families where grandparents play a stabilizing role in the family unit in response to racism and labor market migration (Goodman & Silverstein, 2001). In a relatively extreme example, Indian paternal grandparents have the utmost say in childrearing decisions despite not necessarily providing considerable childcare support (Bhopal, 1998).

#### *Power struggles over childrearing*

The power structure of coparenting coalitions, including core coparental units, functional family groups, and “executive family subsystems” in charge of guidance, decision-making, and

upbringing of children (Baker et al., 2010; Goh & Kuczynski, 2010; McHale et al., 2004), is not always fixed and stable but is fluid in everyday interactions (Xiao, 2016). Intergenerational power struggles often occur over childrearing. Caregivers who are dissatisfied with their marginal status or childrearing arrangement may strategically seek to obtain more power while avoiding undermining the coparenting alliance. These power struggles are particularly pronounced between young mothers and their mothers-in-law, as paternal grandmothers are more likely to perceive mothers as family outsiders who challenge their authority, particularly in Chinese households with a patrilineal culture (Sandel et al., 2006; Xiao, 2016). Conversely, young parents may adopt an ageist view of grandparents as caregivers who lack scientific and up-to-date childcare knowledge (Sivak, 2018; Xiao, 2016). Grandparents may refuse to obey the parental rule, criticize the parents in front of grandchildren (Goh & Kuczynski, 2010; Xiao, 2016), form alliances with grandchildren through everyday childcare (Xiao, 2016), or even direct promises of inter vivos gifts without acknowledging the parents (Tezcan, 2021). To address challenges encountered in their leading role within the coparenting alliance, parents may “soften” grandparents by organizing family trips and partially yielding in minor matters (Xiao, 2016), whereas some parents may consider retaking responsibility for childcare duties to “distance” the overinvolved grandparents (Conn et al., 2013; Sivak, 2018).

## Division of labor

### *Division of labor between parents and grandparents*

Grandparents may engage in multiple childcare tasks, ranging from recreational activities to providing intensive instrumental childcare support for parents. When grandparents assist with childcare chores, parents can be relieved of some childrearing responsibilities and focus on educating and disciplining the child and planning for the child's development (Goodman, 2007; Sandel et al., 2006). The division of labor in childcare between parents and grandparents is affected by the intersection among individual characteristics, family relationship and power structure, cultural context, and childcare policies (Goodman & Silverstein, 2006; Wyss & Nedelcu, 2020). For instance, grandparents who are younger (Goodman, 2007), have lower socioeconomic status (Goh, 2009), have more favorable health status (Chen & Lewis, 2015; Nagata et al., 2010), and are living near or with an adult child (Bhopal, 1998; Chen & Lewis, 2015) are more likely to be involved in caring for the grandchild. Family and societal factors, including parents' dual employment, grandchild's disability, a limited access to childcare facilities and services, and government support of grandparental assistance, such as income tax relief for unemployed caregiving grandparents, may intersect with individual characteristics to encourage grandparents' intensive engagement in childcare (Bordone et al., 2017; Thang et al., 2011; Xiao, 2016; Yang et al., 2018).

When parents are unable to care for their children owing to incarceration, substance or alcohol abuse, or being a single or teenage parent, some grandparents may undertake primary childcare responsibilities (Harper & Ruicheva, 2010; Sjöberg & Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist, 2017). Although considered “rescuers” for families, older parents in these families face additional challenges. This is because they are typically unemployed and must perform a variety of caregiving duties for their children and grandchildren while ensuring the financial security of the family (Goodman & Silverstein, 2001; Harper & Ruicheva, 2010; Sandel et al., 2006).

### *Gendered division of labor*

Grandmothers typically undertake more childcare duties than grandfathers, particularly household cleaning and emotional support tasks (Harper & Ruicheva, 2010; Xiao, 2016). Moreover, fathers are less likely than mothers to engage in coparenting coalitions. Even in dual-worker families, fathers tend to regard their role as the “breadwinner” rather than caregiver (Conn



et al., 2013; Xiao & Loke, 2021) and may be excluded from coparenting if mothers doubt their childcare competence (Wang & Schoppe-Sullivan, 2021). Moreover, the gendered division of labor is subject to family contexts. For instance, ethnic minority groups in the United States are more likely to have grandmothers performing major caregiving roles owing to a history of women-initiated shared parenting (Goodman & Silverstein, 2006). Conversely, a family's migrant status may force grandparents to deviate from traditional gender roles and offer any type of assistance they can provide, as childcare needs are more important than gender roles (Chen & Lewis, 2015).

### *Division of labor between paternal and maternal grandparents*

Studies conducted in Europe revealed that maternal grandparents were more involved in intergenerational coparenting as a crucial source of support for mothers (Barnett et al., 2010; Moffatt et al., 2019; Sjöberg & Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist, 2017). Paternal grandparents appeared to be more willing to assist with childrearing in China and India, where patrilineal culture is stronger (Chen et al., 2000). Moreover, nearby residence of paternal grandparents (but not maternal grandparents) decreases mothers' childcare involvement (Chen et al., 2000), indicating the crucial role of paternal grandparents in intergenerational coparenting.

## Conflict

### *Content and sources of conflict*

Conflict, tension, and arguments are ordinary scenarios in coparenting literature. A tug of war between coparenting adults is often described at some length in the context of many childrearing problems, ranging from children's basic needs to their discipline and academic performance. Disagreements regarding division of labor owing to different role perceptions, contrasting childrearing methods, insufficient coordination regarding disciplinary measures, ineffective communication, and potential child manipulation are common conflicts (Goh, 2013; Goh & Kuczynski, 2010; Leung & Fung, 2014; Perez-Brena et al., 2021). Furthermore, sources of conflict are power imbalance and varied authority and responsibility attached to the different roles played by parents and grandparents.

Parenting and grandparenting entail different meanings, duties, and emphases, and parents and grandparents may view each other through cultural narratives molded by ageism, sexism, and other cultural-constructed ideas regarding family and responsibility. Grandparents, particularly grandmothers, are often depicted in ageist and sexist ways as favoring their authority as elders and parents-in-law but having little knowledge of modern childrearing methods. Parents, while gradually gaining childrearing authority, may continue to be oppressed by the idea of respecting the elders and be forced to carefully oppose grandparents' ways of childcare. These scenarios illustrate conflict arising from the intrusion of intergenerational disagreement and the blurring of boundaries between parents and grandparents due to confusion (Goodman, 2007) and overlapping of roles (Conn et al., 2013; Harper & Ruicheva, 2010) generated by the intersection of divergent cultural expectations and ideals of two generations.

### *Conflicting family relations and intergenerational interactions*

The occurrence and severity of conflict are largely affected by interpersonal and intergenerational relationships and interactions. For instance, conflict was least frequently reported by mutually supportive alliances (McHale et al., 2013) and connected families (Goodman, 2007), followed by families led by parents and linked by children (Goodman, 2007). Parents' and grandparents' ability to consistently work as a team, provide reciprocal support, enjoy each other's development, and maintain strong emotional closeness appears to be the key factor influencing prevention and reduction of conflict (Goodman, 2007;

Goodman & Silverstein, 2001; McHale et al., 2013). By contrast, conflict and complaints are more common when the power associated with childcare arrangements and decisions is grasped by only parents or slips from the control of all coparenting adults (Goodman, 2007). Moreover, cultural ideology and family contexts play a role; for instance, shared caregiving is culturally endorsed by African American households, particularly during family crises, whereas Swedish adolescent mothers insist on their maternal identity as “the primary mother” with grandparents who “teach” (Oberlander et al., 2007; Sjöberg & Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist, 2017).

## Coping and adaptation

### *Open communication and negotiation*

Lack of communication is identified as a common concern and challenge for coparenting figures (Huang et al., 2021). Although open communication may be a straightforward approach to resolving conflict, it is ironically a difficult approach to practice (Goh, 2006; Goh & Kuczynski, 2010; Leung & Fung, 2014; Thang et al., 2011; Xiao, 2016). Open communication is often avoided between in-laws but accepted between older parents and their own children (Goh, 2006; Leung & Fung, 2014), as it is considered impolite for the younger generation to talk frankly with their parents-in-law (Goh & Kuczynski, 2010). Moreover, some grandparents hesitate to voice their concerns owing to their perception of in-laws being family outsiders (Thang et al., 2011). Given the difficulty in facilitating open communication, negotiation is commonly adopted. For instance, mothers may educate grandparents to follow modern childrearing methods through negotiation (Sivak, 2018). Negotiation can be mediated by intimate family relationships and is evident in grandparents’ withdrawal of negotiation power to maintain emotional intimacy with other family members (Xiao, 2016).

### *Compromise and avoidance*

Compared with communication and negotiation, submissive coping approaches are relatively prevalent. Compromise indicates that coparenting adults suppress their frustration to prevent conflict and sustain harmonious family relationships (Chen & Lewis, 2015; Sandel et al., 2006; Xie & Xia, 2011). This definition distinguishes compromise from negotiation, in which none of the coparenting adults concedes their childrearing ideas (Sivak, 2018). Although individuals may concede part of their power or authority, compromise is not an entirely submissive manner of coping. Sivak (2018) summarized two types of reactions that resemble a compromise: reformatting and redescription. Parents actively deal with disagreements or interference with a seemingly passive attitude to “reformat” grandparental involvement, thereby preventing over-interference or “redescribe” it to render it acceptable (Sivak, 2018). Other parents may seek support outside the family (Conn et al., 2013), avoid disciplining children in the presence of grandparents, or talk to grandparents in a joking manner (Goh, 2006). In these cases, although parents make compromises owing to grandparents’ interference, they explore other strategies to embrace the differences. Grandparents’ narratives revealed that their compromise usually adheres to the “being there without interfering” norm (Harman et al., 2021). By contrast, avoidance, which may originally evolve from attempts to contain conflict and a hope that the conflict will fade over time, often sharpens contradictions (Goh & Kuczynski, 2010).

### *Adapting to normative transitions and unexpected incidents*

Despite daily childrearing problems, coparenting alliances develop capacity to cope with predictable family transitions and irregular critical events in the long run (Walsh, 2012). Normative transitions, such as a newborn’s arrival or grandparental involvement in an immigrant family, prompt the whole family to reconsider its role distribution, thus forcing individuals to adapt to

the changing environment and reconfigure their roles to shoulder childcare responsibilities (Chiu & Ho, 2020; Dolbin-MacNab et al., 2021; Xiao & Loke, 2021; Xie & Xia, 2011).

Furthermore, adaptation is a continual coping process. Yang et al. (2018) reported that grandparents made multiple adaptations for their grandchildren with disabilities. For instance, they adapted to offer practical, financial, and emotional support to their adult children and grandchildren and accommodate the children's needs to maintain family traditions (Yang et al., 2018). Moreover, they focused on maintaining physical and emotional health to prepare for providing long-term support. Grandparents' incremental efforts revealed how families adapted to and thrived on disruptive events (Yang et al., 2018).

Multiple underlying issues, such as immigrant status, visa and residence laws, and gender, produce variances among families in their adaptation process. For instance, non-European Union (EU) immigrant grandparents in Switzerland are subject to a troublesome visa application process and limited duration of stay requirements; consequently, they are unable to provide the same level of support for childcare as their EU counterparts (Wyss & Nedelcu, 2020). As assumed family caregivers, female caregivers (including mothers and grandmothers) in these dual-earner immigrant families frequently have to undertake employment compromises to fulfill their childrearing responsibilities (Wyss & Nedelcu, 2020).

## Reciprocity in grandparent–parent joint childrearing

### *Intergenerational cooperation in childrearing*

Intergenerational coparenting alliances are inherently composed of reciprocal relationships, in which parents and grandparents support each other to achieve parenting goals (Goodman, 2007; McHale et al., 2013). Familism is considered fundamental to ensuring a collaborative parent–grandparent relationship in Asian and Western contexts (Low & Goh, 2015; Thang et al., 2011; Zeiders et al., 2015). The discourse of positive coparenting experiences often describes childrearing as an ultimate family goal, which justifies the constant investment, sacrifices, and compromises required (Chen & Lewis, 2015; Low & Goh, 2015). In particular, sacrificing for the family is excessively emphasized in Chinese families, as ensuring continuation of the family line and benefiting descendants are regarded as vital in Chinese culture (Conn et al., 2013; Da, 2003; Low & Goh, 2015; Xie & Xia, 2011).

### *Support exchange*

The bilateral exchange of support is embodied in the forms of perceived and expected rewards as a component of later life care. Grandparents can be symbolically rewarded with close family connections (Xie & Xia, 2011) and grandchildren's appreciation, love, and respect (Chiu & Ho, 2020; Da, 2003). For transnational families, coparenting provides a valuable opportunity for reunification (Chiu & Ho, 2020; Xie & Xia, 2011). Regarding the concept of "care circulation" (Chiu & Ho, 2020), grandparents' participation in childcare may hint at a "paying forward" strategy with the expectation of returned care from adult children (Low & Goh, 2015; Sandel et al., 2006) and grandchildren (Tezcan, 2021).

As a form of repayment, most parents feel obligated to provide instrumental support, such as healthcare and financial support, through remittances to ensure the well-being of caregiving grandparents in later life, especially if they are in a disadvantaged economic situation and have limited access to formal care and services (Chiu & Ho, 2020; Da, 2003; Xiao, 2016). For instance, the lack of recognitive justice for immigrant caregiving grandparents and their inferior socioeconomic situation in receiving societies contribute to higher commitment from parents in providing elder care in return (Chiu & Ho, 2020; Da, 2003).

### *Benefits for family well-being*

Multidimensional planning and preparation for later life is crucial for older adults and their families (Liu et al., 2022). According to the role enhancement theory, positive and collaborative coparenting experiences provide grandparents with pride, satisfaction, and a sense of family belonging (Moffatt et al., 2019; Thang et al., 2011). Moreover, broader sociocultural contexts, such as emphasis on familism and supportive welfare policy, intersect to benefit grandparents' well-being (Goodman & Silverstein, 2006; Low & Goh, 2015; Zeiders et al., 2015).

By contrast, negative coparenting experiences, such as frequent intergenerational conflict, role ambiguity, and emotional isolation, are associated with higher levels of distress (Leung & Fung, 2014) and mental health problems (Goodman, 2007). When grandparents are suddenly thrust into substantial caregiving roles, they may find that difficulties of childcare outweigh the reward, which increases their risk of experiencing significant stress and health-related costs (Baker et al., 2010; Goodman & Silverstein, 2002). This is typically owing to the multiple intersecting obstacles they may confront, including family crises, a lack of institutional support in welfare or legal custody, and economic deprivation (Baker et al., 2010; Goodman & Silverstein, 2002).

From the perspective of parents, grandparental contributions to childrearing improve their financial stability and security (Xie & Xia, 2011) and facilitate social status maintenance (Goh, 2006), as the parents can then devote more time to professional development (Wyss & Nedelcu, 2020). Moreover, grandparents' guidance on childrearing decreases parental stress (Goh, 2006; Sandel et al., 2006), whereas grandparents' over-involvement may induce frustration and anxiety for parents, particularly adolescents mothers under dominant individualist social discourse (Bhopal, 1998; Goh & Kuczynski, 2010; Sjöberg & Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist, 2017). High-quality intergenerational coparenting reduces the frequency of children's problematic behaviors (Baker et al., 2010) and increases their social competence (Li & Liu, 2019).

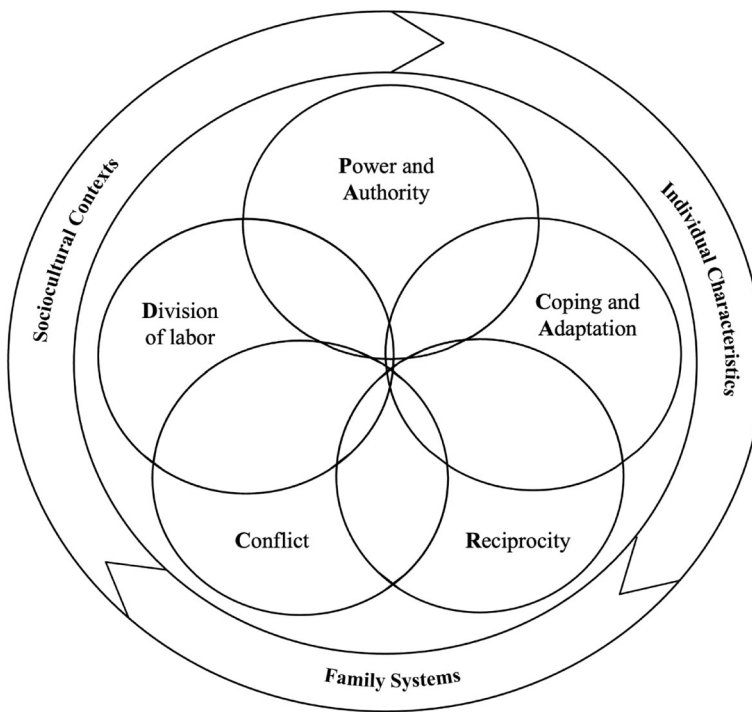
## DISCUSSION

With reference to family systems theory and an intersectionality perspective, this scoping review clearly mapped the key concepts, characteristics, and dynamics underpinning the multifaceted process of intergenerational coordination in childcare. By synthesizing the available global research evidence and referencing to the model of coparenting components proposed by Feinberg (2003), we developed an integrative framework that articulates the essence and complexities of intergenerational coparenting.

### **Five key domains of intergenerational coparenting framework**

Our intergenerational coparenting framework (Figure 2) comprises five key domains: power and authority, division of labor, conflict, coping and adaptation, and reciprocity. The framework outlines the common aspects of coparenting that can be observed in any coparenting form and distinguishes the features of parent-grandparent coparenting, including complicated interpersonal and intergenerational relationships and diverse coparenting arrangements.

The five domains of coparenting are interrelated; hence, a difficulty in one domain may be solved by or contribute to difficulties in other domains. For instance, changes in the family system may lead to a power struggle within the family, which may in turn create conflict regarding established strategies and rules (Conn et al., 2013; Goh, 2013). In addition, struggles related to power and authority and the new power structure may further affect the division of labor in coparenting (Moffatt et al., 2019; Nagata et al., 2010; Yang et al., 2018). An imbalance in the division of labor may trigger conflict, which is characterized by a coparenting individual's right to assign privileges and responsibilities concerning childcare (Conn et al., 2013; Goh, 2013; Goodman, 2007; Harper & Ruicheva, 2010). In the face of conflict, coparenting adults devise



**FIGURE 2** Conceptual model of intergenerational Coparenting

coping measures to deal with difficulties and adapt to changes to achieve a better fit within the family's present circumstances (Goh, 2006; Leung & Fung, 2014; Sivak, 2018; Xiao, 2016). Intergenerational coparenting is a reciprocal process, in which coparenting adults coordinate to preserve the function and well-being of the family, thus leading to modified power and authority structures.

### Incorporating intersectionality into the intergenerational coparenting framework

Intersectionality theory (Crenshaw, 1991; Few-Demo, 2014) provides a valuable framework for improving the understanding of grandfamilies and the family system in general (Dolbin-MacNab & Few-Demo, 2018; Few-Demo & Allen, 2020). Previous studies have examined how the intersection of grandparents' social identities intersect results in inequality and differential experiences of grandparenting (Dolbin-MacNab & Few-Demo, 2018; Greenwood, 2008). Based on global research and Crenshaw's (1991) intersectionality framework, this systematic review further extended the intersectional analysis to intergenerational and family levels, contributing to deepening the understanding of how the characteristics of multiple stakeholders, including that of grandparents, parents, and grandchildren, and multilevel factors, including individual, familial, and sociocultural, independently and jointly shape the diverse experiences of intergenerational coparenting.

### Representational intersectionality

Intergenerational coparenting can be subject to family- and individual-level cultural constructions that may result in power struggles over childrearing, gendered division of labor, and



conflicting family relations. At the family level, as the primacy of traditional nuclear family structure is emphasized in the Western culture, nuclear family discourse excludes grandparents from intensive engagement in childrearing issues, and intergenerational coparenting is often linked to adult children's inability to care for children and a lack of socioeconomic resources. In families with cultural traditions of multigenerational households, power struggles between parents and grandparents are not uncommon owing to rising emphasis on scientific parenting.

At the individual level, intergenerational coparenting is shaped by gender, age, socioeconomic status, and race. The division of labor in intergenerational coparenting is highly gendered, as mothers and grandmothers typically undertake more childcare duties than their counterparts (Barnett et al., 2010; Harper & Ruicheva, 2010; Xiao, 2016). Grandparents can be viewed as too old and having limited knowledge of modern nurturing styles, which devalue their caregiving roles. Caregivers with greater socioeconomic resources typically have a stronger voice in the family (Dolbin-MacNab et al., 2021; Sjöberg & Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist, 2017). African American, Latino, and Asian families with grandparental involvement are often portrayed as primary caregivers owing to cultural expectation as well as family adversities or immigration.

## Structural and political intersectionality

Intergenerational coparenting to some extent reflects the oppression of grandfamilies within social systems, such as family, immigration, and international laws. Intergenerational coparenting is regarded as a pragmatic solution to the lack of daycare facilities and formal, affordable childcare services. For transnational families, the intersection of legal considerations, such as migration, eldercare, and welfare, with family members' citizenships and migration statuses affects the feasibility, duration, and reciprocity of intergenerational coparenting (Chiu & Ho, 2020; Wyss & Nedelcu, 2020). Some families experience significant changes owing to the intersection of race, gender, socioeconomic status, and social systems. For instance, although gender role conflict has been reported among male caregivers (e.g., Bai, 2018; Bai, Guo, & Fu, 2018; Bai, Liu, et al., 2018), a family's migrant status may force grandparents to deviate from traditional gender roles and offer any type of assistance that they can provide, as childcare needs are considered more important than gender roles (Chen & Lewis, 2015).

Notably, some grandparents cannot benefit from advocacy and legal efforts despite the important role they play in childcare. Baker et al. (2008) reported that several grandparents raising grandchildren in the United States do not have legal custody of their grandchildren, leaving them to obtain resources and financial support outside the welfare system.

Acknowledging the crucial roles of individual, familial, and sociocultural characteristics and their intersection in shaping the diverse experiences of intergenerational coparenting, this intergenerational coparenting framework contains several multilevel factors in its outer circle (Figure 2). The circle illustrates the intersectionality and influence circulation across individual, familial, and sociocultural characteristics. Thus, this framework advances the understanding of grandparental involvement and parent-grandparent interaction within family systems and can facilitate welfare development and policymaking for improving individual well-being and interpersonal relationships within families that practice intergenerational coparenting.

## IMPLICATIONS

### Implications for future research

This scoping review identified how future studies on intergenerational joint care practices can benefit from using this integrative framework. Our intergenerational coparenting framework



can assist researchers in exploring the mechanisms through which various individual and contextual factors affect coparenting. For instance, the framework embraces intersectionality as an analytical lens, emphasizing the diversity of coparenting arrangements and experiences, which vary by age, gender, health statuses of coparents and children, and family and sociocultural contexts. Moreover, the framework may direct researchers to probe parent-grandparent coparenting within family systems, facilitating a deeper understanding of the difficulties encountered by individuals and how personal experiences, family circumstances, and sociocultural contexts complicate the coparenting process.

This review has some limitations, which largely reflect the limitations of the literature reviewed and should be addressed in future studies. First, the research on intergenerational coparenting has mainly used qualitative or cross-sectional quantitative methods; evidence from longitudinal studies that tracked the changing dynamics of intergenerational coparenting, family functioning, and well-being is limited. Second, we aimed to analyze the influences of various sociocultural and policy factors through cross-national comparison of coparenting practices. However, we were unable to perform a direct comparison due to methodological differences among studies and lack of relevant information. Therefore, further studies employing a longitudinal design and utilizing comparative perspectives are required.

## Implications for practice

Although the studies included in this scoping review revealed geographical variations, we believe that our intergenerational coparenting framework is generalizable and can be appropriately adapted to people with intersecting identities. The proposed framework can assist family social workers, family life educators, family therapists, family gerontologists, and other family professionals in understanding the processes of and challenges encountered in intergenerational coparenting as well as major contributing factors. Our framework disassembles a complex phenomenon, which involves intricate interpersonal relationships and overlapping individual duties, into several dimensions, enabling family life educators and therapists to recognize family process dynamics in terms of distinctive parent-grandparent interaction patterns and enabling other professionals to utilize them to guide clinical and interventional practices with a better understanding of cultural and institutional effects.

We believe that our intergenerational coparenting framework can help effectively address problems in coparenting relationships from a perspective that engages both generations. An effective coparenting intervention should include multiple components that aim to reach a consensus between generations over power, authority, and division of labor to resolve conflict, facilitate coping and adaptation, and build a reciprocal relationship. An effective coparenting intervention may not necessarily solve problems in only one domain but may also be helpful in reducing risk factors in other domains. For instance, intergenerational conflict may result from power struggles within the family and negatively affect the relationship between the two generations. To achieve a reciprocal relationship, interventions could aim to improve communication in the process of allocating caregiving tasks and resolve conflict and tensions in the intergenerational interactions. Open communication and effective negotiation can be crucial to efficient collaboration and reducing intergenerational contradictions (Xiao, 2016).

Moreover, family professionals would benefit from incorporating the voices of parents and grandparents with intersecting characteristics into their intervention and advocacy efforts (Dolbin-MacNab & Few-Demo, 2018). For instance, in families with teenage mothers, multi-family group interventions involving mothers and grandmothers exerted a positive effect on younger mothers' self-efficacy and parent-child bonds and reduced intergenerational family

conflict (McDonald et al., 2009). Fostering a supportive relationship between African American low-income mothers and grandmothers and proposing an appropriate division of labor in caregiving enabled young mothers to practice their parenting skills and gradually increase their parenting competence (Oberlander et al., 2007).

Furthermore, family professionals should not dismiss older parents' continuing filial expectations, especially in more familistic cultural settings. It is crucial to consider the various cultural interpretations of intergenerational coparenting when proposing the notion of a reciprocal relationship between generations. When designing support services and programs for older individuals, the role of older adults in childrearing should be considered; simultaneously, their children and grandchildren should be encouraged to be engaged in eldercare preparation and provision (Bai et al., 2020). In addition, this framework indicates major dimensions in which practitioners can intervene for grandparents who shoulder a heavy caregiving burden but have had negative coparenting experiences.

## CONCLUSION

By synthesizing the available global research evidence under the guidance of family systems theory and the intersectionality theory, this study developed an integrative framework of intergenerational coparenting comprising five distinct and interrelated domains: power and authority, division of labor, conflict, coping and adaptation, and reciprocity. This framework provides a lens through which scholars can examine the processes and experiences of interaction between parents and grandparents in childrearing and how intersecting characteristics, such as race, gender ideology, socioeconomic status, immigration status, family structure, culture, and policy, affect the experiences and practices of joint childcare. This newly developed integrative framework is a promising tool that can guide future studies on intergenerational coparenting and inform the development of interventions for effectively addressing pragmatic needs for joint childcare, preventing conflict in intergenerational and coparenting relationships, devising useful coping and adaptation strategies for obtaining desirable coparenting outcomes, and nurturing cooperation and reciprocity in the process of coparenting to safeguard the well-being and functioning of the family system.

## FUNDING INFORMATION

This study was supported by Lee Kum Kee Family Foundation and the Research Matching Grant Scheme by the University Grant Council of the Hong Kong SAR Government.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Authors have no conflict of interest to report.

## ORCID

Xue Bai  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0502-7291>

## REFERENCES

- Aassve, A., Arpino, B., & Goisis, A. (2012). Grandparenting and mothers' labour force participation: A comparative analysis using the generations and gender survey. *Demographic Research*, 27, 53–83. <https://doi.org/10.4054/DemRes.2>
- Administration on Aging. (2021). *2020 Profile of older Americans*. <https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/Aging%20and%20Disability%20in%20America/2020ProfileOlderAmericans.Final.pdf>
- Anderson, S., & Sabatelli, R. M. (2011). *Family interaction: A multigenerational developmental perspective* (5th ed.). Pearson Allyn & Bacon.
- Arnold, A., Lewis, J., Maximovich, A., Ickovics, J., & Kershaw, T. (2011). Antecedents and consequences of caregiving structure on young mothers and their infants. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 15(7), 1037–1045. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10995-010-0650-3>

- Arpino, B., Bordone, V., & Balbo, N. (2018). Grandparenting, education and subjective well-being of older Europeans. *European Journal of Ageing*, 15(3), 251–263. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10433-018-0467-2>
- Bai, X. (2018). Development and validation of a multidimensional intergenerational relationship quality scale for aging Chinese parents. *The Gerontologist*, 58(6), e338–e348. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnx156>
- Bai, X., Guo, Y., & Fu, Y. Y. (2018). Self-image and intergenerational relationships as correlates of life satisfaction in Chinese older adults: Will gender make a difference? *Ageing & Society*, 38(7), 1502–1519. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X17000113>
- Bai, X., Lai, D. W. L., & Liu, C. (2020). Personal care expectations: Photovoices of Chinese ageing adults in Hong Kong. *Health & Social Care in the Community*, 28(3), 1071–1081. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hsc.12940>
- Bai, X., Liu, C., Baladon, L., & Rubio-Valera, M. (2018). Multidimensional determinants of the caregiving burden among Chinese male caregivers of older family members in Hong Kong. *Ageing & Mental Health*, 22(8), 980–989. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2017.1330872>
- Baker, J., McHale, J., Strozier, A., & Cecil, D. (2010). Mother-grandmother coparenting relationships in families with incarcerated mothers: A pilot investigation. *Family Process*, 49(2), 165–184. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1545-5300.2010.01316.x>
- Baker, L. A., Silverstein, M., & Putney, N. M. (2008). Grandparents raising grandchildren in the United States: Changing family forms, stagnant social policies. *Journal of Societal & Social Policy*, 7, 53–69.
- Barnett, M. A., Mills-Koonce, W. R., Gustafsson, H., & Cox, M. (2012). Mother-grandmother conflict, negative parenting, and young children's social development in multigenerational families. *Family Relations*, 61(5), 864–877. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3729.2012.00731.x>
- Barnett, M. A., Scaramella, L. V., Neppl, T. K., Ontai, L., & Conger, R. D. (2010). Intergenerational relationship quality, gender, and grandparent involvement. *Family Relations*, 59(1), 28–44. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3729.2009.00584.x>
- Bhopal, K. (1998). South Asian women in East London: Motherhood and social support. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 21(5), 485–492. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0277-5395\(98\)00067-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0277-5395(98)00067-3)
- Bordone, V., Arpino, B., & Aassve, A. (2017). Patterns of grandparental child care across Europe: The role of the policy context and working mothers' need. *Ageing and Society*, 37(4), 845–873. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X1600009X>
- Breheny, M., Stephens, C., & Spilsbury, L. (2013). Involvement without interference: How grandparents negotiate intergenerational expectations in relationships with grandchildren. *Journal of Family Studies*, 19(2), 174–184. <https://doi.org/10.5172/jfs.2013.19.2.174>
- Chen, F., Liu, G., & Mair, C. A. (2011). Intergenerational ties in context: Grandparents caring for grandchildren in China. *Social Forces*, 90(2), 571–594. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/sor012>
- Chen, F., Short, S. E., & Entwistle, B. (2000). The impact of grandparental proximity on maternal childcare in China. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 19(6), 571–590. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1010618302144>
- Chen, H.-M., & Lewis, D. C. (2015). Chinese grandparents' involvement in their adult children's parenting practices in the United States. *Contemporary Family Therapy: An International Journal*, 37(1), 58–71. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10591-014-9321-7>
- Chiu, T. Y., & Ho, E. L. (2020). Transnational care circulations, changing intergenerational relations and the ageing aspirations of Chinese grandparenting migrants in Singapore. *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, 61(3), 423–437. <https://doi.org/10.1111/apv.12292>
- Collins, P. H. (2019). *Intersectionality as critical social theory*. Duke University Press.
- Conn, B. M., Marks, A. K., & Coyne, L. (2013). A three-generation study of Chinese immigrant extended family child caregiving experiences in the preschool years. *Research in Human Development*, 10(4), 308–331. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15427609.2013.846047>
- Cox, M. J., & Paley, B. (2003). Understanding families as systems. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 12(5), 193–196. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8721.01259>
- Crenshaw, K. (1991). Mapping the margins: Intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of color. *Stanford Law Review*, 43(6), 1241–1299. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1229039>
- Curtis M. S. M. G., Ellis, É. M., Ann, S., Dai, Y., & Bermúdez, J. M. (2020). Intersectionality within family sciences and family therapy journals from 2010 to 2020. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 12(4), 510–528. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12399>
- Da, W. W. (2003). Transnational grandparenting: Childcare arrangements among migrants from the People's Republic of China to Australia. *Journal of International Migration and Integration/Revue de l'integration et de La Migration Internationale*, 4(1), 79–103. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-003-1020-4>
- Derlan, C. L., Umaña-Taylor, A. J., Updegraff, K. A., & Jahromi, L. B. (2018). Mother-grandmother and mother-father coparenting across time among Mexican-origin adolescent mothers and their families. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 80(2), 349–366. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.12462>
- Dolbin-MacNab, M. L., & Few-Demo, A. L. (2018). Grandfamilies in the United States: An intersectional analysis. In *Grandparenting practices around the world* (pp. 189–208). Policy Press.

- Dolbin-MacNab, M. L., Smith, G. C., & Hayslip, B., Jr. (2021). Reunification in custodial grandfamilies: An examination of resilient family processes. *Family Relations*, 70(1), 225–245. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12487>
- Feinberg, M. E. (2003). The internal structure and ecological context of coparenting: A framework for research and intervention. *Parenting*, 3(2), 95–131. [https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327922PAR0302\\_01](https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327922PAR0302_01)
- Few-Demo, A. L. (2014). Intersectionality as the “new” critical approach in feminist family studies: Evolving racial/ethnic feminisms and critical race theories. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 6(2), 169–183. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12039>
- Few-Demo, A. L., & Allen, K. R. (2020). Gender, feminist, and intersectional perspectives on families: A decade in review. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82(1), 326–345. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.12638>
- Goh, E. C. L. (2006). Raising the precious single child in urban China: An intergenerational joint mission between parents and grandparents. *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, 4(3), 7–28. [https://doi.org/10.1300/J194v04n03\\_02](https://doi.org/10.1300/J194v04n03_02)
- Goh, E. C. L. (2009). Grandparents as childcare providers: An in-depth analysis of the case of Xiamen, China. *Journal of Aging Studies*, 23(1), 60–68. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaging.2007.08.001>
- Goh, E. C. L. (2013). “You must finish your dinner,” meal time dynamics between grandparents, parents and grandchildren in urban China. *British Food Journal*, 115(2–3), 365–376. <https://doi.org/10.1108/00070701311314192>
- Goh, E. C. L., & Kuczynski, L. (2010). ‘Only children’ and their coalition of parents: Considering grandparents and parents as joint caregivers in urban Xiamen, China. *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, 13(4), 221–231. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-839X.2010.01314.x>
- Goodman, C. C. (2007). Family dynamics in three-generation grandfamilies. *Journal of Family Issues*, 28(3), 355–379. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X06296672>
- Goodman, C. C., & Silverstein, M. (2001). Grandmothers who parent their grandchildren: An exploratory study of close relations across three generations. *Journal of Family Issues*, 22(5), 557–578. <https://doi.org/10.1177/019251301022005002>
- Goodman, C. C., & Silverstein, M. (2006). Grandmothers raising grandchildren—Ethnic and racial differences in well-being among custodial and coparenting families. *Journal of Family Issues*, 27(11), 1605–1626. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X06291435>
- Goodman, C. C., Tan, P. P., Ernandes, P., & Silverstein, M. (2008). The health of grandmothers raising grandchildren: Does the quality of family relationships matter? *Families, Systems & Health*, 26(4), 417–430. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0013963>
- Goodman, C., & Silverstein, M. (2002). Grandmothers raising grandchildren: Family structure and well-being in culturally diverse families. *The Gerontologist*, 42(5), 676–689. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/42.5.676>
- Greenfield, E. A. (2011). Grandparent involvement and parenting stress among nonmarried mothers of young children. *Social Service Review*, 85(1), 135–157. <https://doi.org/10.1086/658395>
- Greenwood, R. M. (2008). Intersectional political consciousness: Appreciation for intragroup differences and solidarity in diverse groups. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 32(1), 36–47. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-6402.2007.00405.x>
- Harman, V., Cappellini, B., & Webster, M. (2021). Intensive grandmothering? Exploring the changing nature of grandmothering in the context of changes to parenting culture. *Sociology*, 56(1), 38–54. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380385211034983>
- Harper, S., & Ruicheva, I. (2010). Grandmothers as replacement parents and partners: The role of grandmotherhood in single parent families. *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, 8(3), 219–233. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15350770.2010.498779>
- Hayslip, B., Jr., Fruhauf, C. A., & Dolbin-MacNab, M. L. (2019). Grandparents raising grandchildren: What have we learned over the past decade? *The Gerontologist*, 59(3), e152–e163. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnx106>
- Hoang, N. T., Haslam, D., & Sanders, M. (2020). Coparenting conflict and cooperation between parents and grandparents in Vietnamese families: The role of grandparent psychological control and parent–grandparent communication. *Family Process*, 59(3), 1161–1174. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12496>
- Hoang, N.-P. T., & Kirby, J. N. (2020). A meta-ethnography synthesis of joint care practices between parents and grandparents from Asian cultural backgrounds: Benefits and challenges. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 29, 605–619. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-019-01553-y>
- Hong, Q. N., Fàbregues, S., Bartlett, G., Boardman, F., Cargo, M., Dagenais, P., Gagnon, M. P., Griffiths, F., Nicolau, B., O’Cathain, A., Rousseau, M. C., Vedel, I., & Pluye, P. (2018). The mixed methods appraisal tool (MMAT) version 2018 for information professionals and researchers. *Education for Information*, 34(4), 285–291. <https://doi.org/10.3233/EFI-180221>
- Huang, Y., Zhao, Q., Reynolds, N. R., Tang, S., Yan, F., Wang, Y., & Sun, M. (2021). The experience of grandparenting young children. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 65(3), 305–319. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2021.1965687>
- Lai, D. W. L., & Bai, X. (2016). Chapter 15. Social work with diverse older adults. In A. Al-Krenawi, J. R. Graham, & N. Habibov (Eds.), *Diversity in social work in Canada* (pp. 345–372). Oxford University Press.

- Leung, C., & Fung, B. (2014). Non-custodial grandparent caregiving in Chinese families: Implications for family dynamics. *Journal of Children's Services*, 9(4), 307–318. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JCS-04-2014-0026>
- Li, X. W., & Liu, Q. Q. (2020). Parent-grandparent coparenting relationship, marital conflict and parent-child relationship in Chinese parent-grandparent coparenting families. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 109(February 2020), 104733. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2019.104733>
- Li, X., & Liu, Y. (2019). Parent-grandparent coparenting relationship, maternal parenting self-efficacy, and young children's social competence in Chinese urban families. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 28(4), 1145–1153. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-019-01346-3>
- Li, X., Zhou, S., & Guo, Y. (2020). Bidirectional longitudinal relations between parent-grandparent co-parenting relationships and Chinese children's effortful control during early childhood. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11(February 2020), 152. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.00152>
- Liu, C., Bai, X., & Knapp, M. (2022). Multidimensional retirement planning behaviors, retirement confidence, and post-retirement health and well-being among Chinese older adults in Hong Kong. *Applied Research in Quality of Life*, 17(2022), 833–849. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11482-020-09901-7>
- Low, S. S. H., & Goh, E. C. L. (2015). Granny as nanny: Positive outcomes for grandparents providing childcare for dual-income families. Fact or myth? *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, 13(4), 302–319. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15350770.2015.1111003>
- Mason, J., May, V., & Clarke, L. (2007). Ambivalence and the paradoxes of grandparenting. *The Sociological Review*, 55(4), 687–706. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-954X.2007.00748.x>
- McDonald, L., Conrad, T., Fairtlough, A., Fletcher, J., Green, L., Moore, L., & Lepps, B. (2009). An evaluation of a groupwork intervention for teenage mothers and their families. *Child & Family Social Work*, 14(1), 45–57. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2206.2008.00580.x>
- McHale, J. P., & Lindahl, K. M. (2011). Introduction: What is coparenting? In J. P. McHale & K. M. Lindahl (Eds.), *Coparenting: A conceptual and clinical examination of family systems* (pp. 3–12). American Psychological Association.
- McHale, J. P., Kuersten-Hogan, R., & Rao, N. (2004). Growing points for coparenting theory and research. *Journal of Adult Development*, 11(3), 221–234. <https://doi.org/10.1023/B:JADE.0000035629.29960.ed>
- McHale, J. P., Salman, S., Strozier, A., & Cecil, D. K. (2013). Triadic interactions in mother-grandmother coparenting systems following maternal release from jail. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*, 78(3), 57–74. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mono.12021>
- Moffatt, S., Tse Laurence, M., & Pennington, L. (2019). Experiences of grandparenting disabled children in the UK: A qualitative study of intergenerational relationships. *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, 17(1), 58–73. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15350770.2018.1500331>
- Moher, D., Liberati, A., Tetzlaff, J., Altman, D. G., & The PRISMA Group. (2009). Reprint -preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: The PRISMA statement. *Physical Therapy*, 89(9), 873–880. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ptj/89.9.873>
- Muller, Z., & Litwin, H. (2011). Grandparenting and psychological well-being: How important is grandparent role centrality? *European Journal of Ageing*, 8(2), 109–118. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10433-011-0185-5>
- Munn, Z., Peters, M. D. J., Stern, C., Tufanaru, C., McArthur, A., & Aromataris, E. (2018). Systematic review or scoping review? Guidance for authors when choosing between a systematic or scoping review approach. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, 18(1), 143. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12874-018-0611-x>
- Nagata, D. K., Cheng, W. J. Y., & Tsai-Chae, A. H. (2010). Chinese American grandmothering: A qualitative exploration. *Asian American Journal of Psychology*, 1(2), 151–161. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0019963>
- Noriega, C., López, J., Domínguez, R., & Velasco, C. (2017). Perceptions of grandparents who provide auxiliary care: Value transmission and child-rearing practices. *Child & Family Social Work*, 22(3), 1227–1236. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12339>
- Oberlander, S. E., Black, M. M., & Starr, R. H. (2007). African American adolescent mothers and grandmothers: A multigenerational approach to parenting. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 39(1), 37–46. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10464-007-9087-2>
- Perez-Brena, N. J., Toews, M. L., Feinberg, M. E., & Anders, K. M. (2021). Adapting a coparenting-focused prevention program for Latinx adolescent parents in a school context. *Family Process*, 61(1), 91–107. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12651>
- Peters, M. D. J., Godfrey, C. M., Khalil, H., McInerney, P., Parker, D., & Soares, C. B. (2015). Guidance for conducting systematic scoping reviews. *International Journal of Evidence-Based Healthcare*, 13(3), 141–146. <https://doi.org/10.1097/XEB.0000000000000050>
- Pham, M. T., Rajić, A., Greig, J. D., Sargeant, J. M., Papadopoulos, A., & McEwen, S. A. (2014). A scoping review of scoping reviews: Advancing the approach and enhancing the consistency. *Research Synthesis Methods*, 5(4), 371–385. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1123>
- Pong, S., & Chen, V. W. (2010). Co-resident grandparents and grandchildren's academic performance in Taiwan. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 41(1), 111–129.



- Pope, C., Mays, N., & Popay, J. (2006). How can we synthesize qualitative and quantitative evidence for healthcare policy-makers and managers? *Healthcare Management Forum*, 19(1), 27–31. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0840-4704\(10\)60079-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0840-4704(10)60079-8)
- Sadrudin, A. F. A., Ponguta, L. A., Zonderman, A. L., Wiley, K. S., Grimshaw, A., & Panter-Brick, C. (2019). How do grandparents influence child health and development? A systematic review. *Social Science & Medicine*, 239 (October 2019), 112476. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112476>
- Sandel, T. L., Cho, G. E., Miller, P. J., & Wang, S. (2006). What it means to be a grandmother: A cross-cultural study of Taiwanese and euro-American grandmothers' beliefs. *Journal of Family Communication*, 6(4), 255–278. [https://doi.org/10.1207/s15327698jfc0604\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1207/s15327698jfc0604_2)
- Schrijner, S., & Smits, J. (2018). Grandmothers and children's schooling in sub-Saharan Africa. *Human Nature*, 29(1), 65–89. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12110-017-9306-y>
- Shorey, S., & Ng, E. D. (2022). A social-ecological model of grandparenting experiences: A systematic review. *The Gerontologist*, 62(3), e193–e205. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnaa172>
- Sivak, E. (2018). Managing grandparental involvement in child-rearing in the context of intensive parenting. *Sociological Research Online*, 23(4), 830–846. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1360780418787201>
- Sjöberg, M., & Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist, H. (2017). Who is the mother? Exploring the meaning of grandparental support in young Swedish mothers' narratives. *Feminism & Psychology*, 27(3), 318–335. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0959353516685343>
- Stevenson, M. L., Henderson, T. L., & Baugh, E. (2007). Vital defenses: Social support appraisals of Black grandmothers parenting grandchildren. *Journal of Family Issues*, 28(2), 182–211. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X06293852>
- Tezcan, T. (2021). First-generation circular migrants involved in the upbringing of their grandchildren: The case of Turkish immigrants in Germany. *Ageing and Society*, 41(1), 77–100. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0144686X19000953>
- Thang, L. L., Mehta, K., Usui, T., & Tsuruwaka, M. (2011). Being a good grandparent: Roles and expectations in intergenerational relationships in Japan and Singapore. *Marriage & Family Review*, 47(8), 548–570. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01494929.2011.619303>
- Walsh, F. (2012). Family resilience: Strengths forged through adversity. In F. Walsh (Ed.), *Normal family processes: Growing diversity and complexity* (pp. 399–427). The Guilford Press.
- Wang, J., & Schoppe-Sullivan, S. J. (2021). The roles of mothers' perceptions of grandmothers' gatekeeping and fathers' parenting competence in maternal gatekeeping. *Family Relations*, 70(5), 1435–1448. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12569>
- Wyss, M., & Nedelcu, M. (2020). Grandparents on the move: A multilevel framework analysis to understand diversity in zero-generation care arrangements in Switzerland. *Global Networks*, 20(2), 343–361. <https://doi.org/10.1111/glob.12250>
- Xia, J. (2020). The best interests of the child principle in residence disputes after parental divorce in China. *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family*, 34(2) 105–125. <https://doi.org/10.1093/lawfam/ebaa001>
- Xiao, S. (2016). Intimate power: The intergenerational cooperation and conflicts in childrearing among urban families in contemporary China. *The Journal of Chinese Sociology*, 3(1), 18. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40711-016-0037-y>
- Xiao, X., & Loke, A. Y. (2021). Experiences of intergenerational co-parenting during the postpartum period in modern China: A qualitative exploratory study. *Nursing Inquiry*, 28(3), e12403. <https://doi.org/10.1111/min.12403>
- Xie, X., & Xia, Y. (2011). Grandparenting in Chinese immigrant families. *Marriage & Family Review*, 47(6), 383–396. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01494929.2011.594218>
- Xu, L., Tang, F., Li, L. W., & Dong, X. Q. (2017). Grandparent caregiving and psychological well-being among Chinese American older adults-the roles of caregiving burden and pressure. *Journals of Gerontology Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*, 72(S1), S56–S62. <https://doi.org/10.1093/gerona/glw186>
- Yang, X. Y., Artman-Meeker, K., & Roberts, C. A. (2018). Grandparents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Navigating roles and relationships. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 56(5), 354–373. <https://doi.org/10.1352/1934-9556-56.5.354>
- Zeiders, K. H., Umaña-Taylor, A. J., Jahromi, L. B., & Updegraff, K. A. (2015). Grandmothers' familism values, adolescent mothers' parenting efficacy, and children's well-being. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 29(4), 624–634. <https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0000103>
- Žilincíková, Z., & Kreidl, M. (2018). Grandparenting after divorce: Variations across countries. *Advances in Life Course Research*, 38(December 2018), 61–71. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.alcr.2>

**How to cite this article:** Bai, X., Chen, M., He, R., & Xu, T. (2023). Toward an integrative framework of intergenerational coparenting within family systems: A scoping review. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 15(1), 78–117. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12478>



APPENDIX A

CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES INCLUDED FOR REVIEW

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Baker et al., 2010	Incarcerated mothers (U.S.) 40 dyads	M-GM	<i>Quantitative:</i> longitudinal; interview; convenience sampling (not specified)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cooperation (warmth/empathy, listening, etc.)</li><li>• conflict (dismissing, disparagement, etc.)</li></ul>	Higher quality of joint childcare prevents behavioral problems among children and contributes to positive coparenting experiences
Barnett et al., 2012	Low income and single-mother families (U.S.) 85 families	M-GM	<i>Quantitative:</i> cross-sectional; filmed interactions; Questionnaire; convenience sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• verbal conflict</li><li>• parenting behaviors</li><li>• mothers'/grandmothers' depression</li><li>• child behaviors</li></ul>	Conflict in mother-grandmother relationship increases the risk of problem behaviors among children directly and indirectly through mothers' negative parenting behaviors
Barnett et al., 2010	Parent–grandparent relationship during adolescence and adulthood (U.S.) 181 3–4-year-old grandchildren	P-GP	<i>Quantitative:</i> longitudinal; survey; home- visit; convenience sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• past adolescent/current adult parent-grandparent relationship quality (warmth/support)</li><li>• level of grandparent involvement</li><li>• contact frequency</li></ul>	There is a positive association between grandparents' involvement with grandchildren and relationship quality between parents and grandparents

(Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Bhopal, 1998	South Asian mothers (UK) 30 mothers	M-GM	Qualitative: in-depth interview; convenience sampling	/	Although paternal grandmothers often have the utmost power and may interfere with parents' childrearing authority, maternal grandmothers only provide childcare assistance if they live nearby
Breheny et al., 2013	Grandparents' experiences (New Zealand) 29 grandparents	P-GP	Qualitative: semi-structured interview; convenience sampling	/	Grandparents are guided by the norm of "being there" and "not interfering" when interacting with grandchildren
Chen & Lewis, 2015	Chinese immigrants (U.S.) 9 multigenerational families	P-GP	Qualitative: ethnography; semi-structured interview; observations; convenience sampling	/	Grandparents are involved in parenting practices in several ways. Grandparents of these Chinese immigrant families tend not to interfere with parents' childrearing authority and attempt to adapt to new things and learn to interact with younger parents

(Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Chiu & Ho, 2020	Chinese migrants (Singapore) 41 PRC grandparenting migrants	P-GP	<i>Qualitative:</i> ethnography; interview; convenience sampling	/	Older Chinese adults are willing to travel to provide care to their descendants abroad. They often minimize their expectations of support exchange
Conn et al., 2013	Low-income Chinese immigrant (U.S.) 17 immigrant parents	P-GP	<i>Mixed methods:</i> cross-sectional questionnaire; semi-structured interview; convenience sampling (not specified)	/	Positive and negative coparenting experiences mostly evolve from (in) consistency of parenting styles, (lack of) perceived supportiveness, and level of communication
Da, 2003	Recent Chinese migrants (Australia) 28 families	P-GP	<i>Qualitative:</i> interview; participant observation; convenience sampling	/	Grandparents provide childcare assistance to enable mothers to work. Grandparenting in these families also reflects grandparents' commitment to family and children's filial piety
Derlan et al., 2018	Mexican-origin adolescent mothers (U.S.) 178 mothers	M-GM	<i>Quantitative:</i> longitudinal; interview survey; convenience sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• frequency of conflict</li> <li>• frequency of communication</li> </ul>	The frequency of conflict is associated with the frequency of communication in

(Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
					both mother–father and mother–grandmother dyads. Frequent mother–father conflict is predictive of frequent mother–grandmother conflict in coparenting
Dolbin-MacNab et al., 2021	Reunification in custodial grandfamilies (U.S.) 17 grandmothers	P-GM	<i>Qualitative:</i> in-depth interview; convenience sampling	/	Grandmothers play a significant role in supporting and monitoring the reunification of grandchildren and their parents. They adjust to the transitions in different ways in accordance with grandchildren’s needs and parents’ capabilities
Goh, 2006	White collar parents (China) 10 grandparents and 20 parents	P-GP	<i>Qualitative:</i> focus group; in-depth interview; convenience sampling (not specified)		Parents usually take a secondary caregiving role in childrearing to grandparents. Intergenerational tensions may arise from different childrearing attitudes and lead to contradictions
(Continues)					

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Goh, 2013	Coparenting in three-generational families and nuclear families (China) 33 grandparents and parents from multigenerational families and 20 parents from 10 nuclear families	P-GP	<i>Mixed methods:</i> cross-sectional; survey; in-depth interview; convenience sampling	/	and double message scenarios. Living in a multigenerational family may improve the children's social skills  Grandparents and parents may accord different importance to how children finish their meals, and tensions may arise from attitude differences. Children may take advantage of parent–grandparent incoordination
Goh & Kuczynski, 2010	Single-child families (China) 1627 households for survey and 4 families for participant observation and in-depth interview	P-GP	<i>Mixed methods:</i> cross-sectional-survey; ethnography; convenience sampling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>parent-grandparent collaboration (grandparents' provision of childcare, role division, past/anticipated future duration of grandparent care, etc.)</li> </ul>	Different childrearing methods and inconsistent disciplinary measures may lead to conflict in intergenerational coparenting. Difficulty in open communication is observed
Goodman, 2007	Three-generation grand-families (U.S.) 376 grandmothers	P-GM	<i>Mixed methods:</i> cross-sectional-survey; open-ended interview; convenience sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>grandmothers' satisfactions/dissatisfactions toward grandmother–grandchild/</li> </ul>	Different intergenerational relationship patterns (based on emotional closeness or distance) are  (Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Goodman & Silverstein, 2001	Caregiving grandmothers (U.S.)  149 grandmothers/great-grandmothers	P-GM	<i>Quantitative:</i> cross-sectional; questionnaire survey; convenience sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>grandchild–parent relationship</li><li>grandmothers’ physical/psychological well-being (depression/positive well-being)</li><li>children’s behaviors</li><li>grandmothers’ emotional closeness with eldest grandchild, each parent, and eldest grandchild and one of the parents with most contact</li><li>grandmothers’ psychological well-being (life satisfaction, affect)</li></ul>	<p>present in multigenerational families. Members of disconnected families generally have poor well-being</p> <p>The relationship patterns regarding emotional closeness between grandparents and parents, their parenting hierarchy, roles, and observed support and competition differ across types of multigenerational families. Child manipulation is evident in grandchild-linked families.</p> <p>Grandmothers who play a linking role have greater life satisfaction</p>
Harman et al., 2021	Intensive parenting (UK)  21 grandmothers and 2 grandfathers	P-GP	<i>Qualitative:</i> Semi-structured photo-elicitation interview; convenience sampling	/	Grandmothers provide a range of practical and personal care to grandchildren and act as
					(Continues)



References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Harper & Ruicheva, 2010	Single parent families (UK) 861 lone mothers for the survey and 32 families for interview	M-GM	<i>Mixed methods:</i> cross-sectional-survey; semi-structured interview; convenience sampling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• contact patterns</li><li>• care provision</li></ul>	protectors, educators, and playmates. While grandmothers may not necessarily agree with their children's decisions and sometimes are not fond of their roles, most of them eventually find ways to go along with it  Grandmothers who serve as replacement partners provide emotional support to single mothers and their children; while grandmothers who act as replacement parents help single mothers to fulfill parenting roles
Hoang et al., 2020	Vietnamese families (Vietnam) 501 parents	P-GP	<i>Quantitative:</i> cross-sectional; online survey; convenience sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• coparenting conflict/cooperation</li><li>• quality of communication</li><li>• parents' parental adjustment (depression, anxiety, stress)</li></ul>	Grandparents' psychological control and quality of communication between parents and grandparents may influence coparenting experiences (e.g.,  (Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Huang et al., 2021	Urban Chinese families (China) 11 grandparents	P-GP	Qualitative: cross-sectional; semi-structured in-depth interview; purposive sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>child adjustment (conduct /emotional problems, etc.)</li></ul> /	Parents and grandparents may have different views on children's needs, with parents emphasizing discipline and education, and grandparents caring more about children's basic needs. Lack of intergenerational communication seems to be a major coparenting challenge for grandparents
Leung & Fung, 2014	Non-custodial grandparent caregiving (HKSAR)  21 grandparents and 9 mothers	P(M)-GP	Qualitative: open-ended interview; convenience sampling	/	Caregiving is enjoyable but stressful for grandparents. Parents and grandparents may perceive grandparental roles differently, which may generate intergenerational conflict. Parents and grandparents cope with conflict using various

(Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Li & Liu, 2019	Urban families (China) 317 mothers in Wave 1 and 179 for Wave 2	M-GP	<i>Quantitative:</i> longitudinal; questionnaire survey; random sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mothers' coparenting relationship with grandparents (coparenting agreement/closeness/ exposure of child to conflict, support, endorsement, etc.)</li> <li>mothers' parenting self-efficacy</li> <li>children's social competence</li> </ul>	<p>strategies (e.g., direct talk, remaining silent but showing unpleasant feelings)</p> <p>Higher relationship quality between grandparents and parents and mothers' higher parenting self-efficacy are associated with children's greater social competence</p>
Li & Liu, 2020	Urban families (China) 317 families	P-GP	<i>Quantitative:</i> cross-sectional; questionnaire survey; convenience sampling (not specified)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>parents' coparenting relationship with grandparents (coparenting agreement/closeness/ exposure of child to conflict, support, endorsement, etc.)</li> <li>the frequency of parents' marital conflict</li> <li>child-parent relationship (closeness, conflict, dependence)</li> </ul>	<p>The association between mother-grandparent coparenting relationship and parent-child relationship is mediated by parents' marital conflict</p>
Li et al., 2020	Coparenting families with preschool children	P-GP	<i>Quantitative:</i> longitudinal; questionnaire survey;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>parents' coparenting relationship with grandparents</li> </ul>	<p>Mother-grandparent coparenting relationship</p>

(Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
	(China) 253 preschool children and their parents		clustered random sampling	(coparenting agreement/closeness/ exposure of child to conflict, support, endorsement, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• children's effortful control</li><li>• mothers' parenting self-efficacy</li></ul>	influences father– grandparent coparenting relationship. Dissimilarity between mother– grandparent and father–grandparent coparenting relationships negatively predict children's effortful control
Low & Goh, 2015	Dual-income families (Singapore) 5 grandparents	P-GM	<i>Qualitative:</i> semi-structured interview; convenience sampling	/	Grandmothers' provision of care is in part derived from their attempt to “pay forward” for future filial care and their desire to maintain quality relationships with their adult children and grandchildren
Mason et al., 2007	Grandparents' perspectives toward coparenting (UK) 23 grandfathers and 38 grandmothers	<sup>a</sup>	<i>Qualitative:</i> structured interview; convenience sampling	/	The norms of “not interfering” and “being there” are emphasized by grandparents
McHale et al., 2013	Incarcerated mothers (U.S.) 13 families	M-GM	<i>Mixed methods:</i> cross-sectional; videotaped interaction; interview;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• supportive/ antagonistic/ disconnected interparental behaviors</li></ul>	Caregiving adults in mutually supportive and led/cooperative alliances can achieve agreement (Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
			convenience sampling (not specified)	(cooperation, competition, verbal sparring, warmth, etc.)	or coordinate in disagreement. Undesirable coparenting alliances are often characterized by disconnect between the grandmother or the grandchild, ineffective coordination, and/or problematic coparenting behaviors
Moffatt et al., 2019	Children with disabilities (UK) 9 grandparents	P-GP	<i>Qualitative:</i> semi-structured interviews; convenience sampling	/	Grandparents provide various types of support to grandchildren with disabilities. They attempt to seek a balance between “being there” and “not interfering.”
Nagata et al., 2010	Chinese immigrants (U.S.) 17 grandmothers	P-GM	<i>Qualitative:</i> in-depth interview; convenience sampling	/	Chinese American immigrant grandmothers advocate “non- interfering” in the raising of grandchildren. Their main difficulties with grandparenting abroad are feelings of isolation, a lack
(Continues)					

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Perez-Brena et al., 2021	Latinx adolescent parents (U.S.) 32 Latinx adolescent parents	P-GP	<i>Qualitative:</i> focus group; convenience sampling	/	of mobility, and a lack of attention toward their needs. In addition, they are dissatisfied with their diminished power to discipline grandchildren compared with the previous generation
					Adolescent mothers report various sources of coparenting support, with maternal grandmothers, adolescent fathers, and paternal grandparents being among the top three. Types of support include financial, emotional, and practical childcare assistance. Grandparents attempt to teach adolescents about responsibility. Both adolescent parents and grandparents report difficulty in communication
					(Continues)



References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Sandel et al., 2006	Cross-cultural study of coparenting (Taiwan/U.S.) mothers and grandmothers of 16 children at each site	M-GM	<i>Qualitative:</i> ethnography; interview; convenience sampling	/	Euro-American grandmothers see themselves as their grandchildren's playmates, whereas Taiwanese grandmothers emphasize their role as disciplinarians. In accordance with their role perceptions, constant advice giving is problematic for Euro-American grandmothers, whereas Taiwanese grandmothers give suggestions without reservation
Sivak, 2018	Intensive parenting (Russia) 50 mothers of preschoolers	M-GP	<i>Qualitative:</i> interview; convenience sampling	/	Mothers may deem grandparents' childrearing practices and beliefs as harmful and feel anxious about their involvement in the context of parental determinism and expert-oriented parenting culture. Thus, mothers may apply various strategies to
					(Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Sjöberg & Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist, 2017	Young mothers aged 13–25 (Sweden) 17 mothers	M-GP	Qualitative: interviews; convenience sampling	/	manage grandparents' involvement  Young mothers' maternal identity is influenced by their perceptions toward grandparental support
Tezcan, 2021	Turkish immigrants (Germany) 40 first-generation circular migrant grandparents	P-GP	Qualitative: semi-structured and life story interview; convenience sampling	/	In families with members who circularly migrate between Turkey and Germany, childcare assistance is characterized by intergenerational conflict resulting from divergent aspirations for the upbringing of grandchildren
Thang et al., 2011	Asian families (Japan/Singapore) 3 generations of 15 Singaporean families and 11 Japanese families	P-GP	Qualitative: in-depth interview; convenience sampling	/	Both Japanese and Singaporean grandparents adhere to the norm of non-interference and attempt to be friends to their grandchildren to sustain family harmony. However, the unclear boundary sometimes leads to

(Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Wang & Schoppe-Sullivan, 2021	Mothers from dual-earner and heterosexual couples (U.S.) 172 mothers	P-GM	<i>Quantitative:</i> longitudinal; questionnaire survey; convenience sampling (not specified)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mothers' perceptions of grandmothers' gatekeeping (respect and criticism)</li><li>• Mothers' perceptions of fathers' parenting competence</li><li>• Maternal gate-opening and closing behaviors</li></ul>	intergenerational tensions  Mothers encourage more involvement from fathers in child-related work when they perceive that maternal mothers engage in gate-keeping behaviors. However, this case happens only when fathers are competent
Wyss & Nedelcu, 2020	Zero-generation care (Switzerland) 34 adult migrants and 22 grandparents	P-GP	<i>Qualitative:</i> semi-structured interview; convenience sampling (not specified)	/	Zero-generation mobile grandparents' childcare tasks and frequency of involvement are shaped by multiple policy, familial, and individual factors
Xiao & Loke, 2021	Intergenerational coparenting during postpartum period (China) 16 families	P-GM	<i>Qualitative:</i> semi-structured interview; convenience sampling	/	Many fathers and grandmothers consider childbearing and childrearing as women's prescribed role, and grandmothers are expected to help with childcare. There are intergenerational

(Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Xiao, 2016	Urban families (China) 13 families (15 parents and 8 grandparents)	P-GP	Qualitative: in-depth interview; participant observation; convenience sampling (not specified)	/	differences regarding how to care for children appropriately  There is a changing coparenting pattern, in which young mothers hold decision-making power and childcare responsibilities, whereas the role and power of grandparents is marginalized
Xie & Xia, 2011	Chinese immigrants (U.S.) 29 grandparents	P-GP	Qualitative: semi-structured interviews; participant observation-convenience sampling.	/	Grandparents are often willing to sacrifice themselves for the benefits of the family and often make compromise on parenting practices. Many immigrant grandparents have to make significant adjustments to adapt to new living environment and changing in-law relationship
Yang et al., 2018	Children with disabilities (U.S.) 9 grandparents	P-GP	Qualitative:	/	Grandparents perceive their primary role as offering practical  (Continues)

References	Sample characteristics	Coparenting alliance	Methodology	Measurement of related variables	Related findings
Zeiders et al., 2015	Mexican-origin adolescent mothers (U.S.) 180 families	M-GM	semi-structured interview; photo elicitation method; convenience sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>grandmothers' supportive behaviors (giving helpful information, etc.)</li><li>grandmothers' frequency of communication</li><li>mothers' parenting efficacy</li><li>children's social competence/academic functioning</li></ul>	and financial support to their adult children and grandchildren. They make efforts in navigating intergenerational differences and passing on family traditions  Childrearing support and grandmother-adolescent mother communication after the childbirth can be predicted by grandmothers' familism value. Grandmother's parenting support is predictive of adolescent mothers' parenting efficacy, but only when high levels of autonomy are granted within this dyad. Parenting efficacy leads to children's greater social competence and better academic functioning

Abbreviations: GM, grandmother; GP, grandparents; M, mother; P, parents.

<sup>a</sup> Only grandparents were interviewed, and there were no particular coparenting alliances.

# APPENDIX B

## SUMMARY OF THEMES AND SUBTHEMES OF INCLUDED STUDIES

Themes/subthemes	Summary of findings	References
<b>Power and authority in intergenerational coparenting</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent-as-manager alliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a prevalence of parents-as-manager parenting, in which grandparents adhere to norms of “being there” and “non-interference.”</li> </ul>	Breheny et al. (2013), Dolbin-MacNab et al. (2021), Goh (2006), Goh and Kuczynski (2010), Goodman (2007), Goodman and Silverstein (2001), Harman et al. (2021), Leung and Fung (2014), Mason et al. (2007), McHale et al. (2013), Moffatt et al. (2019), Nagata et al. (2010), Sandel et al. (2006), Sivak (2018), Sjöberg and Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist (2017), Thang et al. (2011), Wang and Schoppe-Sullivan (2021), Xiao (2016), Xie and Xia (2011) and Yang et al. (2018)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grandparent-led coparenting and equal cooperation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some grandparents occasionally assume the primary childcare responsibility or share caregiving responsibilities with parents</li> </ul>	Conn et al. (2013), Harper and Ruicheva (2010), McHale et al. (2013), Perez-Brena et al. (2021) and Sjöberg and Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist (2017)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authority in the childrearing decision-making process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The authority in the childrearing decision-making process may vary in different sociocultural situations</li> </ul>	Bhopal (1998), Chen and Lewis (2015), Conn et al. (2013), Goh (2013), Harman et al. (2021), Perez-Brena et al. (2021), Sandel et al. (2006), Xiao (2016) and Yang et al. (2018)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power struggles over childrearing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents and grandparents are constantly involved in power struggles for childrearing authority</li> </ul>	Conn et al. (2013), Goodman and Silverstein (2001), Harper and Ruicheva (2010), Sandel et al. (2006), Sivak (2018) and Xiao (2016)
<b>Division of labor</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division of labor between parents and grandparents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patterns of division of labor between parents and grandparents depend on individual characteristics and family contexts</li> </ul>	Chen and Lewis (2015), Chiu and Ho (2020), Da (2003), Goh (2006), Goh (2009), Goodman (2007), Harman et al. (2021), Harper and Ruicheva (2010), Huang et al. (2021), Leung and Fung (2014), Moffatt et al. (2019), Sandel et al. (2006), Thang et al. (2011), Wyss and Nedelcu (2020), Xiao (2016), Xie and Xia (2011) and Yang et al. (2018)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gendered division of labor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women take the lead in most childrearing task compared with men</li> </ul>	Conn et al. (2013), Da (2003), Harper and Ruicheva (2010), Wang and Schoppe-Sullivan (2021), Xiao (2016) and Xiao and Loke (2021)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division of labor between paternal and maternal grandparents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The levels of involvement of maternal and paternal grandparents in childrearing is influenced by cultural context</li> </ul>	Bhopal (1998) and Chen et al. (2000)

(Continues)



Themes/subthemes	Summary of findings	References
Conflict		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content and sources of conflicts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflicts usually happen due to different childrearing methods, inconsistent disciplinary measures, and divergent role perceptions. Blurred boundaries between parents and grandparents are the source of conflicts</li> </ul>	Conn et al. (2013), Goh (2006), Goh (2013), Goh and Kuczynski (2010), Harman et al. (2021), Harper and Ruicheva (2010), Hoang et al. (2020), Huang et al. (2021), Leung and Fung (2014), Perez-Brena et al. (2021), Sivak (2018), Tezcan (2021), Thang et al. (2011) and Xiao and Loke (2021)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflicting family relations and intergenerational interactions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family relationships differentiate conflict frequency and ability to resolve conflict</li> </ul>	Baker et al. (2010), Barnett et al. (2012), Barnett et al. (2010), Derlan et al. (2018), Goh (2006), Goh (2013), Goh and Kuczynski (2010), Goodman (2007), Goodman and Silverstein (2001), Li and Liu (2019), Li and Liu (2020), Li et al. (2020), McHale et al. (2013), Sivak (2018) and Tezcan (2021)
Coping and adaptation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open communication and negotiation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open communication is potentially an effective approach to reconcile conflict; however, it is difficult to practice in many families</li> </ul>	Chen and Lewis (2015), Conn et al. (2013), Derlan et al. (2018), Goh (2006), Goh and Kuczynski (2010), Goodman (2007), Huang et al. (2021), Leung and Fung (2014), Perez-Brena et al. (2021), Sandel et al. (2006), Sivak (2018), Thang et al. (2011), Xiao (2016), Xiao and Loke (2021), Yang et al. (2018)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compromise and avoidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compromise and avoidance are frequently applied in coping with disagreements. While these submissive approaches may temporarily avoid conflict, they may escalate intergenerational contradiction in the long run</li> </ul>	Chen and Lewis (2015), Conn et al. (2013), Goh and Kuczynski (2010), Leung and Fung (2014), Harman et al. (2021), Sandel et al. (2006), Sivak (2018) and Xiao and Loke (2021)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapting to normative transitions and unexpected incidents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intergenerational coparenting is a continuous and dynamic process, and families must constantly adapt to new transitions of each family members</li> </ul>	Chen and Lewis (2015), Chiu and Ho (2020), Dolbin-MacNab et al. (2021), Wang and Schoppe-Sullivan (2021), Xiao and Loke (2021), Xie and Xia (2011) and Yang et al. (2018)
Reciprocity in grandparent-parent joint childrearing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intergenerational cooperation in childrearing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intergenerational coparenting alliances are built on the basis of mutual support between parents and grandparents to</li> </ul>	Baker et al. (2010), Barnett et al. (2012), Chen and Lewis (2015), Conn et al. (2013), Goodman (2007), Hoang et al. (2020), Li et al. (2020), Low and Goh (2015), McHale et al. (2013), Xiao and Loke (2021) and Zeiders et al. (2015)

(Continues)

Themes/subthemes	Summary of findings	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support exchange</li> <li>• Benefits for family well-being</li> </ul>	<p>achieve childrearing goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents rely on grandparents for assistance, and grandparents may expect filial care in return from their offspring</li> <li>• Well-functioning coparenting coalitions benefit individuals and the whole family system</li> </ul>	<p>Chiu and Ho (2020), Da (2003), Low and Goh (2015), Nagata et al. (2010), Tezcan (2021) and Xie and Xia (2011)</p> <p>Baker et al. (2010), Barnett et al. (2012), Goh (2006), Goodman (2007), Goodman and Silverstein (2001), Harper and Ruicheva (2010), Hoang et al. (2020), Leung and Fung (2014), Li and Liu (2019), Li et al. (2020), Wyss and Nedelcu (2020) and Zeiders et al. (2015)</p>
Intersectionality in shaping intergenerational coparenting		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representational intersectionality</li> <li>• Structural and political intersectionality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural constructions shape views on caregiving parents and grandparents and may further lead to stereotypes and oppression</li> <li>• Systems, structures, and policy in society systems influence coparenting.</li> </ul>	<p>Breheny et al. (2013), Conn et al. (2013) Dolbin-MacNab et al. (2021), Goh (2006), Goodman (2007), Goodman and Silverstein (2001), Leung and Fung (2014), Mason et al. (2007), McHale et al. (2013), Moffatt et al. (2019), Nagata et al. (2010), Sandel et al. (2006), Sivak (2018), Sjöberg and Bertilsdotter-Rosqvist (2017), Thang et al. (2011), Xiao (2016), Xie and Xia (2011) and Yang et al. (2018)</p> <p>Baker et al. (2010), Chen and Lewis (2015), Chiu and Ho (2020), Da (2003) Goodman (2007), Goodman and Silverstein (2001), Harper and Ruicheva (2010), Leung and Fung (2014), Low and Goh (2015), Sandel et al. (2006), Thang et al. (2011), Wyss and Nedelcu (2020) and Yang et al. (2018)</p>