

behaviors again if the older target confronted the action rather than the bystander. This demonstrates the challenge that older adults face; confronting results in a negative impression of them but may be more effective in preventing ageist actions in the future.

REDUCING AGEISM: PEACE (POSITIVE EDUCATION ABOUT AGING AND CONTACT EXPERIENCES) MODEL

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Drawing on interdisciplinary theorizing and research, the PEACE (Positive Education about Aging and Contact Experiences) model points to two interrelated factors that reduce ageism: providing education about aging and positive intergenerational contact experiences with older adults (Levy 2016). Evidence supporting the model will be discussed including a semester-long pre-posttest intervention with undergraduates (non-gerontology course) who learned about aging and had face-to-face and Instagram contact with older adults (Lytle, Nowacek, & Levy, 2020), brief online pre-post test experimental-control group studies with undergraduates and a community sample who learned about aging and positive intergenerational contact experiences (Lytle & Levy, 2017), and an online experimental-control group study with undergraduates who viewed brief videos addressing PEACE model components (Lytle, Macdonald, Apriceno, & Levy, under review). Across studies, PEACE model interventions promoted increased aging knowledge as well as reduced negative stereotyping of older adults, aging anxiety, and concerns about aging. Future directions will be discussed.

SESSION 5875 (SYMPOSIUM)

BREAKING THE SILENCE ASSOCIATED WITH DEATH AND DYING: NEW DIRECTIONS IN END-OF-LIFE RESEARCH

Chair: Sara Stemen

Discussant: Peter Lichtenberg

Conversations surrounding end-of-life care and bereavement continue to remain relatively silenced within gerontology and the general population. The purpose of this symposium is to break the silence associated with death, dying, and bereavement by sharing emerging perspectives and interventions related to end-of-life experiences. This symposium features four presentations that examine bereavement and end-of-life care from the viewpoints of individuals, families, practitioners, and researchers. Carr provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of research regarding death, dying, and bereavement - mapping out how current technological and demographic shifts have changed the nature of end-of-life experiences. Stemen presents an illustrative case study that examines how cause of death (e.g., chronic illness, suicide) shapes grief and subsequent social relationships for surviving individuals. Utz explores conversations that occur between families and professionals embedded within the hospice system, showcasing reactions from families who experienced live discharge from

hospice services. Last, Ogle sheds light on the roles taken on by state tested nursing assistants (STNAs) in end-of-life care as well as the training and education they receive and need on end-of-life issues. Lichtenberg, our discussant, will tie these emerging perspectives together in order to initiate an important dialogue with attendees regarding the actions needed to break the silence associated with death and dying so that we can better serve individuals, families, and professionals.

EXPLORING CAUSE OF DEATH IN SOCIAL CONVOY MEMBERSHIP: THE CASE OF PAULINE

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People receive support from a fluid convoy of individuals. Historically, convoy membership has been limited to meaningful, living persons. However, research incorporating the continuing bonds model suggests that individuals who have died can also be convoy members as relationships can be preserved through pictures, memories, and after death communication experiences. Building on this idea, this presentation uses a qualitative case study to explore whether (and if so, how) continuing bond relationships are influenced by the way that individuals die. Pauline, a 67 year-old widow, compares the “natural” deaths of her sister and father-in-law to the suicide of her husband. Careful readings of her interview transcript reveal that the unexpected way that her husband died became a salient part of her identity and the way she connects with others. Consequently, this case study provides insights for researchers who may consider cause of death as a potential contributing factor to convoy membership.

END OF LIFE: A NEW LIFE COURSE STAGE FOR OLDER ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES?

Deborah Carr, *Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States*

Over the past two centuries, death has transitioned from an unexpected and uncontrollable event to a protracted process that requires individuals and families to make difficult decisions regarding where and under what conditions one will die. This new life course stage, spanning the period from diagnosis to death, provides older adults and their families an opportunity to prepare for difficult medical decisions, yet also may be a time marked by suffering and conflict. In this paper, I provide an overview of the technological, demographic, and legal context of end-of-life in the 21st century, and its implications for the quality of life for dying patients and their families. I underscore that historical shifts have created a context in which the quality of one’s end-of-life experiences and autonomy are stratified by race and socioeconomic status, creating challenges for older adults and their loved ones. I highlight implications for research, policy, and practice.

WORKSHOPS TO TEACH STATE-TESTED NURSING ASSISTANTS ABOUT END-OF-LIFE CARE

Kimberly Ogle, *Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, United States*

Given that almost 25 percent of U.S. deaths occur annually in long-term care facilities (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017), it’s imperative that frontline workers are given training and support they need to deliver good, person-centered care at