

GENE-ENVIRONMENT COVARIANCE AS A MECHANISM OF DECLINES IN OPENNESS IN LATE ADULTHOOD

Christopher Beam,¹ and Emily Sharp,² 1. *Dornsife College of Arts and Letters, Los Angeles, California, United States*, 2. *Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, United States*

We previously demonstrated that openness to experience declines with age and these declines correlate with mortality risk. We posited that decline in openness was related to change in behavior in relation to a change in future time perspective, defined here as dynamic changes in scope of time that influence persons' behavior. This idea, based on Baltes' selection, optimization, and compensation theory of lifespan development, suggests that with foreshortened time horizons individuals adapt their behavior leading to lesser engagement in novel experiences and relationships. The current study examined the genetically informed mechanisms underpinning the relationship between openness and mortality. Using identical and fraternal twins from the Swedish Adoption Twin Study of Aging (SATSA), we examined whether twins further from death nonrandomly select environments that maintain their openness scores while their co-twins nearer to death nonrandomly select environments that contribute to declines in openness. Using a sample of 822 twin pairs, we estimated a genetically-informed longitudinal model that quantified time-varying effects of twins' openness scores at time t-1 on latent nonshared environmental scores at time t. The model generates within-family gene-environment correlation, a statistical coefficient that quantifies the genetic basis for nonrandom exposure to environments. Results suggest significant time-varying correlations between twins' openness scores and their unique environments as well as increasing gene-environment correlation over time. Findings are consistent with the view that environments can support and reinforce maintenance of or declines in openness depending on the length of persons' time horizons.

GENERATIVITY DEVELOPMENT ACROSS ADULTHOOD: A LONGITUDINAL INVESTIGATION

Nicole Nelson, and Cindy Bergeman, *University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, United States*

The developmental trajectory of Generativity, or investment in the next generation, has been theorized about for decades. Although Generativity is widely hypothesized to peak in midlife, and thus, follow a nonlinear change trajectory across adulthood, extant studies have been too limited in scope to formally test this hypothesis. Indeed, most existing studies on Generativity development have been cross-sectional, with the few longitudinal studies either only examining the first half of adulthood or using too few measurement points. The current study, therefore, aimed to address these limitations by investigating Generativity development in the context of an accelerated longitudinal design. Accelerated longitudinal designs capitalize on both cross-sectional and longitudinal data, combining age-heterogeneous individuals' overlapping trajectories to estimate developmental change across the sample's age range. If cohort effects are not present in the estimated trajectory, this trajectory can be interpreted as developmental change. Participants included 876 age-heterogeneous individuals from The Notre Dame Study of Health & Well-being (Mean age = 58.89; SD age = 9.42), a 10-year, longitudinal

study of adult development and aging. Capitalizing on the age-heterogeneity of the sample at Time 1, two-level, multi-level modeling was employed to estimate Generativity development across ages 37 to 96. Results indicate that Generativity follows an age-graded cubic trend, with no apparent cohort effects. Specifically, Generativity peaks in early midlife, declines slightly before stabilizing across ages 47-77, and then declines sharply thereafter. Implications for lifespan developmental research, as well as health and well-being, will be discussed.

IMPACT OF DOING GOOD ON THE AGING SELF: GROWTH AND CHANGE THEMES IN NARRATIVES OF PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Laura Graham,¹ Jeanne Nakamura,² and Noah Ringler,² 1. *University of California, Riverside, Santa Monica, California, United States*, 2. *Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California, United States*

Contemporary theories consider development to be life-long, suggesting a potential for personal growth in older adulthood. Narrative studies have found benefits of having growth themes in older adults' broad life stories, yet there is limited research focusing on the specific experiences in later life that elicit growth. One potential for personal growth during older age is through prosocial behavior, but studies have overlooked how older adults narrate such experiences and the perceived impact the narratives have on the self. We conducted interviews with a sample of 47 older adults engaged in prosocial commitments to examine the types of perceived self-change as well as patterns in high points and low points of the experience. Narrative analyses revealed the majority of participants reported a change in the self, and half of the sample used growth themes to characterize the self-change. Inductive coding of change narratives revealed an emergent category of virtuous change (e.g., transcendence, wisdom, humanity), as well as a variety of other change categories (e.g., competence, cognitive abilities, negative changes). Those who grew narrated high points and low points with more integration than those who did not, displaying a multifaceted, complex understanding of significant episodes through a blend of both positive and negative elements within one story. These findings suggest that an integrated understanding of prosocial experiences may provide an avenue toward personal growth. Implications for research and practice are discussed.

SESSION 2983 (PAPER)

RETIREMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING WHEN RETIRING: FINDINGS FROM A SWEDISH POPULATION-BASED LONGITUDINAL STUDY

Linn Elena Zulka, Isabelle Hansson, Valgeir Thorvaldsson, and Linda B. Hassing, *University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden*

The effects of retirement on cognition are still unclear and empirical evidence is conflicting. Especially for retirement from cognitively demanding jobs, positive as well as negative effects have been reported. Leisure activity engagement has