

(cross-sectional $P < 0.001$, and P for olfaction-by-year interaction < 0.001). For grip and knee extensor strength, similar differences were suggested but didn't reach statistical significance. The overall results were similar by sex and race. In summary, poor olfaction is clearly associated with faster decline in physical functioning in older adults and future studies should investigate its potential health implications.

THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN HEARING AND PHYSICAL FUNCTIONING IN THE ATHEROSCLEROSIS RISK IN COMMUNITIES STUDY

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Hearing loss is highly prevalent among older adults and has deleterious effects on health. However, its association with physical functioning is not well defined. We investigated the cross-sectional association between hearing and physical function in 3,339 community-dwelling participants (mean age: 79 years, 59% women) of the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study (ARIC). Hearing was measured by pure-tone average (dBS) of 4 frequencies [0.5, 1, 2, 4 kHz] and physical function was measured using the short physical performance battery (SPPB), which consisted of 3 performance-based tests (balance, gait speed, and chair stands) each scored ranging from 0-4, resulting in a total possible score of 0-12 (higher scores indicating better physical function). We estimated the association between hearing and physical function using continuous scores for each component of the battery, and the overall SPPB score categorized into high [10-12], intermediate [7-9], and low [≤ 6] using ordinal logistic regression models. The SPPB scores were reversed for an easier interpretation of the odds ratios (OR). The category with better physical functions was the reference group for each model. After adjustment for demographics and comorbidities, poorer hearing (+10 dB in PTA) was associated with worse physical functioning: OR for lower balance score=1.17, 95% CI [1.08, 1.26]; OR for lower gait speed score=1.15, 95% CI [1.06, 1.25]; OR for lower chair stand score=1.07, 95% CI [1.04, 1.11]; and OR for lower overall SPPB category=1.15, 95% CI [1.07, 1.24]. Hearing loss is associated with poorer physical functioning, highlighting the potentially negative impact of hearing loss on mobility at older ages.

SESSION 5000 (SYMPOSIUM)

AGE AS AN OVERLOOKED ELEMENT OF DIVERSITY: APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING INTERGENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Chair: Allyson Graf

Discussant: Amy Knepple Carney

Outside of gerontology, age is an often underappreciated element of diversity. At a time when all generations must

work together to provide inclusive, multi-faceted solutions to today's societal problems, ageist and generational stereotypes are often barriers to meaningful intergenerational exchanges. Age derogation and negative stereotypes have been used to splinter communities, perpetuate misinformation, and trivialize intergenerational conversations. As researchers, educators, and practitioners, we understand why age matters, but our students, community leaders, and employers may not. It is our disciplinary obligation to convince those who ignore, dismiss, or misrepresent age of the importance of this aspect of diversity for navigating any multigenerational setting. In this talk, we provide three approaches to addressing age-related beliefs in the classroom. We begin by exploring the impact of generational stereotypes within minority communities. For the LGBT community, negative stereotypes coupled with rapid social change have led to a growing generational gap. We then shift perspectives to examine the role that lifespan developmental psychology can play in preparing students to enter a diverse multigenerational workforce. Here, we discuss research on age identity and generational identity as distinct and self-enhancing life-span processes, and highlight the developmental barriers that must be navigated in order to foster intergenerational cohesion. Finally, we discuss the findings from *Generation to Generation*, an intergenerational discussion course for older and younger adults, designed to promote productive intergenerational contact. The results provide evidence that intergenerational discussion may facilitate improved connections between generations.

UNPACKING "OK, BOOMER": USING LIFESPAN CONCEPTS TO EASE INTERGENERATIONAL CONFLICT

Allyson Graf, and Robin Bartlett, *Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Kentucky, United States*

With the "OK, Boomer" media exchange in late 2019, intergenerational conflict is touted as existing at an all-time high. Although the age diversity of today's workforce is unprecedented, spanning nearly five generations of workers, generational stereotyping and its influence on the identities and experiences of those individuals is not new. In this talk, we will advocate for the role that lifespan developmental psychology can play in preparing students to enter a sometimes contentious, misrepresented multigenerational workforce. We will demonstrate the value of helping students distinguish normative age-graded, normative history-graded, and non-normative influences to better understand individual similarities and differences in developmental experiences. We will discuss research on age identity and generational identity as distinct and self-enhancing life-span processes. Finally, we will highlight the developmental barriers that must be navigated in order to foster intergenerational cohesion.

DIVIDES WITHIN THE LGBT COMMUNITY: EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF GENERATIONAL STEREOTYPES

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Age is a unique, often overlooked, aspect of identity, which is particularly problematic within the LGBT community. While sexuality, sexual orientation, and gender identity are