

performed with random-effects GLS regression models. Results: Significant partial regression coefficients were found for cognitive function (0.48%, CI: 0.18, 0.79), years of schooling (-0.42%, CI: -0.69, -0.15), depressive symptoms (0.32%, CI: 0.11, 0.53), and chronological age (-0.18%, CI: -0.30, -0.68). Implications: This study found that older age and longer years of schooling were associated with younger SA, while better cognition and depressive symptoms were linked to older SA. Better cognition being associated with older SA was inconsistent with existing studies. This may be due in part to the association of better cognition and the level of satisfaction influenced by awareness of age-related physical/social changes.

ADVANCING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ELDERHOOD: A NARRATIVE REVIEW

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There are relatively few explorations of later life in the peer reviewed gerontological literature that holistically embrace the duality of potential and decline. This is in striking contrast to a growing body of non-scholarly literature, frequently authored by elders, displaying deep interest in the phenomenon of elderhood, i.e. the holistic, lived experience of later life. We conducted a narrative review with the aim of describing the state of the science with regard to the bio-psycho-social-spiritual experience of elderhood. Following a search of multiple databases for English language, peer reviewed articles published from 2000-2017, we identified 24 articles in the disciplines of gerontology, anthropology, psychology, the humanities, and spirituality studies, reflecting elderhood in Eastern and Western cultures. While the articles offered no shared operational definition of elderhood, nor applied any unifying conceptual or theoretical structures, several common themes emerged. These included the description of elderhood as both inward facing (inner development) and outward facing (social contributions of elders). Numerous articles also recognized that ageism socially mediates the experience of elderhood, resulting in a failure of social systems and structures to recognize or provide opportunities for lifelong growth in later years, including a lack of mentors and role models for individuals transitioning into elderhood. This review demonstrates that there is a compelling need for the discipline of gerontology to strengthen our understanding of the phenomenon of elderhood by leading on the development and implementation of theoretically driven empirical research into the subject of the holistic, lived experience of later life.

TRAJECTORIES OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE AFFECT: A COORDINATED ANALYSIS OF 11 LONGITUDINAL SAMPLES

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This study assessed age-graded change in positive and negative affect over decades of the lifespan. We conducted a coordinated integrative data analysis (IDA) using data from 11 longitudinal samples, comprising a total of 74076 respondents, spanning the ages of 11 to 106. Positive and negative affect were measured using the CES-D in 8 studies, the PANAS in 3 studies, and the MIDI scale in the MIDUS with three to eleven measurement occasions across studies. To assess and compare the extent and nature of change in affect over time across studies, analyses were coordinated, deploying identical multi-level growth models on each dataset. The curvilinear models suggested PA was best characterized by an inverted U-shaped trajectory, peaking in the mid-to-late 50s, while change in NA was best described by a U-shaped curve, bottoming out in the late 60s. We also found measure-related differences in the proportion of variance in affect attributable to within- or between person differences; The majority of the variability in CES-D-assessed affect was attributable to within-person differences over time, while the variability in PANAS-assessed affect was predominantly attributable to between-person differences. Overall, the results did not support steady improvement of emotional experience over the entire life-course as previous studies have suggested, but show promise for midlife when PA peaks and NA bottoms out. This study demonstrates the value of coordinated conceptual replications, resolving some of the mixed findings in the literature regarding age-graded change in affect and enhancing the current understanding of the longitudinal affect phenomenon.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FOURTH AGE

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How can we differentiate distinct phases of aging in later life? Theorizations of the third and fourth age posit that later life often involves a time of continued growth and increased opportunity (the "third age") as well as a time marked by growing cognitive, physical, and social losses (the "fourth age"). In contrast to population-based definitions that place this transition around the age of 80, a person-based definition using frailty as a marker offers more sensitivity by focusing on ability and agency instead of age alone. In this study, we apply both definitions in order to examine the social characteristics of the fourth age. Using a nationally representative sample of adults over the age of 65 from the National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) seventh round (n=6,312) we find that the population-based definition overestimates the number of adults in the fourth age (2,834 vs 569; p<0.001). Additionally, social network patterns observed when comparing adults above and below the age of 80 - increased rates of including a daughter or son and a decreased rate of including a friend - are not seen when comparing adults who do and do not meet criteria for frailty. Our findings suggest that common understandings of the social characteristics of the oldest old - understandings with important implications for policy and the promotion of human dignity - may be biased by focusing on age alone as a marker of change instead of ability and agency.