before, Estimate=0.54, p<.001 after); improvement in verbal abilities before (Estimate=0.15, p=.020) and decline in verbal abilities after retirement (Estimate=-0.11, p<.001); and some decline in spatial abilities before (Estimate=-0.18, p=.059) followed by accelerated decline after retirement (Estimate=-0.33, p<.001). Retirement may be a good target for intervention.

REVIEW ON THE COMPLEX RELATION BETWEEN RETIREMENT AND COGNITION: UNRAVELING THE MIXED EVIDENCE

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A systematic review from 2017 revealed a great research gap concerning the question if retirement affects cognitive function. Since then, several longitudinal studies have been published, calling for an updated review. The aim of this review is to provide an update with a focus on different retirement operationalization, different cognitive outcomes, and potential mediators like occupational experiences. Twenty peer-reviewed studies with longitudinal designs were included. The results revealed no clear pattern regarding the association between retirement and the cognitive outcomes. Study results varied in relation to factors like occupational experiences, differences in study quality, and cognitive domains. To get an insight into mechanisms behind the relation between retirement and cognitive functioning, more complex study designs are needed that take into account the impact of pre-retirement factors, different retirement related aspects, and the varying effects depending on cognitive domain.

ADULT-LIFE OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES: ENRICHED ENVIRONMENT OR A STRESSOR FOR THE AGING BRAIN?

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The positive association between midlife occupational complexity and cognitive functioning in older age is well documented. Much less is known about the underlying neural mechanisms and whether occupational stress may accelerate neurocognitive aging. According to the BOSS model (Brain aging: Occupational Stimulation and Stress), occupational exposures may serve as long-term protective and risk factors that influence the rate and extent of neurocognitive decline in aging (Burzynska, Jiao & Ganster 2018). We present findings from three independent samples linking different occupational exposures (e.g. work physical demands, innovation, autonomy, employer control) with brain volume in cognitively healthy older adults. We discuss the findings in the context of cognitive reserve and brain maintenance. Our findings suggest that occupational activities need to be acknowledged as an important factor in lifespan cognitive and brain development and warrant further research, with a possible outcome of workplace interventions aimed at optimizing neurocognitive aging.

SESSION 595 (SYMPOSIUM)

TOWARD A NETWORK OF CHANGE: PROMOTING AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Chair: Shellae Versey, *Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, United States*
Co-Chair: Emily Greenfield, *Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, United States*

The experience of aging is often framed by the communities in which we live, work and play. At the same time, these communities are also impacted by individuals as they age in place. This symposium presents research using community-partnered methods to highlight the agency of local actors—including older residents themselves—as they work to change their local communities. At the broadest level of geographic scale, Black illustrates how information from population surveys with older adults can be leveraged to mobilize public-private partnerships from the local to state level to advance policy and practice on housing and transportation to support aging in place. Focusing regionally in New Jersey, Greenfield and Reyes analyze longitudinal, qualitative interview data from leaders of age-friendly community initiatives to develop empirically-grounded theory on the range of roles of older adults in aging-friendly community change processes. The final two papers present depth in understanding how older adults actively construct their own sense of community vis-à-vis more micro-social processes. Yeh uses Photovoice methodology to understand how older adults aging in place manage the societal trends of urbanization and social inequalities as they manifest within their own city. Versey examines how older adults aging in place in the context of neighborhood gentrification mobilize networks to preserve a community "sense of place" when sociocultural resources are displaced. Consistent with a community gerontology framework, the presentations demonstrate how community-level dynamics around aging are shaped not only by macro-social influences, but also micro-social interactions including, and sometimes initiated by, older residents themselves.

PLACEKEEPING AND SENSE OF PLACE: USING PHOTOVOICE TO HIGHLIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD DISPLACEMENT

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There has been growing interest in the use of community-based participatory research (CBPR) in gerontology. Photovoice, one of several qualitative methods utilized in CBPR, pairs participants with photography to identify and represent issues of importance. This paper explores photovoice as a tool for meaning making and preserving a 'sense of place' in a gentrifying context in New York City. Older residents describe pending neighborhood displacement due to gentrification using photographs. Using these themes and a range of visual media, older adults mobilize preservation and resistance efforts to gentrification. The paper concludes with implications and directions for future research.