

Key Articles and Abstracts in Ageing for Psychology

Schaie, K. W. (1993). Ageist language in psychological research. *American Psychologist*, 48(1), 49.

Abstract

Ageism can affect the use of language in all phases of empirical research and psychological practice. Potential problems in the use of ageist language are identified, and recommendations are provided for alternative language uses for (a) description of the research topic, (b) language used in describing study designs, (c) descriptions of methodology and choice of participants, and (d) language used in the analysis and interpretation of research findings. The focus of this article is on research and practice with older persons; however, many of the recommendations apply equally to language used with respect to age at any point in the life span.

Fulltext: <https://psycnet.apa.org/fulltext/1993-16100-001.html>

Scheibe, S., & Carstensen, L. L. (2010). Emotional aging: Recent findings and future trends. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 65(2), 135-144.

Abstract

Contrasting cognitive and physical decline, research in emotional aging suggests that most older adults enjoy high levels of affective well-being and emotional stability into their 70s and 80s. We investigate the contributions of age-related changes in emotional motivation and competence to positive affect trajectories. We give an overview on the recent literature on emotional processing and emotional regulation, combining evidence from correlational and experimental, as well as behavioral and neuroscience studies. In particular, we focus on emotion–cognition interactions, including the positivity effect. Looking forward, we argue that efforts to link levels of emotional functioning with long-term outcomes, combining space- and time-sensitive measures of brain function, and developing interventions to improve life quality for older adults may further refine life-span theories and open promising avenues of empirical investigation.

Fulltext: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2821944/>

Levy, S. R. (2016). Toward reducing ageism: PEACE (positive education about aging and contact experiences) model. *The Gerontologist*, 58(2), 226-232.

Abstract

The population of older adults is growing worldwide. Negative ageism (negative attitudes and behavior toward older adults) is a serious international concern that negatively influences not only older adults but also individuals across the age continuum. This article proposes and examines the application of an integrative theoretical model across empirical evidence in the literature on ageism in psychology, medicine, social work, and sociology. The proposed Positive Education about Aging and Contact Experiences (PEACE) model focuses on 2 key contributing factors expected to reduce negative ageism: (a) education about aging including facts on aging along with positive older role models that dispel negative and inaccurate images of older adulthood; and (b) positive contact experiences with older adults that are individualized, provide or promote equal status, are cooperative, involve sharing of personal information, and are sanctioned within the setting. These 2 key contributing factors have the potential to be interconnected and work together to reduce negative stereotypes, aging anxiety, prejudice, and discrimination associated with older adults and aging. This model has implications for policies and programs that can improve the health and well-being of individuals, as well as expand the residential, educational, and career options of individuals across the age continuum.

Fulltext: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27510755>

Bowling, A., & Dieppe, P. (2005). What is successful ageing and who should define it?. *Bmj*, 331(7531), 1548-1551.

Abstract

A definition of successful ageing needs to include elements that matter to elderly people. We discuss existing models of the constituents of successful ageing from the social, psychological, and medical sciences.

Fulltext: <https://www.bmj.com/content/331/7531/1548>

Kimmel, D. (2014). Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender aging concerns. *Clinical Gerontologist*, 37(1), 49-63.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) elders and long-term couples have become more visible and their special concerns about aging are being recognized by gerontologists. LGBT elders are a diverse group with regard to all characteristics. This article focuses on the characteristics, research needs and barriers, service needs and barriers, clinical implications, and suggestions for appropriate treatment to increase awareness of clinical gerontologists who may not be familiar with LGBT seniors or who wish to improve their services to this population. Gerontologists working in long-term care facilities and those working in social and home care services may be especially interested in the special concerns of transgender elders and the recent changes in public policy regarding all LGBT elders.

Fulltext: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07317115.2014.847310>

Mohlman, J., Sirota, K. G., Papp, L. A., Staples, A. M., King, A., & Gorenstein, E. E. (2012). Clinical interviewing with older adults. *Cognitive and Behavioral Practice*, 19(1), 89-100.

Abstract

Over the next few decades the older adult population will increase dramatically, and prevalence rates of psychiatric disorders are also expected to increase in the elderly cohort. These demographic projections highlight the need for diagnostic instruments and methods that are specifically tailored to older adults. The current paper discusses the benefits and drawbacks of clinical interviewing with older adults, using two popular interview protocols as illustrative examples. Drawing upon preexisting basic research and our own observations collected in clinical and research settings over a 10-year period, we suggest procedures and suggestions for augmenting existing interview protocols to increase their usefulness with older adults in research and clinical settings. Strategies to optimize interview duration and enhance retrospective data accuracy and the pros and cons of dimensional versus dichotomous response formats, among other relevant topics, are discussed.

Fulltext: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1077722911000484>