HISTORICAL CHANGES IN AGING TRAJECTORIES OF TWO ASPECTS OF SELF-PERCEPTIONS OF AGING
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In recent years many studies have shown that adults with more positive self-perceptions of aging (SPA) increase their likelihood of aging healthily. Other studies have documented historical changes in individual resources and contextual conditions associated with aging. We explored how these historical changes are reflected in birth-cohort differences in aging trajectories of two aspects of SPA – viewing aging as ongoing development or as increasing physical losses. Using large-scale cohort-sequential data assessed across 21 years (N = 19,000), the analyses modeled birth-cohort differences in aging trajectories of SPA from 40 to 85 years of age. The results illustrated differential birth-cohort differences: Later-born cohorts may experience more potential for ongoing development with advancing age than earlier-born cohorts. However, later-born cohorts seem to view their own aging as more negative than earlier-born cohorts during their early forties but may associate their aging less with physical losses after the age of fifty.

IS LONELINESS AFTER WIDOWHOOD LESS PREVALENT IN RECENT TIMES THAN DECADES AGO?
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Due to increased longevity, widowhood occurs much later in life. When comparing over decades, we hypothesize that the increase in loneliness after losing the spouse at an early age is currently higher due to the lack of role models and knowledge of what helps in this situation, and that the recovery of loneliness after widowhood is faster because the widowed get more network attention in that exceptional situation. We analyze data from the Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam on 232 widowers and 468 widows with an average of four observations before and four after widowhood, spread over 21 years. The younger and recent widowed had a greater increase in loneliness, but also better recovery than the older widowed and those widowed years ago. The loneliness of widowed people has decreased regardless of age at the event, indicating the greater potential for bouncing back from this life event in today's society.

SESSION 5650 (SYMPOSIUM)

ISSUES RELATED TO LATE-LIFE SEXUALITY: SEX IN LONG-TERM CARE
Chair: Rachael Spalding
Discussant: Peter Lichtenberg

Despite surrounding social stigma and stereotypes of the "asexual older adult," older adults, including those residing in long-term care facilities, indicate that expressing their sexuality continues to be important to them (Doll, 2013). This presentation will feature presentations regarding recent research and perspectives relevant to late-life sexuality with a focus on how issues of sexual expression may particularly emerge in long-term care settings. Dr. Maggie Syme will present findings from mixed-methods, consumer-based approaches that elucidate how current and future long-term care residents view late-life sexuality, with a focus on the practical applications of these findings to inform facility administration and policies. Ethical and legal issues surrounding sexuality in long-term care will be discussed by Dr. Pamela Teaster, who will present ethical models that can translate into potential best-practice recommendations and strategies. Rachael Spalding will discuss the paucity of psychometrically sound assessment tools for measuring attitudes towards late-life sexuality and discuss their development of such a measure. Finally, Dr. Lilanta Bradley and Dr. Pamela Payne-Foster will present a framework for sexual agency in late-life and identify relevant gaps in the literature regarding gender, ethnicity/race, and geographical differences. Ultimately, this presentation will offer a forum for lively discussion among attendees regarding these pertinent topics.

ATTITUDES TOWARD SEXUAL BEHAVIORS IN LONG-TERM CARE: DEVELOPMENT OF AN ASSESSMENT TOOL
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Most older adults living in long-term care settings (LTCs) indicate that expressing their sexuality is important to them (Doll, 2013). Little is known about the general public’s attitudes towards sexual behaviors in LTCs. Attitudes of LTC residents’ family members are particularly important, as family members are most likely to visit residents and to care about their quality of life. Family members’ attitudes could in turn inform facility policies and management. We will present preliminary data from a series of qualitative interviews with community-dwelling adults regarding their attitudes. We will discuss how these data are being used to inform current work on a measure of attitudes toward sexual behavior in LTCs.