than White women. However, there was no significant differences in the changes in attitudes toward work across gender and racial/ethnic groups during the pandemic. Based on the baseline national data analysis, we discussed possible policy changes and interventions that consider the intersections of gender and race/ethnicity to help older adults re-adjust to post-pandemic work environments and labor markets.

KEEP ON KEEPIN’ ON: INVESTIGATING ACES AND POSITIVITY AMONG BEREAVED BLACK MIDDLE AGED AND OLDER ADULTS
Danielle McDuffie, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States

Many of the most damaging life events are more prevalent among Black older adults. Black people have been found to have higher amounts of adverse childhood experiences (ACES), which are linked to detrimental life impacts. Additionally, bereavement occurs at a higher rate among Black people and older adults. Despite these challenges, Black older adults have been repeatedly cited overcoming these challenges. Accordingly, the present study sought to investigate whether Black middle to older aged adults who encountered two of life’s most difficult challenges (i.e. bereavement and ACES) would still maintain positivity. 103 middle to older Black adults (M=44.72, SD=5.48, 67% male) from a larger online grief study were probed about factors including time since loss, positive outlook, and ACES. A linear regression and mediation analysis were used to analyze the data. ACES were found to significantly predict positive outlook among bereaved middle to older Black adults (F=11.46, p=.001), such that as the number of ACES increased, so did positivity in spite of bereavement. Notably, this association was not mediated by time since loss. Results from this study provide evidence that even when faced with some of life’s most difficult events, Black middle to older adults were still able to reframe their situation with a positive focus. The ability for Black middle to older aged adults to reframe their tragedies into positivity could provide a basis for the use of Positive Psychological techniques specifically within this population. Additionally, this study provides further evidence that Black people exhibit exceeding resilience.

MANIFESTATIONS OF RACIAL TRAUMA IN BEREAVED MIDDLE TO OLDER AGED BLACK ADULTS
Danielle McDuffie, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States

Black adults have a higher likelihood of experiencing bereavement and increased negative implications of systemic racism compared to other groups. The effects of racism have also been suggested to have an impact on how bereaved Black individuals conceptualize their loss and the deceased. However, there is limited literature on how direct and indirect childhood experiences with racial violence and viewing racially violent deaths impact bereaved Black adults later in the lifespan. The current study seeks to explore the impacts childhood engagement with racial violence might have on bereaved middle to older Black adults. 103 middle to older aged Black adults (M=44.72, SD=5.48, 67% male) from a larger online grief study were probed about factors including somatization, depression, affect, grief, and the prevalence and intensity of exposure to race-based violence during their childhoods. Linear regressions and bivariate correlations were used for data analysis. Childhood racial violence significantly predicted grief (F=6.348, p=.013). Additionally, experiencing childhood racial violence was significantly associated with somatization (r=.197, p=.047), depression (r=.198, p=.045), and negative affect (r=.256, p=.010). Endorsed intensity of racial violence was significantly associated with depression and negative affect (r=.464, p=.000; r=.440, p=.000, respectively). Bereaved Black middle to older adults seem greatly impacted by childhood experiences of racial violence. It is important to consider the role outside cultural influences such as racial trauma might have on other deleterious mental health experiences such as bereavement. Furthermore, in the assessment of ACES among Black and other people of color, it could be important to include childhood racial violence.

MINORITY STRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DISABLEMENT PROCESS MODEL
Jeffrey Lentz, University of North Georgia, Oakwood, Georgia, United States

The changing demographics and growing diversity in the United States pose significant challenges for researchers, particularly scholarship involving sexual minority adults’ health and aging processes. Not much is known about how all minority stressors could lead to a disability. Sexual minority adults are at a greater risk of developing a disability later in life than their heterosexual counterparts (Fredriksen-Goldsen, Kim, & Barkan, 2012). Drawing from critical components of the disablement process model (Verbrugge & Jette, 1994), this dissertation sought to understand the relationship between minority stress and disability status among sexual minority adults 50 years and older. Minority stress in the context of the disablement process model is a social condition. While exploring the relationship between minority stress and disability status, intra-individual factors and extra-individual factors were assessed to see if they mediated the relationship between minority stress and disability status among sexual minorities 50 years and older. Discrimination is significantly associated with having a disability. None of the intra-individual factors and extra-individual factors mediated the relationship between minority stress and disability status among sexual minorities 50 years and older. The changing demographics and growing diversity in the United States pose significant challenges for researchers, particularly scholarship involving sexual minority adults’ health and aging processes. Not much is known about how all minority stressors could lead to a disability. Sexual minority adults are at a greater risk of developing a disability later in life than their heterosexual counterparts (Fredriksen-Goldsen, Kim, & Barkan, 2012). Drawing from critical components of the disablement process model (Verbrugge & Jette, 1994), this dissertation sought to understand the relationship between minority stress and disability status among sexual minority adults 50 years and older. Minority stress in the context of the disablement process model is a social condition. While exploring the relationship between minority stress and disability status, intra-individual factors and extra-individual factors were assessed to see if they mediated the relationship between minority stress and disability status among sexual minorities 50 years and older. Discrimination is significantly associated with having a disability. None of the intra-individual factors and extra-individual factors mediated the relationship between minority stress and disability status among sexual minorities 50 years and older. On the other hand, the disablement process model does not support minority stress as a social condition leading to a disability. On the other hand, this dissertation’s results support the ideology that experiencing discrimination is associated with a disability.

MOTIVATION TO LEARN AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF AGE, GENDER, AND RACE
Takashi Yamashita,1 Thomas Smith,2 Shalini Sahoo,1 and Phyllis Cummins,3 1. University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, Maryland, United States, 2. Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, United States, 3. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, United States

Continuing adult education and training, or lifelong learning, has become increasingly important to fully engage