

COURAGE TO COBBLE SOMETHING NEW: CREATIVE REPRESENTATIONS OF BISEXUALITY AND AGING

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There are few cultural representations or scripts available for LGBTQ aging. Among bisexual and otherwise non-monosexual (bi+) women, stereotypes of hypersexuality exclude older adults while the contrasting experience of invisibility obscures the existence of bi+ aging. In this discourse analysis, we examined three issues of the *Bi Women Quarterly (BWQ)* newsletter published between 2014-2019 which were devoted to the intersection of aging and bisexuality. Data include 42 narratives, personal reflections, interviews, poems, letters, advice columns, and photos which were analyzed to identify linguistic tools, visual imagery, and broader discourses used to construct and convey the meaning and experience of bisexual aging. Themes include: 1) lacking a “blueprint” for bisexual lives, 2) significant “turning points,” 3) intergenerational (dis)connections across history, and 4) life-long patterns of discovery and disclosure. More visible and diverse narratives for bisexual aging might better enable bi+ individuals to envision and effectively plan for their own aging futures.

IMPROVING RESPECT AND DIGNITY OF OLDER LESBIAN ADULTS: INTERPROFESSIONAL APPROACHES FOR SPECIALIZED CARE

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Interprofessional research pertaining to LGBTQ older adult cultural sensitivity training for social workers and nurses is often missing in the empirical literature. Members of the LGBTQ communities become increasingly vulnerable to health disparities as they age and treating clients with respect and dignity is at the forefront of this study. Students and faculty engaged in an interprofessional simulation project with older members of the LGBTQ community to learn health knowledge and applied assessment and brief intervention skills. Quantitative findings (N=58; 23 social work; 35 nursing) indicated increased student health knowledge. Reflection and qualitative findings are included with four primary themes: (a) bias of health care providers, (b) access to quality care, (c) specific health care needs, and (d) health risks of LGBTQ older adults. Specific emphasis is given to reflection and insight of the older lesbian participants about access to care, recognition of significant relationships, and marriage equality.

SESSION 5700 (SYMPOSIUM)

ON THE LEADING EDGE OF LONGEVITY: LESSONS FROM THE MIT AGELAB 85+ LIFESTYLE LEADERS

Chair: Julie Miller

Discussant: Lisa D'Ambrosio

The 85+ population is the fastest-growing age segment in the United States. Understanding attitudinal and behavioral trends among adults ages 85 and over is of increasing importance to researchers and practitioners alike. This symposium will present findings drawing on mixed methods across

multiple domains of research with the Lifestyle Leaders, a bi-monthly panel study of adults ages 85 and older at the MIT AgeLab, which began in September 2015. Each presentation in this symposium will highlight a different focus of research conducted with the Lifestyle Leaders, ultimately offering insights about physical health, social engagement, and civic engagement at age 85 and beyond. The first presentation in this symposium will frame Lifestyle Leaders' resources and how these resources affect their perceptions of risks, their worries, and their well-being. Diving deeper, the second presentation will center on how Lifestyle Leaders perceive and utilize different transportation options and how these options have changed for them over time. The third presentation will focus on civic engagement and Lifestyle Leaders' perspectives on technology as enabling or inhibiting their civic engagement and participation. The fourth presentation will examine Lifestyle Leaders' attitudes toward medication, medication management, and technology-enabled medication management devices. This symposium will deepen attendees' understandings of the attitudes and experiences of active octogenarians and nonagenarians.

HOW ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS MANAGE THEIR MOBILITY NEEDS: TRANSPORTATION INSIGHTS FROM A PANEL OF ADULTS AGES 85+

Lisa D'Ambrosio,¹ John Rudnik,¹ Chaiwoo Lee,¹ Taylor Patskanick,¹ and Julie Miller,² 1. *MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States*, 2. *MIT AgeLab, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States*

Research suggests that adults experience tremendous transportation challenges at ages 85 and over. As mobility has been tied to overall health and wellbeing, the implications are dire. In this study, the Lifestyle Leaders were surveyed to understand their experiences with different modes of transportation. Responses to a questionnaire (N = 18) and focus groups (N = 18) indicate that many of the Lifestyle Leaders are still driving and report satisfaction with their ability to get around. However, over the past 10 years, many participants have changed their attitudes toward driving and transportation in general. Some panelists cite issues of physical discomfort, increased time and energy spent planning trips, and an increased sense of dependence. Additional data suggest that decision making processes for selecting transportation modes have changed over time. This presentation will discuss policy and practice implications for older adults, caregivers, and transportation professionals.

HOW THE LIFESTYLE LEADERS VIEW AND MANAGE MEDICATIONS

Taylor Patskanick,¹ and Julie Miller,² 1. *MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States*, 2. *MIT AgeLab, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States*

Medication management is an ongoing consideration for adults ages 85 and older, their caregivers, and healthcare providers. When asked about their attitudes and behaviors regarding medication management, over 73% of the Lifestyle Leaders reported taking 3+ prescription medications daily and managing their own medication regimes. 61.9% of participants had taken over-the-counter, non-prescription medication for pain over the past five years. When asked why