


Lifespan Development

PSY 210
Chapter 1
Introduction to Lifespan Psychology


1



Lifespan developmental psychology

- Changes that occur in our lives from conception until death
- Womb to tomb
- What development is and is not...
- Case studies... Barack Obama – and others
- A personal example of development...

2



Outline/Overview

- Biological-Environmental Perspectives
- Carving up the lifespan (and the course)
- Culture
- Recurring themes
 - Continuity vs. discontinuity
 - Nature vs. nurture
 - Stability vs. change
 - Gender
- Research methods – discuss if necessary

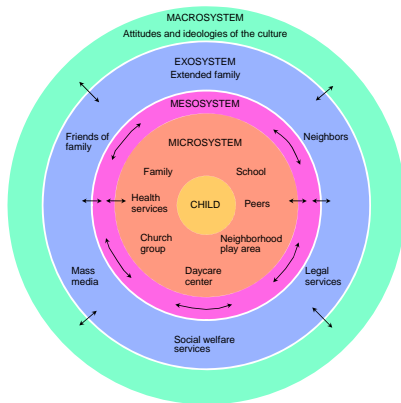
3

Conceptualizing Lifespan Development

- Biology vs. Environment
 - Biology – considers genes as having a critical role
 - Renewed interest
 - Environment – Bronfenbrenner's systems theory (Bioecological)
 - Systems constantly interacting with one another

9

Bronfenbrenner's Four Ecological Settings for Development Change



Reciprocal Interactions

- We impact on our environment and the environment, in turn having a changing influence on us
- Endless succession of influences.
- Biopsychosocial model
- Very complex - potential influences & combinations

11



Biopsychosocial

- interplay of biological, psychological, and social aspects of development
- reminds us of complicated causal forces that produce our individuality
- different factors will be of most importance at different stages of life

12



Carving up the lifespan

- Infancy (b-2)
- Early Childhood (2-6)
- Middle Childhood (7-11)
- Adolescence (12-18)
- Early Adulthood (19-34)
- Middle Adulthood (35-64)
- Late Adulthood (65+)

13



Culture

- lens through which we view the world and how we operate in our environment
- stereotypes
- culture must always be considered
- cultures merging/intermixing/changing
 - likely to increase
 - no majority racial group in LA county

14



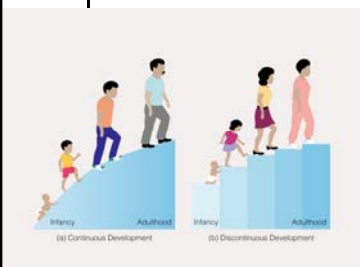
Recurrent themes

- Stability vs. change
- Nature vs. Nurture
- Continuity vs. discontinuity
- Gender and development

17



Continuity vs. discontinuity



- Continuity = slow, constant progression
- Discontinuity = discrete stages
- some polarization
- both are necessary

18



Nature vs. nurture

- biology vs. environment debate
- both important and the effects of each are very difficult to separate
- biology probably dictates boundaries and our experiences and environment where we will fall

19



Stability vs. Change

- Enduring effects of early experience vs. the ability to overcome
- Resiliency
 - ability to change
 - there are limits
 - individual variability
 - What factors might account for differences?

20



Gender and Development

- Sex vs. gender
 - What is the difference?

21



Gender

- psychosocial aspects of male or femaleness
- gender role
- stereotypes
- identity

22



End Chapter One

- o Be sure you have carefully reviewed and understand the concepts in the research methods section of Ch. 1, bring any questions to class.

23
