


Lifespan Psychology: Psy 210


Chapter 18: Psychosocial Development In Late Adulthood



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Overview – Outline

- Social Development
- The Older Worker
- Personal Development
 - Changes
 - Integrity vs. Despair



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Social Development

- **Gender Roles**
 - Role discontinuity
 - Crossover: Older men become more like women, and older women become more like men



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Social Development

- **Sexuality**
 - Widowhood and sexuality
 - Impotency
 - Two kinds of love
 - Generative love
 - Existential love
- **The Elderly and Their Families**
 - Communication and style of interaction
 - Lifestyle choice and habits



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Social Development


- **The Elderly and Their Families**
 - Parenting practices and values
 - Religion, ideology and politics
 - Work habits
 - Standards of household maintenance
 - Widowhood
 - Care of elderly parents
 - The changing role of the grandparent



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The Older Worker

- **Performance**
- **Retirement**
 - Requires changing the habits of an adult lifetime
 - More than 11 percent are employed
 - Harder on males than females



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Personal Development

• The Committee on Human Development

- People at this age become more interested in their "inner selves"
- Perception of environmental control changes
- Emotional energy declines with age
- Gender-role reversals occur
- Age status (society's expectations about what is normal) becomes more rigid with development



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Personal Development

• Erikson

- Integrity versus Despair
 - Integrity: Feel their lives have been well spent
 - Despair: Feel as though they have made bad decisions, or have not made any meaningful decisions at all



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