dependence with an attitude of resignation and gracious acceptance. Problematically, however, this can reinforce the ageist cultural assumption that old age lacks agency. If the emerging discourse about elderhood is truly to serve as a more inspiring cultural image of late life, it requires a reconceptualization of agency in the face of existential vulnerabilities. This paper aims to present a possible philosophical outlook for such a reconceptualization. It will draw on sources from feminist philosophy to argue how confrontations with vulnerability need not be an obstacle, but rather inspire alternative conceptualizations of agency that are a welcome addition to gerontological thinking.

ELDERS OR OLD MEN?
Thomas Cole, McGovern Medical School, Houston, Texas, United States

Thomas R. Cole, GSA Abstract, 3.9.2021 Elders or Old Men? My book Old Man Country is about 12 successful, respected older men who think back on their lives and current aging. When starting my research, I first questioned my own aspirations for aging: What would my aging be like? Who would I become? What would be my purpose as an old man? Although I expected that strength and resilience would be the common thread of elderhood, it was actually their vulnerabilities that defined them (accepting losses, acknowledging dependency.) More so, these vulnerabilities did not demarcate a descent but rather a continuous uphill struggle that differentiates elderhood from growing old. Ultimately, I argue that elderhood is not a life stage or a right of passage that differentiates elderhood from growing old. Ultimately, it was actually their vulnerabilities that defined them (accepting losses, acknowledging dependency.) More so, these vulnerabilities did not demarcate a descent but rather a continuous uphill struggle that differentiates elderhood from growing old. Ultimately, I argue that elderhood is not a life stage or a right of passage but rather an individual process to be worked through, if one so chooses.

ELDERHOOD IN PROTESTANT RELIGIOUS CONTEXTS: STEPPING STONES IN RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE
Jenni Spännäri, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Pohjois-Karjala, Finland

Elderhood is an emerging concept for making meaning in older age, often contextualized in spiritual but not religious traditions. But what kinds of frameworks for elderhood are woven into protestant religious contexts? This paper explores 943 texts written by Finnish older adults in study groups organized by a pensioners' organization. A key finding is that religious language – known through religious songs and prayers learned by heart at school – offers a medium to explore and express their elderhood. The writers creatively use the rhythm and wordings of these textual patterns to position themselves as a group of older persons with a special contribution to make to society. These results will aid examining elderhood and its potential in various contexts where the concept might not be explicitly used. This examination potentially leads to new ways to support experiences of elderhood and thus to offer an alternative view to countering ageism.

ELDERHOOD AS AN ANTI-AGEISM INTERVENTION
Tracey Gendron, Shannon Arnette, Jenny Inker, Sarah Marrs, Maddie McIntyre, and Waters Bert, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, United States

Ageism is a complex, multi-layered phenomenon impacting feelings, thoughts and behaviors toward self and others. Due to the complexity of ageism, evidence-based anti-ageism interventions have proved challenging and costly. To date, using the concept of elderhood as a mechanism to mitigate the negative impacts of ageism has not been explored. As an anti-ageism strategy, elderhood reframes later life as a stage that encompasses growth and development and expected loss and decline. The current study evaluated a brief video intervention among first-year medical students before participating in a year-long senior mentoring program. First-year medical students (N = 585) from 2018-2021 responded to open-ended questions after viewing the video. Thematic analysis revealed four themes: neutrality, elderhood as development, reframing stigma and elderhood as othering. Findings suggest that elderhood may be a viable and productive anti-ageism strategy.

Session 4265 (Symposium)

LEVERAGING FREE PUBLIC USE DATA FOR AGING AND LIFE COURSE RESEARCH
Chair: Lara Cleveland
Discussant: Kathleen Cagney

This symposium will showcase life course and aging research that is possible using freely available integrated census and survey data available via IPUMS. This session is organized by the Network for Data-Intensive Research on Aging (NDIRA) initiative at the University of Minnesota's Life Course Center. NDIRA seeks to build and support an interdisciplinary community of scientists leveraging powerful data resources in innovative ways to understand health outcomes at older ages, as well as the demography and economics of aging. The session features papers that illustrate how to examine aging-related topics including health at older ages, work and socioeconomic conditions, and living conditions with a common thread of examining heterogeneity within groups. These papers all leverage freely available census and nationally-representative survey data, highlighting the potential value of these data for studying aging and the life course. By combining papers on an array of topics from a variety of data sources, this symposium highlights exemplar papers that demonstrate the types of novel research possible using public use census and survey data that NDIRA seeks to foster.

DERAILLED BY THE COVID-19 ECONOMY? OLDER ADULTS’ PAID WORK BY INTERSECTIONS OF AGE, GENDER, RACE-ETHNICITY, AND CLASS
Sarah Flood,1 Phyllis Moen,1 and Joseph Peditke,2
1. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States, 2. University of Minnesota (Life Course Center), Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States

This paper addresses the uneven employment effects on older Americans ( Boomers and GenXers, ages 50-75) of the COVID-19 pandemic. Drawing on monthly CPS data from January through December 2020 (IPUMS) with an intersectional approach, we first chart shifts in employment and non-employment for population subgroups defined by age, gender and race/ethnicity, including explanations for not working (unemployment, retired, disabled, not in the workforce for other reasons – NILF-other). We then examine uneven transitions --monthly individual-level shifts out of and into paid work for population subgroups, considering also disparities by educational level. We find increases in proportions...
unemployed, especially for women in their 50s, as well as increases in the proportions reporting they are NILF-Other, especially for Asian and Hispanic women, with small increases for Asian and Hispanic men as well. There is little change in age-graded reports of being retired, regardless of gender or race/ethnicity, though there are education-level effects.

LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF SOCIAL INSURANCE ON ADULT MORTALITY: EVIDENCE FROM THREE SOCIAL PROGRAMS IN MEXICO
Emma Aguila,¹ William Dow,² and Susan Parker,³ 1. Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California, California, United States, 2. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, California, United States, 3. University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, United States

Research on the mortality effects of social insurance programs for older adults has generated conflicting results. Some studies suggest important health benefits, others find no effects, and still others find unintended adverse effects potentially linked to pathways such as increased obesity. Evidence has focused predominantly on short-run effects rather than net long-run mortality effects and their effects on the health of older adults has been particularly understudied. Mexico offers a unique opportunity for studying the long-run effects of social programs on adult mortality. Within a ten-year period, Mexico introduced the following influential social insurance programs: Progresa conditional cash transfer (CCT) program in 1997, 70 y más unconditional cash transfer (UCT) program for older persons in 2007, and Seguro Popular, a public health insurance program (PHI) for the uninsured, in 2004. In this paper we analyze effects on mortality for middle-age and older adults, by gender, 10-20 years after program implementation.

CHANGES IN SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC AND DISEASE PREVALENCE AMONG FIVE BIRTH COHORTS OF OLDER LATINOS
Catherine Garcia,¹ and Jennifer Ailshire,² 1. University of Nebraska - Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska, United States, 2. University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, United States

Latinos are often treated as an amalgamated group without respect to Latinos’ composition included in sampling designs in different periods. This matters because the Latino population is continuously changing over time with respect to migration patterns, socioeconomic status, sociocultural characteristics, and geographic dispersion across the U.S., which may influence disease patterns in later life. We use data from the Health and Retirement Study and the National Health Interview Survey to investigate changes in older Latinos’ composition by examining five birth cohorts. Results indicate that there have been significant demographic and health changes over time among older Latinos, with later-born cohorts more racially and ethnically diverse, more educated, and exhibiting a higher prevalence of hypertension, diabetes, and obesity. Understanding these shifting dynamics is imperative for crafting strategies and public policies that meet this group’s health needs, reduce the cost of health care, and increase the quality of life for older Latinos.

INFLUENCE OF LABOR MARKET DISPARITIES ON SEX AND GENDER INEQUALITIES IN COGNITIVE DECLINE
Justina Avila-Rieger,¹ Precious Esie,² Jennifer Manly,² 1 Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer’s Disease and the Aging Brain, New York, New York, United States, 2 Columbia University, New York, New York, United States

State-level labor market disparities have been linked to health outcomes. The current study examines how labor market disparities may shape different patterns of sex/gender inequalities in cognition across race/ethnicity, place, and time. We leverage cognitive outcome data from multiple cohort and nationally representative longitudinal studies, as well as historical data on labor force participation and occupational status from IPUMS CPS. Multilevel modeling analyses was used to examine heterogeneity in sex/gender inequalities in cognitive trajectories within and between race/ethnicity and U.S. state of birth and determine whether such variability is explained by a state-level labor market opportunity composite. We expect women to demonstrate an advantage over men on cognitive measures. Women’s advantage will be more pronounced in states with a small sex/gender gap in labor market opportunities and less pronounced in states with a large gap. The magnitude of this advantage will be greater for White women compared with Black women.

HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE AND OLDER PERSONS
Sainan Zhang,¹ Sandile Simelane,¹ Tapiwa Jhamba,² and Rachel Snow,² 1. UNFPA, New York, New York, United States, 2. United Nations Population Fund, New York, New York, United States

This research explores the life circumstances of older persons (aged 60 years and above), focusing on the sociodemographic and socioeconomic conditions of those who live alone. We situate the living arrangements of older persons within the global context of changing household structures in 76 countries from all regions of the world. Older persons who live alone are among those most likely to need governmental and other forms of social support. The analysis presented here is crucial for supporting policy responses to the needs of older persons, including the special attention they require during the current COVID-19 crisis. It also supports the operationalization of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)(United Nations, 2002), the realization of United Nations Principles for Older Persons (United Nations, 1991), and the broader framework of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development(ICPA-POA).

Session 4270 (Paper)

Local, State, and Federal Policies

COMMUNITY OPTIONS TO FUND AGING SERVICES: A NATIONAL STUDY TO TRACK LOCAL INITIATIVES
Athena Koumoutzis, Jennifer Heston-Mullins, Pamela Mayberry, and Robert Applebaum, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, United States

The majority of federal support for older people needing in-home services and supports comes from the Medicaid

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