

# LIFESPAN COMMUNICATION

Chapters 1 (Pecchioni, Wright, & Nussbaum)

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1. How are psychological, sociological, and communication approaches to "development" similar and different?
2. Do you believe positive communication development can really occur across the entire lifespan?
3. Aspects of humans develop at different paces, what are the implications for human communication development?
4. What are the advantages of thinking of development from a gains/loss dynamic?
5. How powerful can the influence of a cohort be on communication development?
6. What are today's most significant environmental factors affecting communication development?

## QUESTIONS



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1. If the nature of communication is fundamentally developmental, why has the field of communication not undertaken developmental as well as age-specific studies?
2. To develop a comprehensive lifespan developmental understanding, how many levels of analysis are needed?
3. How do we know that communication has "changed"?
4. Can all theories of communication really be morphed into a lifespan-developmental framing?
5. How much do we really understand about communication development over the human lifespan? And, are our current methods adequate for capturing lifespan communication development?

## QUESTIONS



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# COMMUNICATION AND COGNITION

Pecchioni et al. 2

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## QUESTIONS

1. What is cognition?
2. How does 'cognition' differ from "social cognition"?
3. In what ways are the development of each of the primary cognitive domains (intelligence, memory, problem-solving, decision making, coping, & social intelligence) related to human communication development?
4. How can Piaget's theory of cognitive development be used to explain the development of particular communication abilities (e.g., giving a speech)?




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## COGNITIVE COMPLEXITY

1. Measure of social information processing capacity; high complexity = able to store, retrieve, organize, generate information about persons/social situations
2. Measures— Kelly's Role Construct Repertory and Crockett's Role Category Questionnaire
3. Communication involves— (a) perceiving others & social situations, (b) producing messages, (c) interpreting and responding to messages of others, and (d) coordinating interactions with others— all related to cognitive complexity




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