

Lifespan Communication: Theoretical and Conceptual Overview

Readings: Shaw-1; Pecchioni-1; Harwood-1; Socha & Pitts-1



Key Concepts: Shaw-1



- Intention
- Meaning
- Engagement
- Helping Skills (Heron, 2001) as Positive COMM values?
 - Supportive, Informative, Empathic, Catalytic, Prescriptive, Confront with sensitivity





What is Communication "Growth" ?

Theories of Aging (Harwood-1)

- Biological-**
DNA, Metabolism, Evolution, Free Radical
- Psychological-**
Disengagement Theory, Socio-Emotional Selectivity Theory, Continuity Theory, Activity Theory
- Sociological-**
Modernization Theory, Social Stratification Theory, Political Economy of Aging
- Lifespan-Developmental-**
Erikson's Theory, Selective Optimization with Compensation Model (Baltes & Baltes)

Erikson

Psycho-Social Development
Lifespan Theory

Foundations

Development results from **interaction** between maturational processes (bio needs) and societal forces/demands

Emphasis on Ego
Psycho-history
Epigenesis— "plan" of growth
Stage Approach (as related to communication)

Stage 1 Oral-Sensory (--year 1)


Trust-Mistrust

Establish Positive Attachments Patterns

Contingent Responses

Consistent Responses

Caring Responses



Stage 2 Muscular-anal (Years 2-3)


Autonomy-Doubt

Mastery of:

My Bodily Functions

My Movements

My Verbal Messages



Stage 3 Locomotor-genital (Years 4-5)


Initiative-Guilt

Create New"

Self

Identity


Roles



Stage 4 Latency (Years 6-11)

Industriousness
-Inferiority


Begin to Master Skills	Presentation of Self
	Perception
	Relational
	Conversational
	Negotiation
	Conflict Management
	Entertainment



Stage 5 Puberty/Adolescence (Years 12-18)

Identity- Role
Confusion


Reflection on	Self/Identity
	Roles
	Supportive Relationships



Stage 6 Young Adulthood (Years 19-25)

Intimacy- Isolation

Reflection on/ Master of:	Adult goals
	Adult relationships
	Adult Roles



How do we use communication to positively manage the past? Present? Future?

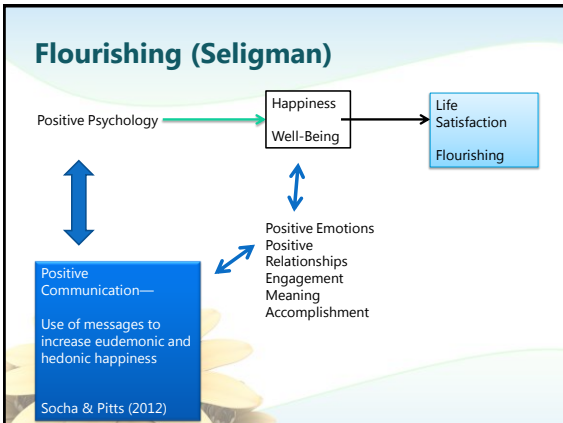
Positive Lifespan Communication




Introducing a New Theory of Well-Being

P Positive Emotions
E Engagement
R Positive Relationships
M Meaning
A Accomplishment

Martin Seligman– Flourish:
A visionary new understanding of happiness & well-being; New York: Free Press. 2011



Discussion Questions



1. How are biological, psychological, sociological, and lifespan-developmental theories applied communication development similar and different?
2. Do you believe positive communication development really occurs across the entire lifespan? Why? Why not?
3. Aspects of humans develop at different paces, what are the implications for human communication development?

Discussion Questions

- 4. What are the advantages of thinking of communication 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?



Methods



Cross-sectional



Cohort



Longitudinal, Cross-Sequential