

The Experiences of social exclusion and inclusion among people aging with neurodiversity and their families (2020-2024)



Our research project explores experiences of social exclusion and inclusion among neurodiverse older adults and their family caregivers in Montreal and Quebec City. Our goal is to collect people's stories about their lives; their experiences of growing older; their strengths, hopes and dreams; their housing realities, needs, and wishes; their experiences with health and social services; and their social networks and supports. We will also speak with service providers to gain their perspectives on the realities and challenges facing older adults living with neurodiversity and their families.

Neurodiversity

Is a term developed by disability rights communities that has started to be recognized within health and social care service settings, and society at large. Neurodiverse people include those living with intellectual and developmental disability, autism, cerebral palsy, fetal alcohol spectrum, Down syndrome, among other conditions.



Our Objectives

1. To develop recommendations that are grounded in people's experiences and perspectives.
2. To contribute to the development of inclusive policy and practice across sectors.
3. To advocate for programs and policies that better address the realities of, challenges facing, and agency enacted by neurodiverse older people and their family caregivers.



Social Exclusion

Neurodiverse older adults and their aging family carers face significant social exclusion throughout their lives. Interlocking oppressions create inequitable conditions that negatively affect their health and well-being, social inclusion and agency.



We are talking with...

- 20 Older adults (50+) living with neurodiversity
- 20 Family caregivers (parents and siblings)
- 20 Service providers within public sector services and community organizations

Our team includes **University Researchers** and **Community Partners/ Advisory Group Members**. For a full list of our team members, please refer to our web page...

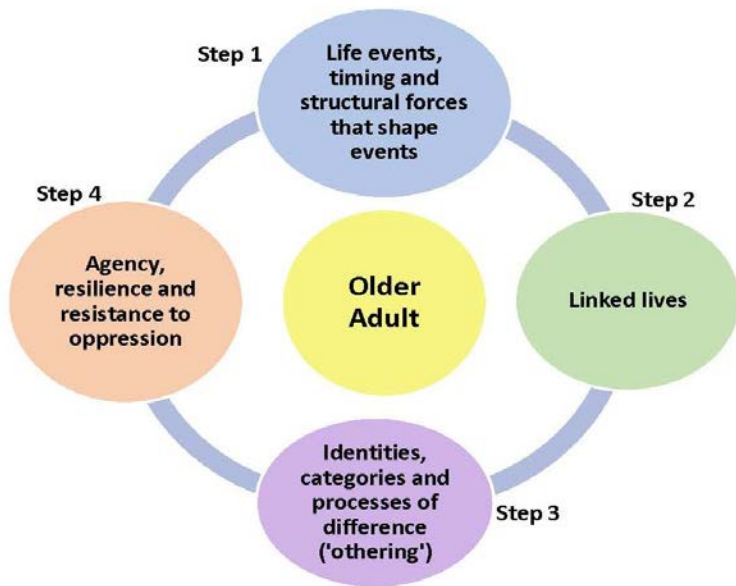
www.creges.ca/en/aging-neurodiversity

Our project design at a glance: Using theory and method to co-create stories, and centre the voices of our participants!



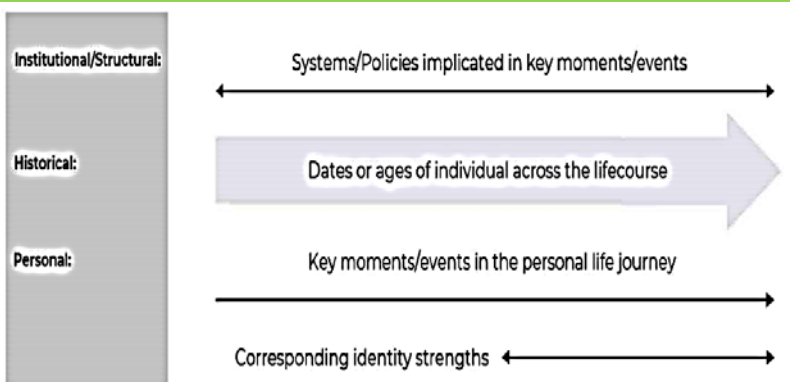
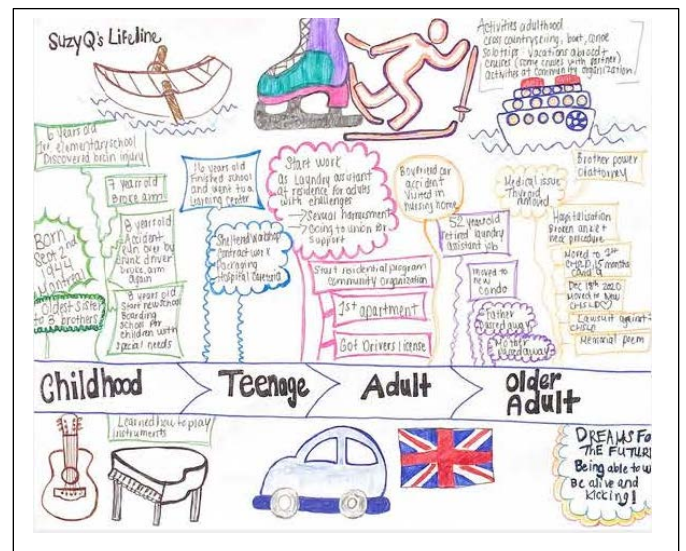
Intersectional Life Course Perspective

The intersectional life course perspective, with its 4 linked 'steps', takes account of the key events in people's lives, and the ways in which they are shaped by social context, including socio-political and cultural themes within the broader society, institutions, and social history. People's agency, resilience and resistance to oppression is also highlighted.



Life Story Narrative

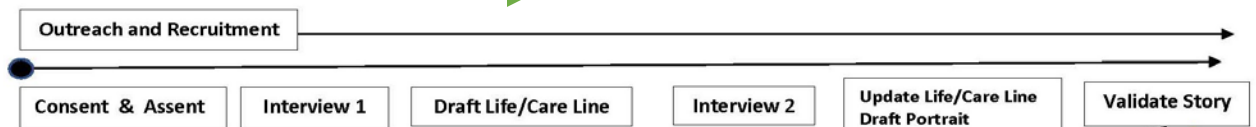
Life story narrative is a research method that centres on co-creation and power-sharing through conversations between researchers and participants about their life experiences, important moments, events and relationships, and the meanings they attribute to them.



Intersectional Life Lines and Care Lines

An arts-based, creative, and accessible research tool for engaging in conversations about people's lives, their strengths, and their challenges, all the while linking personal and historical experiences to institutional and political forces.

Our Research Process:



Final story given back to participant

Thematic analysis within and across cohorts

Policy Analysis: Housing Health and social care

Final Report Exhibit(s) Policy Briefs

*Brotman, S., Ferrer, I., & Koehn, S. (2020). Situating the life story narratives of aging immigrants within a structural context: The intersectional lifecourse perspective as research praxis. *Qualitative Research*, 20(4), 465-484; Ferrer, I., Grenier, A., Brotman, S., Koehn, S. (2017). Understanding the experiences of racialized older people through an intersectional life course perspective. *Journal of aging studies* 41, 10-17.

Life/Care Line Drawing Options:

- Constructed by participant;
- Drafted by interviewer and edited by participant;
- Co-Constructed by interviewer and participant;
- Intersectional line (analytic tool) in addition to or instead of life/care line.