Facilitating age-conscious student development through lecture-based courses on aging

Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG) 50th Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting
October 20-23, 2021

Elizabeth Russell, Ph.D., Éric R. Thériault, Ph.D., & Amber Colibaba, M.A.

Research team

Dr. Elizabeth Russell
Associate Professor; Department of Psychology
Director; Trent Centre for Aging & Society
Trent University, Peterborough, ON

Amber Colibaba
Research Coordinator; Rural Aging Research Program
Research Coordinator; Trent Centre for Aging & Society
Trent University, Peterborough, ON

Dr. Éric Thériault
Associate Professor; Department of Psychology
Cape Breton University, Sydney, NS

Perspectives on Aging

"There is much wrong with getting old – but really not much more than with living at any age. Each age has its own, different problems and we have to learn how to best adjust to them."
- *Dr. Heinz E. Lehmann*

TRENT UNIVERSITY
PSYCHOLOGY

Perspectives on Aging

Ageism: Stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination towards older people.

'It's beyond appalling:' Ontario long-term care home residents beg for release from COVID-19 confinement

SHARE: Share | Tweet | Reddit | Share 0   TEXT: +

Colin Perkel, The Canadian Press
Published Tuesday, March 30, 2021 4:09PM EDT
Last Updated Wednesday, March 31, 2021 7:26AM EDT

TORONTO - Residents of Ontario's long-term care homes begged on
allowed outside, saying anti-pandemic restrictions that have confined
more than a year make no sense given almost all have now been vac

Some compared their situations to solitary confinement, and urged th
government to act on what they called a gross violation of their basic

Canada's nursing home crisis: 81 percent of coronavirus deaths are in long-term care facilities

Crosses outside the Camilla Care Community nursing home in Mississauga, Ontario. Dozens of residents of the 236-bed facility have died during the pandemic. (Richard Lautens/Toronto Star/Getty Images)

By Amanda Coletta
May 18, 2020

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario — It was not how Mary Witkowski pictured celebrating her birthday. But with visits to her nursing home
suspended to keep the novel coronavirus out, she turned 90 on April 13 without family, in the room at the Camilla Care Community that

Youth and aging

- Often, young adults are the primary perpetrators of ageist stereotypes
- Post-secondary pedagogical interventions:
  - Mixed findings
  - Service-learning vs. lecture-based learning

TRENT
UNIVERSITY
PSYCHOLOGY

Research question

Can lecture-based courses reduce ageism?

Russell, Thériault, & Colibaba (2022)

Facilitating Age-Conscious Student Development through Lecture-Based Courses on Aging

Elizabeth Russell[1], Éric R. Thériault[2] and Amber Colibaba[3]

[1]Department of Psychology, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, [2]Department of Psychology, Cape Breton University, Sydney, Nova Scotia, and [3]Trent Centre for Aging & Society, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario.

Résumé

L'âgisme est omniprésent et socialement normalisé. Le vieillissement de la population a cependant rendu nécessaire l'approfondissement de notre compréhension de la perception du vieillissement et des personnes âgées. Cette étude a pour objectif de déterminer si les attitudes des étudiants de premier cycle universitaire envers les personnes âgées et le vieillissement peuvent être influencées par un cours de type conventionnel sur le vieillissement comprenant des cours magistraux qui n'abordent pas l'apprentissage de services. Les étudiants de deux cohortes (*n* = 40) provenant de deux universités canadiennes ont participé à des groupes de discussion et à des entretiens semi-structurés au cours desquels ils ont décrit comment le cours a pu influencer leurs perceptions du processus de vieillissement et des personnes âgées. Une

TRENT UNIVERSITY

PSYCHOLOGY

Our study

Cape Breton University
Sydney, NS
n = 26

Trent University
Peterborough, ON
n = 14

N = 40

Focus groups (2018-19): 23 participants

Interviews (2019/20): 17 participants

TRENT
UNIVERSITY
PSYCHOLOGY

Key finding: Age-conscious student development

Figure 1. Facilitating age-conscious student development through lecture-based courses on aging.
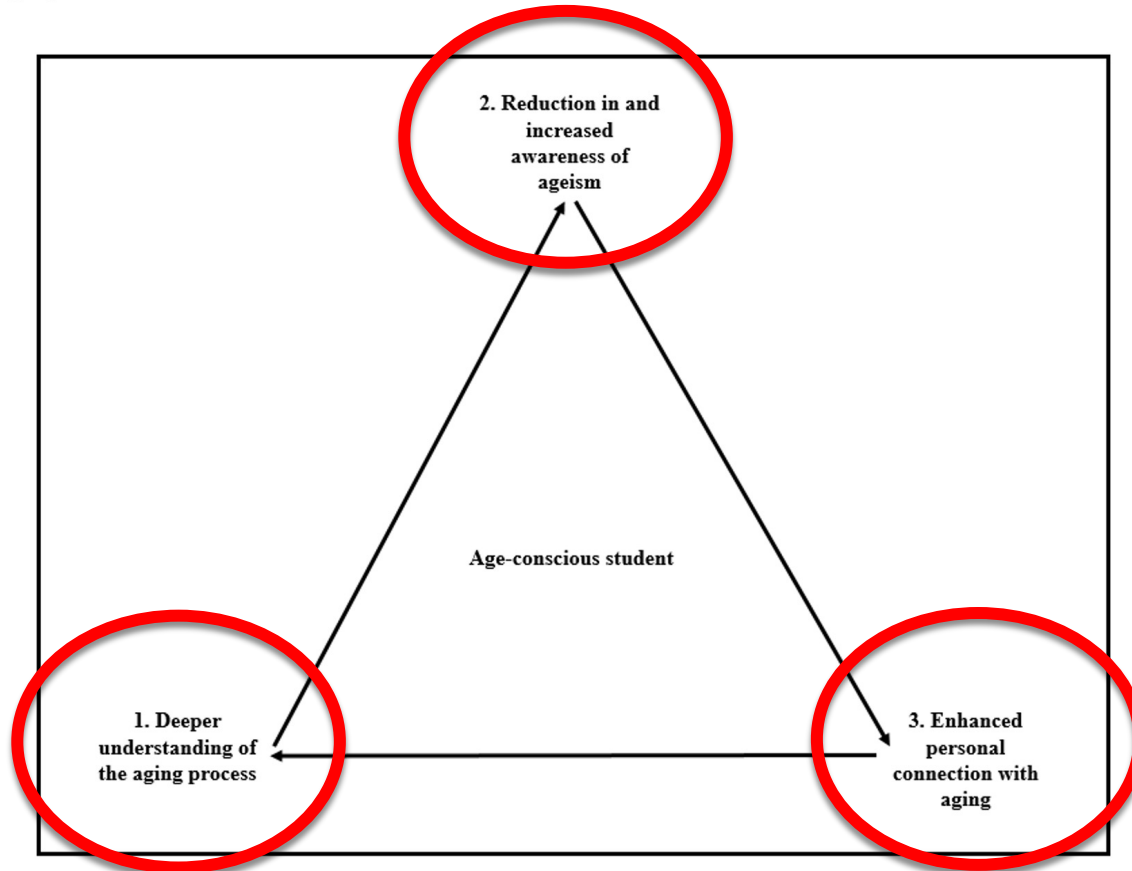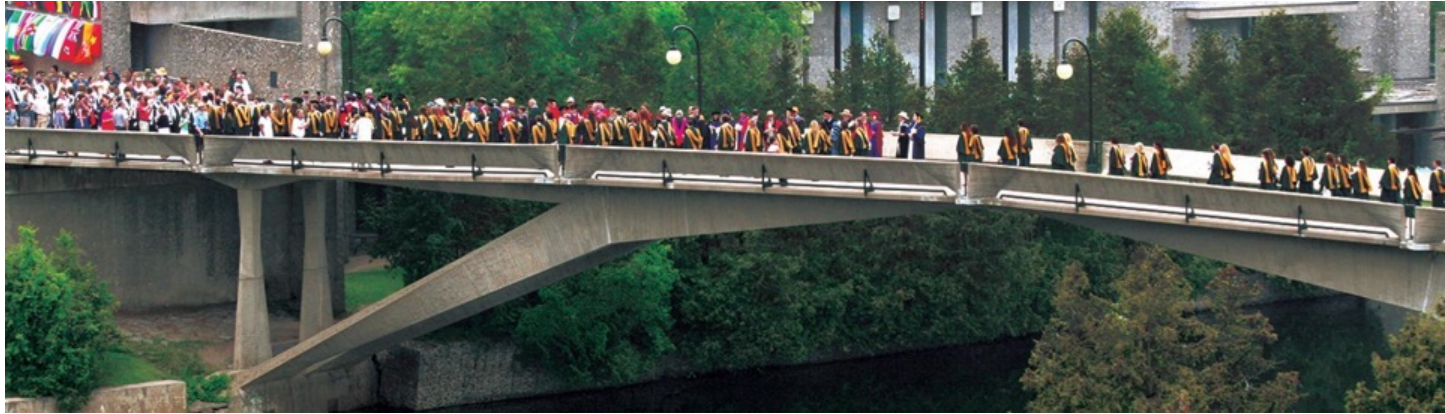
Discussion

- Age-conscious student student development

- Pushing back against unawareness of aging

- Implications:
  - Pedagogical
  - Social

TRENT
UNIVERSITY
PSYCHOLOGY

Conclusion

Helping to develop more socially conscious citizens is at the core of these findings.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to this talk!

Dr. Elizabeth Russell
elizabethrussell@trentu.ca

Russell, E., Thériault, É., & Colibaba, A. (2022). Facilitating age-conscious student development through lecture-based courses on aging. *Canadian Journal on Aging, 41*(2). https://doi.org/10.1017/S0714980821000246