

MODULE 1

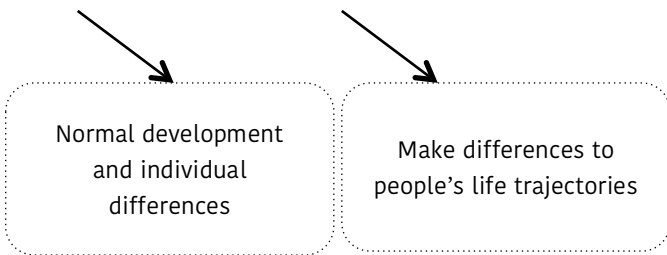
INTRO AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT DEFINITION

Systematic changes and continuities in the individual that occur between conception and death

GOALS

Describe, explain and optimise human development



SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

- Developmental theory can influence policy orientated action
- Evidence based theoretically grounded interventions can make a difference
- Problems that confront society are intergenerational

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGISTS INFLUENCE:

- Educational practices, school bullying, childcare
- Kids in the legal system
- Social policies and initiatives
- Family support
- Interventions for mental health problems, adolescent mental health and dementia

THE NATURE OF CHANGE

- Positive = growth in competence/capacity
- Negative = loss in competence/capacity

“pattern of early positive change, followed by stability, and then later negative change applies to biological/physical development, but not clearly to other developmental domains”

- Normative: universal -> milestones
- Individual differences -> when, how, uniqueness

DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESSES

- Maturation -> genes (nature)
- Learning -> experience
- Epigenetics -> genes and experience influencing gene expression i.e. the interplay of nature vs. nurture. Change influenced by both.

NORMATIVE-DESCRIPTIVE APPROACH

- Careful systematic observations of children
- Maturation theory – genetic determinants
 - Largely universal
 - Cycles “better/worse” phases
- Provide descriptive age-norms

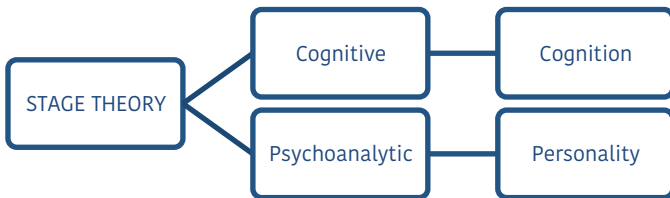
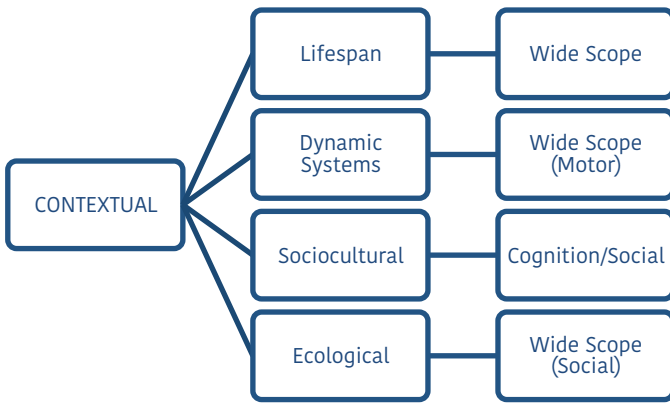
DEVELOPMENTAL THEORIES

- Map our knowledge
- Give meaning/connections to knowledge
- Provide a framework to help us organise our thinking, and make and test predictions

THINKING ABOUT THEORIES

- Focus
- Assumptions
- Predictions
- Clinical approaches

APPROACHES/THEORIES



COMPARISON OF DEVELOPMENTAL THEORIES

- Normative-descriptive
 - Nature
 - Discontinuous
 - Universal
- Psychoanalytic
 - Nature and nurture
 - Discontinuous
 - Universal

- Piagetian
 - Nature and nurture
 - Discontinuous
 - Universal
- Behaviourism
 - Nurture
 - Continuous
 - Culture-specific
- Social cognitive
 - Nurture
 - Continuous
 - Culture-specific
- Ethological
 - Nature and nurture
 - Discontinuous
 - Universal
- Ecological
 - Nurture
 - Not specified as cont. or dis
 - Culture-specific
- Sociocultural
 - Nature and nurture
 - Continuous and discontinuous
 - Culture-specific
- Dynamic systems
 - Nature and nurture
 - Continuous and discontinuous
 - Universal and culture-specific

BLOOMS TAXONOMY

- Knowledge
- Comprehension
- Application
- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Evaluation