



Psychology

Spring 2024 VIRTUAL COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The Psychology Department is pleased to announce:



Remembering the good in the bad

Elizabeth Kensinger, Ph.D.

Boston College

Colloquium Series (Virtual)

With introductory remarks by Vicky Lai

Even life's most challenging moments can contain glimmers of positivity or silver linings. This talk will describe work that has emphasized that, when a mixed-age group experiences a shared event, the memories of that event can diverge based upon a person's age. Across a number of studies enrolling a lifespan sample of adults (ages 18-80+), we have found that only younger adults' memories focus on the most negative aspects of challenging life experiences. Age is linearly associated with an increased tendency to retrieve positive features of challenging experiences in memory, and by older ages, those glimmers of positivity can even overshadow the negative event features in memory. Our fMRI studies have led us to the hypothesis that this focus on the positive details relates to how older adults engage the dmPFC during the retrieval of emotional events. We propose that the dmPFC guides the affective framing of the memories and, perhaps, triggers processes similar to retrieval induced forgetting that, over multiple retrievals, allow the positive to overtake the negative in memory.

Friday, January 24 , 2025 | 3:00 P.M. MST.

<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/82871800093>

If you have questions about access or to request any disability-related accommodations, please contact Vanessa Noonkester, vnoonkester@arizona.edu

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