

When asked how I would explain the difference between the social roles theory and the life course theory, I would explain with the following. I would say that the social role theory looks at different sexes and how there are parallels between behavior and the social roles in their life they will encounter. For example the similarities and differences between how social events affect the development of the child. The Life Course Theory, looks into an individual's life from different aspects such as social, cultural, and structural. For example, looking at how a culture will impact one's life. In the article Social Role Theory, it talks specifically about how these two theories can relate as the social role theory looks at the impact of social encounters that are important to development, and how the Life Course Theory looks at how these important relationships can help predict and explain the life of the individual (Eagly 2012). For example, the social role theory might look at how females foster relationships with other females in early adolescence and the life course theory might look into how this influence might have been brought on as if the child was raised by only her father and has 3 brothers she might seek female friendships more.

These are both super important theories to know as I go into Child Life as I will need to understand the importance of social roles. When a child is sick, ill, hospitalized, or even loses a loved one their daily lives will be disrupted. With a child's life, these theories will also be useful in reminding myself and the patient that they are just a kid and that they deserve to be a kid. Children will seek relationships with peers and will be affected significantly by what is happening to them. The roles of the child will also vary so being able to understand their needs will be super important. You will be more in tune with the patient and their needs at the time.

In regards to how these theories meet the criteria of utility and test of time, I would say that they do. Both theories have been around for a very long time. Life course theory was published in the 1960s and social role theory was published in the 1980s. Although both of this date back in time I think that they will be useful for the years to come. As stated in the article Social Role Theory: Handbook of Theories of Social Psychology states, these set social rules discussed in the theory of Life Course will be a good outline for educators and researchers to analyze the development of lifespan and the influences that take place to effect it (Elder 1998). This article talked about how it will be used and it is still used today. This theory also uses utility as it observes the individual and does not influence them directly. This is important to allow the individual to be themselves and learn for themselves and not others.

References

- Eagly, A. H., & Wood, W. (2012). Social role theory. *Handbook of theories of social psychology*, 2.
Elder Jr, G. H. (1998). The life course as developmental theory. *Child development*, 69(1), 1-12.