Erik Erikson

• A neo-Freudian
• Worked with Anna Freud
• Thought our development was influenced by our experiences with others.
• Stages of Psychosocial Development: each stage centers on a social conflict.
• If a stage is not resolved, it will continue to affect the person’s development throughout life
Social Development

- Harlow’s Surrogate Mother Experiments
  - Monkeys preferred contact with the comfortable cloth mother, even while feeding from the nourishing wire mother
Monkeys raised by artificial mothers were terror-stricken when placed in strange situations without their surrogate mothers.
Social Development

- Critical Period
  - an optimal period shortly after birth when an organism’s exposure to certain stimuli or experiences produces proper development
Social Development

- **Imprinting**
  - the process by which certain animals form attachments during a critical period very early in life
Social Development

- **Basic Trust** (Erik Erikson)
  - a sense that the world is predictable and trustworthy
  - said to be formed during infancy by appropriate experiences with responsive caregivers

- **Self-Concept**
  - a sense of one’s identity and personal worth
Adolescence

- Adolescence
  - the transition period from childhood to adulthood
  - extending from puberty to independence

- Puberty
  - the period of sexual maturation
  - when a person becomes capable of reproduction
Trust v. Mistrust (0-1)

• If needs are dependably met, infants develop a sense of basic trust.
• The trust or mistrust they develop can carry on with the child for the rest of their lives.
Autonomy v. Shame & Doubt (1-2)

• Toddlers learn to exercise their will and do things for themselves, or they doubt their abilities.

• Control Temper Tantrums

• Big word is “NO”

• Can they learn control or will they doubt themselves?
Initiative v. Guilt (3-6)

• Preschoolers learn to initiate tasks and carry out plans, or they feel guilty about their efforts to be independent.

• Word turns from “NO” to “WHY?”

• Want to understand the world and ask questions.

• Is their curiosity encouraged or scolded?
Industry v. Inferiority (6-puberty)

• Children learn the pleasure of applying themselves to tasks, or they feel inferior.
• School begins
• We are for the first time evaluated by a formal system and our peers.
• Do we feel good or bad about our accomplishments?
• Can lead to us feeling bad about ourselves for the rest of our lives...inferiority complex.
Identity v. Role Confusion (puberty-20s)

- Teenagers work at refining a sense of self by testing roles and then integrating them to form a single identity, or they become confused about who they are.
- Who am I?
- What group do I fit in with?
- If I do not find myself I may develop an identity crisis.
Intimacy v. Isolation (20s-40s)

• Young adults struggle to form close relationships and to gain the capacity for intimate love, or they feel socially isolated.

• What are my priorities?

• Marriage: At least a 5 to 1 ratio of positive to negative interactions is a clear indicator of a healthy relationship.
Generativity v. Stagnation (40s-60s)

• In middle age, people discover a sense of contributing to the world, usually through family and work, or they may feel a lack of purpose.

• Am I happy with what I created?

• Mid-life crisis!!!
Integrity v. Despair (60s and up)

• Reflecting on his or her life, an older adult may feel a sense of satisfaction or failure.

• Was my life meaningful or do I have regret?
Adolescence: Social Development

- **Identity**
  - one’s sense of self
  - the adolescent’s task is to solidify a sense of self by testing and integrating various roles

- **Intimacy**
  - the ability to form close, loving relationships
  - a primary developmental task in late adolescence and early adulthood
Adulthood: Physical Development

- Menopause
  - the time of natural cessation of menstruation
  - also refers to the biological changes a woman experiences as her ability to reproduce declines

- Alzheimer’s Disease
  - a progressive and irreversible brain disorder
  - characterized by a gradual deterioration of memory, reasoning, language, and finally, physical functioning
Adulthood: Cognitive Development

- **Cross-Sectional Study**: a study in which people of different ages are compared with one another

- **Longitudinal Study**: a study in which the same people are restudied and retested over a long period

### Graph:

- **Cross-sectional method** suggests decline
- **Longitudinal method** suggests more stability

![Graph showing reasoning ability scores across different ages for both cross-sectional and longitudinal methods.](image)
Adulthood: Cognitive Development

- **Crystallized Intelligence**
  - one’s accumulated knowledge and verbal skills
  - tends to increase with age

- **Fluid Intelligence**
  - one’s ability to reason speedily and abstractly
  - tends to decrease during late adulthood
Adulthood: Social Changes

- **Social Clock**
  - the culturally preferred timing of social events
    - marriage
    - parenthood
    - retirement
Elizabeth Kubler Ross – Stages of Grief

- Known by the acronym DABDA, include:
  - **Denial** — "I feel fine."; "This can't be happening, not to me." Denial is usually only a temporary defense for the individual. This feeling is generally replaced with heightened awareness of possessions and individuals that will be left behind after death.
  - **Anger** — "Why me? It's not fair!"; "How can this happen to me?"; "Who is to blame?" Once in the second stage, the individual recognizes that denial cannot continue. Because of anger, the person is very difficult to care for due to misplaced feelings of rage and envy.
  - **Bargaining** — "I'll do anything for a few more years."; "I will give my life savings if..." The third stage involves the hope that the individual can somehow postpone or delay death. Usually, the negotiation for an extended life is made with a higher power in exchange for a reformed lifestyle.
  - **Depression** — "I'm so sad, why bother with anything?"; "I'm going to die soon so what's the point... What's the point?"; "I miss my loved one, why go on?" During the fourth stage, the dying person begins to understand the certainty of death. Because of this, the individual may become silent, refuse visitors and spend much of the time crying and grieving.
  - **Acceptance** — "It's going to be okay."; "I can't fight it, I may as well prepare for it." In this last stage, individuals begin to come to terms with their mortality, or that of a loved one, or other tragic event.