



## Developmental Designs



## Developmental designs

- By definition, most developmental designs are quasi-experiments
- Age is a subject variable, not an IV
- Three types of designs:
  - Cross-sectional
  - Longitudinal
  - Cohort-sequential



## Cross-sectional

- Participants from different age groups are evaluated on some measure all at once
- Age is a between-subjects variable
- Advantage: Data can be obtained quickly
- Disadvantage: Cohort/generation effects



## Longitudinal

- Participants are tested several times across some time frame
- Age is a within-subjects variable
- Advantage: Controls for generation effect
- Disadvantage: takes longer to collect data and possible carry-over effects



## Cohort-sequential

- Combines cross-sectional and longitudinal designs; Measure groups of subjects several times as they age
- Age is both a within-subjects and a between-subjects variable
- Advantage: Can measure generation effect
- Disadvantage: Takes a while to collect data and you may still have carry-over effects