

## **Meeting of Minds 2015**

**Title:** How Does Age and Adversity Affect the Level of Hope?

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### **Abstract:**

Snyder's Hope Theory states hope pathway, plans to meet a goal, and agency, goal-directed determination, develops in early-childhood, yet agency continues to develop with successful pathways (Snyder, 2000). Literature supports hope theory in adulthood, but in latter pathways decline (Ai et al, 2004; Bailey & Snyder, 2007). Additionally literature indicates agency can be extinguished in adulthood by traumatic events, but if the event occurs in childhood, agency and pathway thinking could be disrupted (Snyder, 2002). The purpose of this study is to examine how current age and the age when the event occurs influences agency and pathway. It is hypothesized that participants in late adulthood and participants that experienced adversity in childhood will have lower hope pathway. Data was collected from American undergraduates that indicated their most stressful life event. One-way ANOVA analyses will determine differences in pathway and agency amongst current age and age when the event occurred.