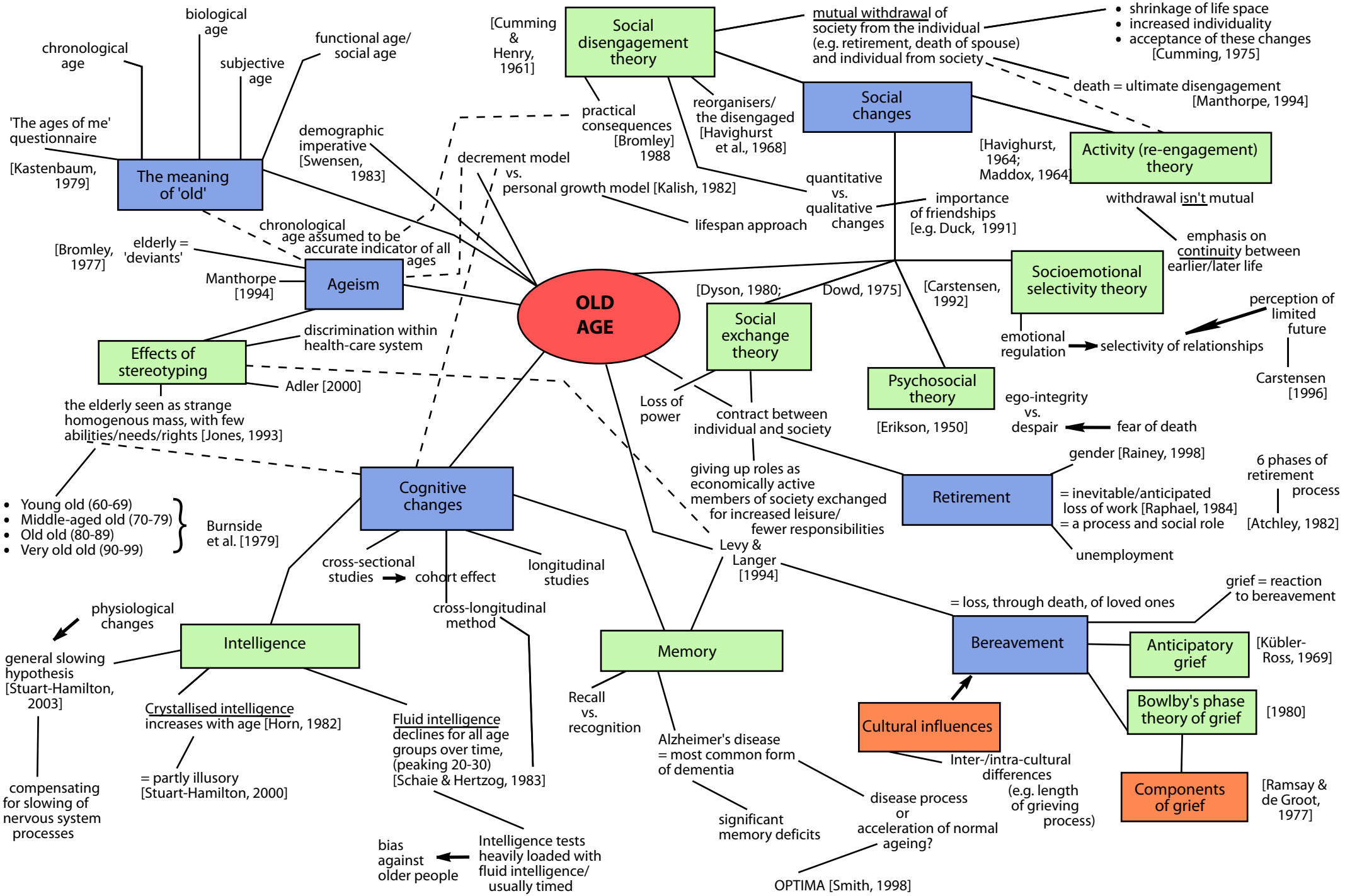
OLD AGE
The meaning of 'old'
chronological age
biological age
subjective age
functional age/ social age
'The ages of me' questionnaire
[Kastenbaum, 1979]
Ageism
[Bromley, 1977]
elderly = 'deviants'
Manthorpe [1994]
chronological age assumed to be accurate indicator of all ages
Effects of stereotyping
discrimination within health-care system
Adler [2000]
the elderly seen as strange homogenous mass, with few abilities/needs/rights [Jones, 1993]
Cognitive changes
Young old (60-69)
Middle-aged old (70-79)
Old old (80-89)
Very old old (90-99)
Burnside et al. [1979]
cross-sectional studies
cohort effect
longitudinal studies
cross-longitudinal method
Intelligence
physiological changes
general slowing hypothesis [Stuart-Hamilton, 2003]
compensating for slowing of nervous system processes
Crystallised intelligence increases with age [Horn, 1982]
= partly illusory [Stuart-Hamilton, 2000]
Fluid intelligence declines for all age groups over time, (peaking 20-30) [Schaie & Hertzog, 1983]
Intelligence tests heavily loaded with fluid intelligence/ usually timed
bias against older people
Memory
Recall vs. recognition
Alzheimer's disease = most common form of dementia
significant memory deficits
disease process or acceleration of normal ageing?
OPTIMA [Smith, 1998]
Social disengagement theory
[Cumming & Henry, 1961]
practical consequences [Bromley] 1988
reorganisers/ the disengaged [Havighurst et al., 1968]
mutual withdrawal of society from the individual (e.g. retirement, death of spouse) and individual from society
shrinkage of life space
increased individuality
acceptance of these changes [Cumming, 1975]
death = ultimate disengagement [Manthorpe, 1994]
Social changes
[Havighurst, 1964; Maddox, 1964]
Activity (re-engagement) theory
withdrawal isn't mutual
emphasis on continuity between earlier/later life
decrement model vs. personal growth model [Kalish, 1982]
quantitative vs. qualitative changes
lifespan approach
importance of friendships [e.g. Duck, 1991]
Socioemotional selectivity theory
[Carstensen, 1992]
emotional regulation
selectivity of relationships
perception of limited future
Carstensen [1996]
Social exchange theory
[Dyson, 1980; Dowd, 1975]
Loss of power
contract between individual and society
giving up roles as economically active members of society exchanged for increased leisure/ fewer responsibilities
Levy & Langer [1994]
Psychosocial theory
[Erikson, 1950]
ego-integrity vs. despair
fear of death
Retirement
gender [Rainey, 1998]
= inevitable/anticipated loss of work [Raphael, 1984]
= a process and social role
unemployment
6 phases of retirement process
[Atchley, 1982]
Bereavement
= loss, through death, of loved ones
grief = reaction to bereavement
Anticipatory grief
[Kübler-Ross, 1969]
Bowlby's phase theory of grief
[1980]
Components of grief
[Ramsay & de Groot, 1977]
Cultural influences
Inter-/intra-cultural differences (e.g. length of grieving process)