Age Boom Academy
Combating Loneliness in Aging: Toward a 21st Century Blueprint for Societal Connectedness

2021 Moderator and Speaker Bios

With thanks to our funders:

RRF Foundation for Aging

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Moderators

Rodney A. Brooks writes about retirement and issues related to economic and health disparities. His retirement columns appear in *U.S. News & World Report* and on SeniorPlanet.com, and he is a contributing writer at *National Geographic* and ESPN's *The Undefeated*. He has also written columns for *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.

Rodney is co-author of *Retirement Planning Essentials: A Guide to Living Well Without Running Out of Money*. He is also author of *Is One Million Dollars Enough: A Guide to Planning for and Living Through a Successful Retirement*. His third book, *Fixing the Racial Wealth Gap*, will be published in September. He has written extensively about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Black community for *National Geographic* and financial literacy for *The Undefeated*. He previously served as deputy managing editor and retirement columnist for *USA Today* and assistant business editor at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. He has also worked as a reporter or editor for the *Citizen-Times in Asheville, NC*, and the *Ithaca Journal* in NY.

A native of Linden, NJ, Rodney received a BS in Communication Arts from Cornell University and an executive certificate in financial planning from Georgetown University. He has been a fellow at the GSA Journalists in Aging Fellowship Program and the Columbia Aging Center’s Age Boom Academy. He also was selected for National Press Foundation fellowships on pensions and retirement reporting and was a recipient of the President’s Award from the National Association of Black Journalists. He serves on the Foolproof Foundation’s Walter Cronkite Committee, an organization dedicated to teaching financial literacy in public schools.

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Rich Eisenberg is the managing editor of Next Avenue, the public media site for people 50+. He is also the editor of the site's “Money & Policy” and “Work & Purpose” channels and a regular blogger there. Previously, he was executive editor of *Money* magazine, front page finance editor of Yahoo!, and special projects director/money editor of *Good Housekeeping*. He is the author of *How to Avoid a Midlife Financial Crisis* and *The Money Book of Personal Finance* and was an Age Boom Academy Fellow and a Gerontological Society of America Journalists in Aging Fellow. He graduated from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.

nextavenue.org
Moderators

Chris Farrell is senior economics contributor at Minnesota Public Radio and Marketplace, American Public Media’s nationally syndicated public radio business and economic programs. He is co-host of the MPR/APM podcast “small change: Money Stories from the Neighborhood.” Chris is a columnist for PBS Next Avenue and the Minneapolis Star Tribune. He has written for Bloomberg Businessweek, The New York Times, Kiplinger’s, and other publications. His most recent book is Purpose and a Paycheck: Finding Meaning, Money, and Happiness in the Second Half of Life (HarperCollins Leadership, 2019).

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Kerry Hannon is a nationally recognized strategist on career transitions, entrepreneurship, personal finance, and retirement. She is a frequent keynote speaker and TV and radio commentator. Kerry is the author of 14 books, including the forthcoming Great Pajama Jobs: How to Land a Job Without the Commute, Never Too Old to Get Rich: The Entrepreneur’s Guide to Starting a Business Mid-Life, Great Jobs for Everyone 50+, Money Confidence, Getting the Job You Want After 50, and Love Your Job: The New Rules for Career Happiness. She is an expert columnist and regular contributor to The New York Times, MarketWatch, Forbes, and the PBS website.

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Carol Hymowitz writes and speaks about the challenges and opportunities of living longer, including lengthening careers, work transitions, retirement savings, and health and lifestyle. Her work has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg Businessweek, Next Avenue, and Stanford Social Innovation Review, where she’s currently editing “The Multigenerational Moment” series. She formerly was an editor at large at Bloomberg, where she wrote award-winning stories about the longevity economy, gender and racial inequality, and business leaders. Previously she was a senior editor and management columnist at The Wall Street Journal, where she spent most of her journalism career, and she also was editorial director of Forbes Woman at Forbes Media. She is co-author of A History of Women in America (Bantam) and a contributing author of Getting Older: How We’re Coping with the Gray Areas of Aging (Wiley eBooks).

Twitter: @Carol Hymowitz | Facebook: @chymowitz1
Charles Branas, PhD, has conducted research that extends from urban and rural areas in the US to communities across the globe, incorporating place-based interventions and human geography. He has led win-win science that generates new knowledge while simultaneously creating positive, real-world changes and providing health-enhancing resources for local communities. His pioneering work on geographic access to medical care has changed the healthcare landscape, leading to the designation of new hospitals and a series of national scientific replications in the US and other countries for many conditions including trauma, cancer, and stroke. His research on the geography and factors underpinning gun violence has been cited by landmark Supreme Court decisions, Congress, and the National Institutes of Health director. With community partners, Charlie led the first citywide randomized controlled trials to transform vacant lots and abandoned buildings as sustainable solutions to improving health and safety, including reductions in gun violence. He has worked internationally on four continents and led multi-national efforts, producing extensive cohorts of developing nation scientists, national health metrics, and worldwide press coverage.

Twitter: @EpiProfCharlie & @CUEpidemiology
Sara J. Czaja, PhD, is a professor of Gerontology and the director of the Center on Aging and Behavioral Research at Weill Cornell College of Medicine. She is an emeritus professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She is also the director of the Center on Research and Education for Aging and Technology Enhancement (CREATE), which focuses on the interface between older adults and technology systems. CREATE is funded by the National Institute on Aging and involves collaboration with the University of Miami, Florida State University and the University of Illinois.

Sara has extensive experience in aging research and a long commitment to developing strategies to improve the quality of life for older adults. Her research interests include: aging and cognition, family caregiving, aging and technology, training, and functional assessment. She has received continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health to support her research. She has written numerous books, book chapters, and over 200 scientific articles. She is a fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, and the Gerontological Society of America. She is also past president of Division 20 (Adult Development and Aging) of the American Psychological Association.

She served as a member of the National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Board on Human Systems Integration, the NASEM Committee on the Public Health Dimensions of Cognitive Aging, and the NASEM Committee on Family Caregiving for Older Adults. Sara is the recipient of the 2015 M. Powell Lawton Distinguished Contribution Award for Applied Gerontology of the American Psychological Association (APA), the 2013 Social Impact Award for the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), the 2013 Jack A. Kraft Award for Innovation from the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, The Franklin V. Taylor Award, Division 21, (APA), and the 2020 M. Powell Lawton Award of the Gerontological Society of America.

Twitter: @CREATE_Center
Linda P. Fried, MD, MPH, is the director of the Age Boom Academy. She is a leader in the fields of epidemiology and geriatrics who has dedicated her career to the science of healthy aging and creating the basis for a transition to a world where health span matches our increased life expectancies, and where greater longevity benefits people of all ages.

Director of the Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center, Linda also serves as Dean at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health where she is appointed as DeLamar Professor of Public Health and Professor of Epidemiology, as well as professor of medicine at The College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Senior Vice President of the Columbia University Medical Center. Previously, she served as the Mason F. Lord Professor of Geriatric Medicine and director of the division of geriatric medicine and gerontology and of The Center on Aging and Health at Johns Hopkins.

An internationally renowned scientist and author of over 500 peer reviewed articles, Linda has done seminal work in defining frailty as a medical condition, illuminating the causes and the potential for prevention of frailty, disability, and cardiovascular disease as keys to optimizing health for older adults. An elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, she serves on its Executive Council and co-chairs the NAM Commission for a Global Roadmap on Healthy Longevity. She is Chair of the International Loneliness and Isolation Research Network (ILINK). In addition to her service as a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Aging, she served as 2016-18 co-chair for the WEF's Future Agendas Council on Human Enhancement and now serves on their Council on Human Longevity. Linda was the 2016-17 President of the Association of American Physicians, an elected society of the leading physician-scientists in the United States.

Linda is the designer and co-founder of Experience Corps, a scientifically designed community-based public health program in 23 U.S cities in which senior volunteers serve in public elementary schools. Acting as tutors and mentors, the older volunteers help boost students' academic performance while bolstering their own health through the continued activity and interaction.

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Justin S. Golub, MD, MS, is an associate professor of otolaryngology—head and neck surgery at the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. He attended Emory University School of Medicine, did a residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle, and had a fellowship in neurotology at the University of Cincinnati. He obtained a master’s in Biostatistics/Patient-oriented Research at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. He is the author of more than 60 peer-reviewed research publications and has co-edited three books, including a bestseller among trainees. Justin has a National Institutes of Health-funded research program investigating the brain effects of age-related hearing loss. He has lectured internationally, and his research has been reported in The New York Times. He is also a leading pioneer in minimally invasive endoscopic ear surgery. Clinically he is interested in optimizing treatment of age-related hearing loss and improving hearing outcomes using endoscopic ear surgery.

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Dana Griffin is the co-founder and CEO of Eldera.ai, the global platform for wisdom sharing and intergenerational connection on a mission to tap into the time and wisdom of one billion elders around the world as a new natural resource for the next generation. Eldera is all about bringing back the “Era of the Elders.” She envisions Eldera as a virtual multigenerational village where kids benefit from social-emotional learning and increased resilience, elders benefit from a sense of purpose and expanded legacy, and most importantly, everyone experiences more joy.

Dana was raised by her grandparents in Transylvania, Romania, and has been guided by elder mentors throughout her life. A former data and advertising executive turned age-tech entrepreneur, AI for Good advocate, and author of multiple trademarks and patents focused on aging and wisdom, Dana serves on multiple AI and aging-related boards. She has been advising, consulting, and speaking internationally about principled uses of AI for innovation, policy, and social impact and was recognized by AdAge as a “40 under 40 changing the advertising industry.”

A Vedic meditator and outspoken fan of interesting people and good food, Dana spends her time cooking, training in Krav Maga, and exploring human consciousness.

Twitter: @danaagriffin | LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/danaagriffin/ | eldera.ai


Caitlin M. Hawke is Project Lead on the Age Boom Academy. As senior science and strategy officer of the Columbia Aging Center, she builds interdisciplinary partnerships and identifies research synergies among campus faculty at Columbia University, visiting international and US scholars, and trainees. As a network specialist, she is a good connector for sourcing articles.

In her community work, Caitlin writes occasionally for the West Side Rag and blogs regularly for her Upper West Side Block Association about the microneighborhood of Bloomingdale, where she also served on the board of directors of Bloomingdale Aging in Place (BAiP). Until January 2021, she co-chaired all of BAiP’s activities, overseeing 100+ volunteers and roughly 1,500 activity timepoints for this grassroots, peer-to-peer organization of over 1200 neighbors. An all-volunteer, intergenerational network of neighbors based on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, BAiP is dedicated to helping older adults lead vital, connected, safe, and comfortable lives as their needs change. The inexpensive model which harnesses its power from the social capital of older adults may be seen as a hyperlocal, community-building loneliness intervention with the potential to be replicated and grafted onto a variety of communities and in a range of urban or rural contexts.

For her work in Public Health and scientific exchange, the French Government named her Chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 2012 as well as Chevalier in the French National Order of Merit. In 2015 she received Columbia’s Reid Hall Golden Jubilee Medal. She is the recipient of the 2019 Columbia Mailman School of Public Health Staff Excellence Award.

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Louise Hawkley, PhD, is a principal research scientist with NORC at the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on the role of psychosocial factors, particularly loneliness and social isolation, in explaining individual differences in health and well-being in older adulthood. She is a co-investigator on the National Social Life, Health and Aging Project (NSHAP), an ongoing population-based panel study of over 3,000 older adults launched in 2005 and funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA). This study extends her earlier work as an investigator on NIA-funded studies of loneliness and its antecedents and consequences in middle to older adulthood, conducted while she was director of the Social Neuroscience Laboratory in the Department of Psychology at the University of Chicago.

Louise recently secured NIA funding to study the experiences of older adults during the global COVID-19 pandemic using the community-dwelling NSHAP sample, and an NSF-funded study of COVID effects in a national sample of 18-80+ year-olds. She has been in demand as a content expert during the COVID-19 pandemic and has been called upon by diverse organizations and individuals to advise on the problem of loneliness and social isolation. She currently leads a team of researchers contracted by Illinois Aging Services to evaluate the effectiveness of social isolation programs being implemented by Area Agencies on Aging in Illinois.

Louise consults for a number of organizations, including the AARP Foundation and the UnitedHealth Group. She was called upon as an expert witness for the solitary confinement case Ashker v. Governor of California, 2015, and has given invited lectures and panel presentations for academic and service institutions in national and international venues. She is a member of the American Society on Aging, the Gerontological Society of America, the Foundation for Social Connectedness, and the International Loneliness and Isolation Research Network.

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NORC at the University of Chicago Media Kit
Speakers

Julia Hotz is a communities manager with Solutions Journalism Network (SJN) who has reported solutions-focused stories for *The New York Times, The Boston Globe, Scientific American, Fast Company, VICE, Next City,* and more. With her podcast-partner-in-coolness, Jay Woodward, she cohosts "Google, Tell Me Something Good"—a daily newscast exploring what's working. Before joining SJN, she wore many non-journalism hats, including: high school English teacher, bartender, pizza shop waitress, math tutor, and summer camp "forest ranger" for five-year-olds who wanted to do everything but be in a forest. She's a proud alum of both the University of Cambridge and Union College.

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Leslie Hunter-Gadsden is a journalist and educator with over 30 years of experience writing for print and online publications. She has written personal essays and covered a variety of topics including business, the arts, and entrepreneurship for several publications including Next Avenue, Black Enterprise and Sisters from AARP. She is a graduate of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism. LinkedIn

Articles of Note: “How the Biggest Groups on Aging Are Tackling Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,” Next Avenue, April 13, 2021.


Speakers

Karen Ignagni serves as president and CEO of the EmblemHealth family of companies. EmblemHealth has protected access to quality care for essential workers, small and large businesses, and Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries through its health plans, EmblemHealth, and ConnectiCare for more than 80 years. It has built a network of over 40 primary and specialty physician practices through AdvantageCare Physicians and BronxDocs. EmblemHealth Health®@Work plays a critical role in serving the occupational health needs of eastern New York, and EmblemHealth Family Dental Practices serve New York State workers. EmblemHealth recently launched WellSpark, a national wellness company focused on bridging the gap between physical and mental wellness.

During her tenure as president and CEO, Karen led an unprecedented modernization effort with a relentless focus on the customer experience. EmblemHealth’s growth and expansion of services has led to many accolades for her leadership in the healthcare industry, earning recognition by leading publications including The New York Times, City and State, Modern Healthcare, Crain’s, National Journal, Time, and Fortune.

Twitter: @EmblemHealth

Tom Kamber, PhD, is the founder and executive director of Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) and Senior Planet. He is a leading expert on aging and technology and is regularly featured in national media. Under his leadership, OATS and Senior Planet have developed award-winning programs for older adults across America and are now charitable affiliates of AARP.

Tom has taught courses on technology, urban studies, and philanthropy at Columbia University, is widely published in professional and academic journals, and has presented his work on five continents. He is also a co-founder of the Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance (which has won multiple Grammy awards) and serves on several nonprofit boards of directors and public commissions.

Twitter: @thomaskamber & @seniorplanet & @OlderAdultsTech | Facebook: @seniorplanet & @olderadultstechnologyservices
Becca R. Levy, PhD, is a professor of Epidemiology at Yale School of Public Health and professor of Psychology at Yale University. She received her PhD in psychology from Harvard University. Her research explores psychosocial factors that influence older individuals’ cognitive and physical functioning, as well as their longevity. She is credited with creating a field of study that focuses on how positive and negative age stereotypes, which are assimilated from the culture, can have beneficial and adverse effects, respectively, on the health of older individuals. Her studies have been conducted by longitudinal, experimental, and cross-cultural methods.

This research has led to receiving a number of awards including the Baltes Distinguished Research Achievement Award from the Adult Development and Aging Division of the American Psychological Association, the Richard Kalish Innovation Publication Award from Gerontological Society of America, the Brookdale National Fellowship for Leadership in Aging, and the Ewald W. Busse Research Award for Excellence in Social Behavioral Sciences from the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics. Her research has been supported by the National Institute on Aging, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the National Science Foundation, and the Donaghue Medical Research Foundation. Becca has given invited testimony before the United States Senate on the effects of ageism and contributed to briefs submitted to the United States Supreme Court in age-discrimination cases. She is also a scientific advisor to the World Health Organization Global Campaign to Combat Ageism.

publichealth.yale.edu/profile/becca_levy
Lisa Marsh Ryerson is president of AARP Foundation, the charitable affiliate of AARP. A bold, disciplined, and collaborative leader, she sets the Foundation’s strategic direction and steers its efforts to realize an audacious vision: a country free of poverty, where no older person feels vulnerable. Since she took the helm, AARP Foundation has implemented pioneering initiatives, explored new avenues for collaboration, and secured unprecedented funding to support programs and services that truly change lives. In its last three-year strategic plan, AARP Foundation generated over $5 billion of income for older adults through work and jobs, tax refunds, and credits and food security benefits.

She also has served on the boards of numerous higher education and nonprofit organizations, including the Council of Independent Colleges, Southern New Hampshire University, Shriver Center on Poverty Law, the Congressional Hunger Center, and National Women’s History Museum.

Lisa has spearheaded innovative partnerships with other organizations to create and advance effective solutions that help vulnerable older adults increase their economic opportunity and social connectedness. Before joining AARP Foundation, Lisa served as the president and CEO of Wells College in Aurora, NY.

Twitter: @PresRyerson
Roger O’Sullivan is director of ageing research and development at the Institute of Public Health in Ireland and visiting professor at Ulster University. He is a member of the UK Faculty of Public Health and a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. Roger has worked in public policy research since 1999 and for over 10 years has held the position of director and/or CEO. He is a member of the Task Force on Loneliness in Ireland, secretariat to the International Loneliness and social Isolation research NetworK (I-LINK) and the Gerontological Society of America interest group on loneliness and social isolation.

Roger is principal investigator of the global study “Coping with Loneliness, Isolation, and COVID-19” and chair of the UK's Research and Innovation’s Social Behavioural and Design Research Programme—Expert Advisory Group.

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Carla Perissinotto, MD, MHS, is the medical director for University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Care at Home, and is an associate professor in the Division of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine. Carla is board certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Medicine. Her main work is in UCSF Care at Home, which provides medical care to home-bound older adults, and in embedded geriatrics consult practices. From 2008-2017, Carla spent a portion of her clinical time at the Over 60 Health Center, a federally qualified health center, serving adults over age 55 in Alameda County, CA. At Over 60, Carla directed the educational programs for UCSF learners, and focused on practice change by establishing a team-based model for community-based geriatrics seeing adults across a continuum of care. Carla gained national and international recognition for her research on the effects of loneliness on the health of older adults.

Twitter: @UCSF Geriatrics | Article of note: Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults, National Academies Press, 2020.
Elena Portacolone, PhD, is an associate professor of sociology in the Institute for Health & Aging at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and a Pepper Center Scholar at the Division of Geriatric Medicine at UCSF. Elena is also an alumna of the Butler-Williams program at the National Institute on Aging and of the Health Disparities Institute at the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Turin, Italy. After working in the corporate sector in the United Kingdom, she completed an MPH degree at School of Public Health at UC Berkeley, an MBA degree at the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley, and a PhD in Sociology in the Department of Social and Behavioral Science at UCSF. She studies older adults living alone with cognitive impairment, their access and use of long-term services and supports, and the precarity and isolation they face in the community.

elenaportacolone.com
Thomas Prohaska, PhD, has 30-plus years’ experience in gerontological public health research, education, and practice. He is an emeritus dean in the College of Health and Human Services at George Mason University and an emeritus professor at the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois Chicago.

Tom has been a principal investigator/co-investigator on numerous federal- and foundation-funded research projects. He has contributed to more than 150 publications and government documents about gerontological public health and behavioral health risk factors in older populations. His research is focused on population- and community-based health-promotion interventions/programs for older adults including translation and dissemination of evidence-based health-promotion programs for older adults. He has contributed to several books on health and aging including Public Health and Aging (Hickey, Speers, and Prohaska) and Public Health for an Aging Society (Prohaska, Anderson, and Binstock, 2012). He was also a panel member for the National Institute Exercise Guide for older adults, which currently has a distribution of more than six million.

Tom served on many national and international advisory panels, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Expert Panel on Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity-Related Health Disparities as well as National Institutes of Health (NIH) study review panels, the CDC Healthy Aging Research Network (CDC-HAN), and the World Health Organization (WHO) on healthy aging. He has won several national awards for his research and service in the field of aging, including the UCLA 2000 Distinguished Professor Award and the American Public Health Association Philip G. Weiler Award for leadership in Aging in Public Health, and he was named a 2001 Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. He is currently a visiting professor at Ulster University in Northern Ireland and is collaborating with Dr. Roger O’Sullivan and Dr. Gerard Leavey to study global loneliness and social isolation.

Tom received his PhD in Experimental Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University, Medical College of Virginia. His postdoctoral training, in Health.
John W. Rowe, MD, is the Julius B. Richmond Professor of Health Policy and Aging Health Policy and Management at Columbia University, where he is a faculty member of the Columbia Aging Center and a professor in the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health Department of Health Policy and Management. In 2017 Jack was elected to a four-year term as president of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG). From 2000 until late 2006, he served as chairman and CEO of Aetna, Inc, one of the nation's leading health care and related benefits organizations. Before his tenure at Aetna, from 1998 to 2000, Jack served as president and CEO of Mount Sinai NYU Health, one of the nation's largest academic health care organizations.

Before joining Mount Sinai, Jack was a professor of Medicine and the founding director of the Division on Aging at the Harvard Medical School, as well as chief of Gerontology at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital. He has received many honors and awards for his research and health policy efforts regarding care of the elderly. He was director of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Successful Aging and currently leads the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on An Aging Society. He was elected a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation and Lincoln Center Theater. He also served as the chairman of the board of trustees at the University of Connecticut and serves as chairman of the board at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA.

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Atalaya Sergi brings 20 years of experience in service, community engagement, and education to her role as director of AmeriCorps Seniors. She has worked in public school districts and the nonprofit sector, bringing private and public organizations together to ensure people of all ages, and those in underserved communities, thrive. Atalaya most recently served as the vice president of strategic partnerships and programming at Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc. There she managed AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps Seniors programs as a federal grantee, launching her former organization’s only AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent program. Atalaya has been a member of several advisory committees, councils, and coalitions, including as a co-founder of Los Angeles Generation to Generation, which focused on engaging older adults to support young children across Los Angeles County. She was also selected as an Encore Public Voices Fellow, using her time to write about the positive impact seniors can have in educational settings. Atalaya earned a master’s degree in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University and a bachelor’s degree in Sociology from the University of Virginia.

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Bruce Shapiro is co-director of the Age Boom Academy and executive director of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, a project of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism that encourages innovative reporting on violence, conflict, and tragedy worldwide. He has helped lead the Age Boom Academy since 2012. An award-winning reporter on human rights, criminal justice, and politics, Bruce is a contributing editor at The Nation and US correspondent for Late Night Live on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s Radio National. He is also adjunct professor and senior advisor for academic affairs at Columbia, where he teaches journalism ethics. His books include Shaking the Foundations: 200 Years of Investigative Journalism in America (Nation Books), Legal Lynching: The Death Penalty and America’s Future (New Press/Doubleday), and Aftershock Journalism: The Revolution in Reporting on Violence (forthcoming from Columbia University Press). Bruce received the International Society for Traumatic Stress Public Advocacy Award for "outstanding and fundamental contributions to the social understanding of trauma." He is a founding board member of the Global Investigative Journalism Network.

Twitter: @DartCenter | dartcenter.org
Speakers

Mikhael Simmonds is the mid-Atlantic region manager and multimedia lead at Solutions Journalism Network (SJN). He works with newsrooms in Africa and the Mid-Atlantic region of the US on solutions-focused reporting. As multimedia lead, he also works to expand and improve the support SJN offers to its growing network of newsrooms. Before SJN, Mikhael was a freelance multimedia journalist. Over the years, he has worked with a number of news and non-for-profit organizations including Democracy Now!, GritTV, Seeds of Africa, New York Amsterdam News, and the UN Department of Public Information and NGO Relations. Mikhael has also taught at the City University of New York.

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David Vincent, PhD, is the chief program officer with SAGE, where he provides vision, oversight, and leadership to all direct service programs at SAGE, including care management, housing, behavioral health, and SAGE Center programming.

Prior to joining SAGE, David was the deputy executive director with the Door, where he was responsible for the direction and leadership of a continuum of services targeted at the social, physical, and mental health of some of New York City’s most vulnerable adolescents. Working closely with executive leadership and program staff, he oversaw the development and implementation of two supportive housing sites for homeless and runaway youth and for youth with mental illness.

David served as the associate executive director of Callen-Lorde Community Health Center in New York City, where he was responsible for the development, implementation, and oversight of population and health-condition-specific services, including HIV, women’s health, mental health, oral health, adolescent health, and health education. He holds an MSW from the Boston University School of Social Work with a concentration in Clinical Practice and a PhD from the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services.

Twitter: @sageusa
Joy Zhang is the co-founder of Mon Ami, which builds modern technology tools for senior service agencies. She previously worked for the World Health Organization’s Innovation for Aging team and was a founding member of two prior startups in aging and caregiving: AgeWell Global (South Africa, USA) and Weal Life (USA). The pilot program that Joy designed for AgeWell Global has been tapped by the WHO as a best practice for aging. She is passionate about the intersection of tech, aging, and entrepreneurship and creating new products and services for aging populations. She has been a volunteer in dementia care and hospice settings since high school and graduated from Stanford with a BA and MBA.

Age Boom Academy Core Team

Linda P. Fried, MD, MPH, Director
Bruce Shapiro, Co-Director
Caitlin M. Hawke, Project Lead
(full bios above)

Jennifer P. Ware is event manager for the Age Boom Academy. She was previously director of events and programs in the alumni affairs department at Columbia College, where she led a team to plan and orchestrate hundreds of signature events—from reunion to homecoming to such fundraising galas as the John Jay Awards Dinner to support scholarships. Before that, Jennifer oversaw events and marketing for the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She has served as senior events manager for BusinessWeek (now Bloomberg Businessweek), director of marketing and promotion for Golf Digest, and promotion director for Variety. Jennifer has a BA in English from Ohio Wesleyan University and an MS in Journalism from the Boston University College of Communication. Linkedin

Cynthia M. Franco, editorial assistant for the Age Boom Academy, is a senior at the Columbia University School of General Studies, majoring in East Asian studies (GS ’22). She is also an administrative assistant at the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society and a volunteer at the Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center at Columbia University.

Prior to enrolling at Columbia, Cynthia worked as an end-of-life doula, receiving her training from the International End of Life Doula Association (INELDA) and the Institute for the Study of Birth, Breath, and Death. She is also a professional astrologer and spiritual advisor with clients across nine countries and forty states. For more than 18-years, she has volunteered in projects focused on diversity and inclusion, domestic violence advocacy, hospitality, and the arts.

She is passionate about East Asian languages and cultures, animal welfare, end-of-life care, easing loneliness, and improving health trends in the US and East Asia through reintroducing BIPOC spiritual practices.

Rosine T. Moussa, MA, is the budget manager for the Age Boom Academy and serves as the administrator for the Columbia Aging Center, where she oversees research and compliance.
Kelson Productions provides audiovisual and production management services for live events of all kinds, for clients in education, industry, theater, fashion, non-profit, and the arts. Whether it’s a live concert, a gala dinner, a panel discussion, a fashion show, an address by a world leader—our teams of managers, designers, and technicians work together to ensure that the technical elements of your event run smoothly, on time, and on budget.

We emphasize thorough pre-production planning and consultation, with prompt and efficient communication throughout the process.

With an extensive pool of qualified production staff, and a large stock of top-of-the-line equipment to choose from, we can provide fully scalable production services for events with audiences of all sizes — while delivering the flexibility and personal attention that your event deserves.

http://kelsonproductions.com/

Jason Fitzgerald, Founder | Nell Conway, Event Director

Marisa Laureni, Event Director | Briana Brown, Production Manager