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Aging, Identity, and Rock Culture: A Scoping Review from a Cultural Gerontology Perspective

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - No.

Review Stage at time of this submission - The review has not yet started.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

INPLASY registration number: INPLASY202650170

Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 29 May 2026 and was last updated on 29 May 2026.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective This scoping review aims to map and synthesize the existing scientific evidence on the relationship between aging, identity, and participation in music cultures associated with rock from a cultural gerontology perspective. It also seeks to identify the main theoretical approaches, research lines, and knowledge gaps present in the academic literature.

In particular, the review will examine how rock and other forms of popular music have been analyzed in relation to various dimensions of aging, such as identity and life course; culture and generational belonging; embodiment and aging; gender and music subcultures; and well-being and cultural participation in later life.

Based on this, the review will address the following research question:

What scientific evidence has been published on aging, identity, and participation in rock and

popular music cultures in adulthood and old age from a cultural gerontology perspective? Population (P): Adults and older adults involved in music cultures or fandom associated with rock and other forms of popular music.

Concept (C): Relationship between aging, identity, and cultural participation in music cultures associated with rock.

Context (C): Music scenes, subcultures, and fan communities linked to rock and other forms of popular music.

Condition being studied Although systematic reviews exist on the health effects of music and some qualitative studies explore aging in music scenes, the current literature lacks a synthesis that examines rock and popular music cultures as cultural phenomena linked to aging.

Therefore, conducting a scoping review is relevant to map and synthesize the available literature, identify key theoretical and thematic approaches,

and recognize knowledge gaps to guide future research.

METHODS

Search strategy Scopus and Web of Science databases will be used, along with complementary searches in Google Scholar. The search terms will be: Scopus ((aging OR ageing OR "older adults" OR "later life" OR midlife OR adulthood OR "life course") AND ("rock music" OR punk OR "popular music" OR "heavy metal" OR "music scenes" OR "music subculture*" OR "music fandom") AND (identity OR culture OR subculture OR participation OR fans OR fandom))

Web of Science ((aging OR ageing OR "older adults" OR "later life" OR midlife OR adulthood OR "life course") AND ("rock music" OR punk OR "popular music" OR "music scenes" OR "music subculture*" OR "music fandom") AND (identity OR culture OR participation OR fandom)).

Participant or population Adults and older adults involved in music cultures or fandom associated with rock and other forms of popular music.

Intervention This type of review primarily aims to map the available literature, identify the main conceptual and methodological approaches, and recognize gaps in knowledge, rather than evaluate the effectiveness of interventions or the quality of the evidence.

Comparator Not applicable.

Study designs to be included articles and systematic review.

Eligibility criteria Inclusion:

- Studies addressing aging, adulthood, or life course
- Studies analyzing rock or related popular music
- Studies exploring cultural identity or participation

Exclusion:

- Studies focused exclusively on music therapy
- Clinical interventions
- Biomedical effects of music.

Information sources The search will be conducted in the following databases: Scopus, Web of Science (WoS), along with complementary searches in Google Scholar.

Main outcome(s) The main thematic categories expected include:

- * Identity and the life course
- * The body and aging

- * Gender and musical subcultures
- * Generational memory
- * Cultural participation in adulthood and later life.

Data management Here is a polished academic English translation suitable for a scientific review protocol:

Data will be extracted using a standardized data extraction form that will include:

- * Author
- * Year of publication
- * Country
- * Study design
- * Population
- * Musical genre
- * Theoretical framework
- * Method
- * Main findings

The studies will be analyzed using:

- * Descriptive analysis
- * Thematic analysis.

Two reviewers will participate in the study selection process to determine eligibility for inclusion. In the event of disagreement, a third reviewer will be involved to resolve the discrepancy.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis This review aims to identify, describe, and synthesize the existing evidence on the relationship between aging, identity, and participation in rock and popular music cultures; therefore, a critical appraisal of study quality does not constitute a central methodological requirement for the stated objectives.

Strategy of data synthesis Studies will be analyzed using descriptive and thematic analysis.

Subgroup analysis The results will be presented through a descriptive and thematic synthesis of the identified literature.

In addition, bibliometric and descriptive analysis techniques will be used to identify patterns in scientific production within the field, including:

1. Geographic distribution of scientific output
2. Temporal trends in publication
3. Authorship and academic collaboration networks
4. Journals or publication sources
5. Countries where research activity is conducted
6. Predominant theoretical and methodological approaches
7. Main topics addressed in the literature

In addition, a thematic analysis of the included studies will be conducted in order to identify the main analytical dimensions present in the literature,

such as identity, generational belonging, embodiment, gender, cultural participation, and experiences of aging in music scenes.

Sensitivity analysis The main purpose of this type of review is to map the available literature, identify the main conceptual and methodological approaches, and recognize gaps in knowledge, rather than to assess the effectiveness of interventions or the quality of the evidence.

Language restriction Only studies published in English and Spanish will be included.

Country(ies) involved Chile.

Other relevant information No

Keywords Aging; Cultural gerontology; Rock music; Popular music; Music fandom; Identity; Life course.

Dissemination plans At the end of the review, the findings will be published in a peer-reviewed journal. In addition, the results will be presented at a dissemination event.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Marcelo Piña Morán - conceptualization, methodology design, literature search, study selection, data extraction, analysis, and manuscript drafting.

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Author 2 - Cristina Flores Bello - methodological supervision, critical revision, and validation of the analytical framework.

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