

The specificity of older adult associative episodic memory has been tested. We already know from the literature that there is a deficit in older adult associative memory (Naveh-Benjamin, 2000) and that there is a possibility that older adult memory is fuzzier than younger adults as well (Brainerd & Reyna 1995). The hypothesis that is being tested is older adults can retrieve the gist of memories, but retrieval is not as specific as it is for younger adults. Studying different face-scene pairs and then recalling them as being “intact” (the exact same) or “recombined” (a different pair) in the test phase proved that both younger and older adult participants remember the gist of memories, but the graded responses of high, medium, or low confidence levels shows that older adults are not as confident of the highly specific representations.