

substantially differs across countries. Using the data from the AAF project, we investigated what motivates people in different countries (USA, Germany, Czech Republic, Hong Kong, and Taiwan) to financially prepare for old age. Financial preparation was the highest in the USA, followed by Germany and the Czech Republic. The lowest levels of financial preparation were found in Hong Kong and Taiwan. These differences were explained by age-related expectations on a “paternalistic” role of the state: Greater endorsement of the idea that the state should provide financial support to older citizens led to less preparation. These findings are in line with the idea that individuals’ beliefs and expectations regarding the role of institutions shape personal actions.

ACTION-RELATED THOUGHTS AND BELIEFS REGULATE THE EFFECT OF AGE STEREOTYPES ON AGING PREPARATION

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Thinking about old age stereotypically affects one’s engagement in age-related behaviors and developmental regulation. We hypothesized that positive or negative aging stereotype (AS) would be associated with more or less aging preparation, while action-related thoughts and beliefs might exert influence thereon. We used the AAF online-study dataset consisting of 591 German, 348 Chinese, and 139 American adults (aged 18–93 and 55% female). Using a count measure of 15-preparatory-activities, we first explored the role of AS measured by a bipolar scale and how perceived utility and risk of aging preparation differentiate this association. Findings revealed that perceiving more utility buffered the impact of negative AS, which suggests that one’s action-related thoughts are more proximal and self-relevant predictor of aging preparation. Besides, Chinese and Americans were more susceptible to the presence of AS than Germans, implying that cultural background or societal conditions might also shape one’s belief system and thereby regulate behaviors.

OLDER ADULTS PURSUE MORE AUTONOMY DURING PANDEMIC: AN EXPLANATION BY SOCIAL OBLIGATION

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Older adults are considered more vulnerable under the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the pandemic also highlights the social obligation of all individuals, young and old. We investigated whether older adults pursued more autonomy during the pandemic than did middle-aged adults,

and the moderating effect of perceived social obligation. One hundred and twenty-three Hong Kong citizens (62 females, Mage=60.59±13.28 years old) participated in this study in 2018 (before pandemic) and 2020 (during pandemic). Comparing these two waves, the results showed a larger increase of perceived importance of independence and autonomy among older adults than among middle-aged adults. Moreover, the age difference became stronger with a higher increase in expectation on social obligation, suggesting that the pandemic might make older adults feel more socially obligated to be independent and autonomous, so as not to be a burden on others. Future ageism-related studies should take the social obligation of older adults into consideration.

RETROSPECTIVE PERCEPTIONS OF CHANGES IN WELL-BEING: THE IMPACT OF AGE, CULTURE, AND AGING ATTITUDES ON ACCURACY

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Aging attitudes have important consequences on functioning in later-life. A critical question concerns whether such attitudes may bias perceptions of one’s own aging, with potentially negative effects on important outcomes. Using data from adults aged 30 – 85 in the US (n=315), Hong Kong (n=317), and Germany (n=623), we examined the impact of age and aging attitudes on accuracy of perceptions of change in well-being over five years in different domains of functioning. Across contexts, comparisons revealed good correspondence between retrospective reports and actual change. However, older adults and those with negative attitudes retrospectively reported less positive change over this period. Accuracy of perceived change was affected by aging attitudes, with positive attitudes being associated with greater accuracy across most domains, although culture moderated these effects. The results highlight the complex relationship between culture and perceptions of well-being, as well as the potentially insidious effects of attitudes on their accuracy.

Session 2225 (Symposium)

ENHANCE: THE CENTER FOR ENHANCING NEUROCOGNITIVE HEALTH, ABILITIES, NETWORKS, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Chair: Sara Czaja Co-Chair: Walter Boot Discussant: Michelle Bourgeois

Approximately 9 % of those aged 65 and over have a cognitive impairment due to a variety of causes including Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia, Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), Parkinson’s disease, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and stroke. Few technology solutions have been directed towards supporting older adults with cognitive impairments and the literature regarding the efficacy of these solutions is sparse. In this symposium, we describe our new Center called ENHANCE (Enhancing Neurocognitive Health, Abilities, Networks, and Community Engagement), which is focused on developing technology support for aging