

interventions. The integration of different approaches to loneliness can stimulate critical reflection on the implications and limitations of our knowledge

MULTI-MORBIDITY AND LONELINESS

K.J. Smith, C. Victor, *Brunel University London, London, United Kingdom*

Older adults are at an increased risk of experiencing both multiple chronic health conditions and loneliness but we are unclear as to the relationship between them. We used data from 8143 adults from Wave 6 of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing to ascertain the relationship between multi-morbidity and loneliness. Multi-morbidity was based upon self report of up to twenty chronic conditions and loneliness measured using the short UCLA-loneliness scale. The prevalence of loneliness increased with the number of chronic conditions reported; from 11.2% for those without chronic conditions to 40.7% in those with six or more. Our findings indicate that it is important to consider the number of chronic health conditions a person has when exploring the relationship between health and loneliness in older adults.

SESSION 1520 (SYMPOSIUM)

NEW LENS ON VIEWS ON AGING: ORIGINS AND EFFECTS WITHIN THE SOCIAL CONTEXT

Chair: N. Notthoff, *Humboldt University Berlin, Berlin, Berlin, Germany*

Co-Chair: J. Menkin, *University of California - Los Angeles,*

Discussant: T. Hess, *North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina*

For a long time, the public and even scientists unambiguously viewed old age as a time of decline and social disengagement. This was reflected in the early theories of aging (e.g., Disengagement Theory: Cumming & Henry, 1961). Combating such negative views on aging (VoA) was one of the first initiatives of social gerontologists and was accompanied by the emergence of more refined theories of late life development (e.g., Selective Optimization with Compensation: Baltes & Baltes, 1997; Socioemotional Selectivity Theory: Carstensen, Isaacowitz, & Charles, 1999). In recent years, research on VoA has become even more nuanced, revealing that stereotypical VoA can be both negative and positive and that the way in which older people view their own aging or how society views older people as a group has far-reaching implications. The goal of this symposium is to highlight new findings on the emergence of VoA and their profound effects within people's social contexts. First, we turn to the origins of VoA with a presentation by Kornadt and Kandler who compare environmental and genetic sources of VoA in a sample of twins. Second, Notthoff and Gerstorf identify individual characteristics and country-specific context factors that influence views of older and younger adults. Next, Wolff and colleagues discuss whether VoA affect characteristics of social networks and vice versa. Finally, Menkin and Robles compare how positive and negative age stereotypes of and towards residents of assisted living facilities relate to their social relationships and perceived social support.

GENETIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOURCES OF VIEWS ON AGING: AGE- AND DOMAIN-SPECIFIC ANALYSES

A.E. Kornadt, C. Kandler, *Psychology, Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany*

We were interested in the sources that influence multidimensional views on aging (VoA) across the lifespan. So far, mainly environmental influences like intergenerational contact or VoA in the media have been considered. However, there is evidence for a genetic component in other attitudes, especially when there are few experiences with the attitude object. We investigate environmental and genetic sources of VoA in a sample of 350 monozygotic and 322 dizygotic twin pairs aged 25–74 years. Twin correlations show the existence of meaningful genetic effects that are larger for VoA in the domains health and family than for wisdom and finances. Shared environmental effects such as age-related experiences seem to play a major role for older adults' VoA, whereas genetic effects seem to be their main source in younger adults. The results support the domain-specificity of VoA and point to the differential relevance of genetic and environmental influences across the lifespan.

IMAGES OF AGING AND OF YOUTH: DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES

N. Notthoff, D. Gerstorf, *Institute of Psychology, Humboldt University Berlin, Berlin, Berlin, Germany*

Even today – during a time when life expectancy and the proportion of older adults in populations worldwide are increasing – numerous stereotypes about older people exist. Mostly, these views of older adults are examined in isolation, i.e., they are not compared to views of younger and middle-aged adults. Our contribution identifies similarities and differences between the perceptions of older and younger adults and describes individual characteristics and country-specific factors that affect them. We used data from the European Social Survey. Participants ($n = 56,544$, ages 15–123 ($M = 47.54 \pm 18.50$) from 29 countries) rated how positively or negatively they perceived people in their seventies and in their twenties. Generally, participants viewed people in their seventies more positively than those in their twenties, with participants' own age influencing their perceptions. Country differences were also present. We suggest that all people are stereotyped based on their age, not only older adults.

SOCIAL LOSSES AS SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY? ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN VIEWS ON AGING AND SOCIAL RELATIONS

J.K. Wolff, S. Spuling, A. Boeger, O. Huxhold, *German Centre of Gerontology, Berlin, Germany*

Previous research proves the self-fulfilling character of views on aging (VoA) in the health domain: Associating aging with physical losses results in worse health. However, little is known about these relationships in the social domain even though aging is commonly associated with social losses. Both direction of effects are plausible: Social relations may improve chances for successful aging, buffer effects of losses and promote positive VoA. Persons with negative VoA may disengage from social relationships. With cross-lagged latent-change-score models, bidirectional associations between two VoA (physical and social losses) and social relationships