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Roberta Sutton
University of San Francisco

Lisa S. Wagner
University of San Francisco

Kathleen E. Cook
Seattle University

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Perceptions of Social Decisions Made by Individuals of Different Ages

Roberta Sutton and Lisa S. Wagner
University of San Francisco

Kathleen E. Cook
Seattle University

Roberta Sutton, Department of Psychology, University of San Francisco; Lisa S. Wagner, Department of Psychology, University of San Francisco; Kathleen E. Cook, Department of Psychology, Seattle University.

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Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to:

*Lisa S. Wagner, Department of Psychology,
University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton St.,
San Francisco, CA 94117.*

E-mail: wagnerl@usfca.edu

Abstract

This study examines the perceptions that individuals have about the social decisions of others and the role that age plays in these perceptions. In this study, older and young adults read a vignette in which Clare (either 80 or 20-years-old) chose a social partner (either close friend or new acquaintance). Older adults rated Older Clare more favorably when she chose a close relationship and they rated Younger Clare more favorably when she chose the new experience. Young adults showed more mixed results. Unlike older adults, young adults rated Older Clare more favorably when she chose the new experience rather than the close relationship, but found Younger Clare to be more likable but less appropriate when she chose the new experience. Differing preferences may lead to intergenerational misunderstandings where both generations prefer that the other generation seek new experiences, but prefer their own generation remain with close friends. Results are discussed in light of socioemotional selectivity and social identity theories.

Keywords: perception, age-difference, decision making

Introduction

Social decisions occur frequently as individuals choose different kinds of social partners and social interactions. One of the unique variables in social decision-making processes is age. Research based on socioemotional selectivity theory (SST) has found that when choosing social partners, older adults (people over the age of 65) prefer to spend time with close friends whereas young adults (under the age of 30) often prefer to spend time with new social partners (Fredrickson & Carstensen, 1990; Carstensen, Fung & Charles, 2003).

Another important consideration when making social decisions is the way an individual's choices are viewed by others. People may expect different social decisions from young people than from older people. A social decision made by a young adult may be viewed differently than the same social decision made by an older person. Although research has shown that age-differences in social partner choices exist (Carstensen, Fung & Charles, 2003), it is not clear whether perceivers' expectations or judgments about these social choices are related to the documented age-related preferences.

Socioemotional selectivity theory argues people alter their social partner preferences throughout the course of their lifetime (Carstensen, Fung & Charles, 2003). SST divides social interactions into two primary categories. There are emotionally meaningful goals met through emotionally satisfying relationships, such as those with close friends or family. There are also knowledge-related goals fulfilled when learning more about one's social world through new relationships, such as those with new acquaintances. SST argues that every social interaction a person has helps meet one of these goals (Carstensen, Fung & Charles, 2003).

In Fredrickson and Carstensen's (1990) initial research on SST, the researchers generated three dimensions of social partners: familiar social partners, novel social partners who may become familiar social partners in the future, and information seeking partners (novel social partners who provide information or knowledge about the world). When asked to make a social partner choice, older and young adults made significantly different choices. While older adults showed a stronger preference for interactions involving familiar social partners, young adults showed a stronger preference for interactions involving novel social partners (Fredrickson & Carstensen, 1990).

To identify the motivation behind choosing these social partners, Fredrickson and Carstensen (1990) considered the role of time orientation in a second study. Initially, participants imagined having a free half hour of time and made a social partner choice: an immediate family member, a recent acquaintance, or the author of a book they recently read. These results mirrored the previously expressed preferences: older adults preferred the familiar social partner while young adults preferred the novel social partner options. The same participants were then asked to make the same choice; however, in this case, instead of just imagining having free time, participants also imagined they would be moving across country in a few weeks. With this limit in future time availability, older adult preferences remained unaltered, whereas young adult preferences now mirrored those of older adults, with a significant majority making the decision to spend time with the familiar social partner (Fredrickson & Carstensen, 1990). The creation of an anticipated ending manipulates perceived time orientation by creating the sense that a person's time is limited. According to SST, as a result of this limited future time perspective, individuals have a stronger preference for engagement in activities involving emotional satisfaction in the time they have left and choose to pursue emotionally-meaningful goals over knowledge-related goals.

Carstensen et al., (2003) argued that as future time perspective becomes more limited, people become increasingly motivated to experience emotional satisfaction and less motivated to engage in a wide variety of experiences and acquire a large body of knowledge or skills. Conversely, when future time is not limited, individuals prioritize knowledge and skills acquisition and they are more willing to forego immediate emotional satisfaction and engage in experiences that are potentially negative or less emotionally satisfying. As one's future time perspective naturally shortens with age, SST provides insight into the types of social decisions different people are more likely to make and why they choose to interact with certain social partners at different points throughout the lifetime.

Research that has controlled for potential confounding variables and eliminated alternative theories has added to the strength of SST's ability to account for the social preferences observed in individuals with different future time perspectives. Lang, Staudinger, and Carstensen (1998) found that variations in social context, individual personality differences, and other contextual factors did not significantly affect the pattern of results found in previous SST studies. The results of the study reinforced the generalizability of SST across

personality and social context differences.

But SST does not address how others view the social decisions made by young and older adults. When someone makes a social decision, this information is incorporated into other people's perception of the individual. How are people's impressions of adults shaped by the social decisions adults make? This study will investigate whether there are age-related differences in perceptions of social decision-making and the kinds of impressions that people form in response to the decisions of others.

In addition, SST does not address how the social decisions others make affect how perceivers feel about themselves. When someone in one's peer group makes a social decision, this information may affect how other people in the group see themselves. When a member of one's peer or ingroup makes what is considered a good social decision, for example, do other peer group members identify more with that person? We find out by exploring how another's social decision affects how much participants identify with the person who made that decision.

In summary, research related to SST proposes an explanation for why individuals in different age groups and at different points in their lives make different decisions in regards to social partners. It does not, however, make any predictions related to the perceptions that others have about the decision makers or their decisions; neither does it indicate how others' social decisions might affect perceptions of self-identity. Thus, the goals of this research are to use SST as a model to understand decisions made by older and young adults, to extend SST to examine any age-related differences in how others view the decisions made by young and older adults and the decision makers themselves, and to explore how others' social decisions influence how people think about themselves.

When presented with a situation in which a person makes a social partner choice, we predict that judgments about the person's social decision, and about the choice participants would make in the same situation, will reflect the age-related differences found in SST research. Thus, we predict both older and young adults will perceive Older Clare more positively when she chooses the close relationship than when she chooses the new experience, and they will perceive Young Clare more positively when she chooses the new experience than when she chooses the close relationship. We also predict that older adults will identify more with an older adult who chooses close relationships over a new experience, whereas young adults will identify more with a young adult who

chooses a new experience over close relationships.

Method

Participants

The research sample consisted of 119 older and young adults. Ninety-two young adults (16 men, 76 women) participated in the study (18-33 years, $M = 18.79$, $SD = 1.79$). The young adult sample was comprised of 40 (43.5%) Caucasians, 19 (20.7%) Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders, 10 (10.9%) Latino or Hispanic Americans, 13 (14.1%) Multi-ethnic individuals, 6 (6.5%) Foreign Nationals, 2 (2.2%) African Americans, and 2 (2.2%) individuals who identified as "other ethnicity." All young adults were recruited from undergraduate introductory psychology courses at the University of San Francisco and received course credit for their participation. Twenty-seven older adults (13 men, 13 women, 1 declined to state) participated in the study (62-94 years, $M = 76.7$, $SD = 9.53$). The older adult sample was comprised of 26 (96.3%) Caucasians, and 1 (3.7%) Asian American or Pacific Islander. The older adults were recruited from the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning at USF or were recruited independently from a convenience sample of acquaintances and relatives of students in the Advanced Research Methods: Social Psychology of Aging class at the University of San Francisco.

Materials

Participants were randomly assigned to read one of four vignettes in which the age of the character in the story and the decision that she makes are manipulated. The gender of the character in the vignette was not manipulated because adding a third independent variable would have reduced sample sizes for each condition, making it difficult to conduct meaningful analyses. The vignette is included in Appendix A, with italics indicating the different independent variable conditions.

Participants responded to several questions related to the vignette that they read. The questions were developed specifically for this study (see Appendix A for the questions). Participants reported their perceptions and impressions of the target in the story and the decision that she makes. These measures included rating the appropriateness of Clare's behavior for the given situation, the extent to which they thought she made the best decision in the situation, and how much they liked her. In order to understand how social decisions of others may affect the self, participants indicated their identification with Clare by rating how much they wished they were more like Clare. Participants also completed two manipulation checks

rating how open Clare is to new social situations and the extent to which she values her close relationships. All ratings were made on Likert scales ranging from 0 (*Not at all*) to 6 (*Extremely*). Finally, participants completed a basic demographics questionnaire.

Procedure

Participants completed the packet as part of a larger survey that was put together by an Advanced Research Methods class studying the Social Psychology of Aging. The survey packet was the compilation of small studies designed by students in the class to compare older and young adult responses on a wide variety of topics. These topics included the following (in order): evaluating adult community center programs, social decisions (the study described here), gender role beliefs, self-esteem, religious beliefs, health issues, and fear of death. Given the benign nature of the first topic (adult community center programs), we think it unlikely that responses in that section influenced responses in the current study of interest.

Undergraduate participants completed the questionnaire during one of seven one-hour group sessions of 8-17 students, while older adult participants completed the survey during individual one-hour sessions. Group testing was used for the undergraduate students because of the large number of participants, whereas older adults participated individually to increase flexibility in scheduling appointments and give each student in the class the experience of administering the survey to at least two older adult participants.

Participants were randomly assigned to one of the four experimental conditions in which the target's age (20 years old vs. 80 years old) and the target's choice (new experience vs. close relationships) were manipulated, leading to a 2 (target age: 20 years, 80 years) x 2 (target choice: novel social partner, familiar social partner) x 2 (participant age: young, older) design (see Table 1).

Participants gave informed consent, read the vignette, and responded to the questions related to the character in the story, Clare. They then completed the rest of the questionnaire packet and the demographic questions.

Results

Participants' manipulation checks, ratings reflecting their impression of the target, and their ratings reflecting self-identification were submitted to separate 2 (target age: 20 years, 80 years) x 2 (target choice: novel social partner, familiar social partner) x 2

(participant age: young, older) ANOVAs. These three groups of dependent variables will be discussed separately.

Manipulation Checks

Congruent with the manipulation, all participants rated Clare as more open to new social situations when she chose the new experience ($M = 5.00$, $SD = .93$) than when she chose the close relationship ($M = 2.75$, $SD = 1.47$), $F(1, 111) = 60.80$, $p < .001$. Participant responses for the extent to which Clare values her close personal relationships also revealed a significant main effect for Clare's choice, $F(1, 111) = 12.42$, $p < .001$. All participants rated Clare as valuing her close personal relationships more when she chose the close relationships ($M = 5.42$, $SD = .77$) than when she chose the new experience ($M = 4.42$, $SD = 1.05$).

Impressions of Target

These measures were related to participant perceptions of the character in the story and the decision that she made. When rating the extent to which they found Clare's behavior appropriate for the given situation, her decision to be the best one, and the extent to which they like Clare, participants' responses varied by participant age, Clare's age and Clare's choice.

Ratings of appropriateness. For the extent to which participants rated Clare's behavior as appropriate for the given situation, there was a significant three-way interaction, $F(1, 111) = 11.8$, $p < .001$. Older adults' ratings of the target were consistent with SST. Older adults reported that Young Clare behaved more appropriately ($M = 5.6$, $SD = .89$) than Older Clare ($M = 4.22$, $SD = 1.09$) when she chose the new experience. Older adults also reported that Older Clare behaved more appropriately ($M = 4.78$, $SD = .97$) than Young Clare ($M = 4.00$, $SD = .90$) when she chose the close relationships.

Young adult participants, however, rated the targets in the opposite direction. Older Clare was rated as behaving more appropriately ($M = 4.5$, $SD = .98$) than Young Clare ($M = 4.05$, $SD = 1.24$) when she chose the new experience, but Young Clare was rated as behaving more appropriately ($M = 4.36$, $SD = 1.29$) than Older Clare ($M = 3.32$, $SD = 1.28$) when she chose the close relationships (see Figure 1).

Thus, while older adults' ratings supported SST predictions, young adults had the exact opposite response: they rated the close relationship choice as more appropriate for the young adult Clare and the new

experience choice as more appropriate for the Older Clare.

Ratings of decision. Participant age also was related to perceptions of whether Clare made the right decision. For the extent to which participants thought Clare made the best decision in the situation, there was a marginally significant Clare's Age by Clare's Choice by Participant Age three-way interaction, $F(1, 111) = 3.35$, $p = .07$. Older adults thought choosing the new experience was the best decision for Young Clare rather than Older Clare ($M_{\text{Young Clare}} = 5.2$, $SD = 1.3$, $M_{\text{Older Clare}} = 4.44$, $SD = 1.6$), and that choosing close friends was the best decision for Older Clare rather than Young Clare ($M_{\text{Older Clare}} = 5.11$, $SD = 1.4$, $M_{\text{Young Clare}} = 4.25$, $SD = .50$). Young adults thought that choosing new experiences was the best decision for older and young adults ($M_{\text{Older Clare}} = 4.54$, $SD = 1.1$, $M_{\text{Young Clare}} = 4.29$, $SD = 1.45$) and that choosing close relationships was not as good, especially for older adults ($M_{\text{Older Clare}} = 3.4$, $SD = 1.47$, $M_{\text{Young Clare}} = 3.86$, $SD = 1.52$). Older adults rated the new experience as the best decision for Young Clare and the close relationship option as best for Older Clare, consistent with SST. In contrast, young adults rated the new experience as the best decision for both Older and Young Clare.

Ratings of liking. There was a third three-way interaction for the extent to which participants liked Clare, $F(1, 111) = 6.67$, $p = .01$. The pattern of the results is the same as the pattern of results for appropriateness, but with higher means. Consistent with the hypothesis, older adults liked Young Clare ($M = 5.2$, $SD = 1.3$) more than Older Clare ($M = 3.78$, $SD = 1.2$) when she chose the new experience. They also liked Older Clare ($M = 4.22$, $SD = .83$) more than Young Clare ($M = 3.5$, $SD = .58$) when she chose the close relationships. Young adults liked both Older Clare and Young Clare more when she chose the new experience ($M_{\text{Older Clare}} = 4.08$, $SD = 1.1$, $M_{\text{Young Clare}} = 4.10$, $SD = .94$) than when she chose the close relationships ($M_{\text{Older Clare}} = 3.44$, $SD = 1.0$, $M_{\text{Young Clare}} = 3.73$, $SD = .99$) (see Figure 2).

Similar to the appropriateness ratings, and supporting predictions based on SST, older adults liked Older Clare more when she chose the close relationship option and Young Clare more when she chose the new experience. However, young adults liked both young and Older Clare more when she chose the new experience.

Identification with Self

To determine whether others' social decisions affect perceivers' views of themselves, we examined participant identification with Clare. For the extent to

which participants wished they were more like Clare, responses varied by age. There was a Clare's Age by Participant Age interaction, $F(1, 111) = 3.87, p = .05$. Older adults reported wanting to be more like Clare when she was 80 years old ($M = 2.11, SD = 1.53$) than when she was 20 years old ($M = 1.00, SD = 1.12$) and young adults reported wanting to be more like Clare when she was 20 years old ($M = 2.16, SD = 1.86$) than when she was 80 years old ($M = 1.86, SD = 1.38$). Contrary to our hypothesis that the target's choice would affect identification, older adults wanted to be more like Older Clare and young adults wanted to be more like Young Clare, regardless of the choice the target made in the vignette.

Discussion

Older and young adults rated their perceptions of a target, Clare, her decision, and their identification with her. Notably, participant perceptions varied by participant age, Clare's age, and Clare's choice. Older adults' responses were consistent: Older Clare behaved more appropriately, made a better decision, and was more likeable when she chose to spend time with close friends, while Young Clare behaved more appropriately, made a better decision, and was more likeable when she chose to engage in a new experience. Conversely, young adults rated the new experience choice as more appropriate for Older Clare, while the close relationship choice was rated as more appropriate for Young Clare. In addition, young adults indicated that the better decision for both Older Clare and Young Clare was the new experience. They also found both Young Clare and Older Clare more likeable when she chose the new experience.

Older adult perceptions of Clare and her decision corresponded with the patterns of behavior that SST predicts. Older adults thought Older Clare behaved more appropriately and made a better decision when she chose a familiar social partner, and that Young Clare behaved more appropriately and made a better decision when she chose a novel social partner (Fredrickson & Carstensen, 1990). They also liked Clare more when her behavior conformed to patterns predicted by SST.

Young adult perceptions did not wholly conform to the predictions that SST makes about social decisions, however. Young adults rated it more appropriate for Young Clare to pursue emotionally meaningful social goals and for Older Clare to have a preference for knowledge-related social partners. At the same time, regardless of Clare's age, they liked Clare more when she chose to pursue knowledge-related social goals and rated this as the better choice to

make.

Because older adults have been members of both the young and older adult age groups, they understand how social preferences change across the life span. Thus, their responses may reflect their memories of how they acted and the choices they made at different points in their lifetime. They also may have a better idea of how people normally act because of their greater experience with people in a variety of social situations. The perceptions of young adults may be attributed to a less developed understanding of social behavior. This position is further supported by the fact that young adults responded differently for appropriateness of behavior than they did for liking of Clare.

Although the responses of older adults and some of the responses of young adults fit with SST's predictions of behavior, the overall pattern of results cannot be fully explained by SST. Therefore, it is necessary to look beyond SST for a richer, post hoc explanation. One possible way to understand our results is through Social Identity Theory (SIT). SIT looks at the relationship between group membership and an individual's beliefs about others (Hogg & Abrams, 1990; Turner, Hogg, Oakes, Reicher, & Wetherell, 1987). According to SIT, older and young adults' perceptions could be related to their membership in their different age groups. The young adults would consider Young Clare as a member of their in-group, and Older Clare as a member of their out-group; whereas older adults would consider Older Clare a member of their in-group and Young Clare as a member of their out-group.

We found that both older and young adults rated Clare's choice to spend time with a close social partner as more appropriate when Clare was a member of their own age group, but Clare's choice of a new experience was more appropriate when Clare was not a member of their age group. An SIT explanation of these results suggests that people of all ages may have certain expectations of how members of their ingroup should behave, and a different set of standards for how members of their outgroup should behave. In keeping with SST, we expected participants' identification with Clare to be affected by her choices, but it was not. Rather, participants responded that they identified with Clare more when she was in their age group, regardless of her choice. Thus, SIT is also consistent with these findings; when Clare was in their ingroup, participants identified with her more. These results indicate that our perceptions of others and their group memberships have implications for our understanding of ourselves and our group memberships.

Interestingly, perceptions of the best decision in the situation did not match perceptions of which decision is most appropriate for Clare. Older adults showed the same preference for which decision was best for Clare to make. However, young adults responded that choosing the new experience was the better decision to make, regardless of Clare's age. This pattern of results could also be explained by SIT. It may be that older and young adults have certain perceptions of what is the best decision, but recognize that the best decision is not always appropriate in the context of what the age group expects of ingroup members. These patterns of results may reflect the role of social identity and group membership in social decision-making.

Implications

The implications for these results are important for explaining intergenerational differences in expectations of social decisions. Older adults may expect and thus encourage young adults to choose new experiences, but prefer that members of their own group prioritize close relationships. Similarly, young adults may expect and encourage older people to choose new experiences, but prefer that members of their own group prioritize close relationships. These differing preferences may lead to intergenerational misunderstandings in which both generations prefer the other generation seek new experiences, but prefer their own generation remain with close friends. Grandchildren may not understand why their grandparents make social decisions that they think are not appropriate, whereas grandparents may be wondering the same thing about their grandchildren, even though both groups expect the same behavior for members of their own age group.

Limitations

There are limitations to the study that could have influenced the pattern of results and should be addressed in future studies. One limitation is the representativeness of the sample. All participants (both older and young adults) were affiliated with USF in some way and the older adult sample was small ($n = 27$). Thus this sample may not be representative in terms of location, education, and socioeconomic status of the general population, although they are probably no different than other college samples. Future studies should use a larger sample that includes participants recruited from outside this specific population.

Another limitation is the nature of data collection. Older adults participated individually while young adults participated in groups. In addition, the study materials were part of a packet and always

appeared after a questionnaire on community center programs. Although nothing was observed during the sessions to indicate that participants were affected by the presence of others or the other questionnaire, future studies should endeavor to isolate and standardize the experience.

Another considerable limitation is the social partner used in the vignette. It was necessary to limit the gender of the social partner because of the limited sample available. Adding a male target would have reduced the counts in each condition to unworkably low numbers. For similar reasons we also had to limit the type of knowledge-related social partner used. SST research shows that there are two kinds of knowledge-related social partners, those who are purely informational and those who could become familiar social partners in the future if the individual maintains the relationship over time. These two types of social partners may be viewed differently by individuals. The vignette used in this study involved a knowledge-related social partner who had the potential to become a familiar and subsequently an emotionally satisfying social partner. Therefore, the pattern of results may have been different if a purely informational knowledge-related social partner is used.

We also made Clare specific ages because young and older adults have very different ideas of what young and old are. Because we made Clare either 20 years old or 80 years old, some older and young adults may not have identified with Clare as a member of their age group because they were not exactly the same age. Large sample sizes should be used in future studies, allowing for targets to be of both genders, for both types of social informational partners, and for varying or more general target ages.

Conclusion

These results have wider implications in terms of understanding the relationship between social decision-making and perceptions of others. For individuals, it could give a better understanding of judgments made about others and how age might affect these perceptions. If individuals have different expectations of behavior, they might react differently to the social decisions of others. For example, a grandchild might react positively to his grandmother's decision to join a new book club, whereas her friends might express disappointment in this decision.

Recognizing these differences in perceptions can ultimately help people navigate the social world more effectively because it gives a more complete understanding of the reactions of others. On a societal level, insight into the types of perceptions that others

have may be a useful tool in understanding perceptions that are formed about different age groups as a whole. This research also lays the groundwork for further exploration into perceptions of social decision-making.

Future studies on this topic could not only address the limitations of this study, but also help to clarify the relationship between age, social identity, and perceptions of others.

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Table 1

Number of Participants by Participant Age by Clare's Choice by Clare's Age by Participant Sex

Participant Sex	Age of Participant	Clare's Age		Clare's Choice		Total	
				New Experience	Close Relationships		
Male	Older Adult	Clare's Age	Eighty years old	6	4	10	
			Twenty years old	2	1	3	
		Total		8	5	13	
	Young Adult	Clare's Age	Eighty years old	4	3	7	
			Twenty years old	7	2	9	
		Total		11	5	16	
	Total	Clare's Age	Eighty years old	10	7	17	
			Twenty years old	9	3	12	
		Total		19	10	29	
	Female	Older Adult	Clare's Age	Eighty years old	3	4	7
				Twenty years old	3	3	6
			Total		6	7	13
Young Adult		Clare's Age	Eighty years old	20	22	42	
			Twenty years old	14	20	34	
		Total		34	42	76	
Total		Clare's Age	Eighty years old	23	26	49	
			Twenty years old	17	23	40	
		Total		40	49	89	
Total		Older Adult	Clare's Age	Eighty years old	9	8	17
				Twenty years old	5	4	9
			Total		14	12	26
	Young Adult	Clare's Age	Eighty years old	24	25	49	
			Twenty years old	21	22	43	
		Total		45	47	92	
	Total	Clare's Age	Eighty years old	33	33	66	
			Twenty years old	26	26	52	
		Total		59	59	118	

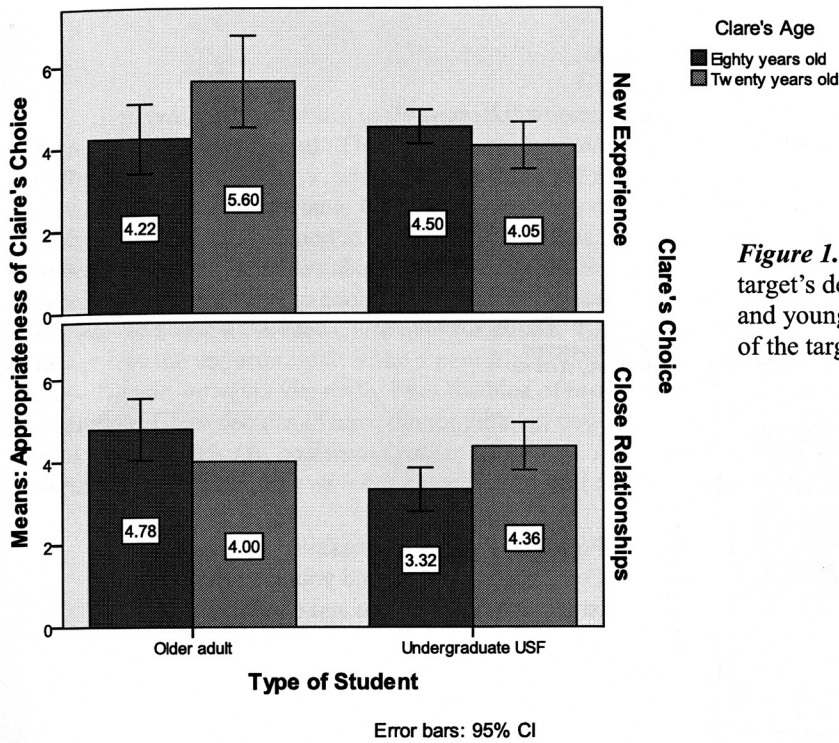


Figure 1. Ratings of appropriateness of target's decision. Comparison of older and young adult ratings of appropriateness of the target's choice by age and choice.

Alternate Table 1 Number of Participants by Participant Age by Clare's Choice by Clare's Age

Age of Participant			Clare's Choice		Total
			New Experience	Close Relationships	
Older Adult	Clare's Age	Eighty years old	9	9	18
		Twenty years old	5	4	9
	Total		14	13	27
Young Adult	Clare's Age	Eighty years old	24	25	49
		Twenty years old	21	22	43
	Total		45	47	92
Total	Clare's Age	Eighty years old	33	34	67
		Twenty years old	26	26	52
	Total		59	60	119

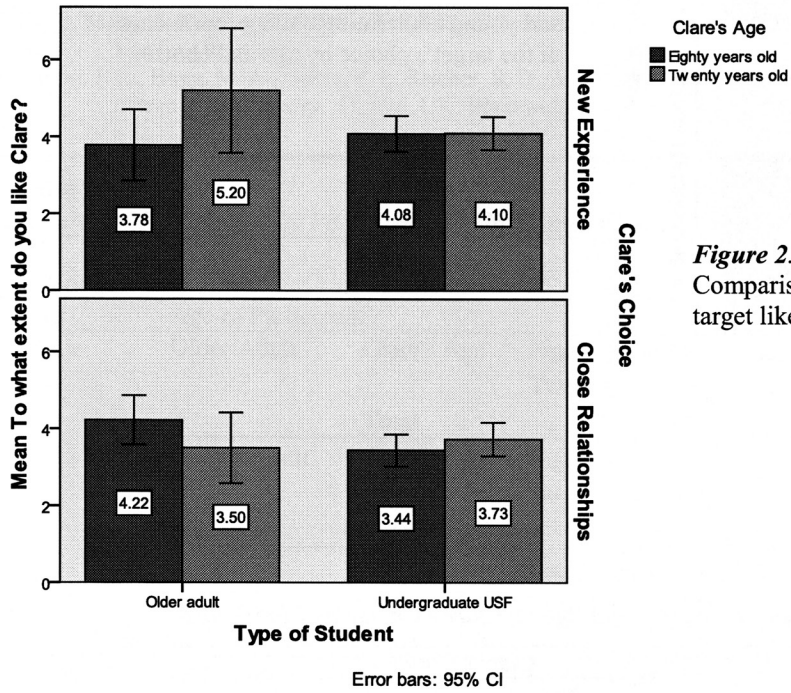


Figure 2. Ratings of likeability of target. Comparison of older and young adult ratings of target likeability by age and choice.

Appendix A

Clare's Sunday

Clare, an 80 year old [*a 20 year old*] woman, often likes to go to her favorite coffee shop down the street from her apartment to read. This Sunday, she has some free time, so she decides to go down there to enjoy a cup of coffee and relax. However, when she gets there she realizes that the place is very full. Clare decides to ask a woman sitting alone at a table if she may join her and share the table. The woman agrees and Clare sits down. Although Clare had planned to read her book, the woman and Clare start talking and soon realize how much they have in common. They are about the same age, have similar tastes in music and books, live in the same neighborhood, and love to cook. Clare and the woman spend about an hour at the coffee shop chatting and sharing stories. The woman invites Clare over for dinner. Clare really enjoyed the time she spent with the woman and recognizes the opportunity to make a new friend with similar interests. Clare often spends Sunday nights with her close friends, however she really likes the idea of broadening her social circle and getting to know new people. Therefore, Clare decides to have dinner with her new acquaintance. [*However, Clare often spends Sunday nights with her close friends, and would rather spend time with them than with someone she has just met. Therefore, Clare decides to spend the time with her close friends and declines the woman's offer.*]

Appendix B

Please circle the number indicating your answer to the following questions about the character in the story.

To what extent do you see Clare's behavior as appropriate for the given situation?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Not at all appropriate		Somewhat appropriate		Quite appropriate		Extremely appropriate

To what extent do you like Clare?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Not at all		Somewhat		Quite a bit		A lot

To what extent do you think Clare made the best decision in the situation?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Very bad decision						Very good decision

To what extent do you think Clare is open to new social situations?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Not at all		Somewhat		Quite a bit		A lot

To what extent do you think Clare values her close personal relationships?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Not at all		Somewhat		Quite a bit		A lot

To what extent do you wish you were more like Clare?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Not at all		Somewhat		Quite a bit		A lot
