

societies and assign different roles and privileges to its members. However, the dynamic nature of social status and the underlying mechanisms in old age are not well understood. Therefore, this symposium addresses questions of how social status is influenced by aging-related changes in roles, life events, self-concept, and images of aging and how social status shapes in response personality, subjective age, prosocial behavior, performance, and well-being in old age. Bellingtier and colleagues examined objective and subjective social status and their connections to subjective age, attitudes towards aging, and awareness of age-related changes. Zhang shows paradoxical association between aging stereotypes and prosocial behaviors toward older adults. Barber and Hamel investigated how stereotypes of reduced physical competence in old age affect the gait performance on easy and difficult tasks. Weiss and colleagues take a cross-cultural perspective on the different sources of social status in China, Germany, and the US showing that generations in contrast to age groups represent a source of high social status in later life. Finally, Kornadt investigates the dynamic interplay of changes in social roles and personality in old age. Together, these presentations enlarge our understanding of the dynamics of social status in old age.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES: SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND SUBJECTIVE PERCEPTIONS OF AGING

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Money may not buy happiness, but can it buy a more positive outlook on aging? Past research examining the associations between indicators of socioeconomic status (SES) and subjective perceptions of aging have been mixed with some finding greater socio-economic resources predict more positive aging perceptions, whereas others find no connection. We examine objective (i.e., income and education) and subjective social status (i.e., MacArthur ladder) and their connections to subjective age, attitudes towards aging, and awareness of age-related changes using hierarchical multiple regression analyzes. Participants (n = 296, age range 60-90) completed survey measures online. Results indicate minimal connection between income, education, and aging perceptions. However, perceiving oneself to be higher in social standing compared to one's community was consistently related to more favorable perceptions of aging. Higher community standing may indicate favorable development, fewer stressors, or more resources compared to others, which could contribute to more positive perceptions of aging.

MULTIPLE SOURCES OF SOCIAL STATUS IN OLD AGE: THE ROLE OF AGE GROUPS AND GENERATIONS

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This cross-cultural study compared attitudes towards age and generational groups across the life span in China, Germany, and the US including N = 1302 participants between 18 and 86 years of age. We asked younger, GSA 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting

middle-aged, and older respondents to rate either age (e.g., adolescents, young adults, middle-aged adults, and older adults) or generational groups (e.g., Millennials, Generation X, Baby Boomer, and Silent Generation) on various characteristics. Results demonstrate that across all three cultures older age groups were perceived consistently less positive and more negative, whereas older generations were perceived as significantly more positive and less negative. Our results suggest that generations in contrast to age groups represent a source of high social status in later life providing a sense of respect, value, and admiration. Thus, social status can be derived from multiple sources and older adults can draw upon alternative social status domains (their generation) when confronted with loss.

PARADOXICAL ASSOCIATION BETWEEN AGING STEREOTYPES AND PROSOCIAL BEHAVIORS TOWARD OLDER ADULTS

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According to stereotype content model, older adults were perceived as low in competence (but high in warmth). Studies have demonstrated that such negative stereotypes could affect older adults significantly. However, it remained unclear how younger adults could be influenced, especially during intergenerational interactions, i.e., would positive or negative aging stereotypes promote more prosocial behaviors toward older adults. 104 younger adults were randomly assigned to three aging stereotype conditions (i.e., negative, neutral vs. positive), and they were then introduced to play two prosocial tasks (i.e., social value orientation and ultimatum game), in which they were imagined to play with either a younger or an older adults. It was found that younger adults exhibited more prosocial tendencies toward older partners than that to younger partners in both tasks. Moreover, activation of a negative aging stereotype could make younger adults behave more prosocially to the older partners in the social value orientation task.

SOCIAL ROLES AND PERSONALITY IN LATER LIFE

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Despite considerable stability of the Big Five personality traits, there is evidence for personality plasticity and change across the lifespan. In younger years, the investment in social roles, such as entering worklife or starting a family has been shown to drive personality change. With regard to personality in later life, the investigation of social roles has so far been neglected. A questionnaire was developed to assess a large number of social roles that can be assumed in the second half of life. N = 306 participants aged 50 to 86 years reported on their social roles and rated their personality traits. Results show that assuming and investing in certain social roles (e.g. friend, retiree, volunteer) mediated the effects of age on the Big Five, especially for the oldest participants and in the domains openness and extraversion. The findings support the importance of social roles for personality also in later life.