

ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS AND SITTING PATTERNS IN OLDER ADULTS

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Neighborhood characteristics are associated with self-reported sedentary behavior (SB) in older adults. However, self-report measures are not able to accurately assess total sitting time nor detailed patterns of SB. This analysis explores the relationship between device-based SB variables from activPAL and neighborhood characteristics (demographics) in the ACT cohort. Neighborhood characteristics were assessed with the modified Physical Activity Neighborhood Environment Scale (PANES; scored 1.0-4.0, higher score, higher walkability). Data were analyzed using linear regression models adjusted for demographic factors. Higher PANES score was associated with higher daily steps (+1180 daily steps/point on PANES, $p < 0.001$) and sit-to-stand transitions (+2.7 daily transitions/point on PANES, $p = 0.004$). Confirming other studies, neighborhood walkability promotes physical activity. A novel finding was that sitting interruptions, which can only be assessed with devices, were also associated with higher neighborhood walkability, while total sitting time was not.

SESSION 575 (SYMPOSIUM)

STUDIES ON ADJUSTMENT TO RETIREMENT: HOW OLDER EUROPEANS NAVIGATE THE RETIREMENT TRANSITION

Chair: van Solinge, *Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, The Hague, Netherlands*

Discussant: Olga Grunwald, *NIDI, Den Haag, South Holland, Netherlands*

Retirement is a significant life transition in late adult life that often brings about great changes in individuals' patterns of everyday activity, social networks as well as one's economic resources, requiring adjustment for both the retiree and other members of the household. Retirement is a process that starts with a preparatory stage, followed by the actual act of retirement and a post-retirement stage where retirees have to get used to the changing aspects of life that result from the work-retirement transition, and seek to achieve psychological comfort with their retirement life. This symposium brings together empirical research on the various stages of the retirement process, from different national backgrounds. The guiding question is how work and the loss of work affect well-being. Hence, the symposium will give insights into the circumstances under which retirement risks well-being and psychological comfort of older adults. Anna Wanka discusses under which conditions retirement feels right for German retirees, and how this feeling shifts and changes throughout the retirement process. Sarah Dury follows with

the post-retirement stage by demonstrating a qualitative perspective of recently retired Belgians about their adjustment, role and activities they exert during post-retirement. Isabelle Hansson examines the role of personality for retirement adjustment in a Swedish sample of older adults. Hanna van Solinge explores the impact of agency in the work-retirement transition on adjustment to a longer working life /retirement and life satisfaction in a Dutch panel study.

AGENCY IN LATE-CAREER TRANSITIONS: THE IMPACT ON ADJUSTMENT AND SATISFACTION

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In research on late career transitions agency is implicitly assumed. The extent to which older adults are able to shape their late career in the face of external constraints, such as a rising state pension age, may however be limited. Constraint agency may have impact on well-being. Using data from a panel study among 5,300 older workers in the Netherlands, we examined the impact of agency in the work-retirement transition on adjustment and life satisfaction. Results show that adjustment to a higher retirement age is more challenging than adjustment to retirement. Life satisfaction increased among those who retired, but not among those who remained working. One third experienced constrained agency (involuntary retirement or non-retirement). The negative association between constrained agency and life satisfaction was stronger for participants still in the labor force than for retirees. Our findings demonstrate that involuntary non-retirement has stronger implications for well-being than involuntary retirement.

IS THERE A RIGHT TIME TO RETIRE? AFFECTIVE DIS/ENGAGEMENT FROM WORK IN A LONGITUDINAL QUALITATIVE STUDY FROM GERMANY

Anna Wanka¹, 1. *Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

Recent retirement research has argued that the once predictable pattern associated with retiring is becoming increasingly differentiated by the age at which it occurs, if it is gradual or abrupt, voluntary or involuntary, etc. (Moffatt & Heaven 2017). Even though research suggests that retirement legislation and statutory retirement ages influence the subjective perception of a 'right time to retire' (cf. Jansen, 2018), many people don't feel ready to retire when they should and hence retire involuntarily (Steiber & Kohli, 2017). This paper focuses on the dis/engagement processes that lead to feeling 'ready' to retire at a certain time, or not. Drawing on data from a qualitative longitudinal study in Germany, results suggest (1) that readiness to retire is a continuum, rather than a binary, which is influenced by a variety of actors, and (2) that it is and a process that changes multiple times in the retirement transition.

A BELGIAN VIEW ON BEING RETIRED BUT NOT OUT OF WORK

Sarah Dury¹, 1. *Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium*

Retirement is no longer merely the end of a productive life. This changing nature of retirement challenges the common definitions of retirement – that define retirement primarily by what it is not (i.e. no longer working). The aim of this paper is to gain insight into the activity patterns of individuals who recently retired from a full-time job in relation with their

well-being. We use data from a qualitative study in which we conducted semi-structured interviews with 45 individuals who retired one to two years ago in Belgium. We used a hybrid approach of inductive and deductive thematic analysis. Our findings demonstrate that most of the people who are retired from their full-time job remain active within society. First, productive activities, including work and civic engagement. Second, consumer-oriented activities comprising leisure and social contacts. The results suggest that being active, regardless of the type of activity, contributes to well-being.

THE ROLE OF PERSONALITY IN RETIREMENT ADJUSTMENT: LONGITUDINAL EFFECTS ON LIFE SATISFACTION

Isabelle Hansson¹ Georg Henning,² Sandra Buratti,² Magnus Lindwall,² Marie Kivi,² Boo Johansson,² and Anne Ingeborg Berg², 1. *Department of Psychology and Centre for Ageing and Health (AgeCap), University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden*, 2. *Department Of Psychology And Centre For Ageing And Health (AgeCap), University Of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Vastra Gotaland, Sweden*

Research on the retirement transition suggests that personality can influence the adjustment process, but the mechanisms involved remain still largely unknown. In the present study we investigate direct and indirect associations between the Big Five personality traits and life satisfaction over the retirement transition. Indirect effects were evaluated through the role of personality for self-esteem, autonomy, social support, perceived physical and cognitive health, and financial satisfaction. The sample included 796 older adults and four annual measurement waves in the Swedish longitudinal HEARTS study. Results from multivariate latent growth curve models showed multiple indirect effects of personality. Extraversion was positively related to life satisfaction through increased self-esteem, autonomy, and social support. Neuroticism was negatively associated with life satisfaction through decreased self-esteem, autonomy, social support, and perceived cognitive ability. Our findings suggest that retirees with higher neuroticism are more likely to experience adjustment problems resulting from negative changes in key resources.

SESSION 580 (SYMPOSIUM)

TECHNOLOGY AND AGING FUTURES: DISCOVERING THE CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW (CES) 2019

Chair: Stephen Katz, *Trent University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

The growing field of technology and aging or gerontechnology has largely been considered from a health perspective on technological intervention to ameliorate conditions of isolation, disconnection, inactivity, and loneliness, as well as provide efficient alert systems, transportation coordination, and emergency services. Contesting the image of a 'digital divide' separating younger from older generations, the recreational industry has also produced a seniors market of technological games, toys, apps, exercises, and social media. The four papers in this symposium, however, are individual critical reflections by a group of social scientists who

visited the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in January 2019 (Las Vegas) as part of an ethnographic project about the politics of the technical turn in gerontological studies. In particular, the authors gathered evidence from the CES to support their interests in four trends: a) The collecting, aggregating, and sharing of personal data by home surveillance, artificial intelligence monitoring, and self-tracking systems for commercial, insurance and work-place purposes, b) The popularization of healthy lifestyles based on technical and exclusionary models of 'smart', 'fit', and 'optimal' standards, c) The technical rhetoric that infuses designs for efficiency, speed, and convenience with anti-aging and ageist ideologies, d) The challenges to older people to manage their lives against the health risks, interventions, and expectations posed by technology-driven austerity programs. The papers have in common their creative interpretations of CES materials and shared concern about the many older groups whose insufficient access, skill, and resources will deny them participation in the technological imaginary of aging futures.

PRIVATE PARTS: AGING, AI, AND THE ETHICS OF CONSENT IN SUBSCRIPTION-BASED ECONOMIES

Kim Sawchuk¹, 1. *Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada*

This paper explores Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a technological design offered to assist elder-care based on tracking individual behavior amassed in data bases that are given predictive value through algorithm-identified normative patterns. Examples are drawn from ethnographic research conducted at the 2019 Consumer Electronics Show, including document analysis of product promotions and interviews conducted with company representatives, supplemented by interviews with older adults. The paper focuses on the ethical dilemmas of privacy, security, consent, and identity in home surveillance systems and financialization of personal data in AI subscription-based services. Theoretically the argument, informed by recent discussions on the datafication of self and quantified aging, emphasizes that such a subscription-based economy exploits older individuals by sharing their lifestyle profiles, health information, economic status, and consumer preferences within powerful corporate networks such as Google and Amazon. Conclusions question how the promise of AI is being tied to the future of population aging.

THE RISE OF ROBOT PETS AND DISCOURSES OF TECHNO-COMPANIONSHIP IN LATER LIFE

Constance Lafontaine¹, 1. *Concordia University, Montreal, Québec, Canada*

Robot pets of varying degrees of sophistication are advertised as ideal companions for older adults, with claims that they support their emotional and cognitive needs. A new generation of robot pets (e.g., Lovot) is emerging equipped with internet connections, recognition software, surveillance capacity, and AI platforms to mimic desired aspects of animal-human relationships. This paper draws upon promotional materials gathered at the Consumer Electronics Show 2019 and interviews with robot designers, to probe what the robotization of human-animal relationships tells us about shifting notions of companionship through the life course. The argument is that robot pets are inscribed within discourses that instrumentalize human-animal-technology