

Research Project

Ageing as future (Altern als Zukunft: Zukunftsbezogenes Alternshandeln in kulturvergleichender Perspektive)

Project funded by own resources

Project title Ageing as future (Altern als Zukunft: Zukunftsbezogenes Alternshandeln in kulturvergleichender Perspektive)

Principal Investigator(s) Nikitin, Jana ;

Organisation / Research unit

Departement Psychologie / Entwicklungs- und Persönlichkeitspsychologie (Nikitin)

Project start 01.01.2018

Probable end 31.12.2020

Status Completed

The “Ageing as Future” project investigates how individuals perceive, construe, and prepare for their old age and ageing. We address this topic from an interdisciplinary perspective, combining different methodological approaches that mutually complement and inform each other. The project has an international format, with data collection in three different countries, which allows us to study and compare processes of ageing across different societal contexts. The design of our study enables us to interconnect individual and societal factors in understanding processes of ageing. The major topics of our project center around three interrelated themes: Views on ageing, preparation for old age, and time management in old age. During the first funding period, the project has generated a data base that is unique with respect to its multi-method approach and its in-depth assessment of age-related variables and constructs in three different countries. Core findings focus on (a) the domain-specificity of views on ageing and age-related preparation, (b) processes of internalization of age stereotypes into personalized future self-views, (c) relations between ageing-related beliefs and a wide range of developmental outcomes (e.g., preparation, life events, perceived age discrimination, subjective age, well-being), (d) modes of time management and time perception (time suspension, logic of catching up, temporal self-continuity), and (e) country differences in ageing-related processes and their determinants (perceived situation of older people in a society, age stereotypes).

In a second funding period, the project will capitalize on and expand the current data base. Specifically, we will conduct additional measurement waves, resulting in a fully longitudinal, multimethod design across multiple countries. These data will allow us to separate effects of age, cohort, and historical time; to investigate the causal direction of relations between variables; and to compare and interconnect findings and insights that were gathered with different methodologies within different parts of the project. Furthermore, two countries will be added to our project. Data will be gathered in the Czech Republic in order to investigate effects of societal transformation on individual attitudes towards ageing in a country that changed from a state socialist, highly protectionist welfare regime to a capitalist society emphasizing individual liberty and responsibility. We also include data collection in the Tainan region in Taiwan in order to compare processes of ageing between more rural and metropolitan regions (Hong Kong) in Asia. Finally, the project will put a particular focus on what emerged as superordinate core topics in all parts of the project during the first funding period (age discrimination, ageing during the “fourth age”, attitudes toward longevity).

Keywords aging, age stereotypes, preparation for old age, cultural differences

Financed by

Other funds

Add publication

Add documents

Specify cooperation partners

ID	Kreditinhaber	Kooperationspartner	Institution	Laufzeit - von	Laufzeit - bis
4113090	Nikitin, Jana	Rothermund, Klaus, Professor	University of Jena	01.01.2018	31.12.2020
4113091	Nikitin, Jana	Lang, Frieder, Professor	University of Erlangen	01.01.2018	31.12.2020
4113093	Nikitin, Jana	Lessenich, Stephan, Professor	University of Munich	01.01.2018	31.12.2020
4113100	Nikitin, Jana	Graf, Sylvie, Marie Curie Fellow	University of Bern	01.01.2018	31.12.2020