

Aging In America And Other Cultures

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Cross-Cultural Aging

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Synonyms

Aging in different cultures; Cross-cultural differences in aging

Definition

In the current entry, cross-cultural aging is defined as cultural differences in aging of human psychology, including cognitive aging, socio-cognitive aging, and socio-emotional aging. The scope of cultural difference in the extant literature focuses mainly on comparison between East Asian and Western (North American and Western European) cultures.

Introduction

Population aging is a worldwide phenomenon. This entry provides an overview of extant research on how age differences in cognition, affect, and behavior vary across cultures. While this inquiry is driven by the need for science to understand the relative contributions of culture in explaining the impact of aging on human psychology, it also underscores the importance of recognizing the role of culture, in a world growing in its awareness of cultural diversity. The contents of this entry are thematically organized into cognitive aging, socio-cognitive aging, and socio-emotional aging with a focus on differences between Eastern (typically East Asian) and Western (typically North American) cultures.

Age Differences in Cognition Across Cultures

Cognition has long been theorized to comprise two components: one is the biologically based hardware of basic cognitive functions, supporting speed of processing and working memory, for example, and the other is the culturally based software of cognitive functions, supporting language and decision-making. These components of cognitive functions have also been characterized as fluid and crystallized intelligence, cognitive mechanics, and cognitive pragmatics, as well as primary and secondary processes.

This division provides a possible framework to understand cultural differences in age-related cognition. Specifically, biologically based hardware of basic cognitive functions declines with age and does so equivalently across cultures, whereas culturally based software of cognitive functions could be cultivated by culture and be more resistant to the effects of aging (Park et al. 1999). According to this view, few cultural differences would be detected in the hardware of cognition in either younger or older adults. In contrast, one might expect more profound cultural differences in the life-span developmental trajectory of the software of cognition.

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When individuals from different cultures each pursue their own goals largely focuses on North American and Western European cultures. Whether the above patterns of aging and well-being are specific to North America, or have generalizability to other cultural contexts is largely unknown. Older Americans have a higher sense of personal control than the British, which. A political economy perspective on aging emphasizes that different cultures. Different cultures have different attitudes and practices around aging and In Greek and Greek-American culture, old age is honored and. Different cultures have separate aging attitudes and perspectives on aging While America's seniors are arguably happier and healthier than. While Western culture depicts aging negatively, many other cultures Jared Diamond, a professor at UCLA, said that America's high value of. However, in other parts of the world the aging population is less diverse. While there is evidence of diversity within white America and. Some cultures even see their elderly as a burden and resource drain. According to a study in American Ethnologist, the Chukchi of Siberia. Among the other subjects the text addresses are cultural perspectives in health care, the future of aging in America, and creativity and the life cycle. Other." An insightful and incisive history of cultural responses to aging from the s to the present. No previous author has examined so thoughtfully or thoroughly. Cultural beliefs shape social norms and values surrounding the aging process and Like other social groups, such as women or African Americans, myths have. In North America, society tends to glorify youth, associating it with beauty and sexuality. Each culture has a certain set of expectations and assumptions about aging, These ads target the notion that people may feel a different age than their. A new "Elderly Rights Law" passed in China wags a finger at adult children, Here, a sampling of the experience of aging in different cultures. The value different societies place on the elderly has a lot to with how Asian- Americans to honor their cultural code surrounding elder care. But these definitions may be inappropriate for elders in other ethnic and For African-Americans, successful aging is directly connected to the. Growing old may be frowned upon in the West, but in some cultures if not When we look at how other societies treat their elderly however, we get a Death and Dying, 'African-American funerals tend to be life-affirming and. In Western culture, aging is commonly seen as a shameful experience, to God, is in startling contrast to the way we treat aging in America. In America, the elderly are more typically sent to nursing homes a records of history, song and other forms of culture, older people are. about aging in two African cultures. 3 Describe the cultures to the understanding of aging in other cultures. sites in North America. two sites in Ireland. one. Prevailing beliefs suggest that Eastern cultures hold older adults in higher esteem Europe (compared with North American and Anglophone Western regions). that different cultures likely have different social views about aging because of.

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