unique visual methodology by photographing their experiences which highlighted daily life. While acknowledging that their years ‘before’ were different, and that life going forward may present unwelcome challenges, life in the now brought new joys and self-determination, despite various bodily compromises. Their perceptions of their bodies defied the dominant narrative of decline. These important findings warrant further investigation of the ways in which this emerging cohort views the challenges of aging bodies and their ability to remain socially connected. The role the dominant narrative of decline plays in their lives may prove to misdirect supports.

THE CORPOREALITY OF LATE AGE
Chris Gilleard, University College London, UCL, England, United Kingdom

In a study of over a thousand Germans, Paul Baltes and his colleagues observed that most respondents saw age 80-84 as the preferred age to reach before dying. Living beyond 85 was only desired by a minority. Perhaps this is because this age seems to many the point when bodily disease and physical weakness render life not just unpleasant but actively burdensome. Such views underpin the social imaginary of an undesirable fourth age. This paper discusses the significance of corporeality as both representation and lived experience, raising the question of whether the disparity between real and imagined corporealities resides as much from an ‘other’ within as without.

Session 4630 (Symposium)

VIEWS OF AGING DURING THE CORONA PANDEMIC
Chair: Jennifer Bellingtier
Co-Chair: Anna Kornadt

In the Covid-19 pandemic, media stories and government reports have emphasized the heightened risk of being “old” and placed a spotlight on the way we think and talk about older adults and aging. In this symposium we investigate how the pandemic and the public discourse about older adults has shaped views of aging in different countries. Bellingtier et al. report on German children’s views of older adults before and during the pandemic. Children placed greater distance between themselves and older adults both before and after the pandemic, suggesting early ageism in children that predates the pandemic. Levy et al. provide experimental evidence that media stereotypes about aging and Covid-19 influence the mental health of older American adults, both in positive and negative. Schwartz and Ayalon found that greater perceptions of age-based discrimination in the healthcare system by Israeli adults 50+ were significantly related to greater Covid-19 worries. Greater worry can motivate older adults to take precautions, but be detrimental if it becomes too high. In line with this finding, Tingvold et al. found in a study with older adults from Luxembourg that more Covid-19 worry predicted feeling older four months later, but only for those in worse health. Finally, Terracciano examined longitudinal change in subjective age and found that American adults reported feeling younger after the emergence of Covid-19 than before, suggesting that perceptions of aging partly reflect a coping process to counter the negativity in the media.

A MULTI-METHOD EXAMINATION OF AGEISM IN CHILDREN BEFORE AND DURING THE PANDEMIC
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The pandemic has made age more salient. Access to vaccines, mandates to wear masks, and recommendations for contact restrictions have all varied by age. Developmental intergroup theory proposes that greater salience of a feature can lead to greater stereotyping and prejudice. We investigated this with a multi-method assessment of ageism in children (N = 57, ages 4-8), where data collection occurred both before and during the pandemic. In simulated behavioral measures, children preferred to sit closer to younger adults (mean distance = 1.8 seats) versus older adults (mean distance = 2.8 seats), and, for a simulated treasure hunt, they chose 3.36 younger, versus 1.63 older, teammates. Explicit (picture ratings) and implicit (IAT) ratings also significantly favored younger adults. These preferences were not exacerbated by the pandemic. Although ageism is present at young ages, we found no evidence that this has thus far worsened in the pandemic.

SELF- AND OTHER-DIRECTED AGEISM AND WORRIES CONCERNING COVID-19 HEALTH CONSEQUENCES
Liat Ayalon,1 and Ella Cohn-Schwartz,2 1. Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, HaMerkaz, Israel, 2. Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, HaDarom, Israel

Worries associated with COVID-19 health consequences are well-justified. They may motivate people to take safety precautions, but may hinder if they become too intense. Current research examined mainly age and gender as potentially associated with worries. This study instead, focuses on self-perceptions of ageing (SPA) and perceived age discrimination as potential predictors of worry, in light of the ageism pandemic which co-occurred with the COVID-19 outbreak. The study is based on a national representative sample of 1,092 adults aged 50+ in Israel. Phone interviews were conducted between March – May 2020, when Israel gradually moved from strict to partial lockdown. Our findings show that SPA and age-based discrimination in the healthcare system were significant predictors of worries. The findings point to the potentially negative impact of the ageism pandemic in relation to worries. Interventions that address ageism directed by self or others might alleviate people’s worries in the COVID-19 pandemic.

IMPACT OF MEDIA-BASED AGE STEREOTYPES ON OLDER INDIVIDUALS’ MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Becca Levy,1 E-Shien Chang,2 Sarah Lowe,3 Natalia Provolo,1 and Martin Slade,3 1. Yale University, Woodbridge, Connecticut, United States, 2. Weill Cornell Medicine, New York City, New York, United States, 3. Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, United States

During the COVID-19 pandemic, stigmatization of older persons has increased in traditional and social media. It was unknown whether this negative messaging could be detrimental to the mental health of older individuals, and whether the relatively uncommon positive messaging about older
individuals could benefit their mental health. To address these gaps, we designed age-stereotype interventions based on actual news stories that appeared during the pandemic. As expected, the exposure of older individuals to the negative-age-stereotype-messaging interventions led to significantly worse mental health (more anxiety and less peacefulness), compared to a neutral condition; in contrast, the positive-age-stereotype-messaging interventions led to significantly better mental health (less anxiety and more peacefulness), compared to a neutral condition. The results demonstrate the need for media messaging aimed at empowering older individuals during the pandemic and beyond.

SUBJECTIVE AGE CHANGES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Antonio Terracciano, Florida State University, Florida, United States

Aging is associated with an increased risk of COVID-19 morbidity and mortality. In this study, we tested whether the pandemic influenced how old individuals felt by examining longitudinal within-person changes in subjective age. We tested two alternative hypotheses: (a) people felt increasingly older in response to the stress generated by COVID-19; (b) people felt increasingly younger due to psychological distancing from older age. We tested these hypotheses in a large US sample of adults assessed once before and twice during the COVID-19 pandemic. Multilevel analyses indicated that people reported feeling younger with the emergence of COVID-19. We further tested demographic, health, and psychosocial predictors of changes in subjective age. Overall, the findings supported the hypothesis that subjective age partly reflects a coping process of psychological distancing from older age, a process that parallels physical and social distancing.

EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBJECTIVE AGE AND WORRY FOR OLDER ADULTS IN TIMES OF A PANDEMIC
Maiken Tingvold, Anna Kornadt, Isabelle Albert, Elke Murdock, Martine Hoffmann, and Josepha Nell
1. University of Luxembourg, University of Luxembourg, Grevenmacher, Luxembourg, 2. University of Luxembourg, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, 3. University of Luxembourg, Esch-sur-Alzette, Diekirch, Luxembourg, 4. RBS, Itzig, Diekirch, Luxembourg, 5. University of Luxembourg, Esch-sur-Alzette, Grevenmacher, Luxembourg

Given the role of age as a risk factor in the covid pandemic, we examined the longitudinal cross-lagged relationship between subjective age and Covid-related worry, and possible moderators of this relationship. Data were obtained at two-time points (June and October 2020) by a phone/online survey, from N = 611 older participants (Mage = 69.92 years). Participants felt on average 10 and 8.5 years younger than their chronological ages at the two-time points, respectively. Younger subjective age at T1 increased the level of worry at T2 irrespective of age, perceived control and subjective health. Higher worry increased subjective age at T2, but only for those with worse subjective health. Our results show that subjective age and Covid-related worry interact over time. This relation needs to be explored further in order to understand the relationship between subjective age and well-being especially, but not only in the pandemic context.

Session 4635 (Symposium)
HEALTH AND AGING DISPARITIES AMONG LATIN AMERICAN OLDER ADULTS: FINDINGS FROM STUDIES IN BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, AND MEXICO
Chair: Margarita Osuna

Aging in Latin America is occurring rapidly, in a context of high levels of poverty and inequality. This symposium is focused on population health and the health-disparities found in some of Latin America’s largest middle-income countries, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia. This symposium contains presentations on different health-related issues affecting older adults, which can have further implications for wellbeing, health, and disease risk. The papers in this symposium examine a variety of health-related dimensions and disparities among older Latinos that include physiological functioning, cognition, and oral health. Using the Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS), Sheehan investigates the associations between personal and familial educational attainment on sleep quality. Also using MHAS, Milani. Using data from the Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Aging, Farina examines the relationship between race and cognition. Garcia uses data from the Colombian Survey of Health, Well-Being, and Aging to study the relationship between Motor Cognitive Risk Syndrome (MCRS) and cognition and frailty. Using the same dataset, Osuna examines variation in oral health in Colombian older adults and the impact this has on their wellbeing. Results indicate which population subgroups in Latin America have increased risk for poorer health and which dimensions of health have gender, race and socioeconomic disparities. The findings highlight the importance of understanding the conditions under which Latin American older adults are aging and the implications this can have in the future.

ORAL HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN COLOMBIAN OLDER ADULTS
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Despite its importance for health and wellbeing, oral health quality of life (OHQoL) has received little attention in lower-income countries, such as Colombia. This study describes the prevalence of older adults’ OHQoL and variability by socioeconomic status. We use data from the 2015 SABE-Colombia (N=18,700), a nationally representative survey of community-dwelling Colombians ages 60 and older. We used the Simple Count Geriatric Oral Health Assessment Index (SC-GOHAI), a self-reported measure of frequent oral health problems such as chewing, swallowing, and speaking designed to assess OHQoL. The scale ranges from 0-12; higher scores indicate worse OHQoL. About 69% of older Colombians reported at least one OHQoL