P-1021 - OLDER ADULTS' ADJUSTMENT TO AGING, AGE REPRESENTATION AND SUBJECTIVE AGE: A MULTIPLE CORRESPONDENCE ANALYSIS

S.V.Humboldt, I.P.Leal

UIPES, Instituto Superior de Psicologia Aplicada, Lisbon, Portugal

Introduction: The increase of older adults in the population has emphasized the need for consideration of what it takes to live this phase of life with a sense of adjustment.

Objectives: This research aims at (a) investigating latent constructs that can work as major determinants in adjustment to aging (AtA), age representation (AR) and subjective age (SA) and (b) exploring relationships of these constructs in an older cross-cultural population.

Methods: For the purposes of this study, one measure of cognitive functioning - the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) and demographics, were included. Measures were completed using a variety of culturally appropriate methods, including self-administration and interviews. All variables had fewer than 1% missing values and there complete data were available for 33 older adults (mean age 86.2, SD = 5.4, (range 74-101)) from eight different nationalities. Data was subjected to content analysis. Representation of the associations and latent constructs that can work as major determinants in older adults' SA, contributors to AtA and AR, were assessed by a Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA).

Results: AtA was associated with SA and AR in older adults. Findings indicated a model for each pre-category, with diverse factors and factor loadings.

Conclusions: AtA, SA and AR are strongly explained by increased likelihood of specific constructs in its definition. Enhancing AtA on shared perceptions of SA and AR, might be an important target to improve older adults' clinical interventions' outcomes.