C-REACTIVE PROTEIN MEDIATES THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SUBJECTIVE AGING AND INCIDENT HEART DISEASE
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Recent studies have shown that negative perceptions of subjective aging are associated with a heightened risk of cardiovascular events (Stephan et al., 2020) and increased C-reactive protein (CRP), a biomarker associated with inflammation (Stephan et al., 2014). Because inflammation is deleterious to cardiovascular health, CRP might mediate the association between subjective aging and cardiovascular disease. The purpose of this study was to examine the association between subjective aging (i.e., negative self-perceptions of aging [SPA] and subjective age) and incident cardiovascular disease (e.g., heart attack, angina, congestive heart failure), and to determine whether CRP mediates this relation. We used up to five waves of repeated measures data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS, 2008 - 2016) with adults aged 50 to 101 (n = 9,531). Two separate models were conducted in MPlus with bias-corrected bootstrap confidence intervals and controls for respondent age, sex, education, race, ethnicity, body mass index (BMI), diabetes, hypertension, depressive symptoms, and physical inactivity. There were significant indirect effects of both SPA and subjective age on incident cardiovascular disease through CRP (indirect effect SPA model = .02, CIs [.01, .03], p < .05; indirect effect subjective age model = .05, CIs [.02, .10], p < .05). In both models, CRP fully mediated the association between subjective aging and incident cardiovascular disease. Taken together, these findings underscore the importance of considering older adults’ views of aging for understanding physical health and suggest that interventions aimed at improving views on aging may reduce inflammation and promote cardiovascular health.

DAILY PERCEIVED STRESS AND PHYSICAL HEALTH SYMPTOMS: MODERATION BY SELF-PERCEPTIONS OF AGING
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Research suggests increased daily perceived stress is related to worse physical health outcomes such as poor eating and exercise behavior (Li et al., 2019) and lower perceived health (Whitehead & Blaxton, 2020). While long-term implications for increased perceptions of stress on physical health are becoming clear (e.g., Ruegggebeger et al., 2012), less is known about associations between daily perceptions of stress and subjective levels of physical health symptoms. Moreover, positive perceptions of one’s own aging may buffer perceived stress’s impact on physical health. Indeed, self-perceptions of aging (SPA) impact how people prepare for age-related stressors (Kornadt et al., 2015), and are associated with physical health trajectories (Luo & Li, 2020). Using a 100-day microlongitudinal study of 103 older adults, we examined the 1.) impact of both between- and within-persons associations of perceived stress on physical health symptoms and 2.) the potential moderating associations of SPA on perceived stress and physical health symptom associations. Preliminary models suggest that on days when people perceived more stress, they show a .03 increase in reporting physical health symptoms compared to days when they do not report more perceived stress (p<.0001). Further, people who experience more perceived stress on average, reported .06 more physical symptoms across the study period (p <.0001). While SPA did significantly predict physical health symptoms (p<.004), the association between perceived stress and physical health symptoms was not dependent on SPA (p<.05). Future directions may include exploring associations between daily stressful experiences, perceptions of stress, and valence of SPA.

DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS? EXAMINING A NEW MEASURE FOR AGE-RELATIVE SEXUAL ATTITUDES
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Recent research suggests increasingly permissive attitudes towards sexual activity in later life. Harboring more conservative beliefs especially as one reaches older age, however, may translate into how one views and navigates sexual health changes. A sample of participants (N = 706; Mage = 52.72 years, SD = 9.57, range = 36-79; 60.8% male) was recruited through Amazon’s Mechanical Turk to complete a survey on sexual beliefs about age and aging. Participants completed two versions of the Relative Attitudes Scale (RASA), wherein they were prompted to consider either “someone their own age” or “an older person” in response to items assessing sexual attitudes. Multi-group confirmatory factor analysis was used to confirm the original five-factor structure, reduce the total items from 31 to 25, and establish measurement equivalence for the 36-54 year-old and 55+ year-old samples. Through a series of profile analyses investigating each subscale, scores did not significantly differ between the two prompts, although significant age-group differences were found with the 36-54 year-old age group reporting more open attitudes than the 55+ year-old age group across all subscales, except the traditional mores subscale. Sexual attitude subscale scores also differed by gender, engagement in partnered sexual activity, and whether one had spoken to a health professional about their sexual health in the past year. The findings support use of the RASA for adults 36 and older and highlight applications to understanding differences in sexual health into later life.

LACKING WARMTH AND COMPETENCE: HOW YOUNGER ADULTS UTILIZE “OK BOOMER” ACCORDING TO THE STEREOTYPE CONTENT MODEL
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Younger adults have coined the popular retort “OK Boomer,” referring to the 76 million Baby Boomers born between 1946-1964. The Stereotype Content Model (SCM)