

**17th European Conference on Developmental Psychology in Braga, Portugal,  
September 8-12, 2015**

Symposium	Generations and willingness for intergenerational support
Thematic Area	06. Family context and processes
Symposia Organizer	Isabelle Albert <sup>1</sup>
Institution	<sup>1</sup> University of Luxembourg
Abstract	
<p>The importance of solidarity between family members of different generations has increased in the last years due to unprecedented socio-demographic changes. Family members of different generations share more common life time than ever before; at the same time, family generations have become smaller. Ageing parents might need support and care at some point in their lives; however, ageing parents also often continue to provide essential support for their adult children. Apparently, expectations of and willingness for mutual support might differ depending on aspects such as social norms, felt obligations or relationship quality, with potential effects on well-being. The present symposium brings together researchers from four different countries (Germany, Luxembourg, Portugal and Switzerland) focusing on several aspects of intergenerational solidarity, taking into account different stages in the family life cycle as well as cross-cultural aspects. First, Boris Mayer and colleagues explore adolescents' willingness for intergenerational support and its relation to maternal expectations and life satisfaction in a cross-cultural study in 14 diverse cultural contexts.</p> <p>Susana Coimbra and colleagues move on to emerging adulthood, having a closer look at what it means for intergenerational given and received support if emerging adults are already parents themselves.</p> <p>Afterwards, Sabrina Sommer and Heike M. Buhl focus on social norms, family obligations and perceived parental expectations in relation to support by adults to their (healthy and independent) parents.</p> <p>Bina Knöpfli and Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello concentrate then on caregiving motives, filial maturity and well-being in a sample of family caregivers of old parents (who need help).</p> <p>Finally, Isabelle Albert and colleagues take again a cross-cultural look by comparing Luxembourgish and Portuguese migrant families with adult children regarding family cohesion and mutual support, considering also filial anxiety and parental preferences regarding potential future care. Different theoretical approaches will be integrated and discussed, also considering generational status and situational aspects.</p>	

Presentation Title	A Cross-Cultural Study of Adolescents' Willingness for Intergenerational Support: Relations to Maternal Expectations and Mothers' Life Satisfaction
Symposium	Generations and willingness for intergenerational support
Authors	<u>Boris Mayer</u> <sup>1</sup> ; Beate Schwarz <sup>2</sup> ; Gisela Trommsdorff <sup>3</sup>
Institutions	<sup>1</sup> University of Bern, Switzerland; <sup>2</sup> Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland; <sup>3</sup> University of Konstanz, Germany
Abstract	
<p>How is adolescents' willingness for intergenerational support affected by parents' expectations and parenting behavior? Does youths' willingness for intergenerational support in turn affect parents' well-being? The current study addresses these questions from a cross-cultural perspective, using data from connected samples of mother-adolescent dyads (N = 4162) from 14 diverse cultural contexts as part of the "Value of Children and Intergenerational Relations Study" (Trommsdorff &amp; Nauck, 2005). The results are based on mixed model analyses (with culture as a random factor). Associations were investigated between family norms (expectations of support by adult children), parenting goals (obedience, independence) and parenting behavior (acceptance, control) reported by mothers and adolescents' reports on willingness to support (help in household tasks, willingness to tolerate burdens in order to help their parents in case of accident, emotional support given to mothers and fathers). Across cultures, maternal expectations of adult children were positively related to adolescents' reported household help and their current emotional support to mothers and fathers. Obedience and control were positively related to the amount of adolescent help in the household, while independence and acceptance were related to a higher willingness to tolerate burdens as well as to higher emotional support given to the mother. Regarding associations between adolescents' actual and intended intergenerational support with mothers' life satisfaction, adolescents' willingness to tolerate burdens was related to a higher maternal life satisfaction while adolescents' reported household help was not. Adolescents' current emotional support to fathers (but not to mothers) was also related to higher maternal life satisfaction. While most of the effects were stable across cultures (no significant random slope variance across cultural groups), some effects did significantly vary across cultures. Traditional-vs.-secular values as culture-level characteristics will be discussed as explanation for these culture-specific relations among mothers' expectations, adolescents' intergenerational support, and mothers' life satisfaction.</p>	

Presentation Title	The impact of parental status on emerging adults' intergenerational solidarity
Symposium	Generations and willingness for intergenerational support
Authors	<u>Susana Coimbra</u> <sup>1</sup> ; Vera Ferreira <sup>1</sup> ; Susana C. Marques <sup>1</sup> ; Anne-Marie Fontaine <sup>1</sup>
Institutions	<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Porto
Abstract	
<p>Over the last few decades, demographic and social changes have an undeniable impact on familiar composition, dynamics and relational patterns, in most of the developed countries. In an attempt to cope with a demanding labor market and overall challenges imposed by the economic crisis, young people have to extend their academic training, and depend further on their parents to subsist. The parental investment is increasingly greater and longer, and youth's transition to adulthood is increasingly uncertain and postponed, according to traditional markers such as employment, conjugality, and parenthood. Parenthood is a particularly irreversible marker of adulthood that is expected to have a considerable impact on intergenerational solidarity.</p> <p>Which familiar intergenerational relational and support patterns are expected for the current generation of emerging adults (EA)? What is the impact of the EA's parental status on those patterns and on adjustment and developmental variables? This study aimed to explore the predictors of intergenerational support among EA with and without children. Additionally, the relationships between family variables (quality of relationships and exchanges of support), developmental variables (characteristics of emerging adulthood) and adjustment variables (self-esteem and satisfaction with life), were also examined on EA with and without children. For this purpose, data was collected among a sample of 154 EA (66% without children; 53% female) using self-report instruments. The results suggested that the quality of the relationship is the best predictor of intergenerational solidarity in both directions (giving and receiving) and for both parents. The parental status of EA was only a weak predictor of support received from the mother. EA without children showed higher levels of self-esteem and perceived the life period they are going through as a time of more possibilities and of being in between adolescence and adulthood.</p>	

Presentation Title	Should I? Must I? Will I? - Social norms, family obligations and support by adults to their parents
Symposium	Generations and willingness for intergenerational support
Authors	<u>Sabrina Sommer</u> <sup>1</sup> ; Heike M. Buhl <sup>1</sup>
Institutions	<sup>1</sup> University of Paderborn
Abstract	
<p>Relationship quality (e.g., Silverstein et al., 1995), social norms (e.g., Stein et al., 1998) and reciprocity (Klaus, 2009) have been shown to predict support behavior of adults towards their parents. The presented data focuses families where all members are healthy and extensively independent. Embedded in the model of intergenerational solidarity (Bengtson &amp; Roberts, 1991) a special view on the associations for social norms, feeling of obligation and the perceptions of parental expectations with support especially emotional as well as instrumental, to parents by adults were tested. Also, the mediated function of feelings of obligation was tested.</p> <p>The analysis is based on data from a German sample. 665 participants answered a standardized questionnaire. The 159 males and 506 females were aged between 23 years and 53 years. 577 participants answered for both parents and 646 responded in regard to their mothers, whereas 583 provided information concerning their fathers.</p> <p>The analysis showed associations for support with social norms and feelings of obligation. Therefore, the effect of social norms to support was mediated by feelings of obligation. Thereby, considering feelings of obligation, the direct effect that social norms had on support by daughters was preserved whereas the direct effect that social norms had on support by sons disappeared. In addition, more effects by gender as well as perceptions of parental expectations were shown. For validation of these results a second measurement point has been arranged for spring 2015.</p>	

Presentation Title	Caregiving for aging parents: motives, filial maturity and well-being
Symposium	Generations and willingness for intergenerational support
Authors	<u>Bina Knöpfli</u> <sup>1</sup> ; Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello <sup>1</sup>
Institutions	<sup>1</sup> University of Bern
Abstract	
<p>The majority of frail older people in Switzerland (around 65%) live at home, and receive help and care from their relatives. Primary caregivers are usually the spouses, but with advancing age the help and care by adult children becomes crucial. Considering the strong increase of life expectancy in very old age together with the fact, that frail old people prefer more and more to stay in their own home, adult children are increasingly confronted with parental expectations for help and care.</p> <p>Caregiving is usually associated with multiple stressors with a negative impact on well-being. Whether or not adult children provide help and care to their parents depends on the on parents' needs and expectations, but essentially on filial helpfulness and obligation, as well as on the living context. Filial maturity is a concept that has often been utilized to describe the quality of adult-child-parent relationship. However it has seldom been used for exploring the relationship between its various dimensions and well-being outcomes in adult caregivers of elderly parents.</p> <p>The aim of this contribution is to shed light on the various dimensions of filial maturity (i.e. filial helpfulness, obligation, felt parental expectations) and personal motives of caregiving, and to explore how they are related to adult children's help and psychological well-being. Data stem from a survey with 183 family caregivers of old parents (134 daughters and 49 sons; mean age 57 years). Results indicate that filial help depends on perceived obligations and expectations, whereas psychological well-being of the caregiver depends on helpfulness, reciprocal love, and remembered childhood experiences. Results are discussed in terms of two theoretical approaches, namely intergenerational ambivalence and attachment perspective.</p>	

Presentation Title	Expectations of mutual support and care in the light of migration
Symposium	Generations and willingness for intergenerational support
Authors	<u>Isabelle Albert</u> <sup>1</sup> ; Dieter Ferring <sup>1</sup> ; Stephanie Barros Coimbra <sup>1</sup> ; Elke Murdock <sup>1</sup>
Institutions	<sup>1</sup> University of Luxembourg
Abstract	
<p>As first generation immigrants are currently approaching retirement age in many European countries, intergenerational solidarity within the context of acculturation gains high importance. However, most research on intergenerational relations in ageing families so far has not drawn special attention to migrant families.</p> <p>The aim of the present study was to investigate similarities and differences in the expectations about intergenerational support in a sample of n = 48 Luxembourgish (68.8% female) and n = 36 Portuguese (60.5% female) adult children and at least one of their parents. Luxembourgish adult children were on average M = 25.90 (SD = 5.74) years old, Portuguese M = 27.28 (SD = 6.49). A total of 58.3% of Portuguese adult children were born in Luxembourg; the remainder was born in Portugal but had grown up in Luxembourg. For all participants, both parents were still alive and were living in the Grand-Duchy.</p> <p>Whereas Luxembourgish and Portuguese adult children did not differ regarding family cohesion and expected support from parents toward children, Portuguese participants reported higher expectations of support from adult children toward their ageing parents. More Portuguese than Luxembourgish parents indicated they would like to live with their children in case of need, whereas more Luxembourgish parents preferred to live in a residential home. Nonetheless, no differences between adult children of both national groups were found regarding filial anxiety about future care of parents.</p> <p>Results are discussed in the framework of an integrative model on intergenerational family relations in the light of migration and ageing. This model takes several aspects into account that might have an impact on different needs, tasks and resources of the individual and the family depending on different family cultures, the larger cultural context in which family relations are embedded as well as significant events over the life-span (such as migration history).</p>	