

The Spread of Ageism in the Social Network

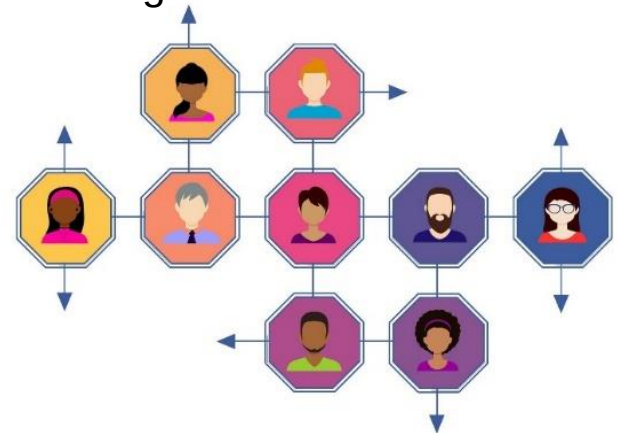
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BACKGROUND

- Similar to other attitudes, ageism spreads through the transfer of stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination from person-to-person.
- Various social phenomena have been analyzed in the context of a social network, but little is known about the spread of ageism through the social network.
- As a pre-defined network, the long-term care (LTC) setting can provide valuable insight into an older adult's social network¹ and the spread of ageism.

AIM: to understand the manifestation and spread of ageism in the social network of the LTC setting.



DATA AND METHODS

STUDY 1

- **Objective:** to understand how LTC administrators' perspectives on providing care are related to paternalistic ideas and attitudes.
- **Data:** qualitative interview data with fifteen LTC-facility administrators collected in the Netherlands in 2017-18
- **Analysis:** secondary analysis to apply a new focus on autonomy and paternalism using the Qualitative Analysis Guide of Leuven.

STUDY 2

- **Objective:** to examine the effect of ageism within a LTC consumer's social network on the consumer's ageism and self-ageism.
- **Data:** longitudinal, structured survey data collected from older adults in eight LTC facilities in Israel in 2016 (wave 1) and 2017 (wave 2)
- **Analysis:** secondary analysis using social network clustering and longitudinal regression analysis

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION

Inform policymaking in LTC regarding:

- the ageism that exists in the decision-making process at a meso-level
- the transfer of ageism at a micro-level

Contribute to literature on:

- the theory of paternalism as a form of ageism
- the social network theory of induction in which contacts influence subjects over time

ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Laura Allen is from Kentucky, USA. She is a doctoral student within the EU Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network EuroAgeism in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. She was previously a Fulbright scholar in the Netherlands, and she has a B.S. in healthcare administration and a certification in long-term care administration from Western Kentucky University.

Reference

¹ Ayalon, L. & Levkovich, I. (2018). A systematic review of research on social networks of older adults. *The Gerontologist*, 1-13. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnx218.



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