Age Differences in Self-continuity Remain Robust in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

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INTRODUCTION

- Self-continuity (SC) is defined as the sense of connection with past and future selves, and is susceptible to major life changes¹
- The pandemic brought dramatic changes in multiple life domains², especially for older adults³
- \rightarrow How did the pandemic affect people's perceptions of self-continuity and its agerelated patterns?

METHOD

SAMPLE \rightarrow Table 1

- Gathered in the U.S. during **2016 Fall**⁴ (prepandemic) and **2020 Summer**⁵ (mid-pandemic).
- Matched via propensity scores according to demographic variables

SELF-CONTINUITY SCALE \rightarrow Figure 1

• SC is visualized as overlapping circles⁶

RESULTS \rightarrow Table 2, Figures 2 & 3

- Consistent with previous findings, SC was positively associated with age at both assessment times
- Age did not interact with temporal direction, temporal distance, and assessment time
- Age effect remained significant after controlling for demographic covariates

DISCUSSION

- Age differences remained robust in response to the pandemic
- Further longitudinal research is needed to track age differences in SC in post-pandemic times

Age differences in selfcontinuity remained robust in the pandemic.

For the following questions, please rate how similar you feel to the person you have been in the past and the person you will be in the future.

Select the picture below that best describes how similar you feel to your [past/future] self [1/5/10] years [ago/in the future].

Example visual item for future self-continuity





SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

able 1	Pre-pandemic	Mid-pandemic	p
	(n = 230)	(n = 230)	
ge	50.85 (16.37)	50.83 (19.41)	.992
Female	48%	52%	.401
Non-Hispanic White	68%	70%	.944
ducation (in years)	14.33 (2.60)	14.22 (2.89)	.696
come (in \$10,000/year)	44.83 (33.12)	41.35 (33.70)	.265

Note. The original pre-pandemic dataset has a sample size of 230, while the mid-pandemic dataset has a sample size of 500. Using propensity scores, we matched each pre-pandemic participant with their "nearest neighbor" in the mid-pandemic group to achieve similar distributions of baseline demographic covariates (gender, racial and ethnic groups, education, and income levels) in both groups.

MULTI-LEVEL MODELING

Table 2	Est.	SE	р
ked effects			
ntercept*	2.901	.903	< .001
.ge	0.027	.004	< .001
emporal Direction	0.269	.011	.014
emporal Distance	- 0.508	.004	< .001
ime (pre vs. mid-pandemic)	0.186	.154	.228
istance x Direction	0.301	.058	< .001
irection x Time	- 0.319	.112	.005
ndom effects			
'ariance	2.005	.066	< .001
esidual Variance	2.170	.069	< .001
C	.480		

Note. The temporal distance variable was natural log-transformed to ensure that residuals fit criteria for normality. Est. = Estimate. The intercept is centered at 1 year.

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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

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