

# Being Young Old as a Question of Social Inequalities

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## Concept

# Definition young old

retirement resp. homemakers past official retirement age AND no legal responsibility for dependent person AND good health



1 young



2 middle-aged

?

3 young old



4 old old





## Theory

# Social inequalities & the life-course

Social inequalities ...

**shape** the life-course: timing and kind of life-events, length of life-phases, ...

=> *whether young old*

**accumulate** over the life-course: once disadvantaged, always disadvantaged

=> *young old = high SES*





## Study

# Research questions

- (1) Does the socio-economic status (SES) influence the chance to be young old?
- (2) Does the official retirement age modify the influence of the SES?





## Analysis

# The young old & social inequalities

### Data:

Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe, 25389 cases, 11 European countries, collected 2004

### Analysis:

logistic multilevel analysis (country, person), per gender

### Variables:

dependent: being young old (yes/no)

control: age, marital status, degree of urbanization

independent: income, educational level, occupational prestige, official retirement age in the country





## Results RQ1

# Influence SES on whether young old

unstandardized coefficients & standard errors

	men	women
income	-0.414 (0.114)***	-0.147 (0.141)
inc*inc	0.045 (0.153)	0.132 (0.144)
educational level: low	-0.153 (0.076)*	0
edlev: lower intermediate	0.090 (0.079)	0.017 (0.066)
edlev: higher intermediate	0	0.247 (0.069)***
edlev: high	-0.170 (0.071)*	0.134 (0.083)
occupational prestige	-0.266 (0.277)	0.132 (0.215)
occpr*occpr	-3.680 (1.188)***	0.994 (1.117)

*significance level: \* 0,05; \*\* 0,01; \*\*\* 0,001*





## Results RQ2

# Interaction SES & official retirement age

unstandardised coefficients & standard errors

	men	women
retage*income	-0.262 (0.083)**	-0.194 (0.060)**
retage*inc*inc	0.233 (0.081)**	0.246 (0.072)***
retage*educational level: low	0.090 (0.038)*	0
retage*edlev: lower intermediate	0.059 (0.059)	0.003 (0.028)
retage*edlev: higher intermediate	0	-0.016 (0.028)
retage*edlev: high	0.058 (0.044)	-0.023 (0.036)
retage*occupational prestige	-0.088 (0.150)	-0.206 (0.094)*
retage*occpr*occpr	0.162 (0.777)	0.145 (0.472)

*significance level: \* 0,05; \*\* 0,01; \*\*\* 0,001*





# Summary & Conclusion

- Being young old is a question of social inequalities
- low to intermediate SES = more likely to be young old  
=> *correct image of the young old*
- high official retirement age increases effect of SES  
=> *careful with retirement reforms: filter-effect!*

