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Comparison of ageism between Japan and America

Katelynne Lamothe F

University of Windsor, lamothe@uwindsor.ca

Rebecca Burkoski F

University of Windsor, burkosk@uwindsor.ca

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Abstract for UWillDiscover Conference

Comparison of ageism between Japan and America

To investigate the hypothesis of greater reverence for older citizens in Japan compared to the United States, we turned to nine survey items addressed in Wave-6 of the World Values Survey. Items included: 'people over 70 are competent', 'should be treated with respect'; and 'older people are not respected much these days', and 'are a burden on society.' Using nation (Japan vs. US), sex (Male vs. Female), and age group (18-35, 36-55, 56-92 years), our results revealed three main effects, with greater reverence and tolerance for older individuals reported by Japanese respondents, older respondents, and women; however these effects were qualified by several 2-way and one 3-way interactions (which we explore in detail). Implications for future research are discussed.