

# Review of: "How do older adults cope with their aging and age? A scale for an offensive coping strategy of older adults"

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Review Qeios A6S7RZ

The topic about coping strategies among older adults is very relevant with the increasing number of older people, and the societal needs for older people to be more self-reliant and live home longer. Knowing more of how self-reliant older adults manage their lives can therefore provide more information that can be used to improve life of less able older adults. The development of an instrument that identifies coping strategies of older adults who manages their lives well, is therefore of great interest.

Comments to the paper.

General: References should be included whenever statements referring to findings are made. References should also follow a referencing style normally used by scientific journals, ie. APA 7<sup>th</sup> or similar. Only listing the first author is not sufficient.

All abbreviations should be written in full the first time they are mentioned (also relevant for naming of scales).

Introduction.

The first two sentences infer a connection that might not be present. Given the proposed topic, the stress-element presented first was unexpected and also did not fit with the next sentence. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence references are needed.

If stress is important, then this need to be further elaborated at the start of the 2<sup>d</sup> paragraph, for example "Stress is one factor that may influence older adults' management of their lives.", and maybe followed by some more reasoning for this. By expanding this text, you can remove, or include the next paragraph on P2.

Page 2, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph: here you either add more references, or remove "etc." This paragraph also feels a bit out of place. It might be removed, or it needs to be less general and more relevant to older adults.

Page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. References are needed.

Furthermore, for older adults, daily activities that in younger age were performed without thought, might be causes for stress as their physical and mental abilities decline. I would include the following: Although old age and aging may not bring daily stress, as perceived by younger age groups, ...

Page 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph. References are needed here as well. References should be included whenever statements are made that the reader may wish to read more about, or control.

Page 2, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. Please also provide a description of the 3<sup>rd</sup> age.

P3, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph. Even if these are your assumptions, PCS is extensively studied and should be referred to.

P3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. Please mention what you mean with “one of PCS types” in the start of this section before you go on to define the strategies. You have, as far as the text describes, several coping strategies (types?): creative (proactive, preventive, and transformational coping), reactive, regressive coping. It makes easier reading if the types are mentioned first, and their explanation following. On page 4 you also introduce active and passive coping strategies, and problem-focused and emotion-focused coping.

The Introduction would benefit with more subtitles that makes it intuitively easier to follow the background and theoretical reasoning for the construction of the scale.

Page 4. The short description of selection of questionnaire as a data collection instrument could maybe be moved to the methods section, and expanded upon to elaborate on pros and cons of choosing this method. It is out of place in this part of the introduction.

Page 5-6. This part of the Introduction differs from the previous parts in that it is more speculative and discussion-like. You need to include references here as well, and, by use of subtitles, the connection and development of your argumentation for the development of the scale will become clearer. Although this might be outside how papers within the sociological field are presented, the Introduction would benefit with some concluding sentences after each “topic” of how the presented information can be operationalized in the development of the scale.

At the end of the Introduction on page 6, include a summary text, or aims, that explains (repeats) what you are aiming for.

Page 7. Methods. 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph. The reasoning for the selection of scales (and not others) should be included, not only stated.

Page 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. More information about the presurvey and details from the other sources is needed. With references if possible, or with more detail if no documentation exists. With regard to the interviews, how many were conducted, by whom, for what purpose?

Page 8. It is not quite clear from the description how the selection of items from the different scales and other sources was performed, and if it was this selection that ended up in 21 items. (Why were just these scales used, and not others, and did you include all the items from the selected scales?). It is said the questions were distributed across the questionnaire, which is a bit confusing if the selection of items were already performed, and no other questions asked. In the results chapter, however, it is clear that the questionnaire consists of many scales and questions. You need to present this information in the methods chapter. Please also include how the different items and scales were measured (ie. 5-point scale from Do not agree --- Completely agree), not only which answer alternatives that were included in the final scale.

In table 2 the items start with a number, what does this number refer to?

Page 10. The research sample.

The 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph is one very long sentence. Rewrite. You should start by describing how many surveys you conducted, and then you can go on to describe the surveys. In your following text, only one survey is described. Please expand and clarify.

You might consider removing “not to provide a fully standardised instrument for measuring basic attitudes to aging and old age in terms of coping strategies but”.

3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, comment: Since your aim is to reach older adults who score high on OS, then selection of internet users will probably include more of the consumers with this characteristic as is also shown in figure 1.

P14-15. To use the scale. You could specify in the first paragraph that the example is based on the current study.

In this section there are many unnecessary words. Avoid using words like “of course” and other fill words.

Page 18, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph: “a number of other factors” is unspecific and leads to the question: Which other factors are these?