

# Invitation

to the joint research colloquium of the  
Departments of Developmental Psychology and General Psychology II

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## Social contexts of subjective perceptions of aging and ageism

Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 2021  
15.30 – 17.00

**Location:**

Center for Lifespan Developmental Science  
Simmelweisstr. 12 | 07743 Jena | Meeting Room E005 (well ventilated)

*Attendance in person is possible for vaccinated, recovered, or tested persons. Please send an email to [stefanie.glaeser@uni-jena.de](mailto:stefanie.glaeser@uni-jena.de) if you plan to attend in person so that we can ensure adherence to distance regulations. The talk will additionally be streamed via Zoom. Access information can be obtained from [stefanie.glaeser@uni-jena.de](mailto:stefanie.glaeser@uni-jena.de).*

**Abstract:** The way adults perceive their aging process is an important predictor of later life outcomes, including mental and physical health. Despite the importance of living a socially active life in old age, the inter-connections of individuals' perceptions of aging with their social lives and behaviors are not well-understood. During this talk I will address questions of how the social environment and social behaviors are related to subjective aging perceptions and perceptions of societal ageism. I will present studies carried out in both "normal" times in Germany and during the COVID-19 pandemic in Israel. The first study I will present aims to disentangle the bidirectional associations of self-perceptions of aging and social engagement, while focusing on social usefulness, that is engagement in helpful and productive social activities. The second study investigated the bi-directional temporal associations of adults' self-perceptions of aging and the age composition of their social networks. The third study examined the social and mental factors associated with older adults' perceptions of ageism in society during the COVID-19 outbreak, in particular the portrayal of older people as a burden and as vulnerable. I will conclude with possible directions for future research on the social contexts of the perceived experience of aging and ageism.