



The Berlin Aging Study (BASE): Overview and Recent Findings

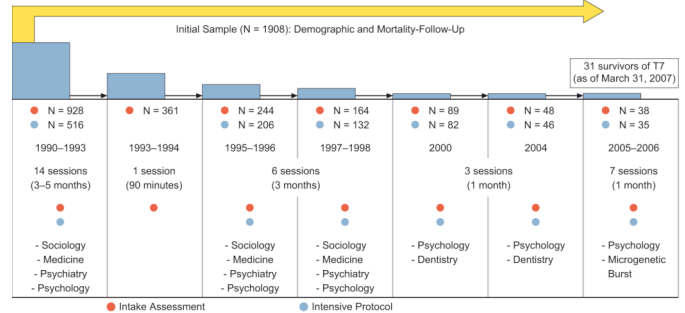


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Overview

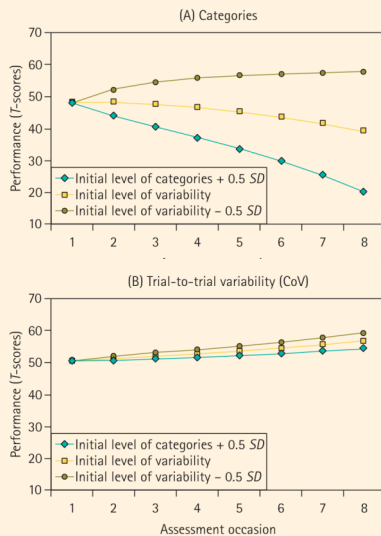
The Berlin Aging Study (BASE) is a multidisciplinary investigation of old people aged 70 to over 100 years who live in former West Berlin. In 1990–1993, a core sample of 516 individuals stratified by age and sex was examined in 14 sessions covering mental and physical health, psychological functioning as well as social and economic conditions. The study has been continued as a longitudinal study, and surviving participants have been reexamined up to seven times. Mortality information is updated at regular intervals. As of March 2007, 85% ($n = 439$) of the longitudinal sample were no longer alive. A further measurement occasion will take place in 2008–2009.

Longitudinal Design

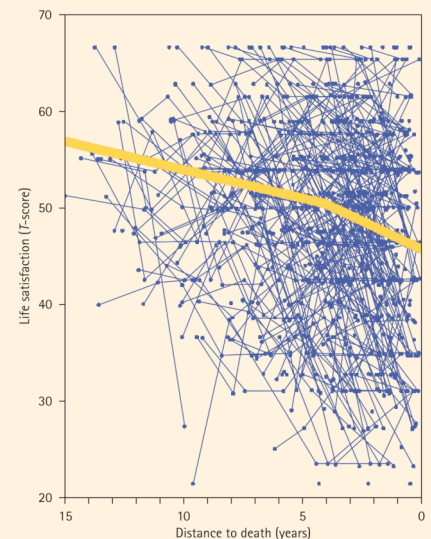


Recent Longitudinal Analyses: Examples

Within-person trial-to-trial variability precedes and predicts cognitive decline in old and very old age: Longitudinal data from the Berlin Aging Study (Lövdén et al., 2007)



Decline in life satisfaction in old age: Longitudinal evidence for links to distance-to-death (Gerstorf et al., in press)



Selected Publications

Gerstorf, D., Ram, N., Röcke, C., Lindenberger, U., & Smith, J. (in press). Decline in life satisfaction in old age: Longitudinal evidence for links to distance-to-death. *Psychology and Aging*.

Gerstorf, D., Lövdén, M., Röcke, C., Smith, J., & Lindenberger, U. (2007). Well-being affects changes in perceptual speed in advanced old age: Longitudinal evidence for a dynamic link. *Developmental Psychology*, 43, 705–718.

Ghisletta, P., & Lindenberger, U. (2005). Exploring structural dynamics within and between sensory and intellectual functioning in old and very old age: Longitudinal evidence from the Berlin Aging Study. *Intelligence*, 33, 555–587.

Ghisletta, P., McArdle, J. J., & Lindenberger, U. (2006). Longitudinal cognition-survival relations in old and very old age: 13-year data from the Berlin Aging Study. *European Psychologist*, 11, 204–223.

Lövdén, M., Ghisletta, P., & Lindenberger, U. (2004). Cognition in the Berlin Aging Study (BASE): The first ten years. *Aging, Neuropsychology, and Cognition*, 11, 104–133.

Lövdén, M., Ghisletta, P., & Lindenberger, U. (2005). Social participation attenuates decline in perceptual speed in old and very old age. *Psychology and Aging*, 20, 423–434.

Lövdén, M., Li, S.-C., Shing, Y. L., & Lindenberger, U. (2007). Within-person trial-to-trial variability precedes and predicts cognitive decline in old and very old age: Longitudinal data from the Berlin Aging Study. *Neuropsychologia*, 45, 2827–2838.

BASE Research Team

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The scientific investigators of the BASE project at the Center for Lifespan Psychology are Ulf Lindenberger, Julia Delius, Shu-Chen Li, and Martin Lövdén. BASE was initiated as a collaboration among several Berlin research institutions. It was initially supported by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences' interdisciplinary research group "Aging and Societal Development," and the participating institutions as well as the Center of Lifespan Psychology at the Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Human Development. See www.base-berlin.mpg.de for further information.