

The Role of Age and Personality in the Subjective Evaluation of Significant Life Events

Supplementary Material

Table S1. German and English Wording of the Items.

	German Item	English Translation	Subscale
1	Umzug in ein anderes Land	Relocation to another country	Life event
2	Umzug in eine andere Stadt/einen anderen Wohnort	Relocation to another city/place of residence	Life event
3	Wohnungswechsel am gleichen Wohnort	Change of residence in the same city	Life event
4	Längerer Aufenthalt im Ausland	Longer stay abroad	Life event
5	Eine neue romantische Beziehung eingegangen (von mindestens einem Monat Dauer)	Entered a new romantic relationship (of at least a month)	Life event
6	Heirat/ eingetragene Partnerschaft	Marriage/registered partnership	Life event
7	Trennung oder Scheidung	Separation or divorce	Life event
8	Eine wichtige soziale Beziehung beendet (außer Trennung oder Scheidung)	Ended an important social relationship (other than separation or divorce)	Life event
9	Eigene schwerwiegende Krankheit oder Verletzung	Own serious illness or injury	Life event
10	Schwerwiegende Krankheit oder Verletzung des Partners/der Partnerin	Serious illness or injury of the partner	Life event
11	Schwerwiegende Krankheit oder Verletzung eines nahen Familienmitgliedes oder Freundes/Freundin	Serious illness or injury of a close family member or a friend	Life event
12	Tod des Partners/der Partnerin	Loss of the partner	Life event
13	Tod eines nahen Familienmitgliedes oder Freundes/Freundin	Loss of a close family member or a friend	Life event
14	Längerer Aufenthalt im Spital/Psychiatrie/Gefängnis oder vergleichbarer Institution	Long stay in hospital/psychiatry/prison or comparable institution	Life event
15	Beförderung im Job	Job promotion	Life event
16	Stellenwechsel	Job change	Life event
17	Arbeitslosigkeit	Unemployment	Life event
18	Verrentung	Retirement	Life event
19	Anderes Ereignis	Other event	Life event
20	Geburt eines Kindes	Birth of a child	Life event
	Folgend sind einige Aussagen zur Selbstbeschreibung aufgelistet. Bitte geben Sie an, inwieweit diese Aussagen auf Sie persönlich zutreffen. Ich...	Some self-description statements are listed below. Please indicate to what extent these statements apply to you personally. I...	

1.	bin vielseitig interessiert.	am curious about many different things.	Openness
2.	bin tief sinnig, denke gerne über Sachen nach.	am ingenious, a profound thinker.	Openness
3.	habe eine aktive Vorstellungskraft, bin phantasievoll.	have an active imagination.	Openness
4.	schätze künstlerische und ästhetische Eindrücke.	value artistic, aesthetic experiences.	Openness
5.	habe nur wenig künstlerisches Interesse.	have few artistic interests.	Openness (R)
6.	erledige Aufgaben gründlich.	do a thorough job.	Conscientiousness
7.	bin bequem, neige zur Faulheit.	tend to be lazy.	Conscientiousness (R)
8.	bin tüchtig und arbeite flott.	do things efficiently.	Conscientiousness
9.	mache Pläne und führe sie auch durch.	make plans and follow them through.	Conscientiousness
10.	bin eher zurückhaltend, reserviert.	am rather reserved.	Extraversion (R)
11.	bin begeisterungsfähig und kann andere leicht mitreißen.	generate a lot of enthusiasm.	Extraversion
12.	bin eher der "stille Typ", wortkarg.	tend to be quiet.	Extraversion (R)
13.	gehe aus mir heraus, bin gesellig.	am outgoing, sociable.	Extraversion
14.	neige dazu, andere zu kritisieren.	tend to find fault with others.	Agreeableness (R)
15.	schenke anderen leicht Vertrauen, glaube an das Gute beim Menschen.	am generally trusting.	Agreeableness
16.	kann mich kalt und distanziert verhalten.	can be cold and aloof.	Agreeableness (R)
17.	kann mich schroff und abweisend anderen gegenüber verhalten.	am sometimes rude to others.	Agreeableness (R)
18.	werde leicht deprimiert, niedergeschlagen.	get depressed, feel blue.	Emotional stability (R)
19.	bin entspannt, lasse mich durch Stress nicht aus der Ruhe bringen.	am relaxed, handle stress well.	Emotional stability
20.	mache mir viele Sorgen.	worry a lot.	Emotional stability (R)
21.	werde leicht nervös und unsicher.	get nervous and restless easily.	Emotional stability (R)
<hr/>			
	Wie hat das Ereignis Ihr Wohlbefinden beeinflusst?	How did the event affect your well-being?	
1.	Stärke Einfluss	Impact Intensity	Life event's impact on SWB
2.	Positiver Einfluss	Positive Impact	Life event's impact on SWB
3.	Negativer Einfluss	Negative Impact	Life event's impact on SWB
<hr/>			
	Wie hat das Ereignis Ihre körperliche Gesundheit beeinflusst?	How did the event impact your physical health?	
1.	Stärke Einfluss	Impact Intensity	Life event's impact on Physical Health
2.	Positiver Einfluss	Positive Impact	Life event's impact on Physical Health
3.	Negativer Einfluss	Negative Impact	Life event's impact on Physical Health

	Wie hat das Ereignis Ihre seelische Gesundheit beeinflusst?	How did the event impact your mental health?	
1.	Stärke Einfluss	Impact Intensity	Life event's impact on Mental Health
2.	Positiver Einfluss	Positive Impact	Life event's impact on Mental Health
3.	Negativer Einfluss	Negative Impact	Life event's impact on Mental Health

Table S2. Deviations From the Preregistration.

Preregistration	Manuscript
We initially had two hypotheses, with H1 including all personality traits (except for neuroticism), and H2 including neuroticism (due to different effects expected: “positive” vs. “negative”).	We recoded neuroticism to emotional stability for better understanding and easier interpretation (all effects in the same “direction”), thus having only H1.
Outcomes included valence, perceived control, and strain (in addition to the life events’ impact on well-being and health).	In our study we decided to focus on the perceived impact of life events on well-being and health because these measures most directly capture individuals’ evaluations of the consequences of life events. In contrast, valence, perceived control, and strain primarily describe characteristics of the event itself.
Gender and education as covariates were preregistered as optional.	They were not included in the final models because, consistent with the preregistered decision rule, their inclusion resulted in negligible changes in the results and no systematic patterns.
Perceived intensity of a life event was not listed as a covariate.	However, it was included because it captures how strongly individuals felt affected by the event. This helped to better isolate the associations between personality traits and the evaluation of event consequences.
We initially planned to conduct multiple regression analyses.	However, we found that conducting multilevel modeling with our data allowed for more nuanced results and interpretations (between- and within- life events).
Originally, analyses for individual life events were planned, as well as a structural equation modeling (exploratory analysis).	Because we conducted multilevel modeling analyses, the analyses of individual life events became redundant.

Table S3. Individual Significant Life Events and Their Descriptive Statistics.

Significant Life Event	<i>N</i>	% of the Sample	<i>M</i> (Age)	Correlation with Age
Relocation to another country	121	1.81	38.12	−0.08 **
Relocation to another city/place of residence	466	6.97	39.20	−0.15 **
Change of residence in the same city	281	4.20	45.23	−0.04 **
Longer stay abroad	203	3.04	45.76	−0.03 *
Marriage/registered partnership	233	3.48	44.23	−0.05 **
Entered a new romantic relationship (of at least a month)	374	5.59	38.17	−0.15 **
Birth of a child	585	8.75	39.21	−0.17 **
Separation or divorce	302	4.52	43.36	−0.06 **
End of an important social relationship (other than separation or divorce)	186	2.78	44.85	−0.03 **
Own serious illness or injury	834	12.47	58.05	0.22 **
Serious illness or injury of the partner	315	4.71	59.52	0.15 **
Serious illness or injury of a close family member or a friend	390	5.83	49.78	0.02
Loss of the partner	136	2.03	64.81	0.14 **
Loss of a close family member or a friend	1054	15.76	52.30	0.11 **
Long stay in hospital/psychiatry/prison or comparable institution	71	1.06	48.44	0.002
Job promotion	156	2.33	39.82	−0.08 **
Job change	360	5.38	40.76	−0.11 **
Unemployment	248	3.71	45.72	−0.03 *
Retirement	253	3.78	62.89	0.17 **
Other life event	120	1.79	52.30	0.03 **

Note: *N* = 6688, * *p* < 0.05, ** *p* < 0.01.

Table S4. ANOVA Comparison of Models with and without Random Slopes.

	AIC	BIC	Log-Likelihood	<i>p</i>
Positive SWB	25,385.42	25,446.68	-12,683.71	
Random Slope				
Openness	25,373.69	25,448.56	-12,675.84	<0.001
Conscientiousness	25,357.45	25,432.33	-12,667.73	<0.001
Extraversion	25,384.40	25,459.27	-12,681.20	0.08
Agreeableness	25,386.60	25,461.40	-12,682.30	0.25
Emotional stability	25,374.36	25,449.24	-12,676.18	<0.001
Negative SWB	25,710.26	25,771.53	-12,846.13	
Random Slope				
Openness	25,702.83	25,777.70	-12,840.41	0.003
Conscientiousness	25,665.70	25,740.58	-12,821.85	<0.001
Extraversion	25,707.24	25,782.12	-12,842.62	0.03
Agreeableness	25,706.34	25,781.21	-12,842.17	0.02
Emotional stability	25,705.53	25,780.40	-12,841.76	0.01
Positive Physical Health	26,010.34	26,071.60	-12,996.17	
Random Slope				
Openness	26,002.70	26,077.58	-12,990.35	0.003
Conscientiousness	25,974.46	26,049.33	-12,976.23	<0.001
Extraversion	26,008.24	26,083.12	-12,993.12	0.048
Agreeableness	25,999.72	26,074.60	-12,988.86	<0.001
Emotional stability	26,006.76	26,081.63	-12,992.38	0.02
Negative Physical Health	25,120.94	25,182.20	-12,551.47	
Random Slope				
Openness	25,091.78	25,166.65	-12,534.89	<0.001
Conscientiousness	25,071.38	25,146.26	-12,524.69	<0.001
Extraversion	25,099.52	25,174.40	-12,538.76	<0.001
Agreeableness	25,102.01	25,176.89	-12,540.01	<0.001
Emotional stability	25,114.91	25,189.79	-12,546.45	0.007
Positive Mental Health	26,113.72	26,174.98	-13,047.86	
Random Slope				
Openness	26,107.06	26,181.93	-13,042.53	0.005
Conscientiousness	26,088.27	26,163.15	-13,033.14	<0.001
Extraversion	26,108.99	26,183.86	-13,043.49	0.01
Agreeableness	--	--	--	--
Emotional stability	26,112.98	26,187.86	-13,045.49	0.09
Negative Mental Health	25,772.44	25,833.71	-12,877.22	
Random Slope				
Openness	25,753.75	25,828.63	-12,865.87	<0.001
Conscientiousness	25,735.12	25,810.00	-12,856.56	<0.001
Extraversion	25,770.69	25,845.57	-12,874.35	0.06
Agreeableness	25,769.18	25,844.06	-12,873.50	0.03
Emotional stability	25,774.73	25,849.61	-12,876.36	0.42

Note. SWB, physical health, mental health = Life event's impact on these variables (controlled for the intensity of the life event's impact). Degrees of freedom = 8, 10; 9, 11 (for SWB, physical health, and mental health). AIC = Akaike information criterion. BIC = Bayesian information criterion. -- = no fit.

Table S5. ANOVA Comparison of Models with and without Random Slopes.

	AIC	BIC	Log-Likelihood	<i>p</i>
Positive SWB	25,446.94	25,549.04	-12,708.47	
Random Slope				
Openness × Age	25,440.45	25,603.80	-12,696.23	0.004
Conscientiousness × Age	25,420.24	25,583.59	-12,686.12	<0.001
Extraversion × Age	25,446.99	25,610.33	-12,699.49	0.04
Agreeableness × Age	25,451.19	25,614.53	-12,701.59	0.13
Emotional stability × Age	25,431.68	25,595.03	-12,691.84	<0.001
Negative SWB	25,763.01	25,865.11	-12,866.51	
Random Slope				
Openness × Age	--	--	--	--
Conscientiousness × Age	25,731.32	25,894.66	-12,841.66	<0.001
Extraversion × Age	25,769.78	25,933.12	-12,860.89	0.26
Agreeableness × Age	25,764.95	25,928.30	-12,858.48	0.07
Emotional stability × Age	25,761.10	25,924.44	-12,856.55	0.02
Positive Physical Health	26,083.70	26,185.79	-13,026.85	
Random Slope				
Openness × Age	26,076.55	26,239.89	-13,014.27	0.003
Conscientiousness × Age	26,045.02	26,208.37	-12,998.51	<0.001
Extraversion × Age	26,076.87	26,240.21	-13,014.43	0.003
Agreeableness × Age	--	--	--	--
Emotional stability × Age	26,079.30	26,242.65	-13,015.65	0.008
Negative Physical Health	25,165.52	25,267.62	-12,567.76	
Random Slope				
Openness × Age	25,133.22	25,296.56	-12,542.61	<0.001
Conscientiousness × Age	25,110.16	25,273.50	-12,531.08	<0.001
Extraversion × Age	25,136.92	25,300.27	-12,544.46	<0.001
Agreeableness × Age	25,139.60	25,302.94	-12,545.80	<0.001
Emotional stability × Age	25,145.99	25,309.34	-12,549.00	<0.001
Positive Mental Health	26,182.30	26,284.39	-13,076.15	
Random Slope				
Openness × Age	26,179.11	26,342.46	-13,065.56	0.01
Conscientiousness × Age	26,156.08	26,319.43	-13,054.04	<0.001
Extraversion × Age	26,183.02	26,346.36	-13,067.51	0.04
Agreeableness × Age	--	--	--	--
Emotional stability × Age	26,227.85	26,391.19	-13,089.92	0.37
Negative Mental Health	25,811.29	25,913.39	-12,890.65	
Random Slope				
Openness × Age	25,807.22	25,970.57	-12,879.61	0.009
Conscientiousness × Age	25,782.11	25,945.46	-12,867.05	<0.001
Extraversion × Age	25,819.11	25,982.46	-12,885.56	0.34
Agreeableness × Age	--	--	--	--
Emotional stability × Age	26,272.19	26,435.54	-13,112.10	0.53

Note. SWB, physical health, mental health = Life event's impact on these variables (controlled for the intensity of the life event's impact). × stands for interaction. Degrees of freedom = 14, 23; 15, 24 (for SWB, physical health, and mental health). AIC = Akaike information criterion; BIC = Bayesian information criterion; -- = no fit.

Table S6. Multilevel Model of Fixed and Random Effects for Higher-Order Factors (Stability & Plasticity) on Life-event Experience.

	Positive SWB	Negative SWB	Positive Physical Health	Negative Physical Health	Positive Mental Health	Negative Mental Health
Fixed Effects	3.919 (0.325)	3.810 (0.307)	3.453 (0.200)	3.505 (0.215)	3.760 (0.291)	3.872 (0.275)
Intercept	3.734 (0.335)	2.176 (0.304)	2.732 (0.218)	1.499 (0.164)	3.353 (0.303)	1.790 (0.251)
Life event's intensity	0.034 (0.013)	0.290 (0.014)	0.173 (0.010)	0.478 (0.010)	0.077 (0.012)	0.388 (0.012)
Stability	0.233 (0.031)	-0.409 (0.032)	0.251 (0.032)	-0.363 (0.030)	0.268 (0.033)	-0.416 (0.032)
Plasticity	0.034 (0.027)	-0.009 (0.028)	0.020 (0.028)	-0.001 (0.026)	0.033 (0.029)	-0.007 (0.028)
Random Effects						
Intercept	2.115 (-1%)	1.713 (8%)	0.900 (14%)	0.495 (45%)	1.744 (4%)	1.174 (21%)
Residual	2.554 (1%)	2.697 (9%)	2.805 (5%)	2.470 (28%)	2.854 (2%)	2.731 (17%)

Note. SWB, physical health, mental health = Life event's impact on these variables (controlled for the intensity of the life event's impact). Fixed effects: Standard errors in parentheses. Random effects: ΔR^2 in parentheses. Bold values indicate statistically significant effects ($p < 0.05$).

Table S7. ANOVA Comparison of Models with and without Random Slopes (Higher-Order Factors on Life-event Experience).

	AIC	BIC	Log-Likelihood	<i>p</i>
Positive SWB	25,383.94	25,424.79	−12,685.97	
Random Slope				
Stability	25,362.68	25,417.14	−12,673.34	<0.001
Plasticity	25,374.99	25,429.45	−12,679.49	0.002
Negative SWB	25,743.13	25,783.98	−12,865.57	
Random Slope				
Stability	25,712.36	25,766.82	−12,848.18	<0.001
Plasticity	25,733.97	25,788.43	−12,858.99	0.001
Positive Physical Health	25,993.29	26,034.13	−12,990.64	
Random Slope				
Stability	25,967.19	26,021.65	−12,975.59	<0.001
Plasticity	25,983.32	26,037.78	−12,983.66	<0.001
Negative Physical Health	25,134.73	25,175.57	−12,561.36	
Random Slope				
Stability	25,085.97	25,140.43	−12,534.99	<0.001
Plasticity	25,092.96	25,147.42	−12,538.48	<0.001
Positive Mental Health	26,121.43	26,162.27	−13,054.71	
Random Slope				
Stability	26,116.39	26,170.85	−12,050.19	0.011
Plasticity	--	--	--	--
Negative Mental Health	25,821.97	25,862.82	−12,904.99	
Random Slope				
Stability	25,802.66	25,857.12	−12,893.33	<0.001
Plasticity	25,806.32	25,860.78	−12,895.16	<0.001

Note. SWB, physical health, mental health = Life event's impact on these variables (controlled for the intensity of the life event's impact). AIC = Akaike information criterion; BIC = Bayesian information criterion; -- = no fit.

Table S8. Multilevel Model of Fixed and Random Effects for Higher-Order Factors (Stability & Plasticity) on Life-Event Experience Moderated by Age.

	Positive SWB	Negative SWB	Positive Physical Health	Negative Physical Health	Positive Mental Health	Negative Mental Health
Fixed Effects	3.919 (0.325)	3.810 (0.307)	3.453 (0.200)	3.505 (0.215)	3.760 (0.291)	3.872 (0.275)
Intercept	3.744 (0.330)	2.185 (0.309)	2.727 (0.217)	1.498 (0.170)	3.353 (0.301)	1.799 (0.260)
Age	-0.005 (0.001)	-0.005 (0.001)	-0.001 (0.001)	-0.005 (0.001)	-0.003 (0.001)	-0.007 (0.001)
Life event's intensity	0.031 (0.013)	0.288 (0.014)	0.173 (0.010)	0.479 (0.010)	0.076 (0.012)	0.386 (0.012)
Stability	0.256 (0.032)	-0.387 (0.033)	0.255 (0.033)	-0.339 (0.031)	0.283 (0.034)	-0.381 (0.033)
Stability × Age	-0.000 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)	0.000 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	0.003 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)
Plasticity	0.039 (0.027)	-0.004 (0.028)	0.021 (0.028)	0.005 (0.026)	0.035 (0.029)	0.001 (0.028)
Plasticity × Age	-0.000 (0.002)	0.002 (0.002)	0.001 (0.002)	0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	0.002 (0.002)
Random Effects						
Intercept	2.046 (3%)	1.775 (5%)	0.894 (13%)	0.532 (41%)	1.713 (0%)	1.256 (16%)
Residual	2.551 (1%)	2.693 (9%)	2.806 (5%)	2.463 (29%)	2.852 (2%)	2.721 (18%)

Note. SWB, physical health, mental health = Life event's impact on these variables (controlled for the intensity of the life event's impact). × stands for interaction. Fixed effects: Standard errors in parentheses. Random effects: ΔR^2 in parentheses. Bold values indicate statistically significant effects ($p < 0.05$).

Table S9. ANOVA Comparison of Models with and without Random Slopes (Higher-Order Factors on Life-Event Experience Moderated by Age).

	AIC	BIC	Log-Likelihood	<i>p</i>
Positive SWB	25,412.08	25,473.35	−12,697.04	
Random Slope				
Stability × Age	25,389.04	25,511.56	−12,676.52	<0.001
Plasticity × Age	25,405.02	25,527.54	−12,684.51	0.003
Negative SWB	25,770.99	25,832.25	−12,876.50	
Random Slope				
Stability × Age	25,743.73	25,866.26	−12,853.87	<0.001
Plasticity × Age	25,773.14	25,895.66	−12,868.57	0.07
Positive Physical Health	26,031.37	26,092.63	−13,006.68	
Random Slope				
Stability × Age	26,007.89	26,130.42	−12,985.94	<0.001
Plasticity × Age	26,019.22	26,141.74	−12,991.61	<0.001
Negative Physical Health	25,155.45	25,216.71	−12,568.72	
Random Slope				
Stability × Age	25,098.92	25,221.44	−12,531.46	<0.001
Plasticity × Age	25,109.29	25,231.82	−12,536.65	<0.001
Positive Mental Health	26,153.61	26,214.87	−13,067.80	
Random Slope				
Stability × Age	26,152.35	26,274.88	−13,058.18	0.02
Plasticity × Age	26,142.74	26,265.26	−13,053.37	<0.001
Negative Mental Health	25,833.92	25,895.19	−12,907.96	
Random Slope				
Stability × Age	25,822.42	25,944.95	−12,893.21	<0.001
Plasticity × Age	25,829.46	25,951.98	−12,896.73	0.008

Note. SWB, physical health, mental health = Life event's impact on these variables (controlled for the intensity of the life event's impact). × stands for interaction. AIC = Akaike information criterion; BIC = Bayesian information criterion; -- = no fit.