

Metacognition & Aging

April, 21th 2021

16:00 – 18:00 Italy time (ET 10-12 am)

16:00 – 16:10 Prof. **Erika Borella** (University of Padua)

Welcome and opening remarks

16:10 – 17:00 Prof. **Christopher Hertzog** (Georgia Institute of Technology)

Aging, Metacognitive Monitoring, and Strategic Control in Cognitive Tasks: State of the Field

17:00 – 17:50 Prof. **Christopher Moulin** (Université Grenoble Alpes)

Healthy ageing and metamemory: what is impaired, when, and why?

17:50 – 18:00 Prof. **Matthias Kliegel** (University of Geneva)

Closing remarks

ZOOM LINK:

<https://unipd.zoom.us/j/82670220900>

SHORT ABSTRACTS

Hertzog's talk

Metacognition is a multi-domain construct involving knowledge, beliefs, monitoring, and control over strategic processes. In today's talk I focus on age differences in (1) monitoring different aspects of episodic and semantic memory processes, including accessibility of information held in memory, and (2) how strategic processes employ information gained via metacognitive monitoring. There is some controversy in the literature about whether normative aging affects the accuracy of judgments capturing different aspects of metacognition. I will report results from a recent study in our lab suggesting that age differences in high-confidence false alarms in recognition memory may reflect age declines in memory rather than metacognition. There is less controversy about the claim that older adults are deficient in using monitoring to achieve cognitive control, but this claim too is not always borne out by experimental data. I outline some key questions for future research.

Moulin's talk

Metamemory is the awareness and higher order control of our memory system. Numerous studies have tested the hypothesis that it is impaired in older adults, employing various methodologies. On the whole, experimental procedures indicate that older adults, despite having a measurable deficit in episodic memory, have intact metamemory functioning. They are as able as younger participants to make accurate judgements when making predictions about future recall, or ascribing confidence to their recognition. Across several studies, but not unequivocally, one area where older people may show a metamemory deficit is with episodic FOK judgements. In the FOK (Feeling of Knowing) task, people predict the future recognition of a currently unrecalable item, something that can be done in the context of episodic or semantic memory tasks. The contrast between episodic FOK (impaired) and semantic FOK (unimpaired) in healthy ageing has been used to theorise about the domain specificity of metacognition, and yet questions persist about the conditions under which this pattern emerges. In this presentation I will address these issues, discussing research on the domain generality of metacognition, the relationship between performance levels and metacognitive accuracy, and presenting recent findings and vintage studies from our team.

Organizers:

Erika Borella, Patrizia Bisiacchi, Giorgia Cona – Department of General Psychology, University of Padova