

Abstract

Recent study has shown that older adults gave harsher moral judgment than younger adults over different cultural contexts. This age differences was known to be moderated by mortality salience and executive functioning of the individual. Under mortality salience (MS) manipulation, high executive functioning older adults gave more lenient moral judgment compared to their control counterparts. There were no longer age differences between older and younger adults in moral judgment. To investigate the age differences, 50 younger adults and 50 older adults were recruited to give moral judgment either under control or MS manipulation condition. Older adults provided significantly harsher moral judgment and demonstrated more correspondence bias than younger adults. No moderation effects of MS and executive functioning on this age differences were found. The age differences were found to be partially mediated by the tendency to make correspondence bias. No age differences in generativity was found significant. This study proved that age differences in attribution style could explain the observed age differences in moral judgment. Other possible mediators were also discussed.

Keywords: aging, moral judgment, correspondence bias, mortality salience, executive functioning