

Age Preferences in Politics: What is the Right Age for Being a Politician?

Elif DARICI

Exam Number: 17904805

Supervisor: Dr Hannah J. SWIFT

This research paper is submitted in partial fulfilment of the degree of MSc in Social and Applied Psychology, in Department of Psychology, University of Kent

August, 2018

Word Count: 7942

Abstract

Discrimination of older people in workplace and prejudices towards older adults have been studied before. Previous studies showed that people have an implicit preference towards younger people, and attribute social roles for different ages. Three studies were conducted in order to examine age preferences in politics. The results of studies showed that although there is not any visual cues about ages of political candidates, participants perceive different traits either related with younger and older people. In addition, voting preferences of participants can be depend on perceived stereotypical age of political candidates. The results showed that as the age of participants increased, their willingness to vote for older candidates increased as well. On the other hand, participants perceived congruency between age of political candidates and different contexts. When there was a situation which is related with change, people would like to vote for younger candidate and when there was a situation which is related with stability, people would like to vote for older candidate. Although political orientation and prejudices of people towards older people was controlled, the preference towards older or younger candidates did not change, so current study supported that there is a relationship between voting behaviour and age of candidates.

Age Preferences in Politics: Is there a right age for being a politician?

Age is one of the most obvious physical cues which makes social categorisation easier for people (Blaine & Brenchley, 2017). This social categorisation may lead people to build stereotypes and attitudes towards different age groups (Swift, Abrams, Lamont, & Drury, 2017). The term “ageism” describes prejudices and discrimination based on this stereotyping (Abrams, 2010 and Blaine & Brenchley, 2017) and it includes both negative and positive attitudes and behaviours towards older people (Abrams, Swift & Drury, 2016). For example, according to Fiske, Cuddy, Glick and Xu’s (2002) stereotype content model, in which they want people to evaluate different social categories in a warmth/competency scale, older people were evaluated as less competent but warmer compared with young people (Cuddy, Norton and Fiske, 2005). Some of the negative stereotypes about older people are being lack of ability, slower, dependent, ill, slower, less flexible (Maloney & Paul, 1989; Hummert, Garstka, Shaner & Strahm, 1994; Finkelstein & Burke, 1998; Swift, Abrams & Marques, 2013; Swift et al., 2017;). There are also positive stereotypes about older people, for example experienced, loyal, wise etc. which involve the positive aspects of stereotypes about older people (Hummert et al., 1994; Swift et al., 2013).

These stereotypes reflect into social life as discrimination against older people in different social contexts. For example in working place, they were perceived as low productive, resistant to change, less able to learn (Posthuma & Campion, 2009). These stereotypes affect older people’s performances in work negatively (Lamont, Swift, & Abrams, 2015), and some jobs are perceived to be more suitable for certain ages (Posthuma & Campion, 2009). In addition, exclusion of older people in working place may occur in hiring decision and several researches suggest that there is a preference of hiring younger job candidates (McCann & Giles, 2002; Gringart, Helmes, & Speelman, 2005; Abrams et al., 2016). Although there is not any visual cue about age, people can interpret the age by traits

attributed to older and younger people. Abrams et al. (2016) showed people to choose between two possible job candidates whose profiles were presented with traits which were stereotypically attributed to either young or old people. The results of the study supported that there is an implicit preference towards younger people (Levy & Banaji, 2002) and older people are preferred for jobs which are related with subordinate positions (Abrams et al., 2016).

Although older people may perceive prejudice or discrimination in working place, in some cases they were evaluated more positively than younger people. For example, although stereotypically younger characteristics can be attributed to politicians, it was suggested that being a politician is a higher status which were perceived more congruent with older people (Abrams et al, 2016). In addition, it can be seen that parliaments around the world are mostly older people dominated. According to “Social Background of MPs 1979 and 2017” report (Barton & Audickas, 2017), 18 percent of Members of the Parliament (MPs) are under 40, 60 percent of MPs are between 40 and 60, and 22 percent of MPs are over 60 years old in 2017. These results showed that although people wishing to stand as an MP must be over 18, the average age of MPs at the time of General Election is 50.5. It can be interpreted that in the UK, older adults were preferred in order to be MPs.

Voting behaviour of people mostly depend on their political views and people choose candidates by looking their party programs or campaigns; however, there are some studies which examines other factors which have an influence on voting behaviour for example age, gender or race of the candidate (Sigelman & Sigelman, 1982; Caprara, Vecchione, Barbaranelli and Fraley, 2007; and Webster and Pierce, 2015).

According to Social Identity Theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979), people have favouritism towards their ingroup member in different social contexts. Social Identity Theory reflects in

politics as choosing political leaders who have similar characteristics with voters (Sigelman & Sigelman, 1982; Webster & Pierce, 2015; and Caprara et al., 2007).

One of the earlier studies that examines the relationship between voting behaviour and sexism, ageism and racism was conducted by Sigelman and Sigelman (1982). In the study, they tried to explain whether people have a tendency to choose political candidates who have similar characteristics with them. They showed pictures of white female, black female, black male, young white male and elderly white male images to people and asked participants to vote for one of them in local elections. The results of the study showed that candidate age played greater role on voting behaviour of participants. Participants who are mostly college students evaluated younger candidates as more attractive and older candidates as unattractive (Sigelman & Sigelman, 1982). Although the study did not explain the relationship between ageism and voting behaviour, they supported that people have a preference towards candidates who are similar with themselves. On the other hand, because they conducted their study with college students, they could not have a chance to compare preferences of younger adults and middle-aged or older adults. (Sigelman & Sigelman, 1982)

Caprara, et al. (2007) also examined perceived similarity with political leaders and voters. They conducted three studies and compare voting behaviour of people in Italy and the US. They asked participants to evaluate traits of politicians and political leaders who they vote for. They found that people perceive political figures that they vote for more similar to themselves. They explained this tendency with similarity-attraction relationship and they suggested that personal characteristics of politicians and voters have an influence on voting behaviour of people. Webster and Pierce (2015) focused on age of candidate as a voting heuristic and they analysed congressional elections in 2010 and 2012 in the US. Their results suggested that in addition to political orientation and similarity with the candidates in terms of gender and race, people also use age of candidates when they decide to vote.

In addition, Role Congruity Theory (Eagly, 1987) is one of the theories which suggested that people attribute typical characteristics for typical roles in working life and they expect people to fulfil these typical characteristics for their jobs and these attributions are mostly related with gender roles in working life (Eagly & Karau, 2002). The mismatch between the role and characteristics of person may lead discrimination (Abrams et al., 2016).

Hirschfeld and Thomas (2011) examined the age and gender based role incongruence in working place. They compared observed leadership potentials, teamwork knowledge and strategical knowledge mastery of individuals in a team-based leadership development program. They suggested that although studies showed that greater age is related with decline in cognitive capacity (Kanfer & Ackerman, 2004), sometimes greater age can be preferred because it can be associated with experience. On the other hand result of the study showed that greater age is found related with lower observed leadership potential and less mastery of teamwork and strategy knowledge (Hirschfeld & Thomas, 2011).

Spisak, Grabo, Arvey and Vugt (2014) also examined role congruity in terms of the relationship between leadership and the exploration-exploitation dilemma. It was also mentioned that after the war period the political leaders who made revolutions were younger than 35, and most political leaders took their position after their 40s (Blondel, 1980; Rejai & Philips, 1979; and Spisak et al., 2014). They suggested that in evolutionary perspective, age has an important effect on people's decision about choosing a leader to follow. In their three study, they presented participants some faces which represented different age groups and they asked participants to evaluate these faces either in a context which is related with change (for example, times for technological change and developing an environmentally friendly programme) or in a context which is related with stability (for example, maintaining stability during financially difficult times and conversation of non-renewable sources) (Spisak et al., 2014). Their results showed that people prefer younger leaders when they want exploratory

change; however, they prefer older leaders when the thing there is need for stability in an organisation.

Considering with theories which are related with voting behaviour and ageism, current study was aimed to examine whether people have stereotypical image of younger and older politician and to what extend these stereotypes affect their voting choices although they don't have any visual cues as the studies before (Sigelman & Sigelman, 1982; Spisak et al., 2014). The design of the study was built on Abrams et al.'s study (2016) which examined how age-based stereotypes affect hiring of job candidates. In that study, it was supported that there is a pro-youth bias in hiring decision and older people were preferred for low-status jobs. First of all, the current study examined whether people have a stereotypical image of old or young politician in their mind in the pilot study. Also, the current study aimed to understand whether people have age preferences in politics. Finally, it was aimed to understand whether different political situations change this age preference or not.

The hypothesis of the first study suggested that people have a tendency to vote for candidates who are in the similar ages with themselves based on Social Identity Theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). However, it is also expected that people who have higher prejudice towards older people would like to vote for younger candidates. Attitudes of participants towards older people was measured by Ambivalent Ageism Scale which was developed by Cary, Chasteen, & Remedios, 2016 and covers both benevolent and hostile attitudes towards older people. In addition, Right Wing Authoritarianism personality characteristics of participants which were found related with higher levels of prejudice was measured by Right Wing Authoritarianism Scale which was developed by Altemeyer (1998). It was also controlled that whether political orientation and preferences of people would affect their voting choice.

The hypothesis of the second study was based on Role Congruity Theory (Eagly, 1987) and suggested that people will match the age of candidates with the context. For example, they are expected to choose stereotypically older candidate in stereotypically older contexts and choose stereotypically younger candidates in stereotypically younger contexts.

Pilot Study

In order to examine whether people have a perception of typical old or young politician, participants were asked to evaluate a list of traits which were derived by adding and adapting to the attributes which were stereotypically viewed as either stereotypically “young” or “old” in earlier studies (Ray, Sharp, & Abrams, 2006; Swift et al., 2013; Abrams et al., 2016). Then participants evaluated these traits in terms of their importance level of being a politician. As a result two political candidate profiles having the same importance level for being a politician were created (one is stereotypically old and the other is stereotypically young).

Ethics approval of all three studies was given in Appendix A and information and consent forms of the pilot study were given in the Appendix B.

Method

Participants. 59 participants were recruited (33 male and 26 female) with age ranging from 19 to 58 ($M = 27.86$, $SD = 8.09$) Six participants were excluded from the data analysis because their answers showed that they failed the attention check. As a result, in total 53 participants (29 male, 24 female) remained in the analysis with an age range of 19 to 58 ($M = 27.60$, $SD = 7.92$). 23 of participants were recruited among University of Kent students who volunteered to take part in the study. 30 of participants were recruited via Prolific which is an online research participation scheme and they were compensated for their participation.

Measures. The current study was conducted through an online questionnaire, which was prepared with Qualtrics survey platform.

Firstly, participants were given a list of 68 traits in random order. The whole list of traits and measures of trait evaluations in the pilot study can be found in Appendix C. These traits were adopted from stereotypes attributed to young or old people in earlier studies (Ray, Sharp, & Abrams, 2006; Swift et al., 2013; Abrams et al., 2016). Participants were asked to evaluate these traits in two different measures.

In the first measure, they were asked to indicate the extent to which they think the trait is more typical of a younger (aged 30 and under), an older (aged 60 and over) or equally typical of both younger and older politicians on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = “Very typical of a younger politician” to 5= “Very typical of an older politician”).

Secondly, they indicated how important they think the trait would be for a good political leader in a 5-point Likert scale (1 = “Not at all important” to 5 = “Extremely important”). This measure aimed to examine whether these stereotypical old or young politician traits were important to be a good politician and it was aimed to create old and young candidate profiles, which included traits equally important for being a politician.

After evaluating the traits, participants answered three questions about their general political views and their evaluations about politicians. Participants responded to an open-ended question in which they asked to describe their ideal politician with adjectives. Then, they indicated what they consider as the ideal age for being a politician on a slider scale that is ranging from 18 to 100. Political orientation of participants was measured by a 7-point slider scale on which the political views ranged from extremely liberal (left) to extremely conservative (right).

Procedure. Firstly, participants were informed about the procedure of the study and their rights as a participant. They were also informed that if they fail to answer the attention check question, their response and payment would be invalidated (Appendix B) After they confirmed that they are voluntarily participating in the study, they were asked to write down their Prolific Academic Identity in order to be compensated after completing study. Then, they were presented three lists of traits in three measures. Firstly, they were asked to indicate the extent to which they think the trait describes a younger (aged 30 and under) or an older (aged 60 and over) politician. In the second measure, they were asked to indicate to what extent they think the trait is important for being a politician. After completing questions about their general political views of participants and their evaluations about politicians they were debriefed and thanked for their participation in the study (Appendix D).

Results

In order to examine whether there is a difference between traits that are attributed to young or old politicians participants' evaluation of each trait was analysed. One-sample t-test analysis was conducted in order to differentiate which traits were perceived as stereotypically young, stereotypically old or neutral. In addition chi-square analysis was conducted in order to see the frequency distribution for age evaluations of each trait. Traits which were evaluated significantly different from the neutral point of the scale by more than half of participants were ordered. Traits which had negative t-scores were ordered in young trait list and traits which had positive t-scores were ordered in old trait list by their sample mean. After analysing stereotypical age groups of traits, the mean of perceived importance level of each trait for being a good politician was calculated.

Finally, two age-stereotypic profiles with the same importance level, which can be found in Table 1, were created. Each profile included six traits which were evaluated as stereotypically old or young. The age categorization of these two profiles were significantly

different ($t(52) = -17.565, p < .001$). Also, they were significantly different from midpoint of the scale (for young, $t(52) = -17.380, p < .001$; for old, $t(52) = 10.707, p < .001$). The mean importance of the traits in two profiles did not significantly differ from each other ($t(52) = .048, p = .962$).

In addition, in order to test the hypothesis which suggested that people are more likely to vote for candidates who have similar characteristics to themselves, bivariate correlation analysis was conducted between age of participants ($M = 27.60, SD = 7.92$) and their expected ideal age for being a politician ($M = 39.07, SD = 7.23$). This relationship was not statistically significant ($r(53) = .198, p = .154$).

Discussion

Results of Pilot Study showed that the attribution of traits to stereotypically old and young politicians were different. In addition, the hypothesis that people would choose political candidates who have similar ages with them and as the age of participant age increases their expected age for being a politician increases was not supported.

Study 1

Study 1 was conducted in order to control whether there is a relationship between the age of candidate and voting choice. Based on the previous studies it was expected that people would like to vote for candidates whose age is closer to them (Sigelman & Sigelman, 1982; Caprara et al, 2007). Study 1 also tested the possibility whether political view and orientation of people had an effect on their preference of older or younger candidates.

Method

Participants. The study recruited 66 participants via Prolific research platform. Six of the participants were excluded from the data analysis because they did not meet the requirements for the attention check. In total 60 participants (21 male, 39 female) remained in

the analysis with an age range between 18 and 60 ($M = 32.23$, $SD = 11.21$). The majority of participants were White British (81 %).

Measures. The current research was conducted as an online questionnaire which was prepared in a software, Qualtrics. The information and consent forms of the first study can be found in Appendix E.

Participants were presented with two profiles of political candidates which were created based on the findings of the Pilot Study (see Table 1). In one of the profiles, traits which were attributed to a younger candidate was used and in the other profile, traits which were attributed to an older candidate was used. Participants viewed the two profiles of political candidates side by side and the order of the profiles was randomized. Half of the participants viewed the profiles in young-old order and the other half viewed them in old-young order from left to right. The instructions were as below:

“Imagine that you will vote in the next general election. According to last public opinion polls two parties have similar number of seats in the parliament. Two candidates that belong to parties in your region have not been a Member of Parliament before, they have similar policies and campaign strategies. However, behavioural scientists have observed and analysed facial expressions, voice tones, body language, skills, interests and abilities of these two candidates, and these results have given you a profile of ways in which these candidates differ from each other. To keep their names anonymous we will just present you traits that make them different from each other.”

Vote choice of participants were measured by the following question: “Based on these traits, who would you vote for?”. They were asked to select one of the choices which were presented in random order as “I would vote for the candidate who is able to manage people, cautious, etc.” and “I would vote for the candidate who is ambitious, curious, etc.”. The way how profiles were presented in different orders was given in Appendix F.

Participants evaluated two candidate profiles with three different measures. The politics-related importance of traits presented in the profiles were measured by a 5-point Likert scale (from 1 = not at all important to 5 = extremely important). Participants were asked how important the following traits for being a good politician: Able to manage people, ambitious, cautious, curious, fast-learner, IT literate, mature, open to new ideas and experiences, patient, provides stability, willing to learn, wise. All attributes were randomly presented.

In order to conduct manipulation check for age of profiles, participants were presented two candidate profiles in random order and they were asked to estimate which age-group that each candidate belongs to in an 8-point scale (from 18-24 to 85 or older). Then they were asked to evaluate each candidate profiles in a list of traits in 5-point Likert scale (1 = very unlikely to 5 = very likely) which includes experienced, capable, has a lot of potential, natural leader, intelligent, quick at making decisions, warm/friendly, moral, creative, innovative, entrepreneurial, and has performed well in past leadership positions. The order of presentation of these traits was random as well.

In order to measure participants' attitudes towards older people, Ambivalent Ageism Scale which was developed by Cary, et al. (2016) was used. The scale includes nine items to measure benevolent ageism and four items to measure hostile ageism. Participants indicated the extent to which they endorse each statement on a 7-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree to 7 = strongly agree). Ambivalent Ageism Scale and scoring rules of the scale were given in Appendix G.

Right Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) scale which consisted of 24 items was used in order to measure participants' RWA personality scores (Altemeyer, 1998). Participants indicated to what the extent they with each statements on a 9-point Likert scale (-4 = very

strongly disagree, to 4 = very strongly agree). RWA Scale and scoring rules of the scale were given in Appendix H.

In order to measure participants' Social Dominance Orientation scores, SDO₇ Scale which consisted of 16 items was used (Ho, Sidanius, Kteily, Sheehy-Skeffington, Pratto, Henkel, Foels, & Stewart, 2015). On a 7-point Likert Scale (1 = strongly oppose, to 7 = strongly favour) participants were asked to indicate to what extent they oppose or favour each statement. Scale was composed of four subscales to measure pro-trait dominance, con-trait dominance, pro-trait anti-egalitarianism or con-trait anti-egalitarianism, each with four items. SDO₇ Scale and scoring rules of the scale were given in Appendix I.

The ethnic background of participants was evaluated on a 12-point scale, which is based on the British government's survey categories from the 2001 census (Office for National Statistics, 2005)

In order to measure political views and perception of participants, same three questions in the pilot study were used. Political orientation scale was changed to a 7-point political orientation scale (from extremely liberal to extremely conservative) instead of the slider scale in the pilot study. In addition, participants' political trust was measured by a question which asks whether or not they voted in the previous elections.

Procedure. Participants were recruited via Prolific research platform and financially compensated to complete questionnaires. After they were informed about the procedure of the study and their rights, they confirmed that their voluntarily participation in the study. In addition, they were informed that if they fail to answer the attention check in the study correctly, their responses would be invalid and they will not be compensated (Appendix E). Then, they were asked to indicate their Prolific Academic Identity in order to be compensated after completing study. In the first part of the study, participants were presented candidate

profiles and questionnaires in the order mentioned before. After completing the questionnaires, they read a debriefing form about the study and were thanked for their participation to study (Appendix J).

Results

A paired samples t-test was conducted to control for manipulation check. There was a significant difference between age estimation of young candidate ($M = 2.15$, $SD = .61$) and old candidates ($M = 4.28$, $SD = .96$), $t(59) = 18.935$, $p < .001$. The results showed that participants estimated age of the old candidate profile (over 45) significantly higher than age of the young candidate profile (under 35).

Chi-square analysis was conducted in order to see whether age of the presented candidate influenced the voting preference. Results showed that sixty one percent (37) of participants said they would vote for older candidate profile whereas thirty eight (23) percentage of participants indicated they would vote for younger candidate profile, showing a preference for older candidate over younger candidate. There was a slightly significant difference in the distribution of young candidate preference and old candidate preference, $\chi^2(1, N = 60) = 3.267$, $p = .07$. The results did not support the hypothesis which suggested that people would like to vote for stereotypically younger candidate.

In order to understand why people chose stereotypically older candidate more than stereotypically younger candidate, correlation analysis was conducted between voting choice and other variables in the study. The overall results and means of variables were given in Table 2. Voting choice was significantly correlated with participant age, RWA scores, the importance of young candidate traits and the importance of old candidate traits.

A significant positive correlation between participant age and voting choice was found, $r(58) = .37$, $p < .01$. The analysis supported the hypothesis that people have a

tendency to choose political candidates who are similar to themselves and showed that as the age of participants' increases, they are more likely to choose older candidate. In addition, RWA and voting choice was positively correlated, $r(58) = .30, p < .05$, which means as the RWA score increases, participants were more likely to vote for older candidate. Lastly, voting choice was positively related with the mean importance of traits given in old candidate profile for being a good politician ($r(58) = .40, p < .01$) and the mean importance of traits given in young candidate profile ($r(58) = -.38, p < .01$). The correlation results showed the participants who voted for older candidate rated traits in the old candidate profile as more important, whereas the reverse was the case for the participants who voted for the young candidate profile

Apart from voting choice, participant age ($M = 27.60, SD = 7.92$) was positively correlated with the ideal age for being a politician $r(58) = .49, p < .001$, which shows that older participants rated the ideal age for a politician higher compared to younger participants = This correlation also supports the hypothesis that suggested people have a tendency to favour political candidates who are similar to themselves.

In order to examine the role of other variables which may predict the voting choice, binary logistic regression analysis was conducted. Participant age, RWA and SDO scores, benevolent and hostile ageism, and political orientation were included as covariates into the logistic regression model, in the given order. Voting for older candidate is more prevalent than voting for younger candidate at the baseline ($\beta = .475, t(1) = 3.206, p = .07$). When there were not any other predictors, the odds of voting for older candidate were 1.609 times higher than the odds of voting for younger candidate.

In the second step of the regression analysis, it was shown that participant age predicted voting choice significantly, $\chi^2(1, N = 60) = 9.325, p < .001$ (Nagelkerke R Square

= .196). The model explained nineteen percent of the variability in voting choice. One year increase in the age of participant was associated with a 1.092 times increase in the odds of voting choice ($\beta = .088$, $t(1) = 6.937$, $p < .005$). When RWA scores of participants were added into the model in the third step, the overall model predicted the voting choice significantly; $\chi^2(2, N = 60) = 12.868$, $p < .005$ (Nagelkerke R Square = .262). RWA score adds marginally significant to prediction, increment $\chi^2(1, N = 60) = 3.543$, $p = .06$. Nagelkerke R Square increment from first model to the second is 0.06. One point increase in RWA score was associated with a 1.612 times increase in the odds of voting choice ($\beta = .478$, $t(1) = 3.284$, $p = .07$).

SDO, benevolent ageism and hostile ageism scores of participants, which were entered in the fourth step of regression analyses, did not add significantly to predictive power of the model, $\chi^2(3, N = 60) = 1.763$, $p = .623$. Nagelkerke R Square increment from the second model to the third is 0.032. Also, political orientation did not any significantly to prediction, $\chi^2(1, N = 60) = 0.012$, $p = .912$ and there is not any Nagelkerke R Square increment from the third model to the fourth model.

The overall result of binary logistic regression suggested that only participant age and RWA scores predicted the voting choice of participants when entered with all other predictors,

In order to test whether people could predict other stereotypical age traits which were related with leadership, repeated measures ANOVA was conducted between evaluations of old and evaluations of young candidate in a trait list which includes experienced, capable, has a lot of potential, natural leader, intelligent, quick at making decisions, warm/friendly, moral, creative, innovative, entrepreneurial, and has performed well in past leadership positions. Overall, there was a significant difference between the evaluation of young and old candidates

in terms of age related other traits, $F(2, 13) = 22.682, p < .001, \eta^2 = .865$. Pairwise comparisons of each trait showed that experienced, capable, has a lot of potential, natural leader, quick, moral, creative, innovative, entrepreneurial, past leadership were evaluated significantly different between young and old candidates. The mean differences and comparisons of traits was given in Figure 1.

The perceived importance of traits presented in older candidate profile ($M = 3.82, SD = 0.55$) and younger candidate profile ($M = 3.93, SD = 0.69$) were not significantly different from each other, $F(1, 59) = 1.185, p = .281$, which indicated both profiles were evaluated as having similar qualities in order to be a good politician. When participant age was added as a covariate, the importance of older traits and younger traits did not differ significantly as well ($F(1, 58) = 1.273, p = .264$)

Discussion

To summarize, more than half of participants preferred stereotypically older candidate. The hypothesis suggesting people who are highly prejudiced towards older people would vote for younger candidate was not supported. However, there is a significant relationship between participants' age and their voting choice which was in line with the hypothesis that people prefer candidates whose age is closer to themselves. In addition, RWA scores also predicted voting choice. On the other hand, SDO, benevolent ageism, hostile ageism and political orientation did not predict voting choice when RWA and participant age was included in the predictors.

On the other hand, the importance of older traits and younger traits which were presented in profiles were not significantly different from each other. It can be said that independent from the importance level attributed to profiles, participants decided to vote for one of the candidate based on the age that they perceive in the profiles.

Finally, when people evaluated each profile in terms of additional traits attributed to younger or older people, they can easily attribute some traits as younger and some as older, and the results supported that people have a stereotypical image of both younger or older politicians.

Study 2

The second study aimed to analyse whether the political context would have an effect of voting decisions of people. Based on previous studies (Spisak et al., 2014) it was hypothesized that people prefer younger leaders when they want change and prefer older leaders when they want stability. In order to test this idea, stereotypically old and young scenarios were shown to people and they were asked to decide which of the candidates, who are either stereotypically young or old, is more suitable for the situation.

Method

Participants. The study recruited 64 participants. Four participants were excluded from the data analysis because they failed the attention check. As a result, in total 60 participants (20 male, 38 female, 2 not answered) remained in the analysis with an age range of 19 to 62 ($M = 31.50$, $SD = 9.70$). Two of the participants did not claim their age. The majority of participants were White British (80 %).

Measures. The current research was conducted as an online questionnaire which was prepared in a software, Qualtrics. The information and consent forms of the study can be found in Appendix K.

The measures and procedure of the second study is quite similar with the first study. Participants were also presented with two profiles of political candidates which were created based on the findings of Pilot Study (see Table 1). On the other hand, in the second study, participants were presented two different contexts which were generally attributed to either

younger (investment in new technological innovations) or to older (maintaining good international relations) age groups and they were asked to choose one of the presented candidates. The instructions were as below:

“Imagine that there will be a general election and you will vote. The latest report from the World Economic Forum suggests that a country’s economic growth will be dependent on investment in new technological innovations (continuing to maintain good international relations). Therefore, please select and vote for the candidate who you think would be best placed to do this.”

The order of the profiles and situations were presented to the participants in a random fashion (Appendix F).

The evaluation of two candidate profiles showed a similar pattern to the first study, as well as the importance of traits, estimated age of candidates, and evaluation of candidate profiles in a list of traits.

Participants’ attitudes towards older people were measured with the same scale in the first study (Cary et al., 2016) (Appendix G). Different from the first study, RWA Scale (Altemeyer, 1998) and SDO₇ Scale (Ho et al., 2015) were not used. Ethnic background, political views and perception of participants were measured with the same scales in the first study.

Procedure. Similar to the first study, participants were recruited and paid to complete questionnaires via Prolific research platform. After they were given information about the procedure of the study and their rights, they were asked to confirm that they voluntarily participate in the study. They were also warned that if they fail to pass the attention check in the study, their response and payment would be invalidated. The information sheet and volunteer consent form of the study can be found in the Appendix K. After they gave their consent, participants were asked to provide their Prolific Academic Identity in order to be compensated upon completing study. In the first part of the study, participants were presented

with candidate profiles and questionnaires, which were prepared in Qualtrics and shown in the order mentioned in the first study. After completing the questionnaires, they read a debriefing form about the study and were thanked for participation to study (Appendix L).

Results

Difference between estimated age of young and old candidates were compared with paired sample t-test to see whether manipulation check was effective. There was a significant difference between age estimation of young candidate ($M = 2.35, SD = .77$) and old candidate ($M = 4.37, SD = 1.01$), $t(56) = 16.995, p < .001$. The results were in line with the findings of the first study such that participants estimated the age of the old candidate profile (over 45) as significantly higher than that of young candidate profile (under 45).

Chi-square analysis was performed in order to see the relationship between candidate age and voting choice in two conditions. In young condition, sixty eight percent of participants (41) preferred to vote for younger candidate whereas thirty one percent of participants (19) would like to vote for older candidate, $\chi^2(1, N = 60) = 8.867, p = .005$. In old condition, sixty three percent of participants (38) would like to vote for older candidate and thirty six percent of participants (22) chose to vote for younger candidate, $\chi^2(1, N = 60) = 4.267, p < .05$. The results showed that people perceive some political situations as congruent with younger age and some with older age which influence their voting choice.

In order to understand what other factors influenced voting choice in different contexts, correlational analysis was conducted between voting choice in two different contexts and other variables. Pairwise exclusion was selected for missing values. The overall results of correlational analysis was given in Table 3. According to results, participant age and ideal age for being a politician was positively correlated, repeating the findings of the first study, $r(58) = .466, p < .001$. The results revealed that participants had a tendency to vote for

candidates which had similar characteristics to themselves. Participant age and young candidate age estimate was also found significantly correlated ($r(55) = .457, p < .001$). Ideal age for being a politician was also positively related to young candidate age estimate, $r(57) = .337, p = .01$ and old candidate age estimate, $r(58) = .424, p = .001$. This indicates people who value higher age in a politician evaluated ages of younger and older candidates higher.

The correlation between voting choice and participant age in the first study was not replicated in the second study. The correlation between voting choice and participant age in young context, ($r(58) = -.151, p = .257$) and also in old context ($r(58) = .002, p = .967$) were not statistically significant. The results supported the notion that people have a perception of role congruency between age and situation. On the other hand, voting choice in young context and voting choice in old context was found significantly correlated ($r(60) = .295, p < .05$), which means as people vote for older candidate in one context, their probability of choosing older candidate in the other context increases as well.

Perceived importance of old profile traits was significantly correlated with young context voting choice ($r(60) = .429, p = .001$) and old context voting choice ($r(60) = .560, p < .001$), indicating participants who voted for older candidate in both cases had a tendency to evaluate older profile's traits as more important.

Benevolent ageism was positively correlated to the importance of old traits, $r(60) = .408, p = .001$, and hostile ageism $r(60) = .404, p = .001$.

Binary logistic regression analysis was performed to see the relationship between young context voting choice and other variables. Age of participants, benevolent and hostile ageism, and political orientation were included as covariates, in respective blocks. The voting preference between young and old candidates differed significantly when there were not any

other predictors ($\beta = -.799$, $t(1) = 7.915$, $p = .005$). In young context, voting for younger candidate is more prevalent than voting for older candidate. At the baseline level with no predictors, the odds of voting for older candidate were .450 times lower than of voting for younger candidate in young context.

According to regression analysis, old context voting choice predicted young context voting choice significantly, $\chi^2(1, N = 60) = 4.662$, $p < .05$ (Nagelkerke R-Squared = .109). The results showed that the model explained ten percent of the variability in participants' voting choice in young context. As the voting for older candidate in old context increases voting for older candidate in young context increases 4.091 times increase in the odds of voting for older candidate in young context ($\beta = 1.409$, $t(1) = 3.961$, $p < .005$).

On the other hand, participant age, benevolent and hostile ageism scores and political orientation of participants did not add significantly to the prediction, $\chi^2(5, N = 60) = 7.888$, $p = .163$.

Another binary logistic regression analysis was performed in order to explain the relationship between old context voting choice and other variables. Voting choice in younger context, age of participants, benevolent and hostile ageism, and political orientation were included as covariates, respectively. The voting preference between young and old candidates differed significantly at the baseline level, i.e., when there were not any predictors ($\beta = .566$, $t(1) = 4.298$, $p < .05$). Voting for older candidate is more prevalent than voting for younger candidate in old context. Specifically, without adding any predictors into the model, the odds of voting for older candidate were 1.762 times higher than the odds of voting for younger candidate in younger context.

According to regression analysis, young context voting choice predicted old context voting choice significantly, $\chi^2(1, N = 60) = 4.662$, $p < .05$ (Nagelkerke R-Squared = .106).

The results showed that the model explained approximately ten percent of the variability in participants' voting choice in old context. As the voting for older candidate in old context increased, voting for older candidate in younger context increased 4.091 times increase in the odds of voting for older candidate in younger context ($\beta = 1.409$, $t(1) = 3.961$, $p < .005$).

On the other hand, participant age, benevolent and hostile ageism scores and political orientation of participants did not add significantly to prediction, $\chi^2(5, N = 60) = 7.203$, $p = .206$. Nagelkerke R Square increment from the second model to the third is 0.032.

In order to test whether people could predict other stereotypical age traits which were related with leadership, repeated measures ANOVA was conducted between evaluations of old and evaluations of young candidate in a trait list which includes experienced, capable, has a lot of potential, natural leader, intelligent, quick at making decisions, warm/friendly, moral, creative, innovative, entrepreneurial, and has performed well in past leadership positions. In total, there was a significant difference between the evaluation of young and old candidates in terms of age-related other traits, $F(2, 13) = 11.946$, $p < .001$, eta-squared = .768. Pairwise comparisons of each trait showed that experienced, capable, has a lot of potential, natural leader, quick, moral, creative, innovative, entrepreneurial, past leadership were evaluated as significantly different between young and old candidates. The mean differences and comparisons of traits was given in Figure 2.

In order to compare the perceived mean importance of traits given in the old and young profiles, repeated measures ANOVA was performed. Results showed that the mean importance of traits given in old profile was not significantly different from that of young profile ($F(1, 59) = .185$, $p = .669$, eta-squared = .003).

Discussion

The results of the second study supported that there is an attributed age-role congruity in politics (Spisak et al., 2014). Different from the findings of the first study, the effect of participant age on voting preference between younger or older political candidate was eliminated, and participants chose stereotypically younger candidate in stereotypically younger context and stereotypically older candidate in stereotypically older context. However, there was also significant correlation between participant age and their expected ideal age for being a politician. The results showed that although people have an age preference in politics, they also have a tendency to choose candidates who they perceive congruent with the context.

In parallel with the findings of the first study, the mean importance of traits, which were presented in younger and older profiles, did not differ from each other, indicating the possibility that voting choice of people can be explained by the age that they attribute to profiles instead of the importance that they attributed to profiles. In addition, they could also interpret other traits which were stereotypically younger or older leaders and the results showed that there was a perception of stereotypical younger or older politician in their minds.

General Discussion

The aim of the current study was examining age preferences in politics. As it was mentioned before, in the first study, it was found that people have a tendency to vote for older candidates and the hypothesis of the first study was supported. On the other hand, bias towards older people was not found related with voting choice of participants. The results of the first study also supported previous studies which were related with the similarity between characteristics of political candidates and voters (Sigelman & Sigelman, 1982; Caprara et al., 2007), but the preference of candidate who is similar to voter was not repeated by the second study.

On the other hand the results of the second study supported the second hypothesis of the current study which was suggested that people would match the age of candidates with the context which is perceived as stereotypically young or old. These results also supported previous studies about role congruity in politics and working life (Eagly, 1987; Hirschfeld, & Thomas, 2011; Spisak et al., 2014).

Different from previous studies which were examining the relationship between voting behaviour and characteristics of politicians by using visual cues, in the current study ages of political candidates were manipulated by traits which were attributed to either old or young people. Likewise the study of Abrams et al. (2016) which was about age biases and hiring decision in working life, people could interpret the age of political candidates and showed a preference towards candidates whose age was closer to their age. On the other hand, although they estimated age of candidates in the studies related with the stereotypical age of the candidates, the estimated age of stereotypically older candidate was lower than it was presented in the pilot study as older politician in 60s. In addition, when participants were asked to evaluate candidates in terms of other age stereotypical traits, they could also differentiate traits depending on the age attribution on traits. The correlation between participant age and participants' perception of ideal age for being a politician also supported that there is a stereotypical age for a good politician in people's minds.

Limitations and Future Researches

There were some limitations in the current study. First of all, the study was conducted in via an online research participation scheme which means that the study was not conducted in a well-controlled experimental setting. Although people showed a significant preference for particular age groups in particular contexts, biases of participants could be manipulated better

in a controlled experimental setting, the results of the study would predict the preferences of people in a better way.

In addition, there was not any measure which evaluates people's biases towards younger people in the studies. Although Ambivalent Ageism Scale (Cary et al., 2016) could measure both hostile and benevolent ageism towards older people, there was not any item which was related with prejudices towards younger people. Although at the beginning of the studies, it was aimed to measure participants' implicit attitudes towards both young and old age groups by using Implicit Association Test developed by Greenwald, McGhee and Schwartz (1998), the measure was changed with Ambivalent Ageism Scale (Cary et al., 2016) because it was difficult to conduct via online research participation scheme and participants faced with difficulties when they tried to download software for completing tasks for IAT in trial sessions. If future studies will be conducted in a well-controlled experimental environment and will measure bias towards both young and old people, the effect of pro-youth bias can be controlled as well.

Finally, age norms and ageism cannot explain voting behaviour of people by itself. Although some other dimensions such as political orientation of participants were controlled in the current study, the current study could not control a real life setting in which political parties and politicians run their own campaigns and give promises to attract people to vote for them. Further researches can use some scenarios which involve different political orientations and campaigns of politicians from real life examples and in different ages. In addition, current study was conducted just in the UK and age norms and political norms can vary in different cultures and different political orientations. Future studies can be conducted in different cultures and it can be compared that whether the direction of preference would change or not. Political campaigners can utilise the findings of the current study by presenting candidates matching the characteristics of audience in terms of age or depending on focus of their

campaigns they may choose candidates from different age ranges in order to increase the effectiveness of their campaigns.



References

- Abrams, D. (2010). *Process of prejudice: Theory, evidence and intervention*. Research Report 56, London: EHRC. Retrieved July, 31, 2018 from <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-56-processes-of-prejudice-theory-evidence-and-intervention.pdf>
- Abrams, D., Russell, P. S., Vauclair, C. M. & Swift, H. J. (2011). *Ageism in Europe, findings from the European Social Survey*. London: Age UK. Retrieved from <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/documents/en-gb/id10704%20ageism%20across%20europe%20report%20interactive.pdf?dtrk=true>
- Abrams, D., Swift, H. J. & Drury, L. (2016). Old and unemployable. How age-based stereotypes affect willingness to hire job candidates. *Journal of Social Issues*, 72 (1), pp. 105-121.
- Altemeyer, B. (1998). The other “authoritarian personality”. In *Advances in experimental social psychology*, 30, pp. 47-92). Academic Press.
- Barton, C. & Audickas, L. (2017). *Social background of MPs 1979-2017* (CBP 7383). Retrieved from House of Commons Library. Website: <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7483>
- Blaine, B. E., & Brenchley, K. J. M. (2017). Understanding age stereotypes and ageism. In *Understanding the psychology of diversity*. Sage Publications, pp. 175-186.
- Blondel, J. (1980). *World leaders: Heads of government in the postwar period*. Beverly Hills: Sage.

- Caprara, G. V., Barbaranelli, C., Vecchione, M., & Fraley, C. R. (2007). Voters' personality traits in presidential elections. *Personality and Individual Differences, 42*(7), pp. 1199-1208.
- Cary, L. A., Chasteen, A. L., & Remedios, J. (2017). The ambivalent ageism scale: Developing and validating a scale to measure benevolent and hostile ageism. *The Gerontologist, 57*(2), e27-36.
- Cuddy, A. J. C., Norton, M. I., & Fiske, S. T. (2005). This old stereotype: The pervasiveness and persistence of the elderly stereotype. *Journal of Social Issues, 61*, 267-285.
- Eagly, A. H. (1987). *Sex differences in social behavior: A social role interpretation*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Eagly, A. H., & Karau, S. J. (2002). Role congruity theory of prejudice toward female leaders. *Psychological review, 109* (3), 573.
- Fiske, S. T., Cuddy, A. J. C., Glick, P., & Xu, J. (2002). A model of (often mixed) stereotype content: Competence and warmth respectively follow from perceived status and competition. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 82*, 878–902. doi: 10.1037/0022-3514.82.6.878.
- Greenwald, A. G., McGhee, D. E., & Schwartz, J. L. K (1998). Measuring individual differences in implicit cognition: The Implicit Association Test. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 74*, 1464-1480.
- Gringart, E., Helmes, E. & Speelman, C. P. (2005). Exploring attitudes toward older workers among Australian employers: An empirical study. *Journal of Aging & Social Policy, 17*, 85-103.

- Hirschfeld, R. R. & Thomas, C. H. (2011). Age-and gender-based role incongruence: Implications for knowledge mastery and observed leadership potential among personnel in a leadership development program. *Personnel Psychology, 64*(3), 661-692.
- Ho, A. K., Sidanius, J., Kteily, N., Sheehy-Skeffington, J, Pratto, F., Henkel, K. E., Foels, R., & Stewart, A. L. (2015). The nature of social dominance orientation: Theorizing and measuring preferences for intergroup inequality using the new SDO7 scale. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 109*(6), 1003-1028.
- Hummert, M. L., Garstka, T. A., Shaner, J. L., & Strahm, S. (1994). Stereotypes of the elderly held by young, middle-aged, and elderly adults. *Journal of Gerontology, 49*, 240-249.
- Kanfer, R., & Ackerman, P. L. (2004). Aging, adult development, and work motivation. *Academy of management review, 29*(3), 440-458.
- Lamont, R. A., Swift, H. J., & Abrams, D. (2015). A review and meta-analysis of age-based stereotype threat: Negative stereotypes, not facts, do the damage. *Psychology and Aging, 30*, 180-193.
- Levy, B. & Banaji, M. R. (2002). Implicit Ageism. In T. D. Nelson (Ed.), *Ageism, stereotyping and prejudice against older persons* (pp. 163-199). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Maloney, T. W., & Paul, B. (1989). Enabling older Americans to work. *Annual Report of the Commonwealth Fund*.
- Swift, H. J., Abrams, D., & Marques, S. (2013). Threat or boss? Social comparison affects older people's performance differently depending on task domain. *Journal of Gerontology Series B Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences, 68*, 23-30.

- Finkelstein, L. M., & Burke, M. J. (1998). Age stereotyping at work: The role of rater and contextual factors on evaluations of job applicants. *The Journal of General Psychology, 125*(4), 317-345.
- McCann, R. & Giles, H. (2002). Ageism in the workplace: A communication perspective. In T. D. Nelson (Ed.) *Ageism, stereotyping and prejudice against older persons* (pp. 163-199). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Office for National Statistics (2005). Census 2001 Quality report for England and Wales. Retrieved from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2001censusandearlier>
- Posthuma, R. A., & Campion, M. A. (2009). Age stereotypes in the workplace: Common stereotypes, moderators, and future research directions. *Journal of management, 35* (1), 158-188.
- Rejai, M. & Philips, K. (1979). *Leaders of revolution*, Beverly Hills: Sage.
- Sigelman, L., & Sigelman, C. K. (1982). Sexism, racism, and ageism in voting behaviour: An experimental analysis. *Social Psychology Quarterly, 263-269*.
- Spisak, B. R., Grabo, A. E., Arvey, R. D., & van Vugt, M. (2014). The age of exploration and exploitation: Younger-looking leaders endorsed for change and older-looking leaders endorsed for stability. *The Leadership Quarterly, 25*(5), 805-816.
- Swift, H. J., Abrams, D., Lamont, R. A., & Drury, L. (2017). The risks of ageism model: How ageism and negative attitudes toward age can be a barrier to active ageing. *Social Issues and Policy Reviews, 11* (1), 195-231.
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1979). An integrative theory of intergroup conflict. *The social psychology of intergroup relations, 33* (47), 74.

Webster, S. W., & Pierce, A. W. (2015). Older, younger, or more similar? The use of age as a voting heuristic. *Social Science Quarterly*.



Table 1. Age-Stereotypic Trait Profiles

	Older Candidate	Younger Candidate
	Able to manage people	Ambitious
	Cautious	Curious
	Mature	Fast-learner
	Patient	IT literate
	Provides stability	Open to new ideas and experiences
	Wise	Willing to learn
	<i>M (SD)</i>	<i>M (SD)</i>
Age Categorization	3.67 (.45)	1.83 (.49)
Mean Importance	3.85 (.61)	3.85 (.64)

Note: Age categorization ranges from 1 = typical of a younger politician (aged 30 and under) to 5 = typical of an older politician (aged 60 and over). The importance of traits for being a good politician ranges from 1 = not at all important to 5 = extremely important.

Table 2. Correlation Analysis in Study 1

Measure	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Participant Age	1											
2. Voting Choice	.37**	1										
3. Benevolent Ageism	-.11	.10	1									
4. Hostile Ageism	-.19	-.10	.54**	1								
5. RWA	.18	.30*	.48**	.32*	1							
6. SDO	-.09	.14	.49**	.35**	.72**	1						
7. Political Orientation	.15	.19	.32*	.19	.52**	.61**	1					
8. Ideal Politician Age	.49**	.20	-.06	-.11	.19	.07	.21	1				
9. Young Candidate Age Estimate	.25	-.20	-.23	.00	-.16	-.08	.10	.29*	1			
10. Old Candidate Age Estimate	.06	-.34**	-.13	.13	-.18	-.10	-.03	.20	.45**	1		
11. Importance of Young Traits	-.23	-.38**	-.05	.32*	.07	-.01	.08	-.14	.17	.24	1	
12. Importance of Old Traits	-.03	.40**	.05	.09	.42**	.18	.26*	.10	-.04	-.12	.26*	1
<i>M</i>	32.23	.62	2.48	2.84	3.10	2.62	3.23	39.40	2.15	4.28	3.82	3.93
<i>SD</i>	11.21	.49	.75	1.21	1.23	.98	1.35	7.11	.61	.96	.55	0.69

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 3. Correlation Analysis of Study 2.

Measure	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.Participant Age	1										
2.Young Context Voting Choice	-.151	1									
3.Old Context Voting Choice	.006	.295*	1								
4.Old Candidate Age Estimate	.044	-.200	-.024	1							
5.Young Candidate Age Estimate	.457**	-.130	-.174	.521**	1						
6.Ideal Politician Age	.466**	.071	.156	.424**	.337*	1					
7.Political Orientation	.022	-.076	.002	-.098	.048	-.009	1				
8.Importance of Old Traits	-.016	.429**	.506**	-.119	-.103	.101	.003	1			
9.Importance of Young Traits	-.089	-.111	-.105	-.061	-.037	-.118	-.061	.102	1		
10.Benevolent Ageism	-.141	.208	.146	-.082	-.099	-.060	.154	.408**	.036	1	
11.Hostile Ageism	-.109	.066	.174	-.144	-.221	-.153	-.006	.200	-.006	.404**	1
<i>M</i>	31.50	.32	.63	4.40	2.35	41.47	3.37	3.93	3.88	2.78	2.93
<i>SD</i>	9.70	.47	.49	1.03	.77	9.67	1.40	.69	.58	.98	1.11

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

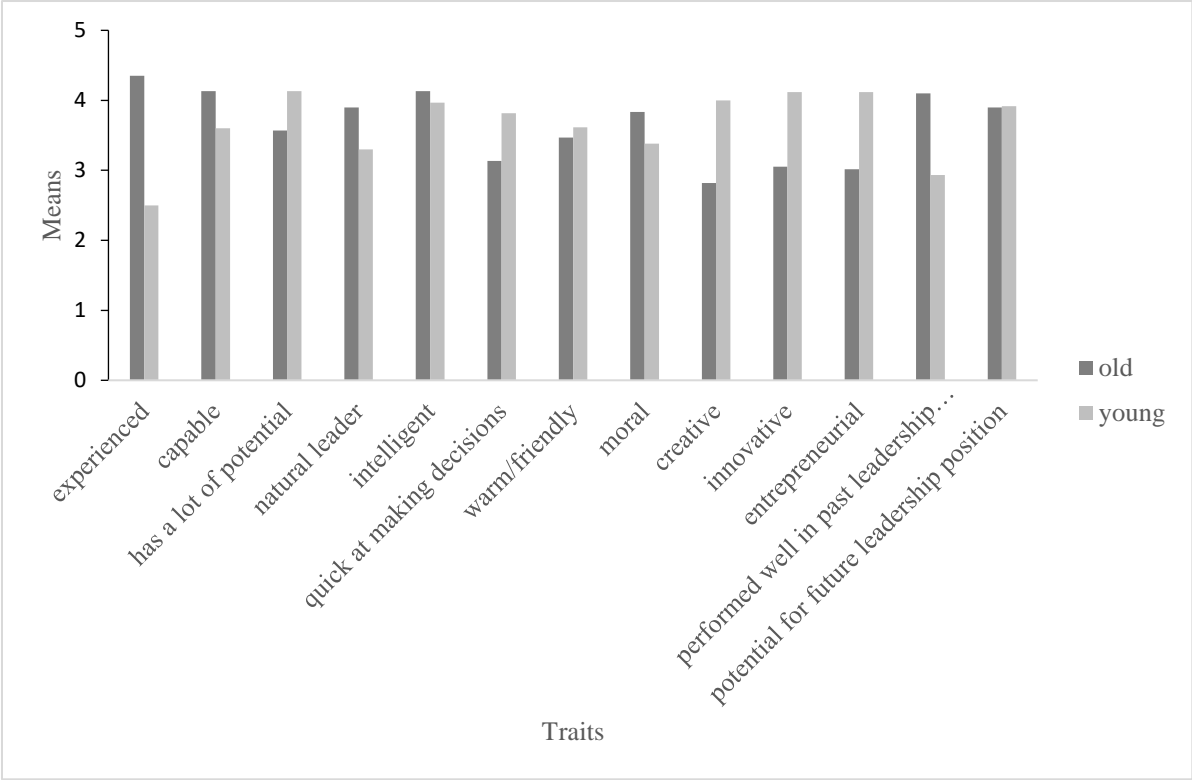


Figure 1: Means of traits which were measured participants' evaluations of candidate profiles in Study 1.

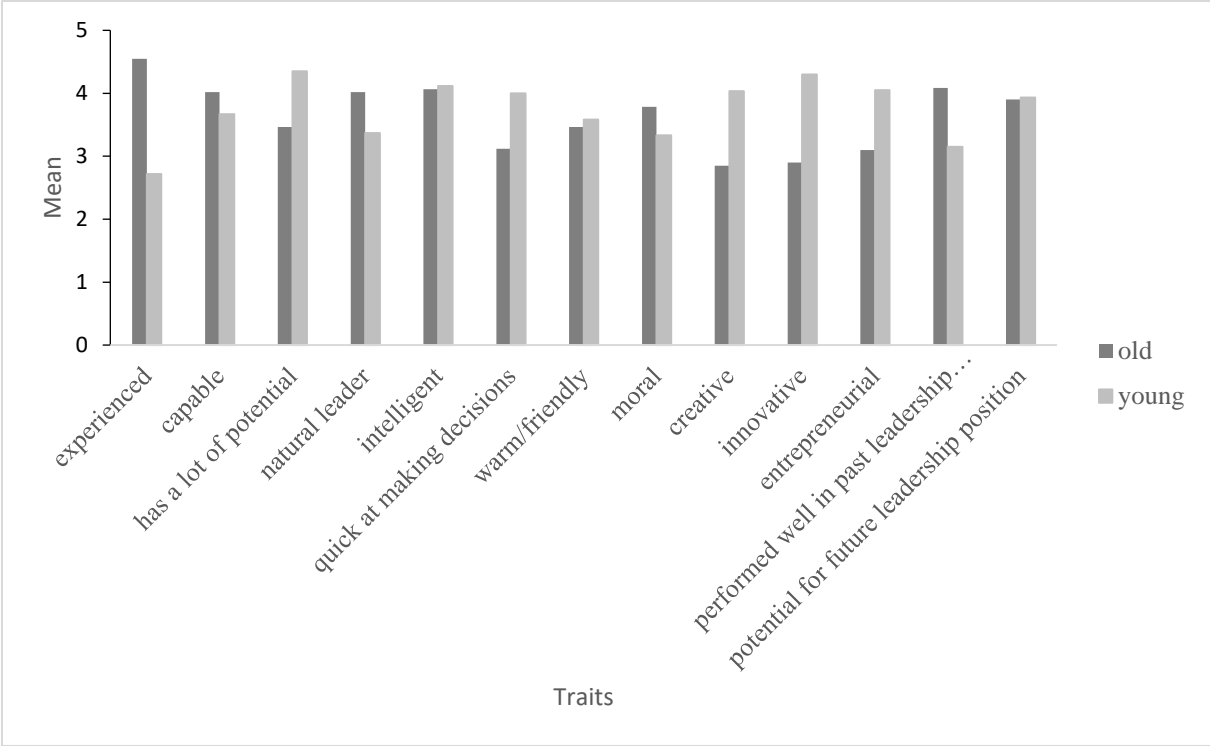


Figure 2: Means of traits which were measured participants’ evaluations of candidate profiles in Study 2.

Appendix A

APPROVAL OF APPLICATION

Application: “Age preferences in politics: What is the right age for a political leader?” has been fully approved by the Ethics panel.

Date: 04.05.2018

Ethics ID: 201815254236204852

Expiry date: 04-05-2020

Researcher details

Name: A. Aksu (aa2019)

Reason for application: Masters

Status: MSc Student

Co-investigators: E. Darici (*Internal*)

Supervisor: Dr Hannah Swift

Supervisor Feedback:

This is a bulk application for 3 studies, plus a pilot study. The studies are well thought out and make important advances to previous research on age-stereotypes, social roles and political leader preferences. The application provides good level of detail of all three studies, and it's clear there are no ethical risks to participants involved. The consent and debrief information is sufficient. The students have the capacity to complete this research for their masters' project.

Appendix B

Evaluations about Politicians

Please take your time to complete the questionnaire, failure to correctly answer the attention check may invalidate your response and your payment.

Your data will be kept secure, private and confidential. To ensure anonymity, only enter your Prolific Academic ID. This will be used to identify your data should you wish to withdraw. Collected data will be destroyed upon your request to withdraw. If you decide to withdraw midway through the questionnaire, simply close the web browser and email the researchers for a debriefing about the study. Your responses will not be recorded if you withdraw from the study.

Ethics Approval ID: 201815254236204852

If you have any complaints or concerns about this research, you can direct these, in writing, to the Chair of the Psychology Research Ethics Committee by email at: psychethics@kent.ac.uk.

Volunteer Consent

Please read the following consent statements carefully and tick the confirmation box at the bottom of the page, which indicates that you fully consent to participate in this study.

I have been adequately informed about the nature of this study and received full information about my ethical rights as a participant and I have been given opportunity to ask questions.

I fully understand that the decision to participate is up to me and that I can change my mind and withdraw from the study at any time without it affecting how I am treated in the

future. I also understand that I am not obliged to answer any questions in this questionnaire that make me uncomfortable.

I have been guaranteed that all the information collected in this study is strictly confidential and will not bear any personal details that may identify me.

I have read the participant information and agree to take part in this study.

Please tick to confirm the above



Appendix C

Evaluation of attributed age of traits

Below is a list of traits. For each trait, indicate the extent to which you think the trait is more typical of a younger (aged 30 and under), an older (aged 60 and over), or equally typical of both younger and older people.

	1 - Very typical of a younger politician	2 - Quite typical of a younger politician	3 - Equally typical of younger and older politician	4- Quite typical of an older politician	5 - Very typical of an older politician
IT literate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ambitious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energetic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fast-learner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Analytical	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Happy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Talented	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friendly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Focused	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Loyal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provides stability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Able to manage people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Able to manage tasks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cautious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Curious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Willing to learn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conscientious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intelligent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Well-presented	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confident	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Polite	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Professional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledgeable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intellectually capable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Driven	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strategic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Able to influence others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Able to communicate a Vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Able to deliver a Vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attention Check	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Experienced	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Entrepreneurial	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reliable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Calm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledgeable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efficient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Team-oriented	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Task-oriented	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Punctual	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Listener	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sentimental	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Generous	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learned	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Practical	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective complainer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carefulness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Settling arguments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creative	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Flex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Multitask	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tenacious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Excited	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eager	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vigorous	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Optimistic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open to new ideas/experiences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communicativeness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learning new skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Evaluation of importance of traits

Below is a list of traits. Please indicate how important you think it would be for a *good political leader* to possess each attribute.

	Not at all important (1)	Slightly important (2)	Moderately important (3)	Very important (4)	Extremely important (5)
IT literate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Ambitious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energetic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fast-learner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Analytical	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Happy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Talented	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friendly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Focused	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Loyal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provides stability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Able to manage people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Able to manage tasks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cautious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Curious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Willing to learn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conscientious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intelligent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Well-presented	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confident	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Polite	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Professional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledgeable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intellectually capable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Driven	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strategic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Able to influence others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Able to communicate a Vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Able to deliver a Vision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attention Check	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Experienced	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Entrepreneurial	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reliable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Calm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledgeable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efficient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Team-oriented	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Task-oriented	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Punctual	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Listener	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sentimental	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Generous	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learned	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Practical	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective complainer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carefulness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Settling arguments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creative	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flex	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Multitask	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tenacious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Excited	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eager	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vigorous	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Optimistic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Open to new ideas/experiences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communicativeness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learning new skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Appendix D

Debriefing for a study on Evaluations about Politicians

This study was an investigation of the effect of age stereotypes on evaluations of political leaders. Many people have stereotypes about different ages. For example, most people can probably imagine a stereotypical image of an old person or a young person. Although these stereotypes can change in different situations, people can make judgements or evaluations to other people according to these stereotypes. We want to see whether these stereotypes have an impact on preferences in politics. In the study, we present a list of traits and we asked you to indicate the extent to which you think the trait describes a younger (aged 30 and under) or an older (aged 60 and over) politician and a female or a male politician. As a result, we tried to see whether people make age-based or gender-based attributions to characteristics of politicians.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION

Appendix E

VOTING BEHAVIOUR AND EVALUATIONS ABOUT POLITICAL LEADERS

We are interested in understanding how people evaluate different political leaders.

In this study you will be presented with two political candidates and asked to evaluate them, and asked which candidate you would vote for to be a Member of Parliament.

It will take about 15 minutes to participate in the study.

Your data will be kept secure, private and confidential. To ensure anonymity, only enter your Prolific Academic ID. This will be used to identify your data should you wish to withdraw.

Collected data will be destroyed upon your request to withdraw. If you decide to withdraw midway through the questionnaire, simply close the web browser and email the researchers for a debriefing about the study. Your responses will not be recorded if you withdraw from the study. Data collected in this study will be analysed by the researchers, but may also be available to others in the School of Psychology. However, no information will be passed on or shared to other third parties.

This study has been approved by the School of Psychology Ethics panel:

ID: 201815254236204852

If you have any complaints or concerns about this research, you can direct these, in writing, to the Chair of the Psychology Research Ethics Committee of University of Kent by email at: psychethics@kent.ac.uk.

If you have any questions or issues please contact the researchers via Prolific or email them Ayça Aksu (aa2019@kent.ac.uk), Elif Darici (ed361@kent.ac.uk) or Dr. Hannah J. Swift (H.J.Swift@kent.ac.uk).

Please take your time to complete the questionnaire, failure to correctly answer the attention check may invalidate your response and your payment.

Volunteer Consent

Please read the following consent statements carefully and tick the confirmation box at the bottom of the page, which indicates that you fully consent to participate in this study.

I have been adequately informed about the nature of this study and received full information about my ethical rights as a participant and I have been given opportunity to ask questions.

I fully understand that the decision to participate is up to me and that I can change my mind and withdraw from the study at any time without it affecting how I am treated in the future. I also understand that I am not obliged to answer any questions in this questionnaire that make me uncomfortable.

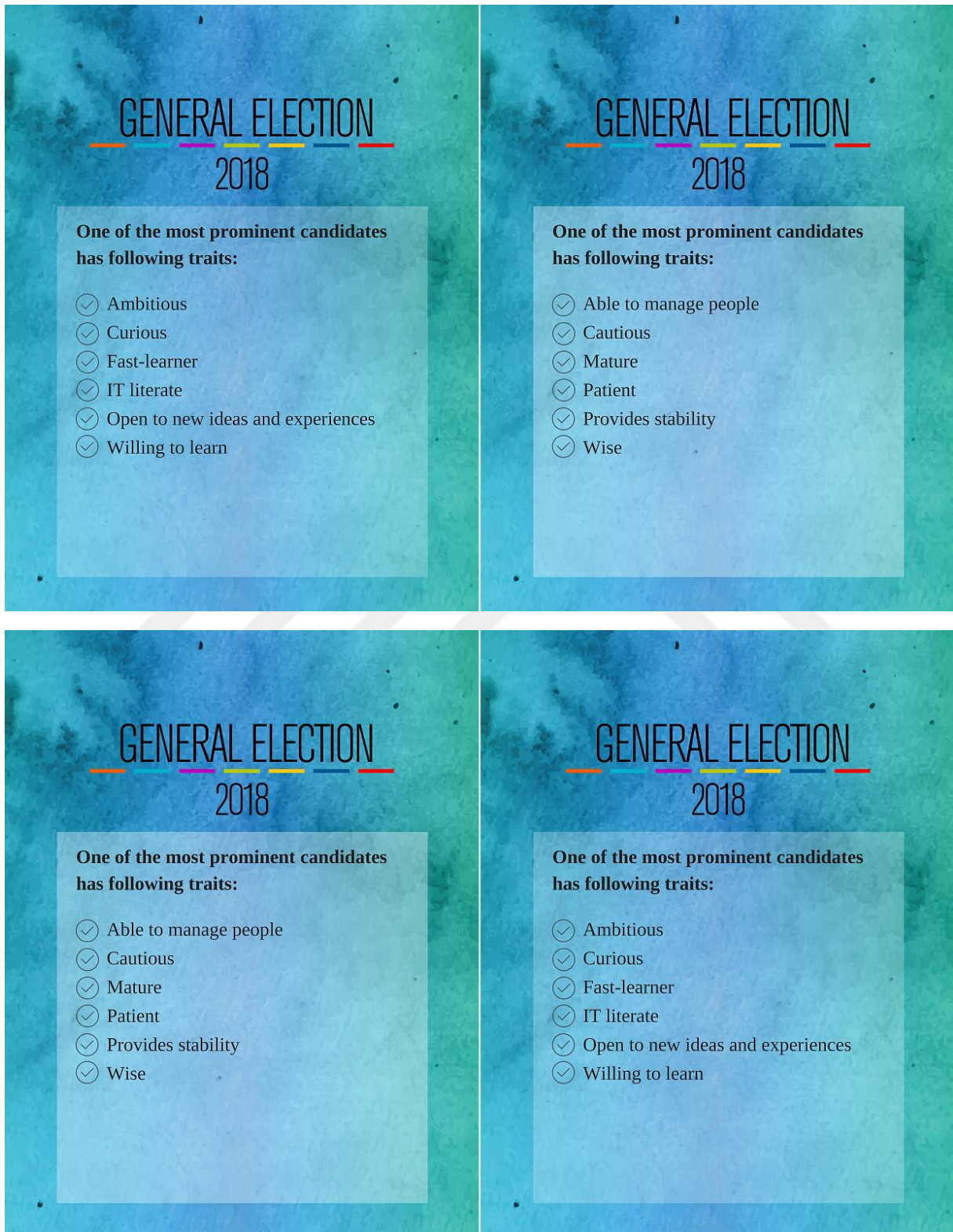
I have been guaranteed that all the information collected in this study is strictly confidential and will not bear any personal details that may identify me.

I have read the participant information and agree to take part in this study.

Please tick to confirm the above

Appendix F

Profiles which were presented in the Study 1 and Study 2 in two different orders.



Appendix G

The Ambivalent Ageism Scale

(Cary, L. A., Chasteen, A. L., & Remedios, J. (2017). The ambivalent ageism scale: Developing and validating a scale to measure benevolent and hostile ageism. *The Gerontologist*, 57(2), e27-36.)

Consider these statements, then determine extent to which you (1) strongly disagree to (7) strongly agree.

1. It is good to tell old people that they are too old to do certain things; otherwise they might get their feelings hurt when they eventually fail.
2. Even if they want to, old people shouldn't be allowed to work because they have already paid their debt to society.
3. Even if they want to, old people shouldn't be allowed to work because they are fragile and may get sick.
4. It is good to speak slowly to old people because it may take them a while to understand things that are said to them.
5. People should shield older adults from sad news because they are easily moved to tears.
6. Older people need to be protected from the harsh realities of society.
7. It is helpful to repeat things to old people because they rarely understand the first time.
8. Even though they do not ask for help, older people should always be offered help.
9. Even if they do not ask for help, old people should be helped with their groceries.
10. Most old people interpret innocent remarks or acts as being ageist.
11. Old people are too easily offended.
12. Old people exaggerate the problems they have at work.
13. Old people are a drain on the health care system and the economy.

Note: Items from 1 to 9 measures benevolent ageism and items from 10 to 13 measures hostile ageism. The mean score of benevolent ageism items and the mean score of hostile ageism items were used as benevolent and hostile ageism scores of participants.

Appendix H

Right Wing Authoritarianism Scale

(Altemeyer, B. (1998). The other “authoritarian personality”. In *Advances in experimental social psychology*, 30, pp. 47-92). Academic Press.)

This survey is also investigating public opinion on a variety of social issues. You will probably find that you agree with some of the statements, and disagree with others. Please indicate the extent to which you very strongly disagree (-4) to very strongly agree (4) to each statement below:

1. The established authorities generally turn out to be right about things, while the radicals and protestors are usually just “loud mouths” showing off their ignorance.
2. Women should have to promise to obey their husbands when they get married.
3. Our country desperately needs a mighty leader who will do what has to be done to destroy the radical new ways and sinfulness that are ruining us.
4. Gays and lesbians are just as healthy and moral as anybody else.
5. It is always better to trust the judgment of the proper authorities in government and religion than to listen to the noisy rabble-rousers in our society who are trying to create doubt in people’s minds.
6. Atheists and others who have rebelled against the established religions are no doubt every bit as good and virtuous as those who attend church regularly.
7. The only way our country can get through the crisis ahead is to get back to our traditional values, put some tough leaders in power, and silence the troublemakers spreading bad ideas.
8. There is absolutely nothing wrong with nudist camps.
9. Our country needs free thinkers who have the courage to defy traditional ways, even if this upsets many people.
10. Our country will be destroyed someday if we do not smash the perversions eating away at our moral fiber and traditional beliefs.
11. Everyone should have their own lifestyle, religious beliefs, and sexual preferences, even if it makes them different from everyone else.
12. The “old-fashioned ways” and the “old-fashioned values” still show the best way to live.
13. You have to admire those who challenged the law and the majority’s view by protesting for women’s abortion rights, for animal rights, or to abolish school prayer.
14. What our country really needs is a strong, determined leader who will crush evil, and take us back to our true path.
15. Some of the best people in our country are those who are challenging our government, criticizing religion, and ignoring the “normal way things are supposed to be done.”
16. God’s laws about abortion, pornography and marriage must be strictly followed before it is too late, and those who break them must be strongly punished.
17. There are many radical, immoral people in our country today, who are trying to ruin it for their own godless purposes, whom the authorities should put out of action.

18. A “woman’s place” should be wherever she wants to be. The days when women are submissive to their husbands and social conventions belong strictly in the past.
19. Our country will be great if we honor the ways of our forefathers, do what the authorities tell us to do, and get rid of the “rotten apples” who are ruining everything.
20. There is no “one right way” to live life; everybody has to create their own way.
21. Homosexuals and feminists should be praised for being brave enough to defy “traditional family values.”
22. This country would work a lot better if certain groups of troublemakers would just shut up and accept their group’s traditional place in society.

Note: All item scores were recoded as 1-9. The first two items were not added into the analysis because they are presented for warm up. Items 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 21 were reversed coded. The mean score of items were used as RWA score in analysis.



Appendix I

Social Dominance Orientation (SDO₇) Scale

(Ho, A. K., Sidanius, J., Kteily, N., Sheehy-Skeffington, J., Pratto, F., Henkel, K. E., Foels, R., & Stewart, A. L. (2015). The nature of social dominance orientation: Theorizing and measuring preferences for intergroup inequality using the new SDO₇ scale. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 109(6), 1003-1028.)

To what extent do you strongly oppose (1) or strongly favour (7) each idea below.

Pro-trait dominance:

1. Some groups of people must be kept in their place.
2. It's probably a good thing that certain groups are at the top and other groups are at the bottom.
3. An ideal society requires some groups to be on top and others to be on the bottom.
4. Some groups of people are simply inferior to other groups.

Con-trait dominance:

5. Groups at the bottom are just as deserving as groups at the top.
6. No one group should dominate in society.
7. Groups at the bottom should not have to stay in their place.
8. Group dominance is a poor principle.

Pro-trait anti-egalitarianism:

9. We should not push for group equality.
10. We shouldn't try to guarantee that every group has the same quality of life.
11. It is unjust to try to make groups equal.
12. Group equality should not be our primary goal.

Con-trait anti-egalitarianism:

13. We should work to give all groups an equal chance to succeed.
14. We should do what we can to equalize conditions for different groups.
15. No matter how much effort it takes, we ought to strive to ensure that all groups have the same chance in life.
16. Group equality should be our ideal.

Note: Items which were labelled as con-trait were reverse-coded before analysing and the mean score of items were used as SDO Score in the analysis.

Appendix J

DEBRIEFING: Voting Behaviour and Evaluations about Political Leaders

Thank you for your participation to our study. This study is investigating the effect of age stereotypes on evaluations of political leaders and voting behaviour. Many people have stereotypes about different ages and based on these stereotypes they can probably imagine a stereotypical image of an old person or a young person. Although these stereotypes can change in different situations, people can make judgements or evaluations about other people according to these stereotypes. We want to see whether these stereotypes have an impact on preferences in politics.

In this experiment you were presented two political candidates. The profiles of these candidates were defined with different traits that are associated with older or younger politicians. We asked you to choose one of them as a Member of Parliament and evaluate these politicians in terms of their leadership potential and experience etc. We also evaluate your perception of age whether this preference have an effect on your voting behaviour. In the last part of questionnaires, we asked you about different social issues and your political orientations as these may also affect your political choices.

All the information we collected in this study will be confidential, and there will be no way of identifying your responses in the data archive. We are not interested in any one individual's responses; we want to look at the general patterns that emerge when the data are aggregated together.

If you have any questions or issues, you are welcome to contact the researchers via Prolific or email them, Ayça Aksu (aa2019@kent.ac.uk), Elif Darici (ed361@kent.ac.uk) or Supervisor Dr. Hannah J. Swift (H.J.Swift@kent.ac.uk).

If you have any ethical complaints or concerns about this research you can direct these, in writing to the Chair of the Psychology Research Ethics Committee of University of Kent by email at: psychethics@kent.ac.uk.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.



Appendix K

VOTING BEHAVIOUR AND EVALUATIONS ABOUT POLITICAL LEADERS

We are interested in understanding how people evaluate different political leaders.

It will take around 15 minutes to participate in this study.

In this study you will be presented with profiles of two political candidates in two different scenarios and asked to evaluate them, and asked which candidate you would vote for.

Please take your time to complete the questionnaire, failure to correctly answer the attention check may invalidate your response and your payment.

Your data will be kept secure, private and confidential. To ensure anonymity, only enter your Prolific Academic ID. This will be used to identify your data should you wish to withdraw. Collected data will be destroyed upon your request to withdraw. If you decide to withdraw midway through the questionnaire, simply close the web browser and email the researchers for a debriefing about the study. Your responses will not be recorded if you withdraw from the study. Data collected in this study will be analysed by the researchers, but may also be available to others in the School of Psychology. However, no information will be passed on or shared to other third parties. This study has been approved by the School of Psychology Ethics panel: ID: 201815254236204852

If you have any complaints or concerns about this research, you can direct these, in writing, to the Chair of the Psychology Research Ethics Committee of University of Kent by email at: psychethics@kent.ac.uk.

If you have any questions or issues please contact the researchers via Prolific or email them Ayça Aksu (aa2019@kent.ac.uk), Elif Darici (ed361@kent.ac.uk) or Dr. Hannah J. Swift (H.J.Swift@kent.ac.uk).

Volunteer Consent

Please read the following consent statements carefully and tick the confirmation box at the bottom of the page, which indicates that you fully consent to participate in this study.

I have been adequately informed about the nature of this study and received full information about my ethical rights as a participant and I have been given opportunity to ask questions.

I fully understand that the decision to participate is up to me and that I can change my mind and withdraw from the study at any time without it affecting how I am treated in the future. I also understand that I am not obliged to answer any questions in this questionnaire that make me uncomfortable.

I have been guaranteed that all the information collected in this study is strictly confidential and will not bear any personal details that may identify me.

I have read the participant information and agree to take part in this study.

Please tick to confirm the above

Appendix L

DEBRIEFING: Voting Behaviour and Evaluations of Political Leaders

Thank you for your participation to our study. This study is investigating the effect of age stereotypes on evaluations of political leaders and voting behaviour. Many people have stereotypes about different ages. Based on these stereotypes they can probably imagine a stereotypical image of an old person or a young person. Although these stereotypes can be varied in different situations, people can make judgements or evaluations about other people according to these stereotypes. We want to see whether these stereotypes have an impact on preferences in politics.

In this experiment you were presented two political candidates. The profiles of these candidates were defined with different traits that are associated with older or younger politicians. We asked you to choose one of them as a Member of Parliament in different contexts and evaluate these politicians in terms of their leadership potential and experience etc. We also asked you about different social issues and your political orientations as these may also affect your political choices. At the end of the study you were presented a questionnaire which measures your perceptions towards different age groups.

In this experiment, we were trying to examine how age stereotypes interact to affect political preferences as well as exploring the choice of political candidate in particular contexts which are stereotypically congruent or incongruent with age. We anticipated that people will choose older candidate in a situation which is congruent with "stereotypically old leader" and younger candidate in a situation which is congruent with "stereotypically young leader".

All the information we collected in this study will be confidential, and there will be no way of identifying your responses in the data archive. We are not interested in any one individual's

responses; we want to look at the general patterns that emerge when the data are aggregated together.

If you have any questions or issues, you are welcome to contact the researchers via Prolific or email them, Ayça Aksu (aa2019@kent.ac.uk), Elif Darici (ed361@kent.ac.uk) or Supervisor Dr. Hannah J. Swift (H.J.Swift@kent.ac.uk).

If you have any ethical complaints or concerns about this research you can direct these, in writing to the Chair of the Psychology Research Ethics Committee of University of Kent by email at: psychethics@kent.ac.uk.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.

