SUMMARY

Motivation
- Understanding the processes of decision-making and healthcare-seeking in the event of sickness
- Contributing to the development of an integrative theoretical framework of illness behavior

Research Questions
- What are the healthcare needs of older people in Germany?
- How do social networks and the institutional features of the healthcare system influence the processes of decision-making and healthcare-seeking?

Data
- Representative survey data on people above age 65 living in Germany

Funding
- The project is funded by the DFG from November 2012 to October 2015

THEORETICAL MODEL

Stage 1: Logic of situation
- Referee review
- Membrane
- Social structure
- Healthcare system

Stage 2: Logic of selection
- Referee review
- Membrane
- Social structure
- Healthcare system

Stage 3: Logic of aggregation
- Referee review
- Membrane
- Social structure
- Healthcare system

Based on the Theory of Frame selection (e.g., Kreutinger, Clemens, 2002: "The Definition of the Situation and the Variable Rationality of Actors: A General Model of Action." Zeitschrift für Soziologie 36(3):344-61)

RESEARCH DESIGN

Sampling
- A representative sample of persons aged 65 and older
- Effective sample size: 2,000
- Three-stage probability sampling

Data collection mode
- Computer-assisted personal interview (CAP) of 60 minutes
- Computer-assisted follow-up interview of 15 minutes two weeks after the personal interview
- Four-week health diaries for a sub-sample of 50 respondents
- All data will be collected by a survey institute

Instruments applied
- Standard-diagnostics
- Health
- Somatic symptoms
- Health beliefs
- Healthcare utilization
- Self-care
- Epigenetic networks
- Healthcare system characteristics
- Use of scales from existing surveys & development of new scales

EXEMPLARY ITEMS

Symptoms
- How much have you been bothered by the following symptoms over the past four weeks?
- We capture a variety of symptoms such as headaches, back pain, pain in the arms or hands, dizziness, shortness of breath, and fatigue.

Healthcare-seeking behavior
- What do the following people suggest you do?
- We capture a variety of care strategies, e.g., alternative healthcare providers and self-care

Social Network
- What did the person whom you talked about [THE Symptoms] recommend?
- We capture a variety of care strategies, e.g., alternative healthcare providers and self-care

THE TEAM AND CONTACT

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