



The bigger picture: Strengths, limitations and recommendations from a photo-elicitation study among older adults with a low socioeconomic status

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Background

Aim of the study: explore the positive health perceptions of older adults with a low SES. Gain insight into the awareness of participants to self-manage aspects of physical, social and mental health.

Method: researcher-driven photo-elicitation.

Aim of the presentation: present the research strategy step-by-step. Describe limitations, strengths and recommendations for further research.



Photo-elicitation interviews?

Using photographs in an interview taken/founded by the researcher or participant (Pain, 2012; Harper, 2002).

Few studies already used photo-elicitation for older adults or for individuals with a low SES (Baker & Wang, 2006; Grosselink & Myllykangas, 2007; Hanson, Guell, Jones, 2016; Novek, Morris-Oswald & Menec, 2012; Prevo, Stessen, Kremers, Wassenberg & Jansen, 2018; Schwingel et al., 2016).

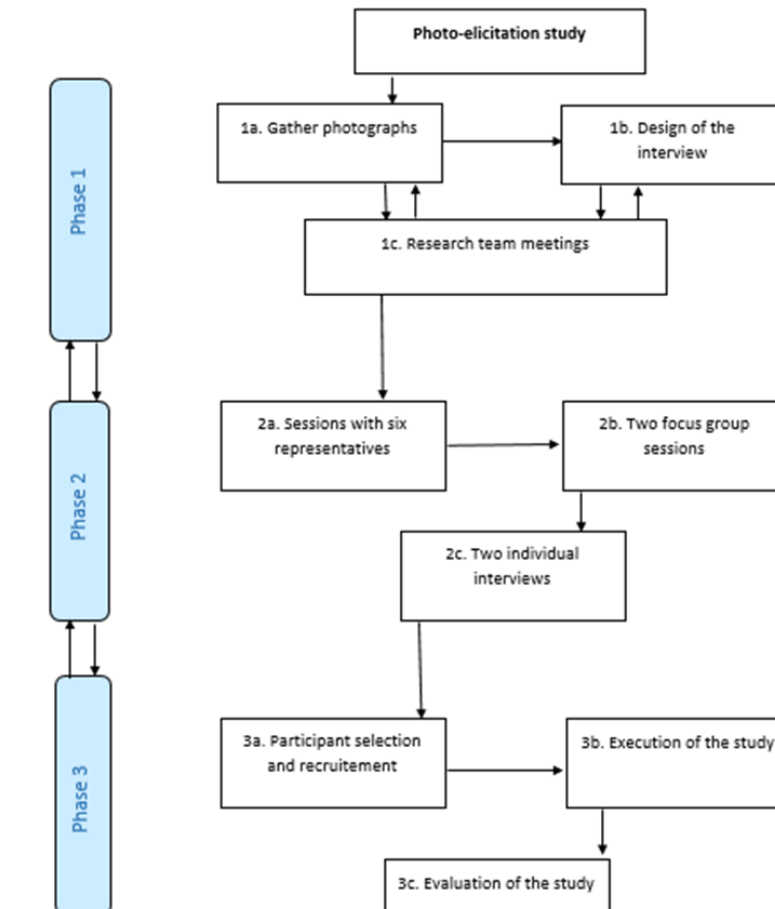
Participant-driven photographs are more commonly used.

Very little is known about how to develop and execute researcher-driven photo-elicitation interviews with low SES older adults.

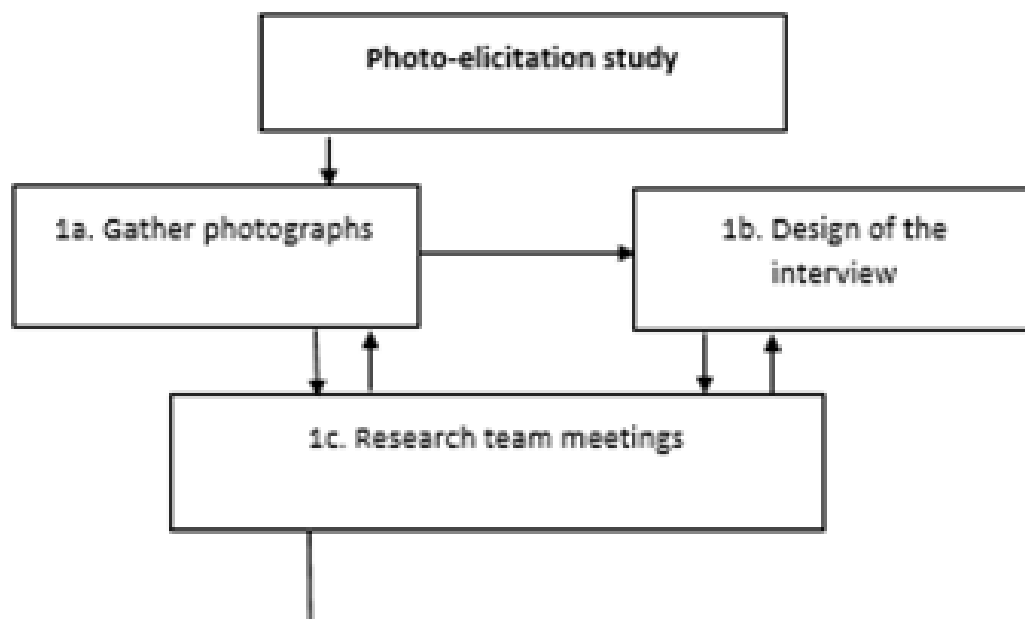




Research strategy



Phase 1





1a Gather photographs

Gather photographs on websites without portrait rights such as Pixabay, Shutterstock and Pexels.

Selection criteria: older adult and a healthy and/or unhealthy situation in the domain of physical, social or mental health.





1b Design of the interview

Introductory question, to invite the participant to reflect on the topic of the study, and additional questions if necessary (e.g., Bugos, Frasso, FitzGerald, True, Adachi-Mejia & Cannuscio, 2014).

Introductory question:

Can you tell me something about this photograph?

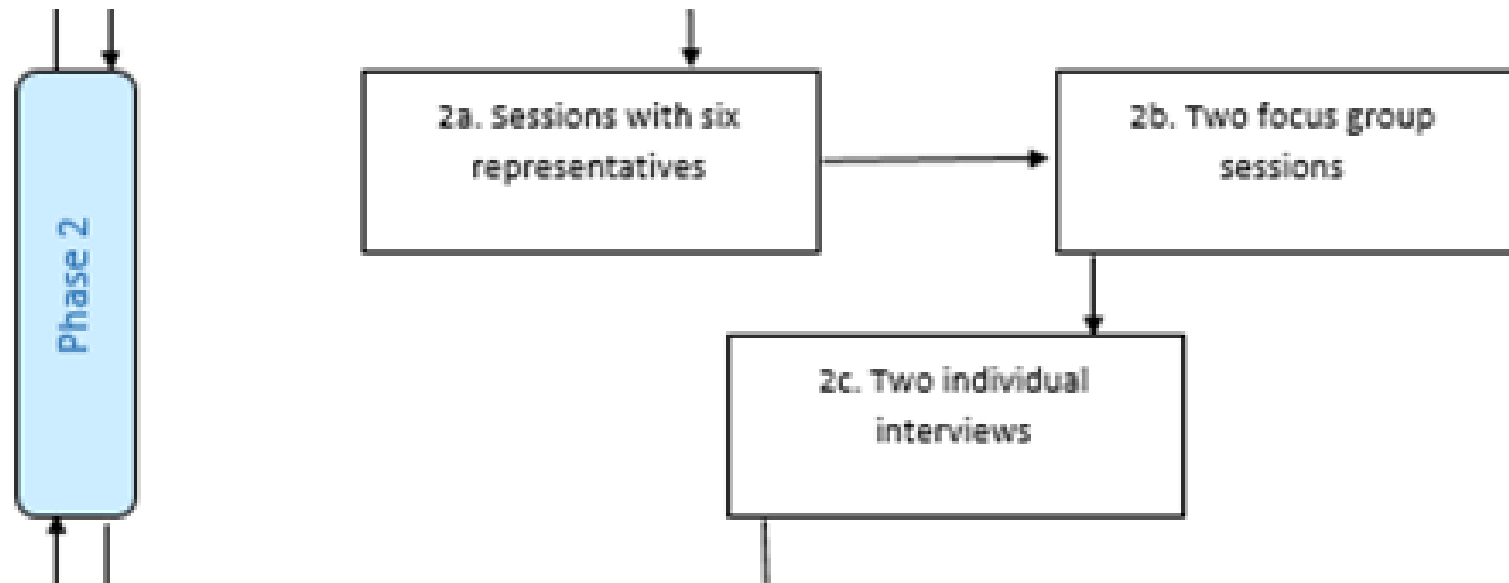
Additional questions:

Is the situation in the photograph healthy?

Does the situation shown in the photograph have anything to do with health for you?

Are the people displayed in the photograph healthy?

Phase 2





2a Testing the photographs

6 sessions with representatives of the target group





2b,c Testing the photographs

2 focus group sessions and 2 individual interviews.





What is the perception of older individuals with a lower socioeconomic status on positive health?

Social health



Mental health

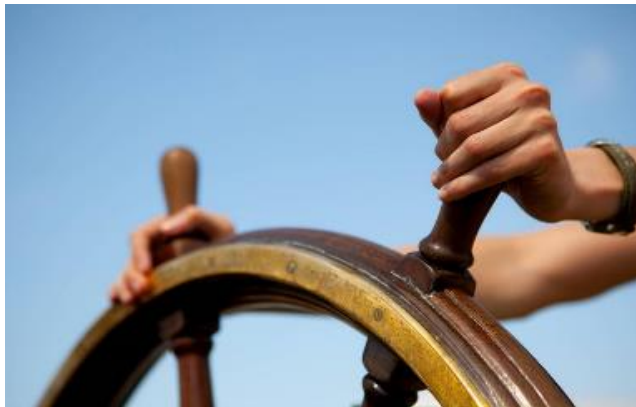


Physical health

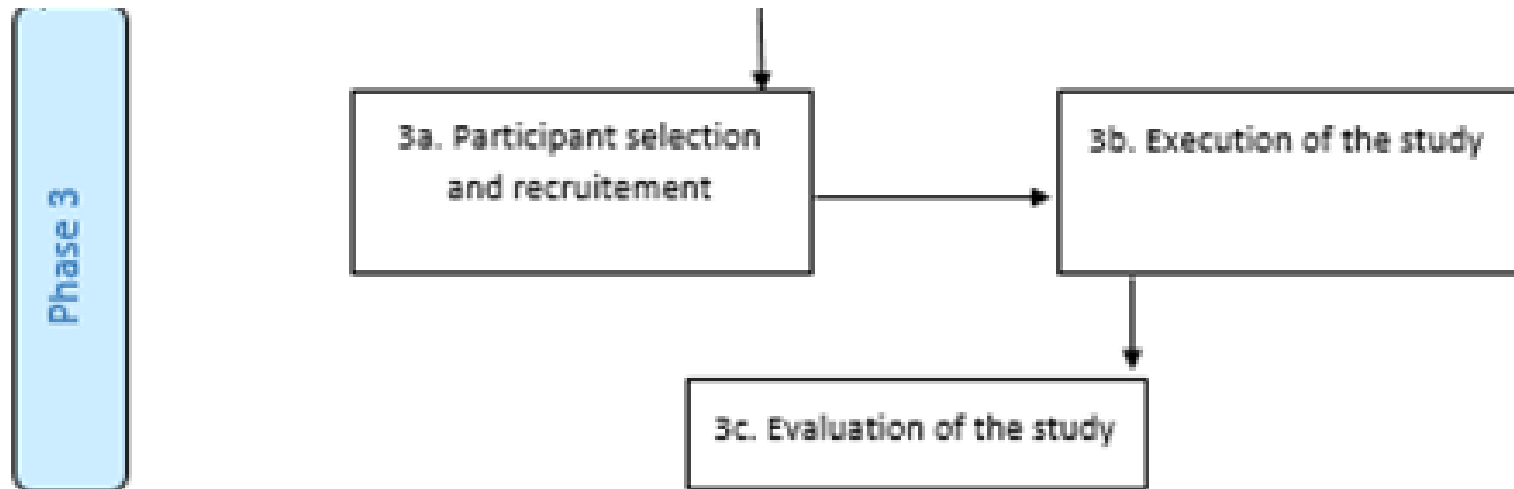




Do low SES older adults perceive a sense of control over their physical, social and/or mental health?



Phase 3





3b Execution of the study

Brief information about the study

Reflecting on the ten photographs

Helm assignment

Questions about demographics

Evaluation of the method

Debriefing





3c Evaluation of the study

All participants' feedback: interesting, enjoyable, a nice experience. And easier to talk about health.

Two participants found the second exercise (with the helm) difficult.



"You know about what you need to talk, it helps with the conversation"- Participant 4 photo-elicitation interview from the main study.



Strenghts

Transparant study process

Trustworthiness and replicability

In collaboration with the target group and professionals

Positive evaluation of the target group of the use of this method





Limitations

Framing with the use of preselected photographs

Helm assignment too abstract

Information about the study's purpose not clear enough?





Recommendations

1. When using researcher-driven photo-elicitation, work closely together with the target group throughout the research process.
2. When in doubt about the adequacy of the photographs or assignments for the target group, more testing is needed.
3. Find a good balance between informing participants properly while avoiding to frame participants' associations before the start of the interview.



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Thank you!



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