

Political Attitudes and the Formation Path of Political Preference of the 20s in South Korea

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Through an empirical research on the political attitude of the 20s using data from the Korean General Social Survey and the World Values Survey, this study demonstrates that different generations of South Korea have noticeable distinctions of direct/indirect effects in their detailed formation path of political preferences. First, far from the prevailing social perception, the recent trend of the 20s' political disposition can be characterized as moving toward the political neutrality, and this increase in the number of the political middle corresponds with the decrease in conservatives as well as progressives. Second, the typical response to the political landscape by the 20s is one of political apathy that is strongly related to their generational political attitude. The 20s' political apathy can also be attributed to their highly materialistic value orientation, coupled with their alienated and subordinate political attitude. Third, the 20s' political apathy may be attributed to self-doubt at the individual level and the skepticism of the generation as a whole with respect to the extent of their political influence. The 20s' formation path of political preferences shows that lower political efficacy directly leads to more political apathy, and the lack of interpersonal trust, which typically implies civic trust to the community, leads to more political apathy.

Key words: political apathy, depoliticization, sociology of generation, the 20s, young generation, political preference, political socialization

The Elderly's Experience of Ageism

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Purpose: This article aimed to identify the elderly's experiences of ageism. **Method:** Using phenomenological approach for qualitative research, the participants were 10 elderly people in the C and S city. The data was analyzed by using phenomenological methodology by Colaizzi. **Results:** The scheme consisted of 5 theme clusters and 11 themes of the 22 significant statements. Five theme clusters were derived from the data. They were feeling of isolation due to lack of communication, being rejected due to a negative image, neglected and feeling fearful, declining self-esteem due to indifference and feeling worthless due to excessive control. **Conclusion:** This study may suggest some information in reducing the prevalence of ageism in our society and need to change a social perception about older people. Also it may provide data to use in the development the useful guidelines for enhancing quality of their life and educational programs for dealing in ageism.

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Key words: ageism, elderly, qualitative research

A Study on the Decision-Making Process of Long-term Care Insurance: Based on Political Network Theory

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Using the theory of political networks, this study examines the roles, interests, and interactions among politicians, executive bureaucrats, interest groups, and NGOs and the influence they have on the decision-making of the insurance system. The results are as follows. First, politicians were inclined to make decisions that were favorable to acquiring the expertise and support from civil groups. Second, executive bureaucrats had more expertise than politicians and more actual authority than interest groups or NGOs in the decision-making process. A significant part of the bureaucrats' intention was reflected in the decisions based on these advantages. Third, the biggest advantages of civil actors, such as interest groups and NGOs, were professional expertise, information, and influence on the election process. Based on these advantages, civil actors provided professional knowledge and information to bureaucratic and political actors, and politician, especially, strived to reflect their interests.

Key words: long-term care insurance, decision-making, networks, actors

Elderlys' Leisure Activities and Needs in Rural and Fishery Villages.

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This comparative study scrutinizes the leisure activities and leisure needs among 712 60 years-or-older residents living in the rural and fishery villages of Korea. First, most leisure activities are inactive, the most popular being watching TV among both the rural and fishery elderly. Second, the fishery elderly consume more time and money compared to the rural elderly. Third, there are more obstacles preventing the fishery elderly from participating in leisure activities than the rural elderly, such as lack of time, money, access to public transportation, information and announcements, and a diverse pool of activities, leading to less satisfaction among the fishery elderly. Fourth, both the fishery and rural elderly want to join in health-related leisure program in the near future, and prefer the village center as the place for performing the program. Based on the above mentioned results, more leisure support programs and systems are needed in the fishery villages. At the same time, health-related leisure programs should be developed and delivered to both rural and fishery villages in order to meet the elderly's needs. Furthermore, the central government should take a major role for setting a nationwide leisure system and provide positive affirmative leisure policies to local governments with low-budget capacities like fishery villages.

Key words: elderly leisure activities and needs, leisure satisfaction, rural village, fishery village, regional study