

Older People May Do Poorly on Cognitive Tests Partly Because They Don't Care About the Tests

July 30, 2014

New York Magazine:

Tom Hess, a University of North Carolina professor and author of a new study in *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, is trying to understand a strange finding: Even though older adults show declines when they are given tests of cognitive function, they often continue working (and living) at a high level that doesn't appear to reflect much of a decline. What, then, aren't the tests capturing, and why?

At issue, argues Hess in the study's press release, is the difference between "cognitive performance," which refers to performance "under test conditions," and "cognitive functioning," which "refers to an individual's ability to deal with mental tasks in daily life"

Read the whole story: [New York Magazine](#)