

A Systematic Literature Review Of The Relationship Between Demographic Ageing And Subjective Wellbeing: The Role Of Religion And Migration Background

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Abstract

This systematic literature review explores the relationship between demographic ageing and subjective well-being (SWB), with a focus on the roles of religion and migration background. Demographic ageing, driven by declining birth rates and increased life expectancy, poses significant challenges and opportunities for societies worldwide. SWB, encompassing cognitive and affective life evaluations, becomes a crucial dimension as populations age. This study investigates the¹ multifaceted nature of SWB, considering factors such as health, income, social relationships, and societal roles, which evolve with age. Poor health is linked to reduced SWB, and the growing elderly population presents healthcare and welfare challenges. Social interactions and social bonds play pivotal roles in enhancing SWB, while transitions in income conditions during retirement affect mental health. Religion and migration experiences further complicate the relationship between ageing and SWB, with varying influences reported in existing studies.

Keywords: Ageing, Well-being, Religion, Migration.

1. Introduction

Demographic ageing refers to an increasing proportion of the population in older age groups, which may be due to a decline in birth rates and an increase in life expectancy (Rees, 2003). It is a phenomenon of global significance (Stockdale, 2011), led by continuous progress in healthcare systems, advancements in scientific research on diseases, and the development of economic systems (Kinsella & Phillips, 2005). Once humans age, the quality of life is compromised as economic stability decreases, social isolation intensifies, and the likelihood of developing diseases and experiencing disabilities increases (Mudey, 2011). Therefore, while in the 20th century, the predominant challenge was to increase life expectancy, the 21st century observes a greater focus on improving the quality of life (Rejeski et al., 2005). The emphasis on improving Subjective Well-Being (SWB) in old age is becoming an increasingly relevant topic in the scientific literature (Chaurasia et al., 2018; Wortman & Lewis, 2021).

SWB is defined as an essential part of human life, referring to a "cognitive and affective evaluation that a person makes of their life" (Diener et al., 2012, p.1), expressing the individual's satisfaction derived from their existence (Han, 2015; Diener et al., 2018). Currently, there is a consensus on the multidimensional nature of well-being; some fundamental indicators include health status, income conditions, and social networks. However, most existing research on the relationship between demographic ageing and subjective well-being has primarily focused on these dimensions, neglecting other factors that play a significant role in influencing the well-being of individuals in old age, such as

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religious orientation (Ellison, 1991; Wnuk & Marcinkowski, 2014) and migratory background (Bartram, 2013; Hajdu & Hajdu, 2016).

The document aims to (1) analyse the well-being of old-age individuals through a systematic literature review and (2) assess the correlation between SWB, migratory background, and religion. To this end, we explore the underlying theories and methodologies employed. Section 2 provides a theoretical background on the relationship between SWB, ageing, migratory background, and religion. Section 3 outlines the data and methodology used. In Section 4, the results of the analysis are detailed. The study concludes with Sections 5 and 6, providing a discussion and conclusions of the analysis.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1. SWB Ageing and Migration

In recent decades, there has been a significant and consistent increase in international migration (Jiang et al., 2019; Hossin, 2020). Elderly migrants are propelled by diverse motivations to establish a new life in a foreign country. These inclinations range from the aspiration to enhance their overall quality of life and pursue a more affordable living arrangement in a sunnier climate to escaping challenges prevalent in their home country (Gustafson, 2001; Hall & Hardill, 2016). Some seek refuge in peaceful nations, distancing themselves from the pressures of globalisation. In contrast, others yearn for the peace and serenity found in countries they have explored during their leisurely holidays (Mrtín et al., 2022).

Despite similarities in the factors influencing ageing processes among different populations, migrants are exposed to specific risks such as a more disadvantaged socioeconomic position, potential health hazards, cultural barriers, and psychosocial discrimination that can impact their quality of life (Kristiansen et al., 2016). Turning old age under a migratory background is a double trap (Cela & Fokkema, 2017). Language barriers, difficulties adapting to the climate, and the loss of social contacts represent additional challenges that elderly immigrants must face (Barrio et al., 2008). The lack of language skills constitutes an obstacle, making access to healthcare services complex and playing a fundamental role in pursuing well-being (Priebe et al., 2011). Language barriers can also affect individuals' sense of belonging, hindering the establishment of social relationships (Pot et al., 2020). A study conducted in Canada highlighted that elderly Chinese immigrants showed a higher rate of loneliness compared to native Canadian seniors (Wu & Penning, 2015). Therefore, their well-being could improve through the creation of social ties, acknowledging the essential contribution of diversified social capital, which becomes crucial in promoting a more prosperous, healthy, and satisfying ageing process (Bennett et al., 2006; Ertel et al., 2008; Giles et al., 2012).

Previous studies have demonstrated a correlation between social participation and a better quality of life, with the belief that life is worth living (Golden et al., 2009). Social engagement activities reduce mortality in old age (Bennett, 2002). In particular, belonging to social groups plays a crucial role in promoting the integration of elderly immigrants, contributing to their well-being (Lee et al., 2020). Moreover, the unfamiliarity with the way of life in the new society may make it difficult for elderly immigrants to feel an integral part of the host community, highlighting the sense of "ghorbat" as a characteristic of life in a foreign country (Emami & Torres, 2005).

Elderly immigrants are shaped by social, cultural, economic, and political influences present in their country of origin while confronting and adapting to the new environment (Castañeda et al., 2015). Most empirical research on the well-being of migrants highlights lower satisfaction compared to the native population: settling in a new country and immigrant integration often go hand in hand with feelings of pain, melancholy, and despair (Safi, 2010). However, the gap in life satisfaction between migrants and native residents seems to persist even after an extended period in the destination country due to discriminatory episodes (Verkuyten, 2008). It has been identified that the decline in health and, consequently, well-being over time can be explained through migration-related

processes and mechanisms, such as acculturation, stress resulting from adapting to new environments, and socioeconomic disadvantages (Lee et al., 2013).

2.2. SWB Ageing and Religion

Old age is frequently perceived as a stage characterised by regression, frailty, and the decline of both physical and mental capacities, often described as a diminishing quality of life (Hansen & Slagsvold, 2012). Scholars argue that physical health and economic conditions contribute to subjective well-being (George, 2010; O'rand, 2006), while other perspectives emphasise that active engagement in society and social involvement are equally important for achieving well-being (Rowe & Kahn, 1998). These approaches have been criticised for neglecting the role of spirituality (Crowther et al., 2002) and internal factors, such as religion, that are crucial in preserving subjective well-being, especially in situations of physical health deterioration (Ardelt, 2016).

The concept of religiosity is manifested in the degree to which individuals connect meaningfully with an established religious faith (Wink & Dillon, 2003). Religiosity can also be defined as the manifestation of religious beliefs and practices, as well as the significance individuals attribute to these elements (Fehring et al., 1997). Research suggests that greater religious involvement is correlated with higher life satisfaction (Koenig et al., 1988), better physical and mental health, and an increasing sense of subjective well-being (Hoverd & Sibley, 2013).

In this context, Krause (2003) affirms that seniors who find meaning in life through religion generally show higher levels of altruism and optimism. Therefore, recent studies have identified positive associations between religiosity and subjective well-being (Greene & Yoon, 2004; Helliwell & Putnam, 2004). This correlation is particularly evident among individuals of the Christian faith (Headey & Wearing, 1992). Additionally, Berger (2011) argues that individuals, especially the elderly, inevitably encounter distressing situations, such as the presence of evil, suffering in the world, and, most significantly, the inevitable prospect of death. The author contends that religion can serve as a valuable support in facing these challenges, offering worldviews rooted in faith that provide "theodicies" for phenomena like death, which the elderly must confront.

A limited amount of research also highlights a negative correlation between religious participation and SWB. An example of such a perspective is represented by a study conducted by Brown and Tierney (2006) on the elderly Chinese population, which uses a multivariate logistic approach to provide a comprehensive understanding of the relationship in question. The authors argue that evidence suggests that individuals engaged in daily religious practices are likelier to report life satisfaction than those who participate less frequently in religious activities. Moreover, those who never participate in religious activities have significantly higher probabilities of reporting greater life satisfaction. This suggests the presence of a negative relationship between involvement in religious activities and well-being.

3. Data and Methodology

This study follows a specific roadmap for conducting a systematic literature review. Firstly, the database utilised to investigate the impact of religion and migratory experiences on the intricate relationship between demographic ageing and subjective well-being (SWB) is Scopus. The database allows the input of combined terms using Boolean language in the search box (Schotten et al., 2017). A total of 250 articles are obtained using the query TITLE – ABS – KEY (Subjective Wellbeing AND Ageing AND (Migration OR Religion) on Scopus. TITLE-ABS-KEY highlights the terms to be searched in the articles' title, abstract, or keywords. This search aims to identify academic articles that explore the intricate connection between the SWB and ageing, with religious and migration backgrounds. The study includes all relevant articles available as of the final search date (November 2023). Regarding document type and language, the selection predominantly comprises English-language journal articles. For each document, additional information is extracted: Author, Title, Year, and Journal of publication. However, limiting the quantity of literature determined by the search is necessary to only relevant documents. To achieve

this, each of the 250 extracted documents is meticulously reviewed to ensure alignment with the analysed topic. Many documents were removed after meticulous analysis as they were not aligned with the research topic. From this systematic cleaning process, a final database is obtained, containing 96 articles, of which 61 address the relationship between SBW, ageing, and religion, and 35 pertain to the connection between these topics and migratory background. Therefore, the collected articles are examined for a temporal (research evolution), terminological, geographical, and methodological analysis.

4. Results

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the connections between author citations in the analysed documents. The size of each circle assigned to an author reflects the number of citations received. The tool used for visualising these connections is Vosviewer, software that enables the creation of maps and visualisation of bibliometric network data, exploring citation relationships, bibliographic links, and co-citations (Romano, 2018). In particular, Figure 1 illustrates the citation network among researchers who have explored the connection between SWB, ageing and migratory background. The work of Emami & Torres (2005b) on analysing the well-being of elderly Iranian immigrants in Sweden stands out with a robust citation network. Other notable authors include Khan (2012), Knodel (2015), and Haslam (2022). Specifically, Haslam et al. (2022) focus on challenges related to elderly migrants, primarily concentrating on the effects of integration and social support on their well-being. On the other hand, Kahn et al. (2012) adopt an interdisciplinary approach to study the health, the status of the healthcare sector and the implications for the migrant population in Sub-Saharan Africa. Finally, Knodel and Pothisiri (2015) also present a significant citation network, analysing and comparing the well-being and lifestyles of elderly migrants in Myanmar and Thailand.

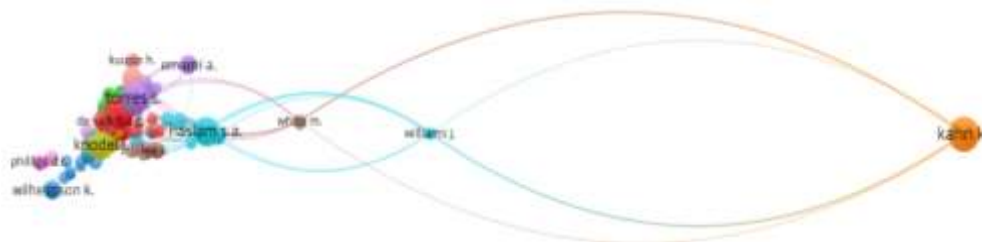


Figure 1: Network of citing authors with Migration.

Figure 2 depicts the results of the citation network among authors between SWB, Ageing and Religion. Koenig (2020) presents a significant citation network regarding the relationship between the analysed topics, highlighting that religious faith can be a crucial resource for the well-being and psychological well-being of the elderly, especially during vulnerable periods such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The examination of the influence of religion on psychological well-being, undertaken by Levin and Chatters (1998), also possesses a considerable citation network. From the size of the circle, it is evident that the articles by Krause (1992, 1993, 1999) have a robust citation network. Krause (1992) investigates the role of the church and religious practices in situations of psychological stress within the older black community. Furthermore, Krause (1993) is engaged in devising and validating a multidimensional measurement model for the religiosity of the elderly. Moreover, the author has devoted her interest to exploring how religious uncertainty may impact the well-being of the elderly, assessing whether it may or may not compromise their overall health. The existence of these connections highlights the contributions of these authors to the research topic.

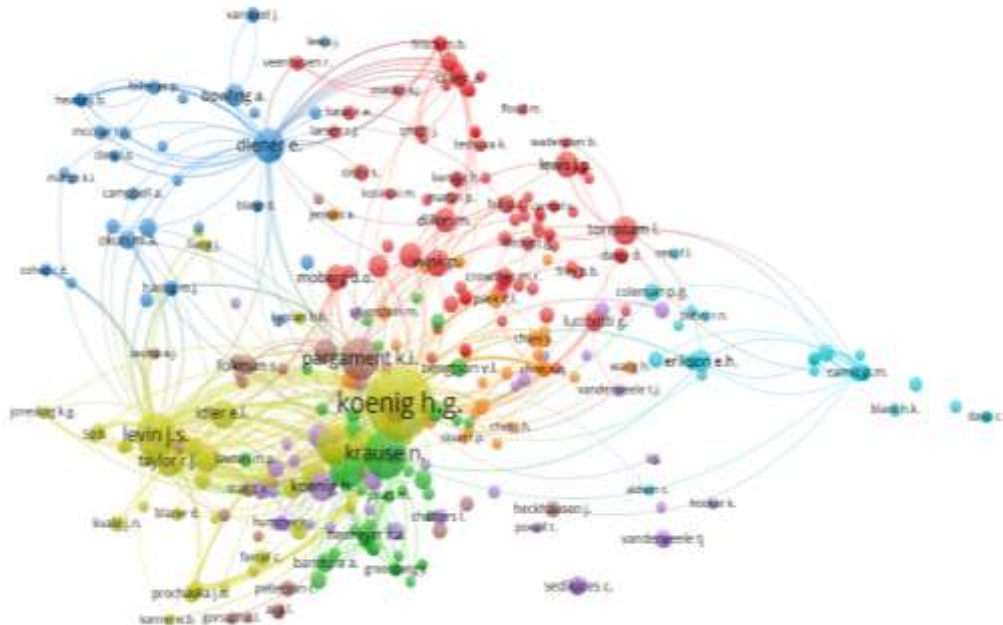


Figure 2: Network of citing authors with Religion.

Analysing the research landscape, Figure 3 illustrates the document count across various countries. The United States represents the most prolific country in studying the influence of religion and migratory experiences in the relationship between demographic ageing and SWB, followed by China (9) and Australia (7). Research efforts in this field are also concentrated in countries such as Canada (5), the United Kingdom (4), India (3), Turkey (3), Norway (2), and Finland (2). However, it is interesting to note that in most European countries, there are few studies on SWB, ageing, migratory background, and religion.

Area of study

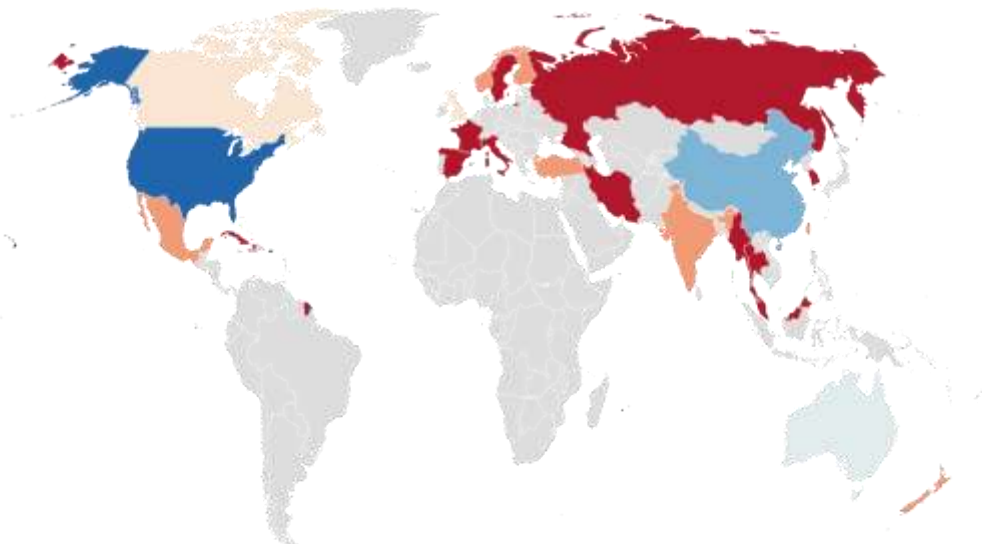


Figure 3: Area of study

The analysis of the annual number of publications related to the examined dataset is shown in Figure 4. In particular, the years that experienced a sudden increase in scientific production are 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 concerning religion, while in the period 2018-2020, the literature is primarily focused on migration background. In general, it is observed

that events such as terrorist attacks, wars, economic crises, and health emergencies can stimulate scientific production in specific fields (Carvalho et al., 2023; Herre & Roser, 2023).

The increase in the number of publications between 2000 and 2003 could be linked to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 (Byers & Jones, 2007). The rise in research activity between 2018 and 2020 can be directly attributed to the European migration crisis that occurred from 2015 to 2018 (Verleyen & Beckers, 2023). This crisis led to tensions and tragedies and transformed the Mediterranean into a theatre of conflicts as migrants from countries like Tunisia, Libya, Nigeria, and Ethiopia sought to reach the European Union (Schmoll et al., 2015).

In 2021, scientific production decreased related to the correlation between SWB, ageing, migratory background, and religion. This trend can be attributed to the fact that researchers' attention was predominantly focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a significant global impact (de Oliveira et al., 2021). This phenomenon highlights how worldwide events and emergencies can influence the direction of scientific research, shifting the focus towards issues considered urgent and relevant in the current context.

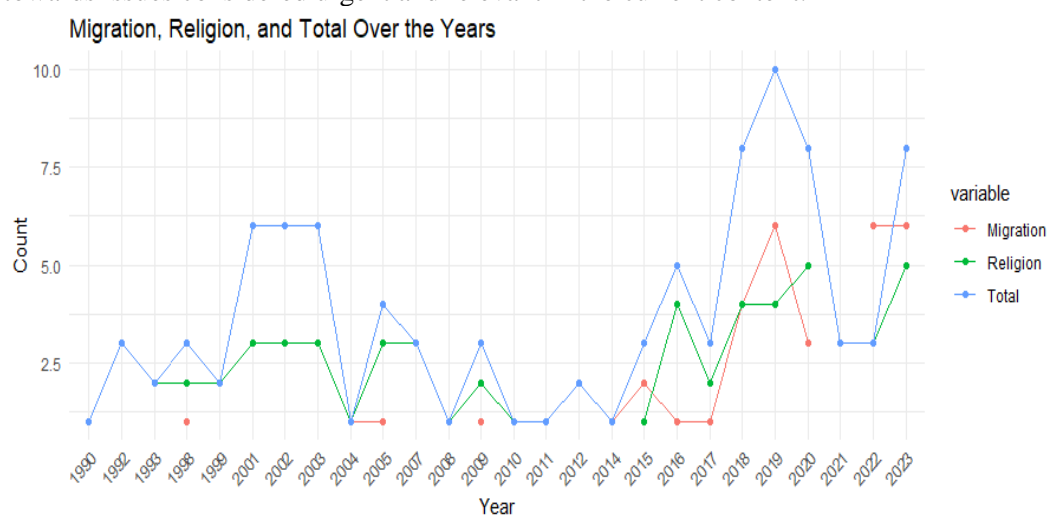


Figure 4: Papers by year and by topic

Figure 5 shows the number of documents published in each journal. Ageing and Society have the highest number of publications (8), followed by Ageing and Mental Health (4) and Gerontologist (4). Three articles are published in the following journals: American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, International Journal of Ageing and Human Development, Journal of Ageing and Health, and Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health. Additionally, Figure 5 illustrates the SCImago Journal Rank indicator, which measures the degree of scientific influence of academic journals based on the number of citations (Mañana-Rodríguez, 2015). This representation focuses on journals that have published more than one article within the interconnected topic. Most journals are Q1, which includes top or most prestigious journals, followed by a significant number placed in Q2 (Australasian Journal on Ageing, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology, Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, Perspectives in Public Health). Ageing International and International Journal of Aging and Human Development are in Q3, representing a lower tier in the journal influence ranking.

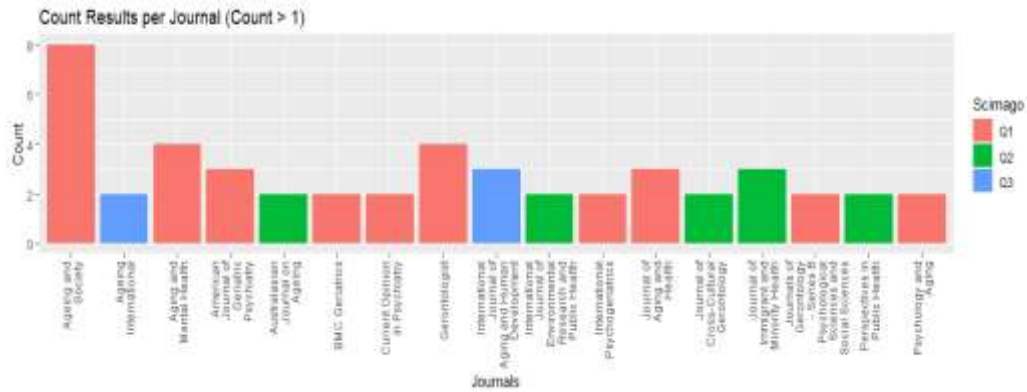


Figure 5: Frequency of Journals

Table 1 provides a summary of the number of times keywords appear in the considered documents regarding both topics under investigation. The relevance of words is determined by their frequency of occurrence in the articles. The identified and classified terms as most significant include "migration", "ageing", "spirituality", "older adults", "religion", and "well-being." However, the inclusion of keywords such as "health", "mental health", and "quality of life" clearly and specifically emphasises the interest and focus on the psychophysical aspect of the well-being of the elderly.

The appearance of keywords like "integration" suggests that research attention also focuses on understanding the challenges related to the integration of elderly migrants, highlighting possible consequences on various aspects of SWB. Terms like "wisdom" and "resilience" highlight how studies and investigations associate these internal elderly features with the spiritual dimension, influencing their well-being. Other words such as "China", "USA", "Taiwan", "Europe", and "Alaska" indicate an interest in these topics at the international level, reflecting an approach that considers a comprehensive perspective and global dynamics.

Table 1: Keywords

Keywords (Migration)	Keywords (Religion)
older men, rural (2), ethnicity (2), migration (8), health (4), services, older immigrants, social identity, integration (2), wellbeing (6), new group memberships, aging (7), local and distant care networks, information and communication technologies, social learning systems, communities of practice, Malay Muslim women, Elderly, Abductive research strategy, Sociology, Healthcare delivery, Europe, Immigrants (3), elderly immigrants, health of immigrants, civic engagement, aged, New Zealand, Asians, transnational healthcare, digital information technology, migrants, older adults (3), discrimination, solitude, emotion, age, culture (2), immigration (2), blue-collar workers, labor migration, employment policies, precarity, public health, Chinese, subjective well-being (2), correlation network, Capability, health promotion, interdisciplinary leisure interest, migration old age, peer-learning, Myanmar, filial support, old age support, wellbeing of older persons, intergenerational support (2),	wisdom (2), religiosity (4), mastery, purpose in life, old age, young adulthood, aging (9), spirituality (12), resilience (2), pilgrimage, camino, transformation, aging on the autism spectrum, self-care and autism spectrum, Physical activity and autism spectrum, nutrition and autism spectrum, Spirituality and autism spectrum, Alaska Native (2), successful aging (5), family, generativity (2), disability (2), coping strategies, active aging (3), healthy aging (2), Asian, Chinese, exercise, mental health (3), quality of life (3), qualitative (2), subjective wellbeing (3), social support, retirement, instrument approach, structural equation model, odds ratio, path analysis, religious sisters of color, subcultures, qualitative research, gerotranscendence, rural, adaptation, psychological, dementia, leisure activities, psychological theory, activity level, active ageing index, community dwelling, living in nursing home, meaning in life, mental health symptoms, older adults (7),

grandchildren, material support, assistance with ADL, Phone contact, England, English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, internal migration, later life, selective migration, late-in-life migration, explanatory model of illness, elderly Iranian immigrants, secondary analysis, culture-appropriateness, healthy ageing, primary health care, older persons, migrant status, functional/mobility impairments, India, self-rated health (2), informal support, culturally diverse aging, digital inclusion, successful aging, transnational care, Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), Refugees, Cross-cultural gerontology, personal care, filial obligations, intergenerational relations, vignettes, Italy (2), Aging perceptions, Resources, Turkish migrant, Apq-s, Sub-Saharan Africa, population pyramids, health transition, morbidity, cause of death, fertility, census, HIV, tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, households, mobility, relational well-being, the relational approach, seasonal retirement migration, the Chinese sociocultural context, elders, regional disparity, China, mood, anxiety, life satisfaction (2), older people, depression, social risk factors, Housing market, Urban land rent, Migration flows, Mortgage financing, Housing stock, out-migration, elderly parents, rural China, psychological wellbeing (2), language barrier, social support (2), LGBT, sexuality, older migrants (3), housing, sense of home, environmental mastery, intersectionality, second language proficiency

spiritual well-being (4), mortality (2), Taiwan, health (2), Indigenous, non-Indigenous, older people (2), positive adaptation, psychological well-being (3), coping, long-term care, health promotion, motivation, possible selves, wellness, life satisfaction (3), latent variable model, well-being (3), China (2), meta-analysis, heterogeneous correlation, multi-linear regression analysis, Central and Eastern Europe, Religious participation, Oldest old, religion (7), faith-based interventions, churches (2), spiritual belief, bereavement, adjustment, personal meaning, depression (2), depressive symptoms, aged, geriatrics, religion and medicine, Rehabilitation, Research, Biological evolution, compassion, emotions, personality development, spiritual assessment, spiritual distress, human development, USA, men, aged people, identity, women, meaning, culture, immigrant, ethno gerontology, death anxiety, lagged dependent variable, terror management, sub-Saharan Africa, social involvement, social services, The Netherlands, resource allocation, decision making, social values, Q-methodology

Table 2 presents a synopsis of the methodology employed in investigating the influence of religion and migratory experiences on the connection between demographic ageing and subjective well-being. Most authors favour qualitative methodologies, including interviews, qualitative observation, and case study research. Concurrently, quantitative approaches exhibit significant prevalence, with authors frequently opting for logistic or linear regression models, analysis of variance (ANOVA), or structural equation modelling (SEM). Although these methods have proven effective, they represent conventional and less innovative analytical approaches. The prevalence of traditional techniques suggests an opportunity for exploring avant-garde methodologies to better understand the intricate relationship between demographic ageing and subjective well-being.

Table 2: Methodologies adopted.

Study	Quantitative method	Qualitative method	Topic
Radermacher and Feldman (2015)		X	M*

Haslam et al. (2022)	Model of multiple serial mediations		M*
Millard et al. (2018)		X	M*
Lyndon et al. (2019)		X	M*
Kristiansen et al. (2016)		X	M*
Li et al. (2023)	GSEM (Generalized structural equation modelling)		M*
Gele and Harsløf (2012)		X	M*
Montayre et al. (2019)		X	M*
Shin et al. (2022)	MCA (Multiple correspondence analysis)		M*
Jiang et al. (2019)	ANOVAs (Analyses of Variance)		M*
Kwak and Wang (2022)		X	M*
Cheung et al. (2023)	MGCFA (Multiple group confirmatory factor analysis)		M*
Arola et al. (2020)		X	M*
Knodel and Pothisiri (2015)		X	M*
Finney and Marshall (2018)	Linear regression model	X (Survey)	M*
Emami and Torres (2005)		X	M*
Jacobsen et al. (2023)		X	M*
Mandal et al. (2023)	Chi-square test/ Binary logistic regression analysis		M*
Baldassar et al. (2020)		X	M*
Tippens et al. (2023)		X	M*
Albertini and Mantovani (2022)		X	M*
Cramm and Nieboer (2017)	Regression analysis	X	M*
Kahn et al. (2012)		X	M*
Kou et al. (2018)		X	M*
Vanhoutte et al. (2019)	Multiple linear or logistic regression	X (Survey)	M*
Dong (2019)	Regression models		M*
Silveira and Silveira (1998)	Bivariate and multivariate analysis/ Odds ratio		M*
Guo et al. (2009)	Multiple regression analysis		M*
Lee et al. (2019)	Logistic and linear regressions		M*

Barbiano di Belgiojoso et al. (2022)	Logistic regression analysis		M*
Phlix et al. (2023)		X	M*
Pot et al. (2020)	ANOVA Analysis		M*
Bogataj et al. (2014)	Regression analysis		M*
Ardelt and Ferrari (2019)	Path analysis		R** ** *
Krause N. (1993)	Regression analysis with unstandardized and standardized coefficients		R* *
Weinstein and Jimenez (2021)		X	R* *
Nelson-Becker et al. (2023)		X	R* *
Waldron et al. (2022)		X	R* *
Krause et al. (1999)	OLS regression analysis		R* *
Nye (1992)		X	R* *
Koenig (1993)		X	R* *
Eames and Cayley (2010)		X	R* *
Bodogai et al. (2020)	Multi-linear regression analysis	X	R* *
Zhang, (2008)	Cox proportional hazards models		R* *
Holt and Dellmann-Jenkins (1992)		X	R* *
Lifshitz et al. (2019)	ANOVA (Analysis of Variance)		R* *
Soósová et al. (2021)	Linear Regression Analysis		R* *
Forlenza and Vallada (2018)		X	R* *
Ali et al. (2015)	Pearson Correlation Coefficient Test, T test, analysis of variance	X	R* *
Lawler-Row and Elliott (2009)	Regression analysis		R* *
Keyes and Reitzes (2007)	Multivariate regressions analysis		R* *
Feher and Maly (1999)		X	R* *
Ng et al. (2009)	Logistic regression model		R* *
Meddin (1998)		X	R* *
Ai et al. (2005)	Multiple regression analysis	X	R* *

Krause (1993)	Structural equation model		R* *
Aydm et al. (2020)	Kruskal-Wallis test, Mann-Whitney U-test, Spearman correlation analysis		R* *
Love et al. (2017)		X	R* *
Koenig (2020)		X	R* *
VanderWeele and Chen (2020)		X	R* *
Lucchetti et al. (2018)		X	R* *
Chally and Carlson (2004)		X	R* *
Harrington, (2016)		X	R* *
Kalfoss et al. (2022)	Pearson's correlation analysis	X	R* *
Muhammad (2022)	Moderated multiple linear regression models		R* *
Upenieks (2023)	Lagrange dependent variable (LDV) models		R* *
Kodzi et al. (2011)	Nested ordinary least-squares regression models		R* *
Benamins and Finlayson (2007)	Logistic regression model		R* *
Ku et al. (2007)		X	R* *
Coleman et al. (2002)		X	R* *
Fry (2003)	Stepwise hierarchical regression analysis predictor model		R* *
Danhauer et al. (2005)	Multiple regression analysis		R* *
Fleury et al. (2002)		X	R* *
Sancho et al. (2020)	Weighted Least Squares Mean and Variance corrected (WLSMV) estimation method		R* *
Nyman and Szymczynska (2016)		X	R* *
Lim and Thompson (2016)	Hierarchical multiple regression, ANOVA (Analysis of Variance)		R* *
Tzeng and Lee (2017)	Logistic regression model		R* *
Levin and Chatters (1998)	Weighted Least Squares (WLS) estimation method		R* *
Li and Wang (2022)	Meta-analysis		R* *
Wink and Dillon (2003)	Linear Multiple Regression		R* *
Janhsen et al. (2019)		X	R* *
Asquith-Heinz et al. (2022)		X	R* *

Fancourt and Steptoe (2018)	Multivariate logistic and linear regression models	R*
Chaurasia et al. (2018)	Path analysis, structural equation model (SEM), ordered logistic model, econometric instrument variable model	R*
Hillera et al. (2001)	X	R*
Wortman and Lewis (2021)	X	R*
Crowther et al. (2002)	X	R*
Coleman and Mcculloch (1990)	X	R*
Parker et al. (2001)	X	R*
Krause (1992)	Tests of statistical significance	R*
Dunn (2005)	Structural equation model (SEM)	R*
Hackert et al. (2019)	Principal component analysis (PCA), oblimin rotation	R*

M*: Migration; R*: Religion

In Figure 6 and Figure 7, the analysed documents are visualised using VOSviewer to construct a keyword map based on co-occurrence data. This visualisation helps identify key concepts and terminologies present in the examined articles (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010). The lines connecting nodes signify the strength of relationships between words. As seen in Figure 6, the investigation highlights relevant connections between various terms such as "migration", "well-being", and "aged". The study suggests a less pronounced interconnection between these terms and others, such as "social support", "housing", "social status", and "morbidity." This observation might indicate that these aspects have less relevance in the research context and could be subject to further analysis to understand better how these factors mutually influence each other and how they may have significant impacts in specific contexts.

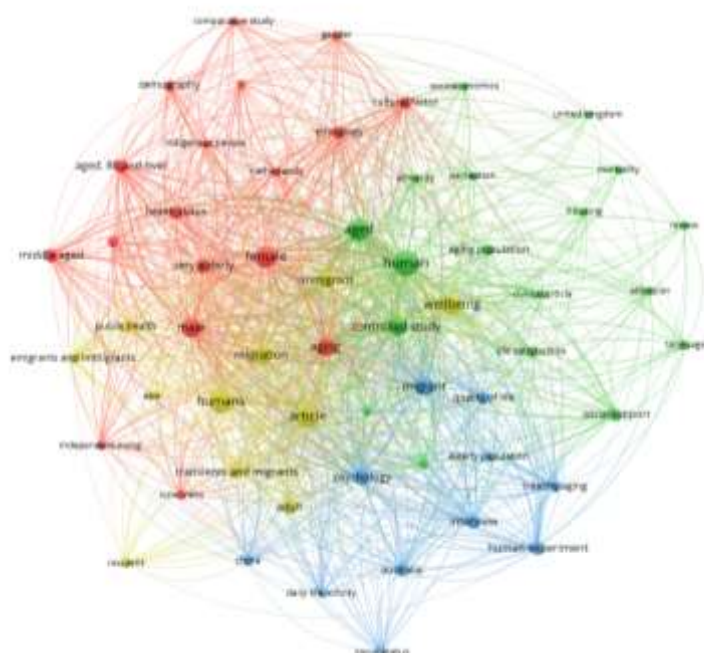


Figure 6: Co-occurrence Analysis related to Migration.

In Figure 7, the data imported from VOSviewer highlights the intersectionality among the research keywords, such as "religion", "well-being", and "aged", with terms like "health", "lifestyle", "psychology", and "life satisfaction". The interconnection between these concepts suggests a significant link, mainly associating religion with improved mental health and emotional resilience. Furthermore, the religious perspective can serve as a guide in values and behaviours contributing to a satisfying life. The correlation between "sex difference" and "race difference" is less evident. It is essential to examine the perceptions and expectations associated with gender and ethnicity that may emerge from religious practices. This study is crucial for understanding the potential implications on SWB.

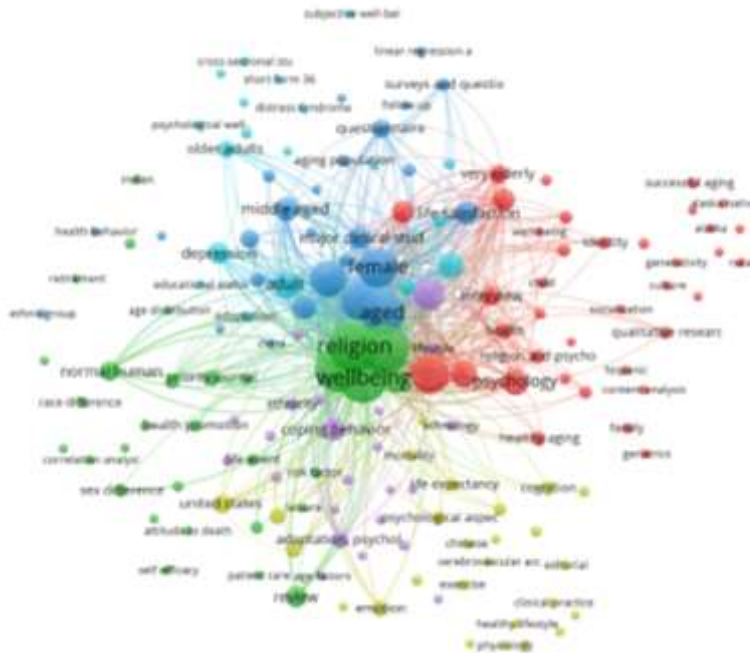


Figure 7: Co-occurrence Analysis related to Religion.

5. Discussion

The study aims to conduct a systematic review of existing literature on the complex dynamics characterising the relationship between demographic ageing and subjective well-being (SWB), considering two key factors: religion and migratory background. A theoretical and methodological analysis is conducted to identify the present state of knowledge and suggest potential research directions. The study highlights several noteworthy results. Firstly, the topic of migratory background is intrinsically linked to a network of interconnected concepts that delineate the well-being of an elderly person. Indeed, there is a strong connection between various topics such as quality of life, life satisfaction, and health care. Life satisfaction, a component of SWB, represents the rational dimension through which individuals perceive their own lives (Clark & Senik, 2011; Kahneman & Deaton, 2010). Regarding health status, barriers to healthcare access and socio-political issues related to immigrant status can amplify difficulties and health disparities among members of the immigrant community (Wakabayashi, 2010).

Exploring this interconnection is essential to fully understand the challenges and opportunities that elderly migrants face in their life experiences. In the study, we do not only highlight the simultaneous existence of these concepts but also emphasise the role that religion plays in this complex scenario. Religious beliefs are associated with keywords primarily related to mental health, such as "psychology", "resilience", and "mortality." As individuals age, they become more prone to risks associated with mental health pursuits (Parker, 2015).

Reading religious texts and engaging in spiritual practices contribute to calming the mind in the face of challenges (Yoon & Lee, 2006). Religion provides a solid foundation for profound optimism and resilience (Peterson, 2000), as its certainty helps people believe

that their lives are guided by a path delineated by a divine force (Seligman, 1990). The co-occurrence analysis of keywords highlights a significant connection between the fundamental concepts of the research, exploring their interconnection and the resulting implications. Throughout this study, the main areas of study are identified, allowing scholars and researchers to gain a panoramic view of trends and key journals (mostly in gerontology, public health, and social sciences).

6. Conclusions

The detailed analysis of scientific literature on the influence of religion and migratory background in the complex relationship between demographic ageing and subjective well-being (SWB) provides a comprehensive overview of the evolution of knowledge and methodologies used, offering insights into the progression of studies conducted. It forms a robust and reliable foundation for future advancements in understanding this field.

The exploration of theories, key relationships, and sometimes conflicting results implies the need for further research to explain these theoretical discrepancies. Several gaps in the analysed scientific literature emerge as it does not delve into various issues that could have significant implications for SWB, such as gender differences among elderly migrants and motivations behind migration. Additionally, regarding the religious sphere, the influence of different religions (Islam or Buddhism) on the well-being of the elderly is not adequately investigated. To further advance research, exploring these factors is desirable to obtain an integrated perspective and a more complete understanding of the dynamics involved.

The multidimensional approach could encourage researchers to investigate and develop holistic approaches, providing more comprehensive insights into future research at the exciting intersection of these topics. Furthermore, it is crucial to highlight that the literature examined in this study reveals a widespread use of qualitative methodologies, whose limitations lie in the inevitable subjectivity associated with data collection. At the same time, many researchers opt for quantitative methodologies, focusing on using conventional statistical models such as logistic or linear regression models, analysis of variance (ANOVA), or structural equation models (SEM). Adopting more advanced and sophisticated methodologies, such as the Fuzzy-Hybrid Approach (Indelicato and Martín, 2023), allows a deeper understanding and proves crucial in exploring the more complex facets of the relationship between SWB, ageing, migration, and religion. However, the study is not exempt from some limitations. Firstly, the process of extracting related articles from the Scopus database may not consider some other relevant research. Furthermore, the growing and rapid development of research in these areas, especially in recent years, might necessitate a new review in the coming years to identify and analyse any longitudinal patterns.

Data Availability Statement: Data available on [Scopus](#) (accessed on 01 November 2023).

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