



*Romano's*

# THEORY OF HUMAN AGE

BY JOHN-PAUL ROMANO

## FOREWORD

While travelling and living my first 18 years, I have had many experiences. Throughout my short life, I have often and continue to be mistaken for an age I am not. I often do things, behave, dress and think well above my age, but many factors may come into play. Below, I have theorised why this may be.



Figure 1: Myself at ages; 14, 15, 16 & 17

## RESEARCH

During this project, I sought to find how individuals viewed their own age. After presenting a group comprised of 50% males and 50% females, aged from 16 to 48 with my theory, I asked them to give themselves a numerical age for each 'age' category below as well as a general age. Once the data was collated, the averages of their ages were then calculated using the formula found in the discussion. Not a single respondent's 'actual age' matched their formulated 'general age'.

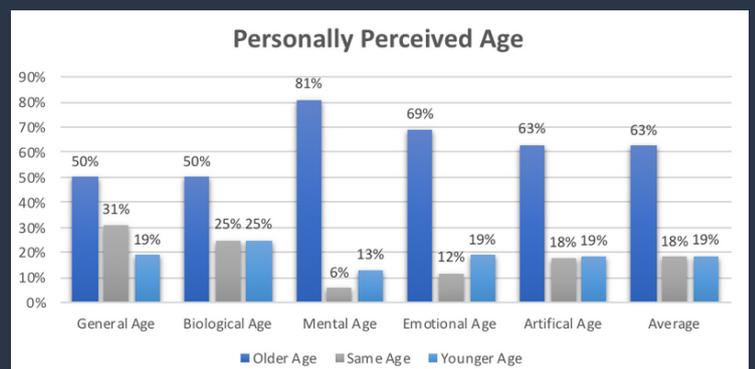


Figure 2: Personally Perceived Age



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## AGES MENTAL

The level of a person's maturity and their ability to react and respond to situations, how an individual may relate and socialise with others, how an individual may hold themselves (speech, etc.), how an individual acts, as well as how they make conscious and moral decisions.

Generally, over time, with more life experience, trauma and education, an individual's mental age will only increase but can be impaired by alcohol and drugs.

## ACTUAL

The number of years in the Gregorian calendar since your birth. Used by most people to assume a person's; maturity, emotional experience and ability to generate income.

## ARTIFICIAL

Relative to an individual's ability to artificially inflate or deflate their age, this may include; clothing, uniform, the age of the people around them or other cosmetic things such as their makeup or hairstyle.

## BIOLOGICAL (PHYSICAL)

The age that a person resembles, including; their stage of puberty, body and facial hair, muscle, height, acne, wrinkles, skin, voice, breast and penis size.

## EMOTIONAL

Relative to a person's ability to overcome hardships, i.e. sexual relations, intimate relationships, stress, etc. An individual's past experiences will generally form their emotional age.

## DISCUSSION

General Age = Mental Age + Actual Age + Artificial Age + Emotional Age + Biological Age ÷ 5.

The theorised factors may come into play when an individual might lie about their age; the elements may either support or disprove of their lie. A practical example of this might be when someone is asked for identification to check into a hotel, to purchase alcohol or enter a licenced premises. Again, the various 'ages' might influence someone to use their discretion if the person is 'underage' but other signs show that they are well above their 'actual age'. To the opposite extent, a person may be legally old enough to drive a car, but if they lack 'mental age' they may show immaturity while driving.

These factors above, all come into how humans judge or assume age; for example, when two individuals talk in a bar and one assumes the others age, it is likely they used similar factors as well as their personal experience to make that judgement. To the same extent when two individuals walk into a licenced premises, and a security guard only asks one individual for identification or when a store clerk asks for identification they must use their judgement and experience. In a similar way, this judgement based on experience may be used to decide when a clerk in a high-end store takes an individual seriously or when a hotel clerk uses their discretion around the 18+ policy. Each of these individuals uses similar criteria to the one theorised, as well as their past experiences to assist them in judging an individual's age. Age may also not be a fixed figure; it is a fluctuating quantifiable.

What do I leave for you? Don't judge, assume or not associate with someone by the age on their identification, because as individuals we have many ages, each age means a very different thing, and is sculpted by an individuals experiences.