

3rd Emerging Adulthood Conference
Tucson, AZ - February 15-16, 2007
Poster Submissions

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Parent-Child Relationships during Emerging Adulthood and the Impact on Self-Compassionate Attitudes

Recent research has demonstrated that the use of self-esteem, while beneficial in some aspects, tends to have a number of negative corollaries in high amounts (e.g. narcissism). The newer construct of self-compassion has been found to have many of the positive attributes of self-esteem, but with fewer problematic outcomes (Neff, 2003a). Little research has examined the development and maintenance of self-compassionate attitudes, specifically our ability to place individual problems in a wider perspective. As parenting might have an impact, my current study of 200 undergraduate students examines parent-adolescent relationships during emerging adulthood and the impact on adolescent self-compassion scores.

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Philanthropic Youth become Philanthropic Emerging Adults?: a longitudinal study of 21-25 year olds who participated in a youth organization while in high school

The focus of the current study is on the life goals, values, and outcomes of a sample 70 upper-middle class, white emerging adults, originally interviewed in 1999 as members of a local youth program, who are now 21 – 25 years old. We are interested in their accounts of how their experience in the youth program influenced their educational, career, and life choices; particularly, we will examine how their life goals, values, and definitions of success have changed as they have transitioned from youth to emerging adults.

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The Relation of Gender, Race, Sexual Orientation, School Dropout and Needs to Service Utilization Among Homeless Emerging Adults in Transitional Living Programs

Across the country, thousands of youth become homeless. The federal government has helped create emergency housing programs for homeless and runaway youth and young adults. Transitional Living Programs (TLPs) are funded by the Family and Youth Services Bureau and provide housing and services for 16-21 year olds. The present study examines national data on 8,235 emerging adults residing in TLP programs. Logistic regression results reveal that gender, race, age, sexual orientation, and school relate to needs and service use. Future research and policy implications are discussed, centering on recommendations for increased access to tailored services for runaway and homeless adolescents.

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Adolescence and the Transition to Adulthood for Individuals Affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders

Individuals with ASDs face issues that present unique challenges to movement into adulthood. The goal of the present study is to uncover themes of successes, challenges and service delivery from multiple stakeholder perspectives through the use of qualitative methods. Focus group and interview data collected from adolescents and young adults affected by an ASD, their parents and siblings, and the professionals that work with them are analyzed. Discussion focuses on the needs

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and issues that should be addressed for individuals affected by ASDs, their families, and the professionals that serve them in order to promote a positive transition to adulthood.

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Emerging Adulthood Trajectories of Influence and Change: Depressive Symptoms, Gender, and Support

Using an ecological-developmental framework and latent growth curve modeling this study explored trajectories of depressive symptoms, mother, father, and peer support as each changed for males and females during the adolescent to young adult transition, and the predictive influence of parent and peer support variables on depressive pathways. Data were collected by the Center for Survey Research at the University of Massachusetts Boston as part of an NIMH funded, longitudinal study. Findings revealed depressive symptoms decreasing, mother support increasing, and that a model examining gender and mother and peer support as predictors of depressive symptoms fit the data well.

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The “Principle of Least Interest” and Power in Adolescent Romantic Relationships

Waller’s (1938) “principle of least interest” proposes that less emotionally involved romantic partners will have more power because of their ability to exploit their partners. The applicability of Waller’s principle to adolescent couples is explored, with “interest” operationalized as both “long-term commitment” and “emotional need”. Data show that being female, expecting long-term commitment, and emotional need were negatively associated with power; however, contrary to past research, long-term commitment did not predict power. Results demonstrate relevance of the “principle of least interest” to adolescent romantic relationships and effectiveness of operationalizing emotional “interest” as emotional need.

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Intergenerational Differences in Cultural Values in Asian and Latino College Students

The purpose of the study was to explore the nature of value differences among Asian and Latino college students and their parents and to investigate the relation between such differences and college achievement and adjustment. Participants included 54 Latino and 12 Asian or Asian American college students who participated in interviews regarding family relationships in their fourth year of college. Results suggested that nearly half of the participants reported experiencing some education related value differences with their parents, and a similar percentage reported experiencing differences regarding independence/personal rights. Most (58%) reported experiencing culturally related differences in values. Education related differences with parents were found to be linked with poor academic and adjustment outcomes in college.

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Academic Stress, Positive Reframing Coping, and Internalizing Symptoms

This study examined positive reframing coping as a moderator of academic stress and internalizing symptoms in a sample of 95 college students. It was hypothesized that academic

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stress would predict internalizing symptoms, and that positive reframing coping would moderate the relation between academic stress and internalizing symptoms. Participants completed measures of anxiety and depression symptoms, academic stressors, and coping responses. Results indicated that academic stress and positive reframing coping predicted internalizing symptoms, but the moderational hypothesis was not supported. The results suggest that positive cognitive reframing minimizes students' negative emotional reactions to academic stress.

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The Role of Family Cultural Orientation in Depressive Symptoms of Chinese American Emerging Adults

The adaptational process for emerging adults in immigrant families has most often been viewed as an individualistic process. For this reason, much of the contemporary scholarship does not consider the fact that many emerging adults are imbedded in an important developmental context: the family. Recognizing that emerging adult's adjustment may be influenced by their family context, the current study examines how parents and the emerging adults' cultural orientation may affect the emerging adults' depressive symptoms, and whether this process is mediated by parenting practices in Chinese American families.

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Depictions of Emerging Adulthood on Prime-Time Television

As media plays a key role in identity formation, it is important to understand how the media represents emerging adults. A pilot study found that issues of exploration were depicted on prime-time television. The current study is a content analysis of drama series portraying characters aged 18-28. Descriptive information about emerging adult characters will be gathered, and interactions with reference to exploration will be coded for source, valence, and type of exploration. By analyzing these depictions, we expect to form a complete picture of how emerging adults are portrayed on television.

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Are the Childless Stigmatized? Students' Perceptions of Parents and Childless/Childfree Couples
Abstract???

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Relation Between Alcohol Use Disorders (AUDs) and Personality Change During Emerging Adulthood

The relation between alcohol use disorders (AUDs) and personality change during emerging adulthood was examined using data from a longitudinal sample of 489 participants first ascertained as college freshmen. On the Psychoticism and Neuroticism scales of the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire, participants who met AUD criteria at age 25 but not at age 18 did not show the normative decreases that were found for the other groups. Men in this category also showed a sharp decrease in Extraversion that was not evident in the other groups.

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Title???

Abstract???

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Assessing Coping Strategies During Emerging Adulthood

This study examined if "emotional writing samples" can reveal the coping styles of young adults. Approximately 153 university students wrote about a stressful event for twenty minutes. Participants also completed three coping scales and a depression measure. Self reported use of problem focused coping was associated with low depression scores; in contrast, self-reported use of avoidance coping was associated with high depression scores. Pennebaker's Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count computer program was used to code the writing samples for signs of problem focused coping, emotion focused coping, and avoidance coping. Writing samples could not be reliably coded for coping style.

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Identity Status, Identity Distress, and Problematic Drinking among College Students

To investigate the relevance of identity development to problematic college drinking, multiple regression analyses were used to predict problematic drinking outcomes from gender, age, identity statuses (diffusion, moratorium, foreclosure, and achievement), identity distress, and depression. Coping-related drinking motives were uniquely predicted by identity diffusion, identity distress, and depression. Alcohol-related problems were uniquely predicted by identity diffusion, identity moratorium, and depression. Binge drinking was uniquely predicted by identity moratorium and identity distress. Findings suggest that identity distress impacts problematic college drinking above and beyond previously demonstrated influences of identity statuses and depression, indicating potential implications for interventions in emerging adulthood.

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Impact of an early parenthood transition on emerging adult substance use trajectories: Roles of gender, familial alcoholism, and externalizing psychopathology

The impact of early transition to parenthood on the stability of substance use during emerging adulthood was examined. Age-related change in substance use from adolescence through emerging adulthood was modeled using linear growth curves. Stability in substance use after the parenthood transition was modeled using an added slope factor. Family history of alcoholism (FHD) transmitted risk for both early parenthood and higher stability in substance use after the parenting transition. The impact of FHD on incidence of early parenthood was mediated by high levels of adolescent substance use. Findings highlight heterogeneity in role-related declines in substance use in emerging adulthood.

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Popular Music as Indicator of Social-Emotional Development in Emerging Adulthood

Emerging adults make popular music selections to represent their perceptions of authority in adolescence, peer relations, and self-identity. Data collected from over 350 college students is analyzed using quantitative and qualitative methods to identify common social-emotional themes for emerging adulthood and adolescent stages of development. Implications are made for using popular media to identify risk indicators and resilience factors when working with emerging adults and older adolescents.

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Impact of Racial Identity on Well-Being

This report draws on both quantitative and qualitative longitudinal data from both parent and youth to investigate in a mixed-methods approach how contextual influences shape racial and ethnic group identity for African American adolescents as they transition into young adulthood and how these identity trajectories, in turn, impact on the youth's eventual sense of well-being.

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Title???

The study examines situations and adjustment of emerging adults who presented externalized problems during their high school years. Overall, results show similar situations and adjustment between groups but differences when delinquency scores are considered. Significant gender differences in adjustment emerge within externalized group which tend to indicate that girls show problematic that are more complex. Results are discussed in light of the lesser attention given to girls' externalized problems in schools.

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Assessing Everyday Functioning in Emerging and Later Adulthood: Are We Comparing Apples and Oranges?

Changes in the ability to perform essential activities needed in one's daily life has received considerable attention in the gerontological literature. However, less attention has been devoted to the timing and mechanisms underlying development of everyday skills in emerging adulthood. The current study examined perceptions of adults' ability to perform essential tasks of daily living in ten domains including financial management and memory for current events. Interestingly, emerging adults viewed themselves as experiencing more difficulty in performing everyday tasks as compared to adults aged thirty and older. Discussion focuses on the role of experience and protective factors related to self perceptions.

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Romantic Relationships and Health: A Qualitative and Quantitative Examination of Emerging Adult Couples

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This study examined links between emerging adults' romantic relationships and health. A combination of qualitative and quantitative methods were employed to query 210 participants' (105 couples; mean age = 24.93 years) perceptions of their partners' influences on their health, their relationship quality, and their health behaviors. Results indicated that participants perceived their romantic partners to be primarily positive health influences; health domains believed to be most affected by romantic partners included eating behaviors, physical activity behaviors, substance use, and self-esteem. Perceptions of partners' health influences were associated with participants' relationship experiences and actual health behaviors.

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Adolescents' possible selves and identity related to careers in science. A qualitative study.

Abstract???

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Universal health care? Access to primary health care and unmet health care needs for Canadians: Implications for young adults

Abstract???