

**3<sup>RD</sup> CONFERENCE ON EMERGING ADULTHOOD**  
**Paper Symposium Abstracts**

Abada, Teresa & Ravanera, Z.

**Thursday, 3:25-4:55 (Canyon A)**

*Transition to Post-Secondary Education Among Immigrant Youth in Canada*

The long-term impacts of the increasing diversity in Canada's population will be determined by the degree to which young immigrants and the children of immigrants are able to participate fully in their economic, social and cultural life. Using data from the 2002 Canadian Ethnic Diversity Survey, this paper will explore the factors that affect immigrant youths' transition to post-secondary education or direct entry into the labor market. It will examine whether generation status and social capital play a crucial role in immigrant youths' access to post-secondary education.

Alfeld, Corinne

**Thursday, 9:50-11:20 (Canyon A)**

*"The Forgotten Half" in the New Millennium: Educational and Career Pathways of Emerging Adults Without Baccalaureate Degrees*

Almost twenty years after the non-college bound were dubbed the "Forgotten Half," this group remains largely neglected in educational and social policy in the United States. Only about one-quarter of a given cohort of high school graduates attains a baccalaureate degree by the age of 30. This presentation will (1) highlight the wide array of institutions, programs and pathways currently available to individuals between the ages of 18 and 30 who are not pursuing a traditional college degree and (2) summarize statistics from multiple research projects that examine the actual education and training pathways of this group of emerging adults.

Atak, Hasan & Çok, F.

**Thursday, 1:35-3:05 (Canyon A)**

*Emerging Adulthood and Perceived Adulthood in Turkey*

In this research, emerging adulthood and perceived adulthood are investigated in Turkey. Views of Life Survey was used after adapted to Turkish. Data was collected from people, 15-34 years, who are attended high school, colleges, postgraduate education students, doctors and teachers. In results of analysis, in participants' ages significant differences were obtained. According to research results, emerging adulthood tend to be present both in women and men, average 19-26 years, in Turkey. There is a significant relationship between emerging adulthood, which is, with marriage, becoming a parent, completion of education and working in full time and permanent job. There is a significant relationship between perceived adulthood and age level. A great number of adolescents think that they haven't reached adulthood; a great number of emerging adults and a considerable part of young adults feel themselves in transition period between adolescence and adulthood.

Badger, Sarah, Carroll, J., & Willoughby, B.

**Friday, 8:00-9:30 (Madera)**

*Ready or Not? Criteria of Marriage Readiness Among Emerging Adults*

Little is known about what the rising generation of emerging adults view as the *criteria for marriage readiness* and the pathways they are taking to make themselves ready for this transition. This study explored what emerging adults believe to be the important criteria for marriage readiness and adulthood. Specifically, the purposes of this study were: (a) to identify emerging adults' perceptions of the criteria for marriage readiness and (b) to compare the types of criteria

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emerging adults endorse as important for being ready to marry with the types of criteria they endorse as important for becoming an adult.

Bailey, Jennifer, Fleming, C., White, H., & Catalano, R.

**Thursday, 9:50-11:20 (Ventana)**

*Trajectories of Risky Sexual Behavior in Emerging Adulthood*

Emerging adulthood is a period of increased risk behavior in a number of domains (Bachman, Wadsworth, O'Malley, Johnston, & Schulenberg, 1997; National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 2006). One area of particular concern is high-risk sexual behavior (Bearinger & Resnick, 2003; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2003). Few studies have documented the short-term within-person changes in these behaviors during this developmental time period. Furthermore, most research on SRB among emerging adults has focused on high-risk populations or college samples. The purpose of this study is: 1) to identify trajectories of sexual behavior during the transition from high school to emerging adulthood, and 2) to delineate the predictors of trajectory group membership in a community sample of young men and women (N=450).

Barry, Carolyn McNamara

**Thursday, 1:35-3:05 (Madera)**

*Looking on the Bright Side: The Role of Identity Status and Gender on Risk Behaviors and Prosocial Behaviors during Emerging Adulthood*

The time period of emerging adulthood involves experimentation with different roles and behaviors. Most research has examined risk, while less is known about prosocial behaviors. Thus, the current study examined how both risk and prosocial behaviors varied by identity and gender. Results indicated that identity diffused or moratorium individuals engaged in more risk than identity foreclosed or achieved, but only diffused engaged in less prosocial behaviors. Women engaged in fewer risk and more prosocial behaviors than men. The discussion focuses on emerging adulthood as a period of possibilities and exploration for not only risk behaviors, but prosocial behaviors as well.

Barry, Leasha

**Friday, 3:40-5:10 (Ventana)**

*What did my parents say: Gender differences in perceived parental support*

The results described here represent male and female freshman college students from four college campuses ( $N = 1080$ ). Drawing on family systems theory (Bowmar & Sabatelli, 1996) this study explored differences and similarities between genders in their responses on an internet-based survey regarding perceived parental support. The analyses specifically examine perceived maternal versus paternal support as well as differences as a function of first generation status. We expected that perceptions of support would differ as both a function of parent gender and student gender, and that these differences would be moderated by first generation status.

Bauer, Daniel

**Friday, 1:50-3:20 (Sebena)**

*Developing Commensurate Measures for Cross-Study Analyses via a Moderated Nonlinear Factor Analysis Model*

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Developing commensurate measures is one of the principal challenges of cross-study analyses, a method with particular advantages for the study of emerging adulthood when such studies are also longitudinal. In order to conduct a joint analysis of two or more data sets, it is imperative that the outcomes and predictors be measured in the same units across studies. However, in attempting to construct commensurate measures across studies, two dilemmas often present themselves. First, the items used to measure a construct may differ across studies. Second, the study populations may be heterogeneous, and different subgroups may respond differentially to the items. In this paper, we offer one possible way to address both of these measurement dilemmas through the application of a moderated nonlinear factor analysis model. This model differs in several important respects from traditional factor analysis and IRT models in that it can simultaneously accommodate (a) different item sets across studies; (b) mixed response scales for the items either within and across studies; (c) differential item functioning as a function of both categorical variables (e.g., gender) and continuous variables (e.g., age).

Benbenishty, Rami

**Thursday, 3:25-4:55 (Canyon B)**

*Formative and Summative Evaluation of Programs to Assist Youth Aging Out of Care in Israel*

The paper presents of an evaluation of new experimental programs developed in Israel for youth aging out of placements and lacking family support in transitioning to adulthood.

The study utilizes both qualitative and quantitative methods: In depth interviews with policy makers and administrators; Face to face and phone semi-structured interviews with youth and Structured questionnaires completed by staff. I will present findings on 50 youth assessed at two points in time. Findings indicate positive experiences and responses by youth and administrative difficulties in building sustainable infrastructure. I discuss the challenge in balancing between fostering independence and providing support.

Berzin, Stephanie

**Thursday, 3:25-4:55 (Canyon B)**

*Struggling in the transition to adulthood: Comparing the outcomes of foster youth and non-foster youth using propensity scoring*

Using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, this study compares emerging adulthood outcomes for foster youth (n=96), matched youth (n=385), and unmatched youth (n=8428). Results suggest that foster and matched youth had similar rates of high school completion, public assistance use, teen pregnancy, drug use, arrests, and being sentenced to jail; however, both groups had worse outcomes than unmatched youth. This research suggests that pre-existing characteristics that put youth at risk for foster care may be the reason for their difficulties in emerging adulthood. Multiple groups of youth are struggling during this period and need assistance to transition successfully.

Bowditch, Elise & Davies Withers, S.

**Thursday, 3:25-4:55 (Canyon C)**

*Spatial Mobility and the Transition to Adulthood: The significance of parental proximity*

We examine the geographic origins and destinations of young adults leaving home from 1970-1990 in relation to their parents' location in the United States. Using the Panel Study of Income Dynamics we explore where offspring live in relation to their parents initially, and at intervals until their mid-thirties on the basis of zip code, county, and state. We find that proximity varies in

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ways that are surprisingly more complex than general measures of home-leaving indicate. We examine differences in both leave-taking and outcomes. This study confirms the significance of geography, spatial mobility and parental proximity in the transition to adulthood.

Briddell, Laine

**Friday, 3:40-5:10 (Canyon C)**

*“What, me worry?” Time trends in attitudes about change and the future*

Changes in the transition to adulthood have led to concerns about how today’s adolescents are coping with the prospect of a more uncertain future. To examine these issues, we use data from Monitoring the Future to examine trends in high-school seniors’ sense of comfort with change and control over their lives, optimism about the future, and their feelings about becoming adults. We find that youth are increasingly comfortable with change and are generally optimistic about the future. While today’s youth do feel somewhat less in control than previous generations, they do not appear concerned.

Broman, Clifford

**Thursday, 3:25-4:55 (Canyon A)**

*The challenging transition to adulthood for minority youth*

In this paper, we investigate the transition to adulthood for racial-ethnic minority youth. We argue that many youth from racial-ethnic minority backgrounds, and white youth from poorer socioeconomic circumstances, find emerging into adulthood challenging and difficult. Using data from three sources, we find that Black and other minority young adults are more likely to have been the victims of violence. Minority young adults are less likely to have had a steady job, achieve less educationally, and perhaps as a consequence, are more likely to receive public assistance. The implications of these findings for discussions of emerging adulthood are considered.

Brown, Ryan, Copeland, W., Worthman, C., Angold, A., & Costello, E.J.

**Friday, 11:15-12:45 (Canyon C)**

*Community in mind: Area effects on life course models in Appalachia*

Contextual community effects have been shown to mediate a variety of health outcomes. Here, we examine the impact of census-tract level social environment on the educational and marital life course priorities and attainment patterns of 310 Cherokee and Anglo emerging adults from the Great Smoky Mountains Study (GSMS). Both family and community college attainment were associated with greater endorsement of college as a personal goal. Meanwhile, rates of divorce in the surrounding community were associated with lower endorsement of marriage as a personal goal. This provides evidence for the translation of local socioecologies into motivations and expectations in personal lives.

Brown, Sandra A., Ramo, D., Anderson, K., & Cummins, K.

**Friday, 3:40-5:10 (Canyon B)**

*Interpersonal Functioning of Youth 10 Years After Substance Abuse Treatment*

Little is known about the young adult functioning of adolescents receiving treatment for substance use disorders (SUD). The present study examined interpersonal functioning (peer, family, intimate relationships) 10 years post-treatment of 167 SUD youth (42% females, 15.9

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years at intake). Substance use trajectories were determined using data gathered 6 months, 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8 years post-treatment. Persistent substance involvement was associated with greater interpersonal problems and lower social support. Abstinence and sporadic limited use trajectories predicted less drug (but not alcohol) use in the social networks of these young adults. Developmental implications of the heterogeneous longitudinal use patterns will be discussed.

Bucx, Freek, Van Wel, F., Knijn, T., & Hagendoorn, L.

**Thursday, 3:25-4:55 (Canyon C)**

*Life Course Status and Exchange of Support Between Young Adults and their Parents*

We study how life course transitions, such as leaving the parental home, starting romantic relationships and becoming financially independent, affect the level of (emotional, informational and financial) support exchanged between young adults and their parents. Recent data are used from the Netherlands Kinship Panel Study; our sample consists of 1,815 young adults (18 - 34 years). Generally, more support flows from parents to their young adult children than vice versa. Our results suggest that this asymmetry decreases during this life course period, with exchanges of support becoming more balanced after children have passed several life course transitions.

Bynner, John & Cote, James

**Thursday, 9:50-11:20 (Madera)**

*Rethinking the youth phase of the life course: Perspectives for the UK and Canada*

This paper picks up on Bynner's recent critique of the current formulation of emerging adulthood as presented in his recent exchange with Arnett in the *Journal of Youth Studies*. It pays particular attention to the exclusion processes in education and outside that prevent young people in some socioeconomic contexts taking advantage of the opportunities presumed to be available to all 'emerging adults'. These include dropout from education, teenage parenthood, unemployment and trouble with the law. Gender and cultural differentiation are a major focus.

Côté adds to this exchange with reference to circumstance affecting the transition to adulthood in Canada, based on data stemming from theoretical positions developed in two recent books *Critical Youth Studies: A Canadian Focus* and *Arrested Adulthood: The Changing Nature of Maturity and Identity*. The focus of both portions of the paper will be on understandings of social structure and what constitutes evidence of its effects on youth aspirations and identity and the form transitions take.

Cagle, Brent

**Friday, 8:00-9:30 (Canyon C)**

*A Grounded Theory of Emerging Adulthood: Gay Young Men in the Carolinas*

In the past several years, the concept of emerging adulthood as a distinct developmental period has become known. While some attention has been given broadly to issues of sexuality and sexual identity during this time, the perceptions and experiences of emerging adults who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender are largely missing from the knowledge base. This paper is based on a study of how gay young men ages 18-23 understand and shape their lives as emerging adults.

Calzo, Jerel, Ward, L.M., & Levin, D.S.

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*Gender and Religious Group Differences in the Socialization of Attitudes towards Homosexuality*

Little is known about the development of attitudes towards homosexuality and how socialization, gender and religion contribute to such beliefs. Using data from 335 undergraduates, the current research examined the contributions of five socialization agents to the development of knowledge and beliefs about homosexuality. Media and friends emerged as the most important sources of information, although the tone of the messages conveyed varied by gender. Specifically, men reported receiving more negative messages than women, particularly from peers. Across sources, adolescents from positive religious backgrounds reported receiving more positive and fewer negative messages than those raised in oppositional religions.

Carr, Patrick & Kefalas, M.

**Thursday, 3:25-4:55 (Canyon A)**

*Straight from the Heartland*

Based on 285 surveys and 104 in-depth qualitative interviews with “emerging adults” who attended high school in Ellis, Iowa (population 2000) during the 1980s and 1990s, the authors examine how young people coming of age in a 21<sup>st</sup> century factory and farming town are making the precarious journey from adolescence to adulthood. Remaining, returning or leaving their hometown of Ellis plays a pivotal role in how these young people’s life trajectories develop over time. Carr and Kefalas’ research suggests a troubling paradox: traditional small-town ways and the fast-track into adulthood persist for the young people who return or remain in rural Iowa. However, as more college educated rural youth leave the state, small towns across the Heartland will become increasingly divided and downwardly-mobile places.

Carroll, Jason

**Thursday, 1:35-3:05 (Madera)**

*Generation XXX: Pornography Acceptance and Use Among Emerging Adults*

Despite the documented increase of pornography during the last decade and its near mainstream status in American culture, little attention has been given to the topic in developmental research. The purpose of this study was to examine levels of pornography use and acceptance among a normative sample of emerging adults in the United States and to compare usage rates across age cohorts within this developmental period. Analyses were also conducted to investigate how patterns of pornography acceptance and use were associated with emerging adults’ sexual attitudes and behaviors, substance use patterns, and family formation values.

Carroll, Jason, Willoughby, B., & Dworkin, J.

**Friday, 8:00-9:30 (Madera)**

*So Close, Yet So Far Away: The Impact of Varying Marital Horizons on Emerging Adulthood*

This paper overviews a marital horizon theory of emerging adulthood and reports on two studies testing the model. Results demonstrated that there are significant differences between young people who have relatively close marital horizons (i.e., those who desire marriage in their early twenties) and those who have more distant marital horizons (i.e., those who desire marriage in their middle twenties or later) in the areas of marital outlook, family formation values, sexual behaviors, and substance use patterns during emerging adulthood. Results suggest that changes in life style patterns previously assumed to be due to marriage may in fact be initiated when young people anticipate marriage in their near future.