

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

Caruthers, Allison

**Thursday, 3:25-4:55 (Madera)**

*Why Relate? Motives and Meanings of Women's Hookups*

“Hookups” are sexual encounters between friends/ acquaintances that include intercourse or non-coital behaviors. Although hookups are common during emerging adulthood, little is known about the role of these behaviors in women's development. Thus, transcripts from 25 women were analyzed using qualitative methods for the meanings and functions of hookup behaviors. Data point to the role of these behaviors in negotiating three developmental tasks of emerging adulthood: establishing autonomy/ independence; exploring possible selves; and forming emotionally intimate relationships. This study adds to the existing literature on women's casual sex behavior by focusing on the developmental context and meaning of this behavior.

Chassin, Laurie

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

*Uses of multiwave data in developmental research: Studying analyses to better understand adolescents and emerging adults*

In this symposium we focus on what can be learned about adolescent development from more dynamic analysis of multi-wave data that we would otherwise miss if we relied only on more static analyses of one- or two-waves of data. That is, we consider the “why” of such analytic techniques as latent growth modeling, mixture modeling, and pattern centered analyses that highlight individual trajectories across three or more waves of data. How can such techniques offer us new insights into our data and new avenues into theory testing and advancement? To exemplify the techniques and issues, each presentation involves longitudinal multi-wave data on the course, causes, and consequences of psychopathology and problem behavior, and together, they span adolescence and emerging adulthood. Discussion and critique will focus on integrative themes and the promises and problems of dynamic analyses of multi-wave data.

Cho, Su-Je

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

*Personal, Psychosocial, and Institutional Factors that Influence College Choice Process*

This study aimed to understand how personal, psychosocial, and institutional factors jointly influence the college choice process and how gender, race, and SES might moderate those relationships. With 1,339 college freshmen, the study found that first generation students rated psychosocial factors to be more important to their college choice process while no differences emerged on the personal factors. First generation males and females considered the academic scale more important than non-first generation. Gender, race, and SES had varying impacts on their college choice process. The findings illustrate critical factors that influence how students chose a college.

Conley, Amanda, Ufberg, M., & Peterson, C.

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

*Emerging Adults and Meaning in Life: Can Character Strengths Facilitate Presence of Meaning and Increased Life Satisfaction During this Period of Identity Exploration?*

The present study examined the degree to which emerging adults experience ‘meaning in life’; the role of character strengths in presence of meaning in life; and the function of both in life satisfaction. Presence of meaning in life was determined by the Meaning in Life Questionnaire

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

(MLQ) (Steger, Frazier, Oishi, & Kaler, 2005); character strengths by the Values in Action Inventory of Strengths (VIA-IS); and life satisfaction by the Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS) (Diener, Emmons, Larsen, and Griffin, 1985). Our results indicate that emerging adults experience more 'search for' than 'presence of' meaning; the character strengths of authenticity, hope/optimism and love are significantly positively correlated with presence of meaning; and hope/optimism, love and presence of meaning in life play a significant positive role in overall life satisfaction.

Corkett, Julie, Parrila, R., & Heins, S.

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

*Learning and Study Strategies of High-Functioning Developmental Dyslexics in Postsecondary Education*

We examined self-reports of study and learning strategies used by high-functioning developmental dyslexics (H-FD) and adults with no history of reading problems (ND) during their secondary and post-secondary education. All participants were given a battery of standardized tests and completed a questionnaire. Significantly more H-FD than ND participants reported using study strategies at both the secondary and post-secondary level and significantly more H-FD than ND participants reported participating in classroom discussions and using organizational strategies at the post-secondary level. The results suggest that the H-FD may use study strategies and some learning strategies to a different degree than the ND participants to compensate for their remaining reading problems.

Crocetti, Elisabetta, Palmonari, A., & Pojaghi, B.

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

*"Who am I?" Identity formation in Italian emerging adults*

The purpose of this study was to examine the process of identity development in Italian emerging adults. To reach this aim we considered a model of identity whereby Commitment, Exploration in Depth and Reconsideration of Commitment were taken into account as pivotal identity processes. 472 emerging adults (52% college students and 48% workers) participated in this study. The findings indicated that emerging adulthood can be conceived as a significant moment of verification and validation of existing commitments in identity relevant domains (vocational and relational domains). On the other hand, individuals have the possibility to explore other identity domains they consider less important, such as politics and religion, in order to find a personal view on these topics.

Crocetti, Elisabetta

*The Network of Relationships of Italian Emerging Adults: The Importance of Family and Peers*

The purpose of this contribution was to investigate the network of relationships of Italian emerging adults. In order to achieve this aim both qualitative and quantitative methods were used. The qualitative studies revealed that during emerging adulthood the quality of family relationships increased. Furthermore, participants spoke about the starting of emerging adulthood as a turning point: they definitely broke out trivial friendships started in adolescence and they became more selective in choosing their friends. The quantitative research indicated that, both in the sub-sample of college students and in the sub-sample of workers, satisfaction

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

with life was associated to personal self-esteem and to family collective self-esteem, whereas it was not linked to peers collective self-esteem.

Curran, Patrick, Hussong, A. Cai, L., & Huang, W.

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

*The Integrative Analysis of Three Data Sets: Internalizing Symptomatology from Ages 10 to 33*

To empirically study developmental trajectories spanning from childhood into young adulthood, one must assess individuals over an extended period of time. However, this is often an exceedingly challenging endeavor, particularly when attempting to do this within the framework of a single long-term developmental study. Challenges include high financial costs, increasing difficulty in tracking and retaining subjects over an extended period of time, the introduction of important cohort or history effects, and the need to wait several decades for the study to be completed. There is also the salient challenge of changing measurement structures across development, particularly during the periods of transition from childhood into adolescence, and from adolescence into young adulthood. However, the integrative analysis of multiple developmental data sets offers the possibility of overcoming, or at least partially ameliorating, many of these challenges.

Day, Kyla & Ward, L.M.

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

*Impact of Pro-Sex Peer and Media Messages on Sexual Affect Outcomes*

Messages received about sex during one's formative years can have a large impact on sexual behavior and affect outcomes. This study examined role of socialization messages on affective responses to level of sexual experience among African American undergraduates (N=146). Sexual communication messages from peers and the media were coded into two categories: "sex is negative" and "sex is positive". Level of sexual experience and sexual affect were also assessed. Findings indicated that participants receiving messages from the media, but not peers, that sexual intercourse that sex is a positive part of sexual development demonstrated greater positive affect towards sexual behavior.

Demir, Meliksah

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

*Running to happy tomorrows with my friends: Friendship and Happiness Among Emerging Adults*

Present study investigated the relationship between friendship quality and happiness among emerging adults. Different from most studies, relationship quality information was gathered from multiple friends. Results revealed that: a) only best and first close friendship quality predicted happiness; b) emerging adults were happier when they had higher levels of first close friendship quality in addition to experiencing high levels of best friendship quality; and c) self-validation and companionship features of every friendship the individual had emerged as the strongest predictors of happiness. Findings are evaluated considering the developmental tasks (e.g., identity formation) of emerging adulthood.

Dennis, Jessica

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

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

*Career Identity among First Generation Ethnic Minority College Students: The Roles of Resources and Reactions*

The goal of the present paper is to extend the qualitative findings of an earlier study (Dennis et al., 2006) by investigating the ways in which quantitative data on support from others, reactions to obstacles, and motivations for attending college are related to career identity among ethnic minority college students (58 Latino, 15 Asian) whose parents did not complete college. Findings suggest that students with the greatest career preparation in the fourth year of college are those who are less likely to allow obstacles to interfere with college completion and who are motivated to attend college by the encouragement and inspiration of others.

Donoghue, Christopher & Stein, P.

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

*Adult Experiences and Attitudes about Adulthood*

Research on young people's views of adulthood shows that most favor individualistic criteria rather than traditional role transitions. Our research examines the associations between young people's criteria for adulthood and their actual experiences with adult transitions. We modeled correlations between the importance that young people place on the items in Arnett's concept of emerging adulthood and their own life experiences. The results indicate congruity between adult-forming experiences and attitudes among emerging adults. In a multivariate context, we find that certain demographic characteristics and experiences made young people more likely to say that they are an adult.

Duan, Xinxing & Cheng, J.

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

*Features of Emerging Adulthood of Chinese College Students: A Comparative Research between Only-child Students and Non-only-child Students*

Features of emerging adulthood of Chinese college students have been discovered and a further comparative research on the features between only-child students and non-only-child students has been carried out. The results demonstrate that 1, Chinese college students do have emerging adulthood; 2, concerning the 3 factors of emerging adulthood, Independence, Role Transitions and Family Capacities, there are significant differences between only-child students and non-only-child students; 3, only-child students are more able in independent decision-making than are non-only-child students, and the former are more responsible for their behaviors; and 4, only-child students have their own cultural features in emerging adulthood.

Eisenberg, Marla & Neumark-Sztainer, D.

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

*Sex, students and the "forgotten half": Do risk behaviors differ for college students and other young adults?*

This study uses a diverse sample to compare high risk sexual behaviors across three student-status levels. 1,710 young adults (mean age=20.4) responded to mailed surveys. The proportions of full time college students, community college students and non-students reporting various high-risk sexual behaviors were compared. Approximately 40% of participants were four-year college students and one-third were not students. Non-students were significantly more likely than others to be sexually active, use no reliable method of contraception, and not use condoms. College

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

students were the least likely and non-students were the most likely to report almost every risk behavior.

Eisenberg, Nancy, Hofer, C., Cumberland, A., & Liew, J.

**Friday, 1:50-3:20 (Canyon B)**

*Relations of Childhood and Adolescent Prosocial Tendencies to Prosocial Orientation in Early Adulthood*

Eisenberg and colleagues (1999, 2002) have found that naturally occurring, spontaneous and costly prosocial behavior at 4 to 6 years of age predicts young adults' prosocial orientations in the early to mid 20s. In the present study, data from the late 20s will be presented. We predict that early naturally occurring spontaneous sharing in preschool will continue to predict self- and friend-reported prosocial dispositions in the mid- to late-20s. We also expect to find consistency in prosociality from adolescence to age 27-28.

Elm, Selina & Schwartz, K.

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

*Are you in or are you out? Living arrangements and psychosocial development during emerging adulthood*

Emerging adulthood is characterized by peak residential mobility (Arnett, 2000). In the present study, on-line questionnaires were completed by 18-25 year olds at a Canadian university to examine the relationship between living arrangements and 5 aspects of psychosocial development. Results indicated differences among emerging adults based on living arrangements, as well as other related circumstances. For example, emerging adults who had moved out of their parental home 2 or more times displayed more negativity and instability than those who had only moved out only once. The discussion focuses on psychosocial development amidst living arrangements that may influence development.

Epstein, Marina & Calzo, J.

**Thursday, 3:25-4:55 (Madera)**

*The Ambiguity of "Hooking up": Linguistic Distinctions and Behavioral Enactments*

The exploration of dating and sexuality among emerging adults has traditionally been studied in the context of dating relationships. However, recently both popular press and academic reports have begun focusing on "hookups" or short-term nonrelational sexual encounters. Hookups have generally been portrayed as the opposite of dating, as highly scripted, and primarily benefiting men. Through qualitative interviews, the current work explores the experiences of 19 male emerging adults around dating and hooking up. While two participants reported enacting the hooking up script, the majority described more ambiguous experiences that blurred the line between nonrelational sexual activity and dating.

Epstein, Marina & Ward, L.M.

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

*Conflicting messages, conflicted selves: Associations between inconsistent gender socialization and gender conflict in emergent adults*

What children learn about being a man or a woman while growing up is likely to impact their gender beliefs as emerging adults. Although adolescents often report receiving messages that are

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

inconsistent or conflicting, little is known about the effect of such communication on the development of gender beliefs. Using a sample of 272 emerging adults, the current study examines the relationship between recalled conflicting socialization messages from parents and current conflicting gender expectations, or gender conflict. Results indicate a positive association between receiving conflicting messages (such as encouraging toughness and nurturance at the same time) and experiencing gender conflict.

Everall, Robin

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

*Finding purpose in life: The role of interpersonal relationships*

Research findings affirm that secure attachments may be an important factor influencing resilient functioning and protecting against suicidality. However, little is known about the impact of attachment relationships on the experiences of healing. The purpose of this investigation is to understand how previously suicidal adolescents and emerging adults perceive attachment as an aid to fostering resiliency. Qualitative interviews were conducted to explore the healing experiences of individuals previously suicidal between the ages of 15 and 26. Results will be discussed within the context of attachment theory and a resilience-based approach that focuses on the development of strengths and adaptive processes.

Evans, Karen

**Friday, 11:15-12:45 (Sebena)**

*Concepts of Bounded Agency in Education, Work, and the Personal Lives of Young Adults*

This paper traces the development of a series of Anglo-German studies on how young adults experience control and exercise personal agency as they pass through periods of transition in education and training, work, unemployment and in their personal lives. The overarching aim has been to develop an extended dialogue between ideas and evidence to explore the beliefs and actions associated with life-chances under differing structural and cultural conditions. What kinds of beliefs and perspectives do people have on their future possibilities? How far do they feel in control of their lives? How does what people believe is possible for them (their personal horizons developed within cultural and structural influences) determine their behaviours and what they perceive to be 'choices'? This research contributes to the re-conceptualisation of agency as a process in which past habits and routines are contextualised and future possibilities envisaged within the contingencies of the present moment. The paper concludes by explaining the concept of 'bounded agency' as an alternative to 'structured individualisation' as a way of understanding the experiences of people in changing social landscapes.