

3RD CONFERENCE ON EMERGING ADULTHOOD
Paper Symposium Abstracts

Kenyon, DenYelle & Silverberg Koerner, S.

Friday, 8:00-9:30 (Canyon A)

Examining the Mismatch between Emerging Adults' and Parents' Expectations about Autonomy during the Transition to College

We examined the discrepancy between emerging adults' and parents' expectations for autonomous behavior with incoming college freshmen and their parents. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected before the transition to college, and follow-up was three months later. Analyses revealed (a) that parents sometimes hold higher expectations for autonomy than their emerging adult children, (b) some support for the hypothesis that higher discrepancy about autonomy is associated with more problematic psychological well-being and adjustment to college, and (c) moderating effects of parent-emerging adult communication. Findings suggest that autonomy development from parents is an important ongoing process during the transition to adulthood.

Kim, Hyoun, Laurent, H., & Capaldi, D.

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

Examining the Mismatch between Emerging Adults' and Parents' Expectations about Autonomy during the Transition to College

This study tested associations among depressive symptoms and observed interaction patterns in young adult couples ($n=47$) from the Oregon Youth Study over 7 years; each partner's depressive symptoms were used to predict affect/behavior patterns during conflict discussions over time at both within- and between-couple levels using HLM. Women's depressive symptoms were generally more influential, predicting lower positive engagement and higher psychological aggression in both herself (within-couple level) and her partner (between-couple level). Associations between own depressive symptoms and psychological aggression over time were in opposite directions for men vs. women. Women with more depressive symptoms also showed higher levels of withdrawal.

Krause, Betsy

Thursday, 3:25-4:55 (Sebena)

Toys and Perfumes': Imploding Italy's Population Paradox and Motherly Myths

The dominant assumption in Europe is that low fertility is a serious problem, and that young people are largely to blame. My work challenges the common alarmist framings of contemporary demographic trends, specifically those that depict as an illness the fertility rate of Italians, which at 1.2 average births per women is among the lowest in the world. This research, which draws on two years of ethnographic research in Italy, illuminates the underlying ideologies as well as political economy of a late consumer society that breeds low fertility and fosters a fertile protest against conventional definitions of adulthood.

Kreyszig, Sheila

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

Voice and Imaginary Audience: The Emerging Adult Experience

The researcher examined undergraduate emerging adults' beliefs and experiences concerning level of voice and imaginary audience using qualitative methods. The participants in this study associated familiarity, comfort, and sense of ease with voice. Some individuals used imaginary audience in anticipation of social interactions, to manage discomfort, and others used it to

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fantasize or daydream about situations. In addition, some made connections between imaginary audience and level of voice, suggesting that for some individuals, repression of voice was associated with the use of imaginary audience ideation (Kreyszig, 2006).

La Vigne, Nancy

Friday, 1:50-3:20 (Canyon C)

Exploring the Reintegration Challenges of Youthful Prisoners Returning to Their Communities

This paper presents findings on the experiences of young adults exiting prison and returning to their communities. The research is based on a combined sample of 470 respondents under the age 29, from four separate study sites. Results of both frequencies and predictive analyses describe the challenges that formerly incarcerated youth face when returning to their families and communities and what risk and protective factors are related to relapse and recidivism. Issues of family support and community context related to successful or unsuccessful reintegration are also explored, along with the role that service availability plays in reentry outcomes.

Levin, Dana S. & Ward, L.M.

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

Discourses, Decisions, and Danger: Examining Associations between Sexual Messages and Positive and Negative Outcomes

Young people are inundated with communication about sexuality from many sources, including schools, parents, and friends. This paper examines associations between three identified sexual discourses—the sexual double standard discourse, the sexual abstinence discourse, and the positive sexuality discourse, as communicated by these sources—and several outcomes, including feelings of sexual self-efficacy and assertiveness, and experiences of sexual coercion. Results indicate that the double standard and abstinence discourses are largely linked to negative outcomes, while the pro-sex discourse is linked with more positive outcomes. Our results suggest that sexual discourses are salient and may affect sexual development, health, and safety.

Lloyd-Richardson, Elizabeth, Nichter, E., Wing, R., & The Tobacco Etiology Research Network

Friday, 1:50-3:20 (Madera)

A Prospective Study of Weight Gain During the College Freshman Year: Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

The “Freshman 15” refers to the popular belief that students gain an average of 15 pounds during their first year of college. Yet, few studies have investigated weight change during this developmental transition. This paper combines qualitative and quantitative methods, first, by presenting findings from two large, diverse samples of students’ weight change during the freshman year, and then using qualitative methods to elicit students’ opinions of factors leading to weight gain during the freshman year.

Lumpkin, Chantel

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

Developmental Assets of College Students

This study examines the developmental assets, positive experiences and characteristics, self-reported by over 1000 college students ages 18-23. The proximal and filtering influence of family

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common to younger individuals is displaced by the college's environment, peer relationships, and the emerging adults' maturity when they choose to attend residential colleges. Assets, and the related environments, pertaining to emerging adult college students are identified. Cultural influences of gender, age, and ethnicity, and residence are included in the discussion. Implications are provided regarding the use of assets to address issues of college retention and academic achievement.

Macek, Petr, Bejcek, J., & Vanickova, J.

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

Contemporary Czech Emerging Adults: Generation Growing up in the Period of Social Changes

Questionnaire research identified that two thirds of Czech respondents (n = 442, aged 18 – 27) reported themselves as emerging adults. Compared with young adults, emerging adults reported low level of emotional stability and less clear idea about their future. They also evaluated adult life as less attractive. Another quantitative and qualitative data indicated that Czech emerging adults have similar characteristics as their peers in other European countries. However, they put a special emphasis on the feeling of freedom. This finding may be related to social, political and cultural changes that affected especially their parents and their lives in childhood.

Maggs, Jennifer

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

Time Matters: Why we Need Multiwave Data and Dynamic 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.

Maggs, Jennifer, Auerback, K., Patrick, M., & Osgood, D.W.

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

Structural Influences on Leisure Activities and Alcohol Use Across the Transition to Adulthood in Britain

Emerging adulthood (EA) is increasingly characterized by identity and lifestyle exploration, particularly in groups commonly postponing adult roles. We examine structural and social-role predictors of variation in leisure and alcohol use during EA using longitudinal data from the National Child Development Study. Differences in leisure and alcohol use were observed. For example, drinking was heavier among those with structural advantages including higher social class and selective school attendance. Additional analyses examine moderation by EA roles (worker, spouse, parent). Discussion will focus the extent to which structural factors shape leisure and the conditions facilitating exploration in EA.

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Magnusson, Chris & Trost, K.

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

Early sexual intercourse: Does it matter for young and middle-aged women's health?

The present study focuses on the long-term implications of early sexual intercourse for women's health in young adulthood and in midlife. The participants belonged to the Swedish longitudinal research program Individual Development and Adaptation project (the IDA project). By the age of 14, the cohort consisted of 590 girls. Early intercourse was a strong predictor of poor health behaviours, in young adulthood and in midlife, including alcohol consumption and smoking. There were no differences, in midlife, for psychological health and positive health related behaviours between those who had early intercourse experiences and those who did not. These results further highlight the importance of considering the co-occurrence of behaviours of various health domains in future research in a life-span perspective.

Mann-Feder, Varda

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

Emerging Adulthood for Youth in Care: Findings on the Transition to Independent Living

Youth leaving care for independent living face the challenges of adulthood prematurely and are over-represented among institutionalized and homeless adults. Despite the proliferation of preparatory programs for this group, outcome research to date has suggested that most interventions fail. This paper reports on results of a qualitative study that engaged youth leaving care in focus group interviews. Findings suggest that placement agencies have neglected the emotional preparedness of these youth, and have denied them age appropriate opportunities to develop autonomy. Implications for launching emerging adults outside a family setting are discussed.

McCardel, Chloe

Friday, 3:40-5:10 (Canyon A)

What Really Concerns Us? – Issues Identified by Young Victorians

The Stonnington Youth Council (SYC) in Victoria, Australia recently surveyed nearly 1000 young people from the ages of 12-25. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain which issues affected young people and to assess what situations they were in. Our findings link their educational, housing, employment situation to their age, postcode and the issues which affect them. This presentation investigates the current concerns and situations of the youth in the Stonnington area, the comparison with national and international trends and the different responses between the various age groups.

McGuire, Jenifer, Russell, S., & Anderson, C.

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

Sexual Minority Adolescent Health Care Utilization and Mental Health in Young Adulthood

A strong link exists between adolescent same-sex attractions and compromised mental health. Using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health; 1995-1997), we examined same-sex romantic attractions in adolescence (ages 12-18) and their associations with mental health services use and mental health status 18 months and 6 years later. Opposite and both sex attracted youth reported using more mental health services with symptoms of

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depression, but same sex attracted youth did not. Mental health services marginally predicted reduced depression for opposite sex attracted males (Beta = .42, $p < .06$) and both sex attracted females (Beta = 1.6, $p < .06$) only.

Meek, Rosie

Friday, 11:15-12:45 (Ventana)

Young offenders and the transition from custody to community

This paper summarizes a body of research relating to the experiences of young men (age 18-21) in prison in the UK. Drawing on a social psychological perspective, the research is broadly concerned with identity processes within prison and after returning to the community. In particular, qualitative findings are presented in relation to experiences of custody, preparation for release from prison, and cultural and identity issues that impact on the transition from custody to community. Findings are discussed in relation to policy implications as well as future research directions.

Messersmith, Emily & Schulenberg, J.

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

High School Seniors' Expectations for their Educational Attainment and their Actual Attainment during Emerging Adulthood

This paper examines potential sources of discontinuity in educational expectations during emerging adulthood. We use nationally representative samples of high school seniors, who continued to complete surveys in their twenties, to consider graduation from 4-year colleges/universities, graduation from 2-year colleges and attendance in graduate or professional programs. A series of logistic regressions revealed that socio-demographic characteristics, work- and school-related behaviors during high school, and roles that are adopted during emerging adulthood all predict educational attainment. Furthermore, there are important interactions of these predictors and participants' prior expectations for educational attainment. Discussion will focus on discontinuity and continuity during transitory periods.

Miles, Bart

Friday, 3:40-5:10 (Canyon A)

Envisioning the voices of homeless & runaway young adults

This paper explores the lived experience of homeless youth ages 18-24 through the use of photographic images, and participant's interpretations of pictures. These participants to identified, recorded, and reflected on their strengths and needs. This created a consciousness raising dialogue about youth homelessness and shared experiences. The youth were given cameras to take pictures of their everyday lives. These pictures were then developed, meaningful images were selected, then the youth wrote narratives about the selected photos. This paper discusses the findings of strengths and needs identified by these youth and offers an insider perspective on the issues of youth homelessness.

Molgat, Marc

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

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Do transitional events matter? How «emerging adults» define themselves as adults

Research by Arnett suggests that in the period of emerging adulthood events have little salience in young people's conceptions of the transition to adulthood. This paper will examine how those aged in their mid to late twenties – and who may have experienced transitional events – view themselves as adults. Analysis of semi-directed interviews (n=53) will examine two hypotheses: 1) that most research subjects view themselves in an ambivalent fashion; 2) that research subjects identifying as full or partial adults do so by emphasizing individualized notions such as “accepting responsibility for oneself”, “making independent decisions” and “becoming financially independent” rather transitional events.

Mortimer, Jeylan T. & Fischer, L.

Friday, 3:40-5:10 (Madera)

Career Beginnings American Style: Agency and Floundering in Subjective Perspective

Based on more than 100 interviews from 5 sites of the MacArthur Qualitative Initiative, we examine youth's own perspectives on career establishment in the new, more uncertain American economy. The more successful youth had embarked on occupational careers that appear to them to be fulfilling and self-sustaining; they exhibit agency and planful competence. Other youth “flounder” between unrelated jobs, find few intrinsic or extrinsic rewards in work, and have a more passive psychological stance. This paper examines socioeconomic resources, preparatory experiences, social supports, and patterns of decision-making that contributed to the youth's disparate current circumstances.