

**4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Emerging Adulthood**  
Atlanta, GA – October 29-30, 2009  
**Individual Papers**

**ANDRADE, Claudia**

Faculty of Psychology and Education, University of Porto

**Anticipated Work-Family Role Reconciliation in Portuguese Emerging Adults**

An extensive sociological and psychological literature focused on the prolonged transition to adulthood has been pointing out that contextual aspects play an important role when young adults anticipated work-family role reconciliation. Additionally, although identity and self-concept issues are prominent during this period, the relationship between psychological development and attitudes and anticipated strategies to juggle with work and family demands are not well understood.

This study examines the relation between psychological aspects of identity and self-concept in relation to attitudes (family and parenthood, work and career and gender roles) and their influence on anticipated strategies to reconcile work-family roles. Moreover, it aims to analyze differences in this process in emergent adults that are attending university and emergent adults that have already entered the labor market.

Participants in this study were 361 university students and 348 young professionals. Structural equation modeling analyses provided evidence to support that, for Portuguese emerging adults, the anticipation of work-family roles reconciliation is affected by the performance of the professional role and by gender. The implications of these findings are discussed in terms of theoretical models of emerging adulthood in Portugal and successful developmental transitions to adulthood.

**ATAK, Hasan & ÇOK, Figen**

Department of Educational Psychology, Ankara University

**The Process of Transition to Adulthood Among Turkish People from Rural Settings**

Over the past decades, social scientists have shown a mounting interest in transition to adulthood. Becoming an adult takes longer today than in previous decades. Turkey is a developing country where there are currently quite different variations of lifestyles and socio-cultural backgrounds. Certain demographic features such as age of marriage, birth of first child, completion of education, age of entering to full time employment have increased on average during the last twenty years. However, the timing of these transitions seems to be different between rural and urban areas and for those in different social settings. This study aims to explore the main features of the transition to adulthood in Turkey in rural settings. Fourteen

individuals between the ages of 19 and 29 were interviewed. All participants come from rural areas, and also left education at an early age. Interviews were semi-structured with open-ended questions to extract young people's own perceptions of what facilitates and prevents their transitions into adulthood. Interviews were conducted by peers, a group of undergraduate students of a state university in the center of the country, who have been trained for this purpose. Individual narratives were used to illustrate the key issues.

Thematic analysis of the data revealed differences in the transition to adulthood in rural settings. The transition to adulthood in rural setting seems to differentiate with respect to certain demographic factors such as gender, age, military service, marriage, and work status.

**ATAK, Hasan, & KAPÇI, Emine Gûl**

Department of Educational Psychology, Ankara University

### **Parental Bonding, Agentic Personality, Identity Formation, and Emerging Adulthood among Turkish University Students and Forgotten-Half**

Emerging adulthood is a new conceptualization and is a rapidly growing research area. Personal agency includes self-esteem, purpose in life, ego strength, and internal locus of control. Marcia conceptualizes four identity statuses: diffusion, foreclosure, moratorium, and achievement. Parental bonding may affect the level of agency, the possibility of being an emerging adult, and identity status in the transition to adulthood. Turkey is a developing country that has different socialization for individuals who have different life conditions. In the literature, there is less study on forgotten-half, and also comparing college and non-college groups. In this context, it is not clear how the experiences of forgotten-half (non-college young people compared with college-attending and graduated emerging adults) is shaped in terms of identity formation and emerging adulthood. Thus, it is necessary that the relationship between parental bonding, agentic personality, identity formation and emerging adulthood be studied.

This study aims to investigate the relationship between parental bonding, agentic personality, identity formation and emerging adulthood among Turkish forgotten-half and university students. There are 700 expected individuals who are non-college young people and college-attending and graduated emerging adults (19-26 ages). The Extended Objective Measure of Ego Identity Status (Bennion & Adams, 1986), The Multi-Measure Agentic Personality Scale (Cote, 1997), Parental Bonding Instrument (Parker et. al., 1979), and Views of Life Survey (Reiffman Arnett and Colwell, 2003) will be used for gathering data. It will be computed descriptive statistics for all variables. In order to determine agency level cluster analysis will be used. Structural equation modeling techniques will be used to ascertain the relationship between parental bonding, agency and identity status and to determine whether this relationship is consistent across college and non-college groups. Data have been collected so the study is still in progress. Results will be discussed in the context of emerging adulthood theory and the features of Turkish culture.

**BAGLEY, Erika, & McLOYD, Vonnie**

Department of Psychology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

### **Initiators, Gatekeepers, and Mentors: Parental Roles Through the Transition to Adulthood**

This qualitative study seeks to expand our knowledge regarding the influence of parents during emerging adulthood and investigate the specific parental behaviors that may encourage or discourage the adoption of an adult identity. Participants were 212 diverse college students who either completed open-ended surveys or in depth interviews on the subject of adulthood. We identified three parental roles: initiators, gatekeepers, and mentors. Themes of control and support (both financial and emotional) were found across the sample, suggesting that these parenting domains greatly influenced how youth viewed their status as adults.

**BEGORAY, Deborah<sup>1</sup>, & MARSHALL, Anne<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Victoria

<sup>2</sup>Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, University of Victoria

### **Influences on the Health Literacy of Emerging Adults: Grade 12 Student Voices**

This research project sought to discover more information about the views of graduating high school students on the in-school and out-of-school influences on their health literacy. We collected both quantitative and qualitative data using surveys, individual interviews and focus groups. Results indicated that in-school influences were not seen as important, while the influence of parents and the media had high importance. We conclude that more work needs to be done to make the health education curricula in the high schools more relevant to adolescents. These steps will have lifelong influence on their health and health literacy.

**BERGMAN, Andrea<sup>1</sup>, REESMAN-OWENS, Meredith<sup>2</sup>, KONG, Grace<sup>1</sup>, ORTIZ, Staci<sup>1</sup>, & MacDONALD, Jessica<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, St. John's University

<sup>2</sup>Child and Adolescent Services, The Zucker-Hillside Hospital

### **Substance Use Disorders in Emerging Adults Attending a GED Program**

Emerging adulthood is characterized by the highest prevalence rates of substance use when compared to other developmental periods. Over 500,000 high-school drop-outs enroll in General Educational Development (GED, i.e., high school equivalency) every year but over 60% are unsuccessful in obtaining their degree, with substance abuse a possible barrier to success. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between substance use disorders and educational outcome for emerging adults enrolled in a GED program. Participants were 104 (60% male) GED students between ages 17 and 21 who completed questionnaires,

interviews, and a brief cognitive measure. Logistic regression analyses indicated that the only significant predictor of GED success was IQ. Contrary to prediction, substance use disorders did not predict GED success for this sample of emerging adults.

**BOJKO, Martha**

Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

**An Emerging Adult in an Emerging Society: Assessing the Sexual Health of Young Adult Women in Post-Soviet Ukraine**

The economic, political, and socio-cultural changes that have occurred in post-Soviet Ukraine have created a challenging situation for emerging adult women who report an inability to *realizuvatisia* (realize oneself) in current Ukrainian society. One coping strategy available to these young women is their sexuality. However, Ukraine is experiencing rapid increases of heterosexually transmitted HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Drawing on two years of ethnographic fieldwork conducted among emerging adult women living in the western border city of Uzhhorod, Ukraine and utilizing data from the 2007 Ukraine Demographic and Health Survey, this paper will examine the multi-level factors that influence the sexual knowledge and attitudes of emerging adult women and will assess their sexual behavior and sexual health at a time of rapid socio-economic and political change and in light of the current HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ukraine.

**BROMAN, Clifford**

Department of Sociology, Michigan State University

**Seeking Help for Emotional Problems in Young Adulthood**

While the use of services for mental health treatment has been extensively studied in the adult population, this topic among young adults has been overlooked. We examine this issue in this paper. Results show that the use of services for mental health treatment among this sample of young adults is predicted by age, gender, race-ethnicity, substance use in adolescence and physical and sexual abuse. Because we need a more critical focus on the time of young adulthood, research on the use of services for mental health treatment must be more inclusive of this population.

**BROMNICK, Rachel, & GREEN, Heidi**

Department of Psychology, University of Lincoln

### **Past, Present, & Future Perceptions of Parental Relationships in British College Students**

Previous research would predict that the change in residence afforded by the move to university allows students to develop and reflect on their status as an adult. In this qualitative study, 77 British college students' perceptions of parental relationships in the past, present, and future were analyzed. The results showed relationships with parents to have improved since early adolescence, a strong indebtedness to parents in the present and a desire for continued or strengthened autonomous-relatedness in the future. The findings from this study are offered as a critical appreciation of Arnett's 'Emerging Adulthood'.

**BROWNLIE, Elizabeth<sup>1</sup>, BEITCHMAN, Joseph<sup>1</sup>, & JOHNSON, Carla<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Child, Youth, and Family Program, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

<sup>2</sup>Department of Speech Language Pathology, University of Toronto

### **Adult Transitions and Well-Being Among Emerging Adults with Language Impairment**

This study examines adult transitions and wellbeing in a community sample of children with language impairment (LI) and controls, followed to adulthood. Although they face distinct challenges, youth with LI generally live with their parents through adolescence, and few are connected to institutions or services. Participants were part of a 25-year longitudinal study. A one-in-three random community sample of 5-year-old children living in Ottawa, Canada, were screened for speech/language impairment. Employment, student status, and independent residence did not differ for the two groups. Few participants with LI attended university; however, half participated in postsecondary training. Men with LI were most likely to begin long-term career paths, whereas controls were more likely to attend university or college. Pathways diverged most sharply for language-impaired women: half were raising children by age 25, and one third of these were single parents. Few men or control women were raising children.

**BURKHOLDER, Diane<sup>1</sup>, JOLIVETTE, Andrew<sup>2</sup>, & DIAZ, Rafael<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Ethnic Studies, San Francisco State University

<sup>2</sup>Department of American Indian Studies, San Francisco State University

### **A Time of Transition: An Exploration of the Experiences of HIV-Positive Emerging Adults of Color**

Approximately 50% of all new HIV infections occur among people who are under the age of 25. Much of the existing literature on emerging adulthood has focused on heterosexual whites, examining HIV risk behaviors but ignoring those living with HIV/AIDS. Through focus groups,

this study examines the experiences of HIV-positive men who have sex with men (MSM; 53% of new infections) and HIV-positive women (82% of new infections) of color who live in the San Francisco Bay area with their HIV-negative counterparts. Projects that demonstrate the pressing needs of emerging adults can help shift public policy and funding sources.

**CAGLE, Brent, CEREMUGA, Jessica, & CHARLES, Victoria**

Department of Social Work, Winthrop University

### **Emerging Adults Living with Chronic Illness in South Carolina**

This exploratory study uses a grounded theory method to gain a better understanding of how 18-29-year-olds living with chronic illness understand and shape their identities, as well as what community resources are most important to them. Participants were drawn from a sample of young people currently receiving services through South Carolina's Community Long-Term Care Program. This paper highlights findings that critique and expand current emerging adulthood theory and contributes to knowledge of diverse groups of emerging adults.

**CAMBRON, Janelle<sup>1</sup>, & ACITELLI, Linda<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Texas A&M University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Houston

### **Putting the "I" in Interpersonal Vulnerability: The Link Between Friendship Contingent Self-Esteem and Depressive Symptoms**

Low social competence and a high need for relationships (dependency) have been proposed as risk factors for depression, but research has been mixed. What may be important to consider is the extent to which one's self-esteem is dependent on relationships. The study's purpose was to show that high dependency and low social competence predict depressive symptoms only for individuals whose self-esteem is highly contingent on their friendships. As hypothesized, high dependency and low social competence negatively predicted depressive symptoms only for high FCSE individuals. This research underscores the importance of considering the role of the self in examining depression vulnerability.

**CARTER, Terrolyn**

Department of Sociology and Social Work, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

### **Educational Aspirations and Expectations: Perspectives from Black Emerging Adults**

Despite having high educational aspirations, in comparison to Whites, Blacks are still less likely to attend college and attain advanced degrees. Using in-depth interviews and quantitative

descriptive data, I explored the educational aspirations and expectations of 30 Black emerging adults. Findings indicate that although Black emerging adults aspire to attain postsecondary and advanced degrees, they realistically expect to attain less. Moreover, personal attributes, family context, economic status, and racial prejudice stereotypes were found to be influential on the educational aspirations and expectations. I will discuss the implications of unmet aspirations and consider the implications for postsecondary educational training and career preparation.

**CHAMBERLAIN, Daniel**

School of Arts, Griffith University

### **Emerging Adults' Leisure Activities: A Phenomenological Analysis**

This paper explores the ways that emerging adults use their non-work time. It categorizes activities by the purposes that emerging adults attribute to them. Using intensive interviewing and open coding it presents a set of seven phenomenological categories that reflect the subjective and contextual nature of these pursuits. The seven categories of activity are social, cultural, creative, play, everyday, aspirational, and liminal. The categories cover the full range of experiences of emerging adults. The breadth and sensitivity of these phenomenological categories thus allow for better analysis of the lived experiences of emerging adulthood.

**CHOPRA, Priyanka, & KAPADIA, Shagufa**

Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

### **Am I an Adult? The Indian Journey**

The Indian society is experiencing a flux of social change, and young persons are particularly vulnerable to the powerful global and western influences. In such a context the criteria of adulthood are expected to be redefined. The paper is aimed at obtaining profile of Emerging Adulthood in the Indian Contemporary Context. An adapted version of Jeffrey Arnett's questionnaire of markers of adulthood was used to survey a sample of 600 college students from two parts of India, Delhi and Vadodara equally divided into gender and age. The results focused on examining the criteria of adulthood with reference to select background variables. At a broader level, the study is also expected to throw light on some universal and culturally specific characteristics of emerging adulthood.

**COMMONS, Michael<sup>1</sup>, & MILLER, Patrice<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, Salem State College

### **How Does Abstract Stage Language Make Possible the Development of Higher Stage Thinking?**

Whereas Inhelder and Piaget (1958) and Piaget (1970/72) asserted that formal stage was the highest possible stage of thinking, a number of conceptions since then have described forms of thinking that are different from or go beyond formal thinking (see Marchand, 2001). Here, we examine how abstract stage language makes the development of higher stages possible. The Model of Hierarchical Complexity (Commons, 2008; Commons et al., 2008; Richards & Commons, 1990) proposes four postformal stages; five are relevant to understanding emerging adulthood. The paper will describe these stages and show how language made their development possible.

**CONLEY, Colleen**

Department of Psychology, Loyola University Chicago

### **Promoting Psychosocial Wellness in Emerging Adults Transitioning to College: Preliminary Findings from a Treatment Effectiveness Study**

The transition into emerging adulthood and into college is accompanied by various developmental tasks and psychosocial challenges. This research explores the effectiveness of a psychosocial wellness promotion program for first-year college students. Using a pre, post, and follow-up design, 46 first-year college students in a *Promoting Psychosocial Wellness* seminar (treatment group) or other topical seminar (control group) reported on various aspects of their psychosocial functioning. Treatment participants displayed better academic adjustment and coping, and reported greater improvements in various psychosocial domains since starting college. These findings have exciting implications for psychosocial wellness promotion among college students and other emerging adults.

**COOK, Kaye<sup>1</sup>, NEAL KIMBALL, Cynthia<sup>2</sup>, LEONARD, Kathleen<sup>1</sup>, FLANAGAN, Kelly<sup>2</sup>, & BOYATZIS, Chris<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Gordon College

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, Wheaton College

<sup>3</sup>Department of Psychology, Bucknell University

### **Identity and Relationship Factors that Maximize Young Adult Coping after College Graduation**

College graduation brings tremendous stress and growth potential. In two samples (N = 479) of recent Christian college graduates (from the classes of 2006 and 2008), we explored three areas identified (Arnett, 2000) as transitional challenges: worldview (in our case, Christian), ego

identity, and attachments to others, expecting that strengths in these three areas predicted positive outcomes (i.e., reduced stress, greater coping and stress-coping balance, and higher life satisfaction). Multiple regression analyses generally supported our expectations. Some variables (attachment, identity commitment) consistently predicted good outcomes, although some religiosity measures (e.g., intrinsic religiosity, Christian Orthodoxy Scale) showed more inconsistent and weaker outcomes.

**CROCETTI, Elisabetta**

Department of Educational Sciences, University of Macerata

**Psychosocial Well-Being in Emerging Adulthood: A Comparison Between Italian Students and Workers**

The objective of this research was to identify factors that promote subjective (Diener, 1984), psychological (Ryff, 1989), and social well-being (Keyes, 1998) in emerging adulthood. Participants were 365 Italian young people (51% males), aged between 19 and 25 years. Specifically, 154 individuals were university students, while 211 were workers. Results revealed that main determinants of well-being were identity development maturity (in particular vocational and religious identity) and relational engagement. Differences between university students and workers stand out, shedding light on the “forgotten half” (Arnett, 2000), that is on emerging adults that entered in the labor market just after the high school.

**DALTON, Andrea<sup>1</sup>, GALAMBOS, Nancy<sup>1</sup>, & KRAHN, Harvey<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Alberta

<sup>2</sup>Department of Sociology, University of Alberta

**From Emerging to Young Adulthood: Mental Health Trajectories to Subjective Well-Being and Career Satisfaction**

This study explored how trajectories of depressive symptoms and expressed anger in emerging adulthood predicted subjective well-being (SWB) and career satisfaction at age 32. Among women, higher depressive symptoms at age 18 predicted lower SWB and career satisfaction at age 32, and less improvement across emerging adulthood in depressive symptoms predicted lower SWB at age 32. Among men, higher depressive symptoms at age 18 predicted lower SWB at age 32, and less improvement in expressed anger predicted lower career satisfaction at age 32. Pathways from mental health in emerging adulthood to successful functioning in young adulthood are diverse and gendered.

**DEMI, Mary Ann**

Department of Rural Sociology and Demography, The Pennsylvania State University

### **Emerging Adult Home Leaving: The Role of Dating and Sexual Relationships**

This study explores the relationship of early dating and early sexual activity to the age when emerging adults first leave their parental home and their initial living arrangements (alone, with roommate(s), cohabitation or marriage) when they leave. These early romantic relationship behaviors are expected to be associated with early age of home leaving and cohabitation. The National Longitudinal Study of Youth (1997-2006) data are used to determine the relationships between early dating and sexual behavior, and subsequent initial home leaving. The analytic strategy includes descriptive analysis, life tables, and event history analysis

**DOR, Asnat<sup>1</sup>, & COHEN-FRIDEL, Sara<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Behavioral Sciences, The Max Stern Emek Yeesrael Academic College

<sup>2</sup>School of Education, Bar Ilan University

### **What Would it Be Like to Become a Parent?**

Perceptions of parenthood among people at the emerging adulthood stage are the focus of this study. The attitudes of Arab and Jewish students in Israel were examined regarding intrinsic and extrinsic motivation for parenthood and the cost of parenthood. Participants were 276 single, non-parent students, age 20-28. Findings revealed that Jewish emerging adults expressed higher intrinsic motivation for parenthood and lower extrinsic motivation than their Arab counterparts. However, the expected cost of parenthood was found to be higher among Arab female participants than among their Jewish counterparts. The findings are discussed against intercultural differences and reciprocal influences of societies with different orientations regarding collectivist and individualistic value.

**DUAN, Xinxing<sup>1</sup>, Nelson, Larry<sup>2</sup>, & Zhang, Xinli<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>School of Literature, Law & Politics, China University of Mining and Technology

<sup>2</sup>School of Family Life, Brigham Young University

<sup>3</sup>School of Educational Science, Xuzhou Normal University

### **Emerging Adulthood in China: Opportunities and Challenges**

There were about 175 million young people aged 18-29 in China in 2005. It is reasonable to assume that the majority of Chinese young people are in the process of exploring their emerging adulthood in terms of Arnett's theory. Based on the analysis on data of demography of Chinese young people, with methods of cultural psychology, inventory and interview, the validity of emerging adulthood theory in China has been checked, and the opportunities and challenges confronted by Chinese emerging adults have been discussed. The new direction of researches on Chinese emerging adulthood has been explored.

**ERYILMAZ, Ali**

Department of Educational Psychology, Ankara University

### **Different Developmental Paths in Turkey with respect to Perceived Control and Self-Esteem**

Adolescence and emerging adulthood are very important developmental stages in human life. It is clear that there can be different developmental paths from adolescence to emerging adulthood. Turkey is a developing country which has different socialization for males and females. Compared to the boys, girls spend more time at home, take more responsibility at home, are expected to behave obediently to the traditional mother role, are encouraged to become more dependent, and parents may behave overprotectively toward them. Also, in a traditional Turkish family, overcontrol of the girls has been observed. In this context, it has to be investigated two important psychological structures which are perceived control and self-esteem. In this study, the development of perceived control and self-esteem were investigated among Turkish adolescents and emerging adults. There were 110 adolescents (56 girls and 54 boys) and 111 emerging adults (52 girls and 59 boys). Independent t-tests were used to determine age differences on perceived control and self-esteem. In addition to this, ANOVA was used to determine gender differences. There were significant differences between adolescence and emerging adulthood with respect to perceived control. Emerging adults have higher perceived control than adolescents. With respect to perceived control, there are significant differences between genders. Male emerging adults have higher perceived control than male adolescents. On the other hand, female adolescents have higher self-esteem than male adolescents, and also female emerging adults have higher self-esteem than male adolescents. There are no significant differences between female emerging adults and male emerging adults with respect to perceived control and self-esteem. Results can be discussed in the context of emerging adulthood theory and the features of traditional Turkish culture.

**ERYILMAZ, Ali, & ATAK, Hasan**

Department of Educational Psychology, Ankara University

### **Starting Romantic Intimacy at Emerging Adulthood: Culture and Identity Statuses**

Emerging adulthood is characterized as young people exploring various possibilities in love, work, and worldviews for identity exploration. The identity exploration process may encourage emerging adults to seek out intimate interactions verbally with romantic partners. In the literature, there is no comprehensive knowledge about starting romantic intimacy and its markers. Research interest in romantic relationships about young people is fairly recent. Less is known about the nature, characteristic, and formation of romantic intimacy. In this context, culture and identity statuses have to be investigated as the predictors of starting romantic intimacy. This study aims to investigate the impact of individualism/collectivism and identity statuses on starting romantic intimacy at emerging adulthood. There are 220 individuals who are emerging adults (19-26 ages) expected. Independent t-test and regression analysis will be used. Data have been collected. The study is in progress.

**ESPINOSA-HERNANDEZ, Graciela, ABARCA, Sandra, BEZEMER, Denille, & LEFKOWITZ, Eva**  
Department of Human Development and Family Studies, The Pennsylvania State University

### **Sex is More Than Pleasure: Sexual Intimacy Attitudes and Motives in College**

This longitudinal study focused on an ethnically diverse sample of sexually experienced college students. We were interested in understanding how sexual intimacy attitudes predicted sexual motives two years later and if gender moderated these associations. During second and fourth year of college, 267 participants (58% female) completed a survey. We performed hierarchical linear regressions. The main effect of intimacy attitudes was significant. Emerging adults who endorsed more these attitudes were more likely to endorse enhancement and coping motives for engaging in sex than individuals who reported intimacy attitudes less. The interaction between attitudes and gender was not significant.

**FINLAY, Andrea, RAM, Nilam, & MAGGS, Jennifer**

Department of Human Development & Family Studies, The Pennsylvania State University

### **Does College Student Alcohol Use Vary Across Days as a Function of Daily Routine Activities?**

This study examines the associations between routine daily activities and alcohol use in a sample of first-time college students ( $M = 18.42$  years old,  $SD = 0.42$ ; 50.6% female). A multilevel model with days ( $N = 8,945$ ) nested within persons ( $N = 714$ ) was used to examine how alcohol use was related to day (weekday/weekend), activity involvement (four types), gender, and their interactions. Weekend social events and parties were linked with more drinks consumed and school-work and religious/spiritual activities on weekends were linked with fewer drinks consumed. Results suggest altering settings and characteristics of activities to reduce underage drinking.

**FOSTER, Catherine, DAVIS, Ann, & HIGSON, Helen**

Aston Business School, Aston University

### **Settling In: Understanding the Role and Influence of Parents on Student Transition to University**

This paper will present details and findings to date collected as part of a research project currently being undertaken at Aston University, Birmingham, UK. The research focuses on the adjustment and experience of first year students and the role and influence of their parents and family during this time. In addition to Educational research literature, the research draws on "Emerging Adulthood" to assist in understanding the experience of students upon enrolling on a Higher Education degree. It is anticipated that the findings will contribute to the UK student retention debate as well as the adjustment literature.

**GALA, Jigisha, & KAPADIA, Shagufa**

Department of Human Development and Family Studies, The M.S. University of Baroda

**“My Love, You Make Me So Happy! But What Would People Say?” Love Tales of Emerging Adults from an Indian Context**

The paper attempts to describe the nature of romantic relationships and their impact on perceived happiness of emerging adults in the city of Baroda, India. In-depth interview guideline and rating scales were used to collect data. Thirty individuals in the age range of 18-25 years, currently engaged in a romantic relationship with an opposite sex partner participated in the study with equal representation of women and men. The quantitative data from the rating scale support the qualitative responses of the individuals who have largely reported to be happier after their involvement in the current relationship.

**GOLDSTEIN, Jerome**

San Francisco Clinical Research Center

**The Neurobiology of Sexual Orientation**

Homosexuality is a constantly debated issue as to whether it is determined at birth or a choice (nature vs. nurture). Recent studies reveal a clear cut neurobiology to sexual orientation. Neurobiologists Simon LeVay, Dr. Ivanka Savic-Berglund and Dr. Per Lindström, have conducted studies finding significant size difference of the interstitial nuclei of the anterior hypothalamus and cerebral size differences between homosexual and heterosexual subjects. Also, the brains of homosexual men resembled heterosexual women and homosexual women resembled heterosexual men. A totally evidence-based medicine presentation will provide current data regarding homosexuality showing differences, or similarities, between the brains of homosexuals and heterosexuals.

**GRANT, Holly, & GROTEVANT, Harold**

Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**Kinship Network Predictors of Attachment in Adopted Young Adults**

Prior studies suggest that children who have been adopted are more likely to develop insecure attachment style, compared to non-adopted children. The current study of 169 young adult adoptees and their parents examines the relationship between adoptive parent-child relationships in adolescence and attachment style in young adulthood, while also examining the possible impact of adoptive parents' psychological functioning and the adolescents' satisfaction with the contact with the birth mother. Results indicate parent-child relationships and parental psychological functioning are predictors of attachment, but not satisfaction with contact with the birth mother.

**HONIG, Sylvie**

Department of Sociology, University of Chicago

**Apron Strings Attached: Parental Dependence and Hindered Development**

Parental dependence among young adults has seen an intense rise in the past thirty years. Using data from qualitative interviews with educated young adults, this paper explores the connection between prolonged parental dependence and the development of young adults. Economic subsidies fail to provide the incentive to become independent. And the close emotional relationship removes the incentive to break away from parental control, blurring the boundaries between intimacy and dependence.

**HOROWITZ, Ava**

Department of Psychology, University of Lincoln

**“You Can’t Say When You’re Eighteen You’re an Adult”: Age Markers as a Discursive Resource for Negotiating Membership of an “Adult” Identity**

EA research has reached a near consensus upon the most highly rated subjective markers of adulthood. The present study used 10 discussions (conversations and group interviews) amongst 30 participants (aged 12 to 54), to explore deliberations about membership of the category “adult”. A Discursive Psychology analysis highlighted the key role of age markers in problematizing membership and comparatively evaluating alternative markers. The current findings suggest that an existing research focus on consistency has obscured the important consequences of diversity in the markers of adulthood: a diversity which provides room for contention and debate regarding this important social and moral identity.

**JABLONSKI, Jessica, & MARTINO, Sara**

Department of Psychology, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

**Emerging Adults’ and Parents’ Perspectives on Communicating Adulthood Status**

This study examines parent-child communication in Emerging Adulthood. Thirty-seven college students and one or both of their parents completed written questionnaires assessing whether the parent had verbally communicated or did some action to acknowledge the Emerging Adult’s maturity. The responses to the open ended questions were qualitatively analyzed. The findings indicated that the Emerging Adults’ and parents’ responses were very similar, and the overwhelming majority reported that there had indeed been an acknowledgment from the parents to indicate Emerging Adulthood status, although this was not always verbally communicated; sometimes it was indicated through the parents’ behavior.

**JABLONSKI, Jessica, & CENTENO, Danielle**

Department of Psychology, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

### **Comparing the Parent-Child Relationship in Adolescence versus Emerging Adulthood**

This study examined changes in the parent-child relationship in the transition from adolescence to emerging adulthood. A sample of college students and one or both of their parents completed written questionnaires assessing the main themes of importance in the parent-child relationship that have been identified in the literature on adolescents and emerging adults including: Attachment, Affection, Acceptance, Autonomy, Conflict, and Communication. The questionnaire contained both likert scale data for quantitative analysis, as well as open-ended questions for qualitative analysis.

**JOHNSON, Sara**

Department of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Connecticut

### **Emerging Adults as Camp Counselors: The Developmental Significance of the Experience**

A hallmark of emerging adulthood is its heterogeneity; research within subgroups is important to understand how individuals experience emerging adulthood and the pathways they take into adulthood. One subgroup is summer camp counselors. The purpose of this exploratory study was to describe the developmental significance of this experience. Eight men and 12 women participated in in-depth interviews. Data analysis yielded four primary categories: the “camp bubble”, pathways to camp, the process of being a counselor, and after camp. The results support the idea that being a counselor at an overnight summer camp is a developmentally significant experience.

**KILLOREN, Sarah<sup>1</sup>, UPDEGRAFF, Kimberly<sup>2</sup>, & UMAÑA-TAYLOR, Adriana<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Colorado State University

<sup>2</sup>School of Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University

### **Mexican-Origin Emerging Adults' Sexual Behaviors**

In the present longitudinal study, we investigated cultural and familial correlates of 246 Mexican-origin emerging adults' sexual behaviors. Specifically, using cultural-ecological and sexual scripting perspectives, we examined how cultural orientations and familism in adolescence were related to sexual behaviors in emerging adulthood. Additionally, based on a risk and resilience model, we explored parental acceptance as a moderator of the links between culture and sexuality. Regressions analyses revealed that interactions between culture, family, and gender were significant predictors. The discussion highlights the importance of investigating the cultural and familial contexts of Mexican-origin emerging adults' sexual behaviors.

**KONSTAM, Varda, & LEHMANN, Ilana**

Department of Counseling and School Psychology, University of Massachusetts – Boston

### **Emerging Adults at Work and at Play: Leisure and Career Indecision**

Understanding the leisure activities of emerging adulthood may provide a means to differentiate those who are in need of assistance with respect to career indecision. Using a national sample of 486 college-educated 25 to 30 year olds, the relationship between leisure activities (Leisure Diagnostic Battery, short form) and career indecision (Career Decision-Making Difficulties Questionnaire) was examined. The model predicted approximately 8% of the variance for Dysfunctional Beliefs, 4% for Lack of Motivation, and 3% for General Indecisiveness and Internal Conflict respectively. The analysis of recreational activities provides an additional lens to the career decision-making of emerging adults.

**KREJCOVA, Lenka, & GILLERNOVA, Ilona**

Department of Psychology, Charles University in Prague

### **Social Skills of Czech University Students in the Context of their Level of Emerging Adulthood Dimensions**

The paper will present a part of a large study conducted in The Czech Republic. It observed various psychological characteristics of nearly four thousand emerging adults. The paper will focus on a level of respondents' social skills measured by Social Skills Inventory (SSI). The SSI results are compared with demographic characteristics of respondents and at the moment the results are also being correlated with the dimension of IDEA. The aim is to find links between a current level of social skills and a degree of emerging adulthood dimensions. We expected differences in social skills between genders and also among groups with different background and different life situation. All the hypotheses were proven ( $p = .000$ ). At the moment we do not have results concerning the correlations between SSI and IDEA outcomes. However, we presume that respondents who appear more adultlike will show more developed social skills.

**LEDERMAN, Monica, & GALLIGAN, Roslyn**

Department of Psychology, Swinburne University of Technology

### **Emerging Adulthood in Australia: The Role of Psychosocial Factors**

Emerging adulthood, the period bridging adolescence and young adulthood, was examined for 323 Australian university educated 20-29 year olds via an online questionnaire. Six groups with differing profiles on the dimensions of emerging adulthood were identified using a clustering procedure. These groups, Emerging Adults, Idealist Achievers, Adults, Calm Carers, Foreclosed, and Conflicted Diffused, were then compared for differences in their life goals, identity formation, and psychological distress. Implications are discussed for counseling during this life-

stage given the diversity of experiences with some emerging adults being depressed and many more anxious about their future.

**LEHMANN, Ilana, & KONSTAM, Varda**

Department of Counseling and School Psychology, University of Massachusetts – Boston

### **Perfectionism, Problematic Internet Use and Career Indecision**

Perfectionism and problematic Internet use appear to be increasing among emerging adults. Using a national sample of 486 college educated 25 to 30 year olds. The relationships among perfectionism (Multidimensional Perfectionism Scale), problematic Internet use (Internet Addiction Test), and career indecision (Career Decision-Making Difficulties Questionnaire) were examined. Stepwise regression revealed that problematic internet use alone significantly predicted career indecision ( $R^2=.599$ ) and when perfectionism was included in the model the  $R^2$  increased (.630). Emerging adults who are struggling with career identity may be receiving “too much information” from the Internet in their attempts to find the perfect job.

**LEWIN, Nina<sup>1</sup>, BRITTIAN, Aerika<sup>2</sup>, NORRIS, Shane<sup>1</sup>, & ROESER, Robert<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Paediatrics, University of the Witwatersrand

<sup>2</sup>Child Development, Tufts University

<sup>3</sup>Department of Applied Psychology, Portland State University

### **“Everyone Now is a Bit More Consumed in Materialistic Stuff”: An Examination of South African Young Adults’ Perceptions of Religion in Times of Social Change**

This paper will examine how South African emerging adults view the role of religion in modern day. Interviews were conducted with 60 young adults (age 18) recruited from the Birth to Twenty longitudinal study. Preliminary analyses of qualitative data suggest these emerging adults define religion/spirituality in more varying ways than current research suggests. The historical complex interactions between Christianity and African traditional beliefs in South Africa seem to be continuing. Participants in our study were actively engaged in exploring their own religious development by considering where, how often and if to attend religious services in this highly religious society.

**LYONS, Heidi**

Department of Sociology, Bowling Green State University

### **Adult Identity in Emerging Adulthood: The Importance of Educational Status**

Much of the research on subjective adult identity during emerging adulthood has focused either on role transitions or individualist criteria. Further, prior research has only measured

respondent's educational status as either currently enrolled or not. The current project goes beyond previous research by exploring differences in adult identity along an educational gradient. Also, it investigates whether socioeconomic status, role transitions, or individualist criteria moderate the educational differences. Waves I and III of Add Health are used to study the research questions. Results report that individuals in 2-year and currently not enrolled in higher education feel more like an adult compared to emerging adults in 4-year institutions. Socioeconomic and role transitions variable mediate the relationship between 2-year and 4-year student and partially mediates the relationship between not enrolled and 4-year individuals. The findings illustrate the importance of including a diverse measure of education when studying adult identity.

**MACEK, Petr**

Institute for Research on Children, Youth, and Family, Masaryk University Brno

**Feelings of Freedom and Restrictions of Czech Emerging Adults: Social and Psychological Related Issues**

This contribution is focused on feelings of freedom and restrictions of freedom in Czech emerging adults. The results from quantitative study 1 show a vast majority of respondents experience feeling of personal freedom. Housing with parents is perceived as an external restriction of freedom. The level of freedom corresponds with subjective well-being and self-esteem, and with the preference of self-enhancement values. Qualitative Study 2 based on semi-structured interviews helped to specify a different concept of freedom in the special context of social changes in Czech society.

**MANN-FEDER, Varda, EADES, Alison, & SOBEL, Emma**

Department of Applied Human Sciences, Concordia University

**Leaving Home: Preliminary Findings from a Program of Qualitative Research**

This presentation will share results of a qualitative study that explored the perceptions of Emerging Adults in relation to the experience of leaving home. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with university students: fifteen that had left home, and fifteen who were anticipating leaving home. The focus of the interviews was to elicit participants' accounts of their experiences in developing attitudinal, emotional and functional independence, and what, if any, turning points they identified in this process. Implications for the theory of Emerging Adulthood will be discussed, as will recommendations for intervention with individuals who are struggling in the transition to independence.

**McKENZIE, Maria<sup>1</sup>, OLSSON, Craig<sup>1</sup>, JORM, Anthony<sup>2</sup>, & PATTON, George<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Adolescent Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

<sup>2</sup>Centre for Youth Mental Health, ORYGEN Research Centre

### **Does Adolescent Depression Predict Smoking Initiation and Progression in Young Adulthood? Findings from a 10-year Longitudinal Study**

This study examined the association between adolescent depression and smoking initiation and progression in young adulthood. Adolescents (n=1520) from an Australian prospective cohort study were followed across 8 waves (10 years) from approximately 14 to 24 years of age. There was a three to four-fold increase in the odds of reporting any or daily tobacco use in young adulthood among adolescents with major depressive disorder who reported never smoking, even after adjustment for potential confounders. There was no association between adolescent depressive disorder and smoking outcomes in young adulthood among adolescents who reported less than daily or daily smoking.

**MENARD, Lauren, & SLATER, Robert**

Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

### **Are Emerging Adult Americans Different? Using National Data to Build on Arnett's Theory**

Arnett (2004) distinguishes the stage of emerging adulthood from adolescence and adulthood with five psychosocial features. For example, the age of possibilities is described as a time of high hopes and belief in transformation. But, do the experiences and perceptions of emerging adult Americans actually differ from the American population, and can Arnett's descriptions be replicated with national data? Current findings, such as 27% more emerging adult Americans believe their children will have a much better standard of living than they do, support Arnett's descriptions.

**MENDES, Mónica<sup>1</sup>, & FAGULBA, Teresa<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Clinical Psychology Department of the Lisbon University College Health Center

<sup>2</sup>Faculdade de Psicologia e Ciências da Educação da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon University

### **Depression in Young Adults: Gender Differences in the Prevalence of Depressive Symptomatology in a Portuguese Young Adult Community Sample**

This study aims to describe the prevalence of depressive symptomatology among young men and woman in a Portuguese non-clinical representative community sample, with ages between 18 and 29. The Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D; Radloff, 1977), and a Questionnaire including sociodemographic variables, general health variables and women health variables, as well as interpersonal stress factors were mailed to a sample of 1480 subjects. A phone line was available and local papers asked for collaboration. 83 young adults

aged between 18 and 29 (M=28, 33,7%; F=55, 66,3%) answered the CES-D and the Questionnaire. A gender difference in the intensity of depressive symptomatology was found and it was higher in young women (18.56 + 13.7) in comparison with young men (13.43 + 7.5) ( $t=-3.455$ ;  $p=0.001$ ). Logistic regression has shown that young women have a double risk of being depressed in comparison with young men and significant risk increments in depressive symptomatology among rural, non-college and recent unemployed respondents (both young men and women), among young adults with previous depressive episodes and among individuals who report feelings of loneliness, lack of sexual pleasure or interest and high concerns about body appearance and weight (both young men and women). The need for prevention-focused programs for specific risk groups such as young women and recently unemployed young adults is discussed

**MENDONCA, Marina, & FONTAINE, Anne Marie**

Faculty of Psychology and Education, Porto University

### **Socio-Educational Resources and Leaving Parental Home: Its Influence on Subjective Perception of Adulthood and Identity Development**

In Southern European countries, parent-adult child cohabitation is an increasing form of family support. Leaving home, however, has been recognized as an important marker of the entrance into adult life and as a facilitator of psychosocial development, namely identity development. The problem of parent-child cohabitation is addressed in this study among 205 Portuguese emerging adults, between 18 and 30 years-old. Using quantitative and qualitative approaches it was aimed to: (1) analyze to what extent subjective perceptions of adulthood and identity development varied according to emerging and young adults' socio-educational resources and to their residential situation and (b) to explore the reasons pointed out to justify emerging adults' residential situation.

**MIGA, Erin, MARSTON, Emily, & ALLEN, Joseph**

Department of Psychology, University of Virginia

### **A Positive Outlook on the Predictors and Sequelae of Romantic Relationship Power**

Research to date has primarily concentrated on negative psychosocial implications of relationship power, such as partner violence and depression. This longitudinal study will utilize a sample of 93 teens, peers and romantic partners to examine positive peer predictors and psychosocial outcomes of relationship power. Results indicate higher teen dominance and engagement during observed conflict predicts higher teen relationship power over time. Further, teen relationship power predicts less romantic jealousy, and higher romantic appeal, social acceptance, and self worth in early adulthood. Results suggest the importance of future research on the role of romantic power in the transition to emerging adulthood.

**MILLER, Patrice<sup>1</sup>, & COMMONS, Michael<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Salem State College

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

### **Postformal Stages of Development in Emerging Adulthood**

With an increasing interest in and elaboration of a period of emerging adulthood (e.g. Arnett, 2007), it may be a good time to reexamine theories of how thought and action change from adolescence and into adulthood. For adolescence and adulthood, Inhelder and Piaget (1958), described two major stages, the concrete and formal stages, with the formal stage seen as the culmination of cognitive development (see Marchand, 2001). This paper presents both a description of what stages beyond formal look like, and data from a series of studies supporting the existence of these more complex forms of thought and action.

**MORANDO, Sarah**

Department of Sociology, University of California – Los Angeles

### **Paths to Mobility in Early Adulthood: The Mexican Second Generation at Work in a New Destination**

Drawing from fifty-four interviews with young adult children of Mexican immigrants in Dalton, Georgia, this study examines how they enter the labor market, the jobs they find, and how they assess the quality of their jobs. Respondents utilize a vast repertoire of resources to get jobs. They capitalize on their bilingualism, maximizing their employment options with the human and social capital they have. Findings suggest that the children of Mexican immigrants glean a “second generation advantage” (Kasinitz et al., 2008, p. 20). While segmented assimilation scholars anticipate downward mobility for the children of Mexican immigrants, second-generation Mexicans in Dalton are upwardly mobile socio-economically.

**MORGAN, Elizabeth**

Department of Psychology, Boise State University

### **Sexual Identity Exploration and Commitment in Heterosexual Emerging Adults**

Participants included 447 college students (286 women, 161 men) with an average age of 19.7. Participants provided written responses regarding the formation of their sexual identity; responses were coded for levels of commitment and sexual exploration. Results indicated that 25 participants described low commitment and low exploration, 173 described high commitment and low exploration, 39 described low commitment and high exploration, and 210 described high commitment and high exploration. Comparisons to quantitative measures of sexual identity exploration and commitment revealed similar patterns. Results suggest that heterosexual young adults fit into all four identity statuses, contrary to past findings.

**MORGAN, Elizabeth<sup>1</sup>, THORNE, Avril<sup>2</sup>, & ZURBRIGGEN, Eileen<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Boise State University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of California – Santa Cruz

### **A Longitudinal Study of Conversations with Parents about Sex and Dating During College**

This study provides a longitudinal analysis of 30 emerging adults' (17 women, 13 men) conversations with parents about sexuality from the first and fourth years of college. Questionnaires revealed increases in closeness with parents, increased sexual and dating experiences, and more sexually permissive attitudes. Qualitative analyses of individual interviews indicated a movement from unilateral and restrictive, sex-based topics to more reciprocal and relationship-focused conversations. Gender analyses revealed that young women reported more restrictive messages and young men more positive messages. Participants also described increased openness and comfort in talking about sexual topics with both mothers and fathers.

**NAGRI, Michelle, & RICE, Ken**

Department of Psychology, University of Florida

### **Looking at Perfectionism in an Underrepresented Sample of College Students: A Replication and Extension of Chang, Watkins, & Banks (2004)**

This study will be a replication of the Chang, Watkins, & Banks (2004) study that looked at adaptive and maladaptive perfectionism in Black and White female college students. Because there is a significant gap in the literature regarding Hispanics/Latinos and perfectionism, this study will expand on the Chang et al. study by adding a third group of Hispanic/Latino female college students. This study will significantly contribute to the research on perfectionism in emerging young adults and, especially those who represent racial/ethnic minority groups that tend to be underrepresented in perfectionism research.

**NEGRU, Oana<sup>1</sup>, & SUBTIRICA, Alexandru<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Babes-Bolyai University

<sup>2</sup>Human Resources, Euro GSM

### **Goal Structures and Contents of Emerging Adults in Romania: Approaching Intentional Pursuits Through Analysis of Personal Goals**

Dwelling on characteristics of the Romanian educational system and tenets of emerging adulthood, our exploratory research aimed at identifying goal contents and structures of emerging adults, using a personal goal approach. Participants in the study were freshmen and seniors at a large university in Romania. Employing a procedure for personal goal investigation, we tapped into self-generated goals of students for three life domains – education, professional

development and personal life. Goal contents generated by students were analyzed using thematic coding on each life domain. Theoretical, methodological and applied implications are discussed for the study of emerging adulthood in the Romanian context.

**NELSON, Larry, & PADILLA-WALKER, Laura**

School of Family Life, Brigham Young University

### **Flourishing and Floundering: A Cluster Analysis Examining Different Types of Emerging Adults**

The purpose of this study is to identify different clusters of emerging adults based on parental closeness, religious faith, pro-social behaviors, internal regulation of values, drinking, drug use, number of sexual partners, pornography use, video game use, depression/anxiety, and self-perceptions. Hierarchical cluster analysis conducted on data from 487 emerging adults (M age = 20.07) produced four distinct clusters including a well-adjusted group, an average group, a group high on externalizing behaviors, and a group high on internalizing characteristics. The groups differed on the criteria deemed important for adulthood and in identity development in the areas of occupation, religiosity, values and family, and dating.

**OLIVEIRA, José, & FONTAINE, Anne Marie**

Department of Differential Psychology, University of Porto

### **The Role of Self-Efficacy as an Element of Identity Capital in the Transition to Adulthood: A Differential Study within the Portuguese Population**

The development of a set of resources (tangible and intangible identity capital) has become, in the context of modern individualized societies, an indispensable asset for the negotiation of the opportunities and risks inherent to the process of transition to adulthood. A differential analysis (according to gender, age, educational level and SES) of self-efficacy for the performance of adult roles (an important element of intangible identity capital) was put forth in order to observe its differential predictive power over adult identity resolution. Results show a dynamic relationship between the agentic capacities under study and the different socio-structural factors analyzed.

**PADILLA-WALKER, Laura, & NELSON, Larry**

School of Family Life, Brigham Young University

### **Parenting in Emerging Adulthood: An Examination of Parenting Clusters and Correlates for Mothers and Fathers**

This paper explores the role of parenting during emerging adulthood by examining eight dimensions of parenting, and exploring how parenting clusters relate to outcomes for emerging

adult children. Data collected from 403 emerging adults (M age = 19.89), and at least one of their parents (287 fathers and 317 mothers), were analyzed using hierarchical cluster analysis. Four distinct clusters were found indicating similar parenting styles to those studied in earlier developmental stages. This study is one of the first to examine parenting during emerging adulthood (i.e., not retrospectively), and suggests the importance of parenting during a time of significant change in the parent-child relationship.

**PALS, Heili<sup>1</sup>, & KAPLAN, Howard<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida

<sup>2</sup>Department of Sociology, Texas A&M University

### **Intergenerational Continuity of Deviance: A Matter of Parent-Child Relationship**

We focus on the continuity of deviant behavior from parent to child during the child's transition to adulthood. We evaluate how the nature of the relationship with parents affects the impact of parental deviance on one's own deviance. We hypothesize that intergenerational continuity of deviance is stronger for young adults who accept the parents as an authority figure. Furthermore, we expect to find a negative effect of parental deviance on one's deviance if one does not accept parents as authority figures, but also does not feel emotionally connected to them. We employ longitudinal data to test our hypotheses.

**SCHRICK, Brittney<sup>1</sup>, & SHARP, Elizabeth<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Behavioral & Social Sciences, Southern Arkansas University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Human Development & Family Studies, Texas Tech University

### **In Pursuit of Effortless Perfection: Exploring Emerging Adult College Women's Identity Management**

The term Effortless Perfection attempts to provide a name for women's university experiences that focus largely on physical attributes and assume that little to no effort is put forth to obtain physical, academic, and relationship success. Using Symbolic Interaction and Objectification Theories, the present study explores possible contributing factors to Effortless Perfection in emerging adult college women. A sample of college women completed a series of survey instruments to investigate this concept associated with the various individual constructs such as internalization of the thin ideal, silencing, and objectification. Currently, data are still being collected. Results are forthcoming.

**SEIDER, Scott**

School of Education, Boston University

**Serving Up Social Change: Deepening the Social Responsibility of College Students through Philosophy, Theology, and Service**

The study investigates the levers that can (and cannot) engage emerging adults in genuine reflection about inequity and injustice. Specifically, we consider the impact of the SERVE program at Big City College— a program that combines coursework in philosophy and theology with a year-long service project. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, we consider how and to what extent participation in SERVE impacts participating students' beliefs, values, behaviors, and attitudes about inequity and their role in addressing inequity. In so doing, we seek to offer clear insights to university-level educators about the mechanisms that are effective (and ineffective) at deepening the commitment to social responsibility of college-age emerging adults.

**SERIDO, Joyce, SHIM, Soyeon, & TANG, Chuanyi**

Department of Family & Consumer Sciences, University of Arizona

**Family Environment, Financial Coping Behaviors and the Financial and General Well-Being of Emerging Adults**

A primary developmental task of emerging adulthood is establishing financial independence (Arnett, 2004), yet there is limited research on how emerging adults learn to manage their finances. Because many emerging adults depend on their parents for at least some financial support, it is important to understand the role parents play in promoting financial independence. Using data from 2,098 first-year students, we examined two pathways to emerging adults' financial and general well-being, combining research on the positive effects of family environment and future-oriented coping. Findings suggest unique roles of family environment through direct and indirect effects via future-oriented coping behaviors.

**SHARMA, Divya**

Department of Human Development & Family Studies, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

**Value Priorities Under the Realm of Age, Gender, and Education: Perspectives from Adolescents, Emerging Adults and Young Adults of India**

The study aimed at understanding the value priorities and influence of age, education and gender of Hindu upper middle class adolescents, emerging adults and young adults from an Indian context. Power was the most predominant value and benevolence the least for people across life stages. Emerging adulthood came out to be the most self-focused stage along with

valuing traditional norms. Young adults had clear-cut prioritization of individualistic over collectivist values. Years of formal education had no influence. Women scored higher on individualistic values than men, but at the same time valued conformity and tradition that further reveals the complexity of Indian psyche.

**SHUEH, Tong-An, & RICE, Kenneth**

Department of Psychology, University of Florida

### **The Application of Social Cognitive Career Theory To Emerging Adults from Visible Racial Ethnic Groups**

With the changing demographic composition in America's workforce, career counseling with emerging adult clients from visible racial ethnic groups (VREG) has received more attention. Social cognitive career theory (SCCT) is one of the most promising theories for the application of career counseling with VREG clients. The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the implementation of the SCCT model in career counseling with VREG clients in the United States. The presentation overviews the major concepts, processes, and related research in SCCT, with particular emphasis on their application to the unique career-related issues confronted by VREG clients.

**SHUSTER, Melvin**

Department of Math & Science, Simpson University

### **The Influence of a Small Faith-Based University on Selected Characteristics of Emerging Adulthood: An Exploratory Study**

Arnett (2000) posits that culture plays a role in young peoples' transition to adulthood. The present study, modeled after Nelson (2003), was undertaken to explore this possible role that a university culture may play in the process of the emergence of individuals into young adults. This study was undertaken by investigating the level of student involvement, subjective perceptions of adulthood status, religious identity and behavioral activities of students attending a small faith-based university located in Northern California. The results support the belief that the norms and values of a culture may influence its members in ways that are different than the majority culture.

**SIRA, Natalia, & WHITE, Carmel**

Department of Child Development & Family Relations, East Carolina University

### **Individual and Familial Correlates of Body Satisfaction among College Students**

This study investigated gender differences in body satisfaction in college students. Through self-report, participants (49 males and 299 females) indicated their weight and height (to calculate body mass index), dieting behaviors, perceived parental care and control, global self-esteem, and body satisfaction. Regression analysis revealed that body mass index, dieting behaviors and familial correlates, such as parental care and control, demonstrated a unique association among variables in predicting body satisfaction for males and females. Implications for clinicians and researchers are discussed.

**SLATER, Robert, & MENARD, Lauren**

Department of Educational Foundations & Leadership, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

### **Trust Levels of Emerging Adult Americans: Implications for the Prospects of Civil Society and Democracy in the U.S.A.**

Robert Putnam and other researchers interested in civil society have noted that social capital levels in the U.S. have declined over the last four decades. Social capital is to the society as human capital is to the individual. The more human capital individuals have, i.e., the more skills and knowledge they possess, the more they are able to solve problems and be productive members of society. Similarly, the more social capital a society or group has, the more its people are willing and able to come together voluntarily to solve common problems. Trust is an essential ingredient of social capital. The less trusting people are, the less willing and able they are to cooperate and coordinate their collective actions in the interest of a common good. Accordingly, assessing and tracking trust levels in society is an important task. The main purpose of this study is to assess the trust levels of emerging adult Americans today. Are they more or less trusting than older Americans? Are emerging adult Americans today more or less trusting than their counterparts in the past? This study utilizes one of the best data sets we have in the social sciences-the National Opinion Research Center's General Social Survey-to address these and related questions.

**SMITH, Douglas, & CLEELAND, Leah**

Department of Social Work, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### **How are the Five Dimensions of Emerging Adulthood Associated with Substance Use among Outpatient Treatment Recipients?**

Arnett's (2005) hypotheses about how developmental factors may influence substance use during emerging adulthood (EA) remain largely untested. Among emerging adults in outpatient

substance abuse treatment, we examined the associations between self-reported substance use and the extent to which the five proposed dimensions of EA development characterize their lives.

**SMITH, Tara, & WHITMARSH, Ashley**

Department of Psychology, Elizabethtown College

### **Like Mother, Like Daughter: Relations Between Mothers' and Daughters' Conceptions of Gender**

Emerging adult women's ideas about gender have rarely been examined developmentally. We explored whether mothers' gender attitudes and endorsement of negative ideals of femininity influenced daughters' attitudes about gender and conceptualizations of femininity. 76 mother-daughter pairs completed measures assessing gender attitudes and ideologies and answered open-ended questions about the source of their ideas about gender. Mothers' and daughters' portrayals of an inauthentic self in relationships, self-objectification, and gender-egalitarian attitudes were positively related. 70% of participants stated that they modeled their gender after their mother. Further analyses will examine how mothers' messages relate to daughters' gender-egalitarian attitudes and femininity ideology.

**SNYDER, Anastasia<sup>1</sup>, McLAUGHLIN, Diane<sup>2</sup>, & COLEMAN-JENSEN, Alisha<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Human Development & Family Science, Ohio State University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University

### **How do Residential Migration Patterns and Future Work Expectations Predict Work, School, and Idleness Outcomes of Emerging Adults?**

Data from the U.S. Census and the NLSY97 examine how migration patterns and future expectations are associated with school and work engagement and idleness during emerging adulthood across metropolitan and nonmetropolitan populations. The results reveal similar trends across residence areas in recent decades, with the exception of less school engagement and more work engagement among nonmetro emerging adults. Future expectations in adolescence and residential migration patterns in early adulthood are significantly associated with school and work outcomes for emerging adults. Lower educational expectations and high rates of out-migration of nonmetro emerging adults help explain their lower educational attainment and engagement.

**SNYDER, Anastasia<sup>1</sup>, & DEMI, Mary Ann<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Human Development & Family Science, Ohio State University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University

### **Residential Migration and Early Family Formation among Emerging Adults**

Despite delays in family formation in recent years, studies find that nonmetro women form families earlier. One complication with these studies is that people move, and samples may be biased by residential out-migration of nonmetro populations in early adulthood since a significantly larger share of nonmetro compared to others out-migrate during the emerging adult years. This study uses panel data from the NLSY97 to address this problem, and expands our knowledge of residential differences in first unions and first births, by modeling the effects of yearly time varying measures of migration, and other competing life events (school and work).

**STRINGER, Kate<sup>1</sup>, & SKORIKOV, Vladimir<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Human Development & Family Studies, Auburn University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Hawaii – Hilo

### **Career Indecision During the Transition From High School**

Emerging adulthood is a time of exploration and decision-making about career. However, little is known about the process of career decision-making over time, especially after high school graduation. The current study utilized a diverse sample of high school students transitioning from high school to examine growth in career indecision over the course of 5.5 years (senior year to 4.5 years post-graduation). Results indicated that females and college students became decided more quickly than males and non-college bound emerging adults, respectively, and college students' indecision decreased consistently, whereas non-college bound emerging adults began to show an upward slope in their indecision.

**SWARTZ, Teresa, & O'BRIEN, Kirsten**

Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota

### **Parenting in Uncharted Territory: Provisions of Support for Emerging Adult Children**

Recently public concern has been expressed in the media regarding the trend toward continued dependence upon parents into young adulthood. This study aims to better understand the parent perspective concerning this trend. Using longitudinal and interview data, we examine how parents decide when and what types of support to provide their children. Parents express a willingness to provide support when it will help “scaffold” their children to greater achievement, and also find it important to serve as a “safety net” in times of need. We find

that parents aim to provide supports that contribute to their child's future independence and are cautious of those that may hinder it.

**TRENTACOSTA, Christopher<sup>1</sup>, NEPLL, Tricia<sup>2</sup>, DONNELLAN, Brent<sup>3</sup>, SCARAMELLA, Laura<sup>4</sup>, & CONGER, Rand<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Wayne State University

<sup>2</sup>Institute for Social and Behavioral Research, Iowa State University

<sup>3</sup>Department of Psychology, Michigan State University

<sup>4</sup>Department of Psychology, University of New Orleans

<sup>5</sup>Department of Psychology, University of California – Davis

### **Modeling the Prospective Relations Among Adolescent Personality, Age at Parenthood, and Emerging Adults' Parenting of Toddlers**

This study examined adolescent personality and age at parenthood as predictors of emerging adults' parenting of toddler-aged children. Participants were 228 young adults from an ongoing longitudinal study, and age at parenthood ranged from 18 to 29 years. In structural equation models, later entry into parenthood accounted for some of the association between an adaptive personality construct and lower levels of harsh parenting and higher levels of positive parenting. The findings suggest that at-risk young adults may benefit by delaying parenthood in situations where earlier entry into parenthood could impair the quality of their relationships with their children.

**URRY, Shirene, NELSON, Larry, & PADILLA-WALKER, Laura**

School of Family Life, Brigham Young University

### **Mother Knows Best: A Study of Maternal Knowledge, Risk Behaviors, Child Disclosure, and Satisfaction with Mother-Child Relationship in Emerging Adulthood**

The purpose of this study was to examine parental knowledge in emerging adulthood. Data collected from 234 emerging adults and their mothers was analyzed using a Structural Equation Model where parental knowledge and risk behavior involvement (both mother and child report) acted as dependent variables. Independent variables measured aspects of the mother-child relationship such as disclosure, satisfaction, and feelings of psychological control. All independent variables yielded significant paths to both reports of maternal knowledge. Mother's report of maternal knowledge significantly predicted child and mother's report of risk behavior involvement while child's report of maternal knowledge only predicted child's report of risk behavior involvement.

**VASILENKO, Sara, LEFKOWITZ, Eva, & MAGGS, Jennifer**

Department of Human Development & Family Studies, The Pennsylvania State University

### **Psychological Distress and Sexual Behaviors in Emerging Adulthood**

Research on adolescents suggests that sexual intercourse results in more negative psychological outcomes for girls than boys. It is unclear if gender differences remain in emerging adulthood or apply to a broader range of behaviors. This study examines associations between light sexual behaviors, oral and penetrative sex and psychological distress in college students ( $N=651$ ). Engaging in all three sexual behaviors was associated with less distress. Associations did not differ by gender. When all behaviors were entered simultaneously, only light sexual behaviors predicted lower distress. Findings suggest that sexual behavior is associated with better well-being in emerging adult men and women.

**VITAS, Jenni<sup>1</sup>, WILLOUGHBY, Brian<sup>2</sup>, & CARROLL, Jason<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Family Studies & Human Services, Kansas State University

<sup>2</sup>School of Family Life, Brigham Young University

### **Sexual Desire Congruency: Desired Sexual Frequency and Actual Sexual Frequency in Emerging Adult Couples**

This study investigates the associations between the discrepancy between desired sexual frequency and actual sexual frequency (sexual desire congruency; SDC) in emerging adult couples. Using a sample of 5,829 heterosexual couples, we investigate how SDC scores are associated with a range of relational outcomes including relationship satisfaction, relationship stability, communication and conflict utilizing the Actor-Partner Interdependence Model as a framework for analyses. Results suggest that female SDC scores have a strong association with relational outcomes. Higher SDC scores for females, particularly in new relationships, are associated with more positive relational outcomes. Possible reasons for this association are discussed.

**WALLACE, Scyatta<sup>1</sup>, GLASGOW, Y. Marcia<sup>1</sup>, SAINTILUS, Molain<sup>2</sup>, & AUGENBRAUN, Michael<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, St. John's University

<sup>2</sup>SUNY Stony Brook Medical Center

<sup>3</sup>Department of Medicine, SUNY Downstate Medical Center

### **Positive and Negative Neighborhood Characteristics Associated with HIV Risk Among Urban Black Emerging Adults**

Black emerging adults ( $n=77$ ) visiting an urban STI clinic were surveyed to identify neighborhood characteristics and their relationship to HIV risk. The sample reported daily substance use, current sexual activity with regular and casual partners and having had multiple STIs. Negative

neighborhood factors included community violence and experiences with urban hassles. Positive neighborhood factors included participation in extra-curricular activities, rating neighborhoods as excellent/good and community cohesion. Protective factors identified in the study, such as building community cohesion, may modify the impact of risks associated with living in distressed communities and provide for effective interventions for urban Black emerging adults.

**WICKRAMA, K. A. S.**

Department of Human Development, Iowa State University

### **The Long Arm of Community: The Influence of Childhood Community Contexts Across the Early Life Course**

This study examines the longitudinal effects of childhood community contexts on young adult outcomes. The study uses a sample of 14,000 adolescents (Add Health). We found both direct and indirect long-term influences of childhood community adversity on young adult educational attainment. The indirect influences of childhood community adversity operated through family- and individual-level factors. The long-term influence of childhood community adversity on young adult depression was only indirect. Overall, community influences on young adult achievement outcomes were mediated by family context and by the adolescents' adjustments and transitions, including adolescent depression, school adjustment, and disruptive transitional events.

**WILLOUGHBY, Brian**

School of Family Life, Brigham Young University

### **Putting Education Before Marriage: Relative Marital Importance in Emerging Adulthood**

This study seeks to better understand the relative importance of marriage compared to education. Using a sample of 880 emerging adults, this study seeks to understand how education and marital plans are conceptualized in relation to one another. Using demographic, relational, and educational predictors, it was found that general marital beliefs and plans have strong associations with putting education before marriage. Emerging adults who place a high value on marriage and plan to marry later in life are more likely to put education before marriage. Belief that couples should marry while in college is associated with soul mate beliefs.

**WU, Bo**

Department of Human Development & Family Studies, University of Wisconsin – Madison

### **Self-Perception of Adulthood and Cultural and Social Influential Factors Among Chinese Young Adults in Mainland China**

My research uses focus groups to generate culturally-specific adulthood criteria among college students and literate non-college youth aged 18 to 25 in mainland China. Adding culturally-specific items to Arnett's Adulthood Marker Questionnaire, I distributed the survey to college students in order to investigate their self-perception on adulthood as well as examine cultural and social factors' impact on their perception of adulthood. Research questions address the description of their adulthood perceptions and the relationship between their perception of adulthood and value systems (traditional vs. modern values), social structure factors (family SES, region of family residence), gender and family-related gender role attitudes.

**YI, Jaehee<sup>1</sup>, & ZEBRACK, Brad<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>School of Social Work, University of Southern California

<sup>2</sup>School of Social Work, University of Michigan

### **Self-Images of Cancer Survivorship in Emerging Adulthood**

We put cameras into the hands of six emerging adult cancer survivors to observe how they portray the impact of cancer on their lives. Over the three months, they produced self-images on salient themes such as "the influence of culture on survivorship," "lost childhood," "health," "sacrifices," and "who am I". Photographs and commentaries included both positive and negative aspects of the life-threatening experience in this particular developmental stage. Researchers and practitioners should consider the impact of cancer within the context of emerging adulthood and accompanying developmental challenges when developing and implementing programs and services for this population.