ABSTRACTS – POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Personality development in emerging and young adulthood: A study of age differences

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Early adulthood is a time of substantial personality change characterized by large diversity. To further qualify this diversity, researchers have recently drawn on the theory of emerging adulthood, which proposes a distinct developmental stage at the beginning of early adulthood. However, others have criticized this concept, not least because it lacks a clear delimitation from other age groups. To inform this debate, 16-19 (N = 3,555) and 26-29 year-olds (N = 2,621) were tracked over the course of four years and compared regarding (i) average personality change, (ii) differential personality change, and (iii) selection and socialization effects associated with four life events. Multi-group latent change models revealed substantial age differences in average and differential change patterns. However, the four life events studied were only weakly linked to these age variations. Overall, the results support that investigating emerging adults' personality development presents a promising avenue for future research.

Keywords: Big Five Development, Emerging Adulthood, Life Events

The Home Environment as a Resource of Coping Behaviour in Youth

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In the following paper we emphasize that parameters of the home environment can be considered major resources of a personality's coping in youth.

The sample consisted of 344 participants (267 females and 77 males). We used the Functionality of the Home Environment Questionnaire, the Relevance of the Home Environment Questionnaire, the Home Attachment Questionnaire, and the Ways of Coping Questionnaire.

The results of the factor analysis allowed us to select a positive image of the home environment based on the parameters of functionality and the relevance of the home environment, as well as home attachment. The results of the correlation analysis showed that a positive image of the home environment is correlated with efficient strategies of self-control, seeking social support, planned problem solving, and positive reappraisal, and also with an inefficient strategy of confrontive coping.

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Keywords: functionality and relevance, home environment, home attachment, coping behaviour