



Generativity and Values in Different Periods of Adulthood

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Abstract

Ericson argued that generativity is a critical personality mechanism formed in middle adulthood and important for positive development of an adult at later lifespan periods. There is some evidence that some aspects of generativity could be found yet in early adulthood. Thus we hypothesized that generativity develops throughout the whole adult lifespan. Different models of generativity emphasize the role of values in the development and functioning of generativity, so we elaborated our hypothesis with an idea that since hierarchy of one's values at different adulthood periods may vary due to different developmental tasks, their impact on generativity may also differ.

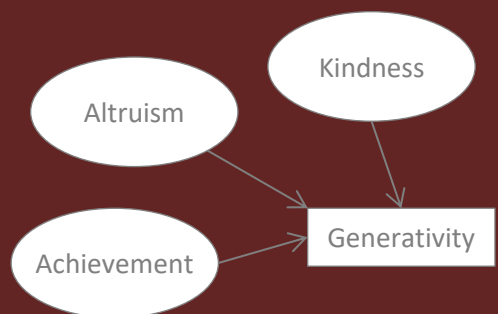
Generativity and values in early adulthood



Participants

130 adults aged 25-56 (50% female), divided in three groups: early adulthood (n=50), middle adulthood (n=42), late adulthood (n=38).

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Methods

Loyola generativity scale, Questionnaire on values, Self-actualization test, Social and psychological attitudes test.

Conclusions

1. In early adulthood generativity exists as more or less hypothetical model.
2. During middle adulthood the greatest part of generativity development occurs.
3. In the later adulthood period we expected and proved integrated system of generativity, values and motives and can expect a more mature form of generativity.