

2018 SRA Biennial Meeting

April 12-14, 2018
Minneapolis, MN

Invited Program Session

Familial and Neurobiological Underpinnings of Adolescent Identity: A Developmental Perspective

Chair: **Rita Žukauskienė**, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania and President of EARA

Paper 1: ***A Four-Wave Longitudinal Study on Change and Stability in Identity Processing Styles***

Rita Žukauskienė, Mykolas Romeris University; Inga Truskauskaitė-Kunevičienė, Mykolas Romeris University;
Goda Kaniušonytė, Mykolas Romeris University; Elisabetta Crocetti, Alma Mater Studiorum University of
Bologna, Italy

Paper 2: ***Perceived Parental Behavior and Identity Processing Styles: A Four-Year Longitudinal Assessment of Change***

Goda Kaniušonytė, Mykolas Romeris University; Rita Žukauskienė, Mykolas Romeris University

Paper 3: ***Goal-Directed Correlates and Neurobiological Underpinnings of Adolescent Identity: A Multi-Method Multi-Sample Longitudinal Approach***

Andrik I. Becht, Utrecht University; Marieke Bos, Leiden University; Stefanie Nelemans, Utrecht University;
Sabine Peters, Leiden University; Wilma Vollebergh, Utrecht University; Susan Branje, Utrecht University; Wim
Meeus, Utrecht University & Tilburg University; Eveline Crone, Leiden University

Integrative Statement. In adolescence, changing life circumstances, together with biological and cognitive development, trigger identity formation (Erikson, 1968). Adolescent can explore different alternatives and reflect on their own commitments, in order to enact meaningful identity choices, in line with their plans and talents (Marcia, 1966). In this process, adolescents show stylistic differences in their reliance on different strategies to process self-relevant information (identity styles; Berzonsky, 1989). However, it is largely unknown how identity styles develop in adolescence. Furthermore, identity research has focused primarily on outcomes and processes associated with identity formation. Far less attention has been devoted to understanding the role of familial and neurobiological factors of this process. Recently, scholars have examined the relationships between identity processes and parenting dimensions, showing that relationships with parents are strongly interlinked with identity explorations (Beyers & Goossens, 2008; Roth, Assor, et al., 2009); however, those links are rarely addressed longitudinally. Another line of the research address the neurological processes related to the identity development and goal-directed behavior (Mills & Tamnes, 2014, Reid et al. 2010), however, it remains unknown how neurological processes accompanying changes in information seeking and motivation predict identity over time. Therefore, the general purpose of this symposium is to take a closer look at the stability and change of identity statuses in adolescence and the role of familial and neurobiological factors influencing this change. Specifically, Žukauskienė and colleagues will present the study, examining for the first time multiple indices of change and stability (mean level changes, rank-order stability, and profile stability) in Berzonsky's (1989, 2011) identity styles in a four-annual-wave longitudinal study with adolescent boys and girls from Lithuania. Second, Kaniušonytė and Žukauskienė will examine the links between relationships with parents and identity processing styles (informational, normative and diffuse-avoidant) using the data from the four waves of a longitudinal project, conducted in Lithuania. Becht and colleagues will present a multi-method multi sample longitudinal study, conducted in the

Netherlands, aimed to investigate how behavioral changes in goal-directed behavior and structural changes in the prefrontal cortex (PFC) and Nucleus accumbens (NAcc) gray matter volume predicted identity formation.



Chair Biography. Dr. Rita Žukauskienė is a professor at the Institute of Psychology, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania. She is constantly involved in studying human psychological development (particularly, during adolescence and emerging adulthood), as well as the factors related to positive development. She published over 30 publications in major international peer-reviewed scientific journals, as well as other 120 papers in other national or international journals (h-index = 24; i10-index = 36, Retrieved in June 2017, from Google Scholar Citations). She extensively publishes on identity formation and civic engagement during adolescence. Her achievements were recognized in Lithuania, granting her the National Award for Excellence in Sciences in 2012 for the “Study of Psychological Well-being of Lithuanian Children, Adolescents and Adults (1997–2011)”. Rita Žukauskienė was the principal organizer of the XIV European Conference on Developmental Psychology (2009), 12th Conference of the European Association for Research on Adolescence (2010), and the 24th Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development (2016), what also documents her experience and international recognition in the field developmental studies. Currently, she is a President of the European Association for Research on Adolescence.