

The Relationship between Identity, Community Involvement and Generativity in a Longitudinal Study

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Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development

- Erikson (1963) described development that occurs throughout the lifespan in 8 stages.
 - Identity (5th stage) in adolescence
 - Generativity (7th stage) from emerging adulthood to adulthood
 - Identity (12 to 18 years):
 - A sense of self and personal identity (Exploration & Commitment)
 - Identity Status: Achievement, Foreclosure, Moratorium, Diffusion
 - Generativity (19 to 60 years):
 - A concern and engagement with caring for future generations
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Identity and Generativity

- Erikson (1963) argued that successful early stage resolution (Identity) in his model positively influences the capacity to invest in later tasks (Generativity).
 - Identity achievement positively predicts generativity in middle adulthood (Stewart, Ostrove, & Helson, 2001)
 - Mature individuals scored higher on a Q-sort measure of generativity (Helson & Srivastava, 2011).
 - However, no longitudinal study has explored the trajectory of identity and generativity.
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Purpose of the Present Study

- To investigate one psychosocial factor, identity maturity, as well as one social contextual factor, community involvement, in the development of generativity among young adults.
 - To seek to provide evidence on how individuals learn to care for succeeding generations in a longitudinal design.
 - Explore if there is a progression in generativity.
 - Do both identity maturity and community involvement in adolescence predict the development of generativity in young adulthood?
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Method

■ Participants:

- An initial sample of 939 participants (M age = 17.4 years, SD = 0.80) was drawn from a survey of 16 high schools in central Ontario, Canada.
 - Four occasions from late adolescence to midlife adulthood (ages 19, 23, 26 and 32)
 - Age 19: N = 337
 - Age 23: N = 287
 - Age 26: N = 103
 - Age 32: N = 100
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Method

■ Measures:

- Identity Maturity (ages 19, 23, 26 and 32):
 - 24-item Objective Measure of Ego Identity Status (OM-EIS, Adams, 1988).
 - “I’m trying to decide how capable I am as a person and what jobs will be right for me”
 - Identity Maturity Index = Achievement – (Diffusion + Moratorium + Foreclosure) (McLean and Pratt , 2006).

 - Community Involvement (ages 19, 23, 26 and 32):
 - The Youth Inventory of Involvement (YII; Pancer, Pratt, Hunsberger, & Alisat, 2007).
 - 30 activities related to prosocial, community and political involvement.
 - “Helped people who were new to your community”

 - Generativity (ages 23, 26 and 32):
 - Generative Concern: 20 items The Loyola Generativity Scale (LGS of McAdams)
 - “I have important skills that I try to teach others”
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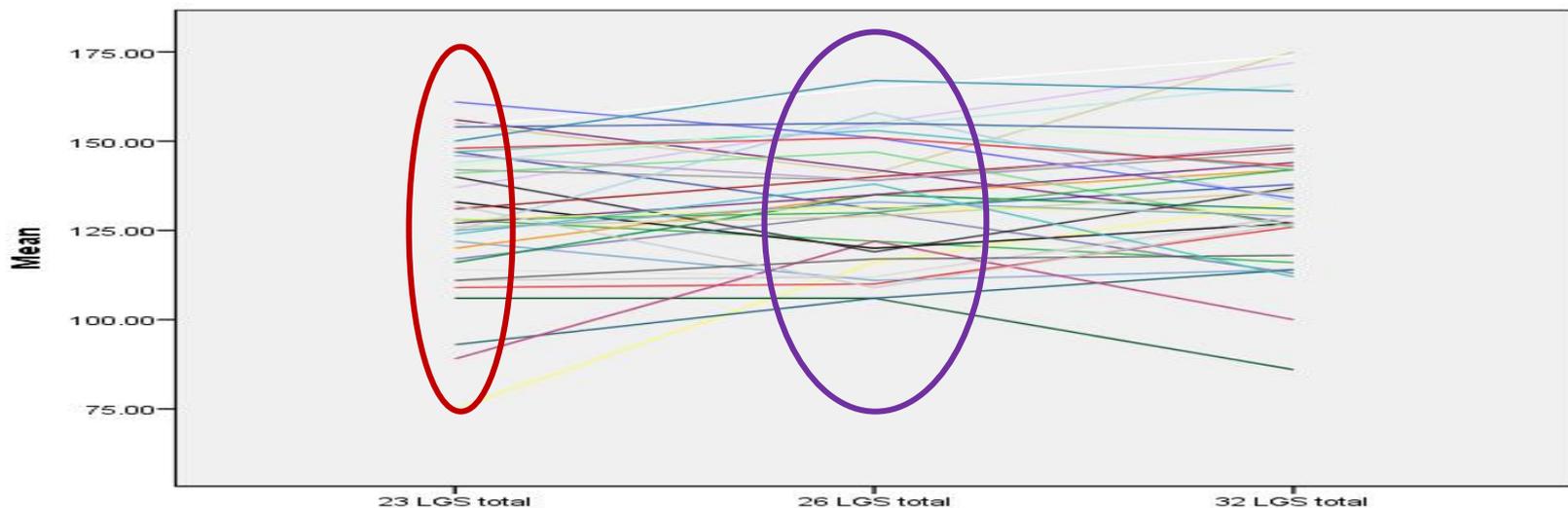
Results:

Trajectory of Generative Concerns (LGS)

Mean level of LGS:

	LGS 23	LGS 26	LGS 32
Mean	134.24	133.38	133.26

Individual level of LGS:



Results: Identity Maturity (IM), Community Involvement (CI) and Generative Concern (LGS)

■ Multilevel Modeling:

- Intercept: Starting points of IM and CI predict trajectory of LGS
 - Greater levels of identity maturity ($b = .1, p < .01$) and community involvement ($b = .6, p < .01$) at the starting point (age 19) positively predicted the trajectory of generative concerns.
 - Slope: changes of IM and CI predict trajectory of LGS
 - The increase of community involvement overtime positively predicted trajectory of generative concerns ($b = .4, p < .01$).
 - The increase of identity maturity did not predict trajectory of generative concerns ($b < .001, p > .05$).
 - Gender
 - Female participants scored higher in LGS ($b = .4, p < .05$).
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Summary

- This study addresses potential links between identity maturity, community involvement and the development of generative concern from late adolescence into adulthood.
 - Individual patterns in LGS overtime (ages 23, 26, and 32)
 - Both identity maturity and community involvement at age 19 positively predicted the trajectory of LGS
 - Increase in community involvement overtime, but not in identity maturity predicted the trajectory of LGS
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Implications

- Those responsible for promoting the well-being and positive development of adolescents can utilize these research findings in applied settings.
 - For example, school staff and youth organization workers may look for ways to involve youth more frequently and emphasize more on identity roles and involvement in local community.
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Acknowledgements

**Generativity,
Families and
Environmentalism**



Thank you! Questions/Suggestions/Ideas?



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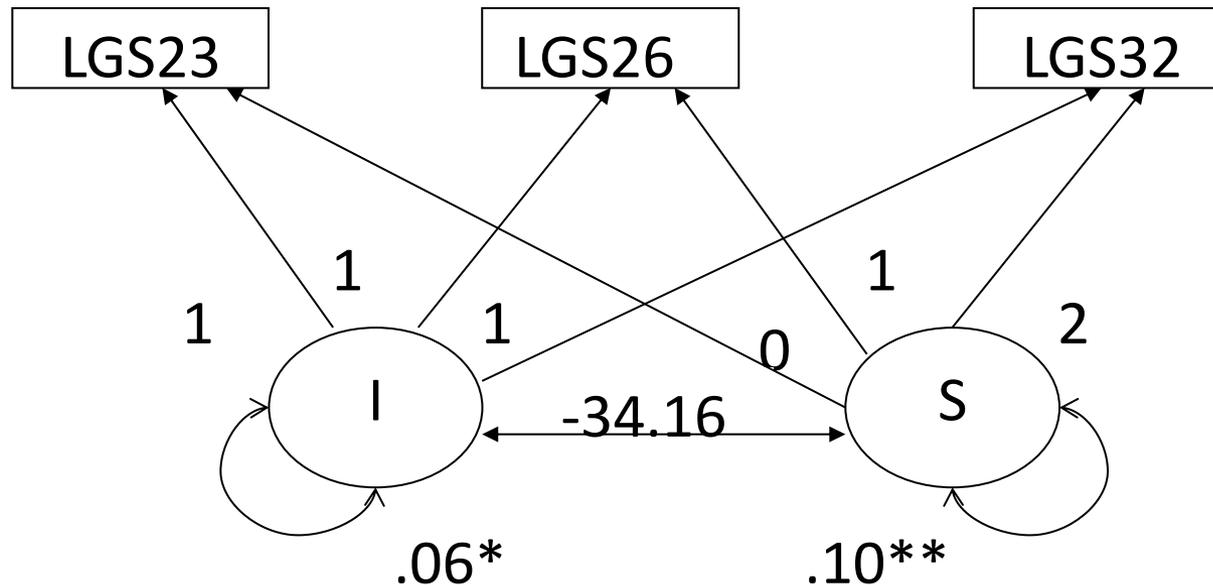
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Results:

Trajectory of Generative Concerns (LGS)

Latent Growth Curve Model:



Note. * $p \leq .05$
** $p \leq .01$

$\chi^2 = 7.97, d.f. = 3; p = .05; RMSEA = .07, 90\% C.I. = 0.009-0.14; CFI = .97$

Results: Identity Maturity (IM), Community Involvement (CI) and Generative Concern (LGS)

- Multilevel Modeling:

Level 1:

$$\text{LGSt}_{ij} = \pi_{0ij} + \pi_{1ij} \text{IM} + \pi_{2ij} \text{CI} + \varepsilon_{tj} \longrightarrow \text{ICC} = 53\%$$

Level 2:

$$\pi_{0ij} = \beta_{00j} + \beta_{01j} \text{Female} + u_{0ij} \longrightarrow \text{ICC} = 59\%$$

$$\pi_{1ij} = \beta_{10j}$$

$$\pi_{2ij} = \beta_{20j} + u_{2ij}$$

Level 3

$$\beta_{00j} = \gamma_{00j} + \gamma_{01j} \text{Board} + u_{0ij} \longrightarrow \text{ICC} = 7\%$$

$$\beta_{01j} = \gamma_{01j}$$

$$\beta_{10j} = \gamma_{10j}$$

$$\beta_{20j} = \gamma_{20j} + u_{2ij}$$

Board: private vs. public school boards

Results: Identity Maturity (MI), Community Involvement (CI) and Generative Concern (LGS)

Table 1: HLM of Generative Concerns on Identity Maturity, Community Involvement and Gender.

Fixed effects	Coefficient	<i>t</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>
Intercept	6.22 (.12)	50.09	415	.00
Identity Maturity (IM)	.01 (.00)	7.84	415	.00
Community Involvement (CI)	.64 (.08)	8.28	415	.00
IM x CI	.00 (.00)	1.00	426	.32
Female	.42 (.10)	4.38	415	.00
IM x Female	-.00 (.00)	-.99	415	.32
CI x Female	-.26 (.17)	-1.5	415	.13
Random effects	Coefficient	Wald Z	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>
Intercept	.47 (.05)	10.29	415	.00
Slope of IM	7.04E-5 (6.51E-5)	1.08	426	.28
Slop of CI	.44 (.18)	2.42	415	.02