

Week 7

Social and Personality Development

Perspectives on Social and Personality Development

❑ Social development

- ❑ ways in which a person's interactions and relationships with others change as that person grows older

❑ Personality development

- ❑ emergence of distinctive styles of thought, feeling, and behaviour

Perspectives on Social and Personality Development

- Psychoanalytic theory (Freud)
- Psychosocial theory (Erikson)
- Social learning theory
- Cognitive developmental perspective
- Biological perspective

Social and Personality Development in Infancy

- ❑ Beginnings of social relationships
 - ❑ social smile
 - ❑ temperament
 - ❑ bi-directional influence
 - ❑ reaction range

Social and Personality Development in Infancy

- The formation of attachments
 - Harlow's monkeys
 - secure attachment
 - infant expects that caregiver will be available
 - anxious attachment
 - caregiver cannot be counted on for comfort

Social and Personality Development in Childhood

- Self-understanding
 - physical self
 - active self
 - social self
 - psychological self



Individual Differences in Development

- Environmental influences
 - parenting styles
 - authoritative vs. permissive
 - child abuse
 - physical, sexual, or neglect
 - the impact of divorce



Individual Differences in Development

- ❑ Genetic influences
 - ❑ sociability, emotionalism, and general activity level
- ❑ The interplay of genes and environment

Group Differences in Development

- Gender roles
 - patterns of behaviour characteristic of members of one's own sex
- Biological influences
 - some behavioural differences between the sexes appear before much contact with the social environment

Group Differences in Development

- Environmental theories
 - The Freudian perspective
 - Oedipus conflict
 - The social learning perspective
 - The cognitive developmental view

Socialization and Moral Development

- Socialization
 - learning the expectations and values of one's society
- Internalization
 - incorporating society's values into the self to such an extent that violation of those standards produces guilt

Socialization and Moral Development

- The Freudian perspective
 - child internalizes the moral code of the same-sex parent
 - rapid development of superego
- The social learning perspective
 - children act morally due to reinforcement
 - children have moral models to imitate

Socialization and Moral Development

- The cognitive developmental perspective
 - preconventional level
 - conventional level
 - postconventional level

Kohlberg's Stages

- Preconventional Morality
 - 1. **Punishment-obedience**
 - 2. **Personal reward orientation**
- Conventional Morality
 - 3. **The “good boy/nice girl” Orientation**
 - 4. **The “law and order” orientation**
- Post-conventional Morality
 - 5. **Social contract orientation**
 - 6. **Universal ethical principle orientation**

Kohlberg's Stages: Preconventional Morality

- Preconventional Morality
 - Stage 1: Punishment-Obedience Orientation
 - Avoid (physical) punishment
 - High school example: One middle school teacher has latecomers do pushups--50 of them--in front of the class.
 - Stage 2: Personal Reward Orientation
 - “You scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours”
 - High school example: A group of high school students involved in a cooperative learning activity get upset because one of their group members is repeatedly absent and did not do any work.

Kohlberg's Stages: Conventional Morality

- Conventional Morality
 - Stage 3: The “good boy/nice girl” Orientation
 - In an inner city high school student's journal, she wrote "I am going to work harder in school so I won't let you down because if you think I can make it then I can make it"
 - Stage 4: A “Law and Order” Orientation
 - "Move carefully in the halls". This rule reinforces the fundamental purpose of government to protect the health and welfare of its citizens

Kohlberg's Stages: Post-conventional Morality

- Post-conventional Morality
 - Stage 5: Social Contract Orientation
 - Example for a handout in a high school class: "Please remember that this is your room and your class. The behaviour and participation of each person will shape the type of learning that will occur. Since one person's behaviour affects everyone else, I request that everyone in the class be responsible for classroom management. To ensure that our rights are protected and upheld, the following laws have been established for this classroom..."

Kohlberg's Stages: Post-conventional Morality

- Post-conventional Morality
 - Stage 6: Universal Ethical Principle Orientation
 - an orientation toward universal ethical principles of justice, reciprocity, equality, and respect
 - Very rare. Examples: Gandhi, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - High school teacher: "I will not tolerate any racial, ethnic, or sexual slurs in this classroom. It is not fair to erase someone's face. In this room, everyone is entitled to equal dignity as a human being."

Social and Personality Development in Adolescence

- Secondary sexual characteristics
- Importance of timing of puberty
- Establishment of an independent identity
- Peer relationships
- Psychological and sexual intimacy

Social and Personality Development in Adulthood

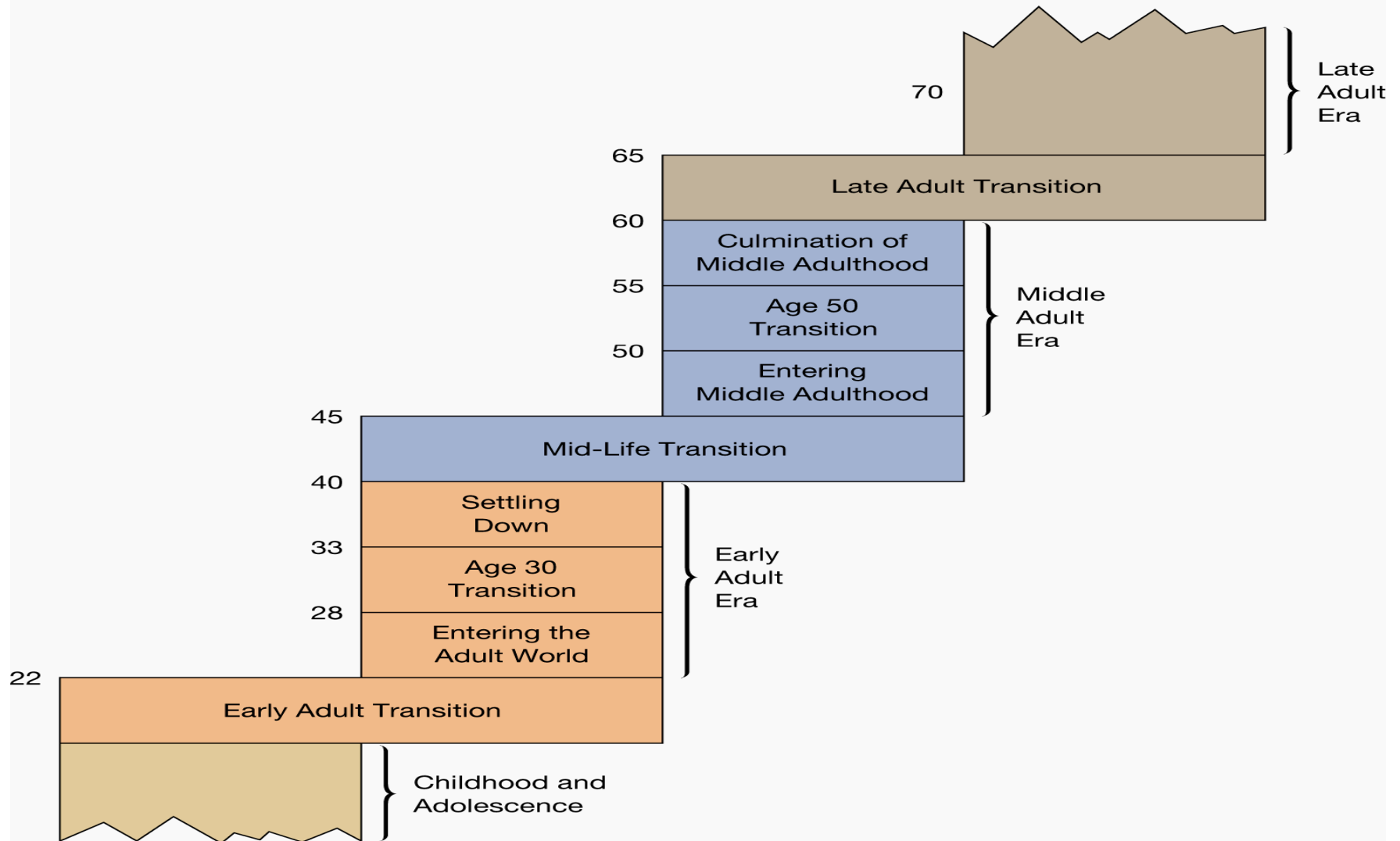
- Early adulthood
 - period of action
 - challenge to women
 - change in attitudes and concerns
 - age-thirty crisis

Social and Personality Development in Adulthood

- Mid-life and beyond
 - changes resulting in crises
 - consistent with Erikson's seventh stage
 - generativity
 - the desire to reach out and become concerned with the well-being of future generations

Social and Personality Development in Adulthood

Developmental Periods Over the Life Course



Social and Personality Development in Adulthood

- Individual differences in adult development
- Coping and satisfaction in adulthood



Stability of the adult's personality

- Mean levels of personality traits change with development, reaching adult levels by age thirty. Between twenty and thirty, people tend to become less emotional and more responsible and cooperative
- Beyond age thirty, the only significant personality changes are those related to reduced physical activity

Stability of the adult's personality

- By age thirty, personality traits are essentially fixed
- All of the major personality traits display this stability
- Stability of personality holds true regardless of gender, race, or other demographic categories