

## Multiple bonds in adolescence: convergence of attachment across different relational domains

Mena Matos, Paula, Costa Maria, Emília

Faculty of Psychology and Education, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

During adolescence it is expected that attachment figures are transferred from parents to peer, although the parental bond is supposed to last across the life cycle. The present paper approaches this process of reorganization of emotional bonds, analysing the concordance of attachment representations across relational domains, namely relationships with parents, and romantic partner in late adolescents. Using a cross-sectional design, data were collected through coded semi-structured interviews (Family Attachment Interview and Peer Attachment Interview, Bartholomew & Horowitz, 1991) and self-report instruments.

Results indicate the presence of regularities in the attachment representations of the relational domains, observed in thematic and content recurrences, as well as in structural properties of the narratives' organization. Adolescents with secure attachments to parents tend to relate in a more secure way to peer and romantic partners, presenting more positive representations of self and others. However, the magnitude of values suggests that peer context can create significant relational opportunities for revision and transformation of previous working models. Finally, some questions are raised concerning cultural adaptations of attachment patterns and the meaning of insecure (and specially dismissing) attachment in adolescence.

## Quality of family relations and well-being in adolescents and their parents

Zani Bruna, Cicognani Elvira

Department of Sciences of Education, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

The impact of developmental changes of adolescence on parents has attracted the interest of researchers only recently. During this period adolescents and parents are involved in the process of transformation of roles and relationships. The evidence shows that this stage of parenthood is difficult for parents, since there are important decisions to be taken and challenges to be faced. Moreover the parenting role is poorly defined during this period. The difficulties faced by parents impact on their well being and perceived self-efficacy as parents, affecting the overall quality of family relationships.

This research aimed at investigating the quality of family relationships and well being in a sample of families with an adolescent child. A questionnaire was submitted to 300 13 to 16 year old adolescents and both their parents, assessing the following issues: communication, conflict, parental style, well being and parents' perceived self-efficacy. Results show that family members share generally good perceptions of family relationships and enjoy a moderate level of well being. Parents hold better perceptions of family relationships in comparison with children. Male adolescents appear to fare better than females; moreover, with age, the overall quality of family relationships appears to worsen. The quality of relationships affects family members' well being.

## Convergence of perceptions of satisfaction and attachment in families

Oliveira, Joana, Costa, Maria Emília

Faculty of Psychology and Education, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

The family of origin functions as a unity of relational elements, where different subsystems – marital, parental and filial – are interrelated and in a continuous exchange. Family members observe the way each one is satisfied with several family roles and construct relational models of interaction. In this study, 230 family triads (father, mother and adolescent/young adult child) completed self-report questionnaires in order to assess perceptions of parental and marital roles satisfaction, as well as attachment. Factorial analyses confirm the factorial structure of the questionnaires and Cronbach's alphas showed good internal consistency in both versions of the instruments used (parent and child versions). Generally, the results showed that a more secure parental relationship, as assessed by adolescents, is associated with higher levels of marital and parental satisfaction of their parents. Assuming that a convergence of perceptions of satisfaction within the family (parents and the child) has a positive effect on parental attachment, results are discussed in terms of clinical applications.