Associations Between Peer Attachment and Positive Adoption Affect Throughout Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood.
Dominique K. Altamari, Krystal K. Cashen, & Harold D. Grotevant
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

Introduction

Peer Relationships
- Friendships an important aspect of human behavior, especially important during adolescence (Waldrip, Malcolm, & Jensen-Campbell, 2008).
- Friendships also important in emerging adulthood, but are joined with new focuses of romance, work, and value exploration (Arnett, 2000).
- Internal working models of attachment are somewhat stable overtime, with attachment patterns often concordant across relationship type (Feeney, & Roisman, 2017; Furman, Simon, Schaffer, & Boucher, 2002).

Affect about Adoption
- Adolescence is sensitive for identity development, with increased concern about reasons for placement (Wrobil, & Dillon, 2009).
- In emerging adulthood, concerns shift to practical questions about biological and medical history (Wrobil, Grotevant, Samak, & Von-Korff, 2013).
- Satisfaction with alternative experience more predictive than objective facts about experience (Grotevant, McRoy, Wrobil, & Ayers-Lopez, 2013).
- Similar study has found linkages over time (a & b).

Conceptual Model: Potential relationship paths for variables of interest

Participants
- Participants selected from large longitudinal study of adoptees and their families (MTARP, Grotevant, McRoy, Wrobil, & Ayers-Lopez, 2013).
- All adoptees adopted through private domestic adoption prior to their first birthday.
- 139 target adoptees were given questionnaires at Wave 2 (1996-2001) and Wave 3 (2005-2008).
- W3 Mage= 25.0, Range: 20.8-30.3.
- 139 with some data on measures relevant to study, 111 with complete data.

Measures

Positive Affect – Adoption Dynamics Questionnaire (ADQ; Benson, Sharma & Roelkepertain, 1994)
- ADQ assesses the participant’s feelings and perceptions about their own adoption.
- Positive affect subscale consists of 20 Likert scale questions.
- Higher scores indicate the adoptee has positive feelings toward their adoption.

Peer Attachment – Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA; Armsden, & Greenberg, 1987)
- IPPA measures attachment to peers, with a focus on trust, communication and feelings of anger/alienation, factors typically associated with relationship quality.
- The peer subscale consists of 25 Likert scale questions from 3 subscales (trust, communication, and anger/alienation).
- Higher scores indicate higher relationship quality/strong peer attachment.

Discussion

RQ 1: There was a significant interaction between positive affect and gender (β = .33, p = .019) in predicting peer attachment at W3, indicating a stronger relationship between W2 positive affect and W3 peer attachment for females.
- There was also a significant interaction between peer attachment and gender (β = .33, p = .008) in predicting peer attachment at W3, indicating a stronger relationship between W2 peer attachment and W3 peer attachment for males.

Selected References

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