

Adolescence
by Ian McMahan

Chapter 11
Identity

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Developing A Sense Of Self

- Self-concept develops from early childhood
- Adolescent self-concept more complex, differentiated
- Awareness of internal states, discrepancies
- Older teens less bothered by inconsistencies
- Possible selves: "Who *could* I be?"
- Looking-glass self: discovering self through others' responses

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Self-Esteem In Adolescence

- Baseline self-esteem: stable feelings about self
- Barometric self-esteem: temporary swings up, down
- Self-esteem drops sharply after puberty
- Decline more severe for girls than boys
- Physical appearance, peer acceptance greatest sources
- Low self-esteem linked to aggression, antisocial behavior

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Erikson And The Identity Crisis

- Erikson: identity versus identity diffusion
- “What to do with my life?”
- Moratorium: freedom to explore impulses, roles, interests
- Foreclosure: premature commitment to assigned identity
- Diffusion: reluctance to deal with identity issues
- Negative identity: compelling notice by outraging others

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Researching Erikson's Ideas On Identity

- Marcia: joint effect of exploration, commitment
- Diffusion, moratorium, foreclosure, identity achievement
- Personality characteristics in line with theory
- Berzonsky: identity styles and self-related information
- Diffuse-avoidant, normative, informational styles
- Self-construction and self-discovery

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What Is Ethnic Identity?

- Ethnicity: family's cultural background, attitudes, values
- Ethnic identity: self-understanding in terms of ethnicity
- Ethnic identity development parallels identity process
- Assimilation, separation, marginalization, integration/biculturalism
- Code switching: attitudes change with language change
- Ethnic socialization: customs, stories, cultural events, cuisine

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Piaget's Views On Moral Judgment

- Moral thinking changes across childhood
- Heteronomous (age 4-7): rules fixed by authorities
- "He broke more plates, so he's naughtier."
- Autonomous (age 10+): rules can change, intentions matter
- "She's not naughty, she didn't mean to."
- Moral development influenced by peer interactions

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Kohlberg And Moral Reasoning

- Stage changes from childhood through adulthood
- Heinz's dilemma—steal to save a life?
- Three levels, six stages of moral reasoning
- Preconventional level: rewards, punishments define morality
- Conventional: morality defined by others' standards
- Postconventional: universal principles of justice

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Criticisms Of Kohlberg's Approach

- Gilligan: Kohlberg's perspective male-oriented
- Justice orientation versus care orientation
- Do Kohlberg's stages hold across cultures?
- Moral reasoning and cultural beliefs
- Structure and content of moral judgment
- Individual rights and social harmony

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Why Do People Act Morally?

- Freud: superego punishes wrongdoing with guilt
- Hoffman: capacity for empathy from infancy
- Mirror neurons—seeing distress sets off distress
- Role of parental disciplinary techniques
- Induction, power assertion, love withdrawal
- Induction linked to more mature moral behavior

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