

# INVESTIGATION OF THE REACHED STATUS OF ADULTHOOD OF UKRAINIANS IN EMERGING ADULTHOOD

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**Abstract.** *Emerging adulthood (Arnett, 2004) is a defined period of development, which encompasses the age between 18 and 30 years. Similar to other European countries, in Ukraine the scholars establish that it exists. Its main characteristics have been outlined. The aim of the study conducted is to make a comparative analysis as to what extent young men in emerging adulthood and people in the period of adulthood of Ukrainian origin feel adult in the presence of parents, siblings, a romantic partner, co-workers and other adolescents. A total of 117 persons studied from Ukraine aged between 16 and 34 (M=22.6, SD=6.2) participated, of which 43 are adolescents (between 16 and 19, M=17.3, SD=1.0), 51 are in emerging adulthood (between 20 and 29, M=22.2, SD=3.0) and 23 are in the period of adulthood (between 30 and 35, M=33.5, SD=1.4). Of them 51 are women and 66 are men. Analysis by gender, development status and age has been made. The results show that, as a whole, all persons studied feel more adult with their intimate partner and their co-workers. They feel least adult in the presence of their parents. Men feel more adult both with their parents and with their fathers, in comparison to women.*

**Key words:** criteria for adulthood; emerging adulthood; identity development, Ukraine

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## INTRODUCTION

The transition from adolescence to adulthood is an independent separate subjectively specific period of young people's development in the industrial society (Arnett, 2000). The majority of them do not feel adolescents already, they have passed their teenage years, but, at the same time, they are not completely adult, have not entered entirely the adults' world and have not acquired an adult status. Basing on empirical studies conducted mainly in the USA, Jeffrey Arnett (Arnett, 2000; 2004) developed a theory of the *emerging adulthood period* that characterises the young people's development between 18 and 28 years of age.

Arnett (2004) acknowledges that *emerging adulthood* may not be a universal period of human development, suggesting that this period exists "only under certain conditions that have occurred only quite recently and only in some cultures" (Arnett 2004, p. 21). Despite this caution, recent research provides evidence that many of Arnett's features of emerging adulthood can be seen in young people in a variety of nations and cultures.

According to the author (Arnett 2004), the acquisition of an adult status is perceived by many contemporary young people as a danger that has to be avoided because it marks the end of independence and freedom. To them, the period of transition from adolescence to

adulthood gives them an unprecedented opportunity to explore in the sphere of education, intimacy, labour and amusements and to accumulate various experience of life. As a whole, besides the self-focus because of the few daily obligations towards other people, this is both time filled with a number of opportunities, high hopes and belief in future and time of instability in the personal and professional life, of frequent change of the residence, of the labour position occupied or of the intimate partner.

According to the author, during the period, the time to acquire higher education increases, the instability in the workplace occupied grows and the women enter more flexible roles. Because of the more efficient contraception on a worldwide scale, the average age at which the young people conclude a marriage and become parents, steps that are historically related to the adult status, increases. Concluding a marriage and giving birth to a child are also postponed in time because more and more young people prefer to explore new opportunities in their career development, to satisfy their needs as consumers and to emigrate in search of better economic and social opportunities. There is a debate in the Eastern European countries whether the low birth levels are a result of the economic uncertainty and instability or a symbol of the modern age (Paxson, 2005).

The fact that in more countries in Europe the childbirth is postponed by about 10 years in comparison with 50 years ago finds its logic explanation in sparing the time for activities characteristic of the transition from adolescence to adulthood such as completing education, leaving the parents' home, looking for an appropriate job, acquaintance with the world, finding an intimate partner, creating an own home, having a family and children of one's own (Douglass, 2007).

Arnett (Arnett, 2004) defined the *distinguishing features* of the period examined; the *feeling in-between*, between adolescence and adulthood, the *active exploration of the own identity*, more specifically in fields such as employment, intimate life and views of the world, *self-focus* not in the sense of egocen-

trism, but for lack of obligations towards the others, *instability* caused by intensive changes in the social status, in the relationships with the intimate partner, in the labour positions occupied, in the choice of a speciality for education, and many possibilities provided or an *optimism* to arrange the own life in the direction desired.

Young people pay more attention to their identity, to their personal growth, they aim at learning, travelling, socialising and becoming acquainted with the world before they feel ready to settle down by having a family of their own and becoming parents. During the period, the *independence* is highly appreciated, as a rule it is placed in terms of significance above the *interdependence* in the relationships and social obligations (Giddens, 1992). The embracement of the so called postmaterialist values such as autonomy and satisfaction with the own person also exerts influence when changing the views of marriage in which the quality of the relationships between the partners is increasingly taken into account (Lesthaeghe, 1995). Postmaterialism is related to intangible needs such as personal development, independence, satisfaction and recognition of the own person. It supposes that the main economic needs and the need for protection are satisfied in the society (Inglehart, 1990). It is because of the search for a suitable partner and establishment of relationships of equal terms with him/her that the period of cohabitation before concluding a marriage increases. Young people in Europe, who live in the postmodern age, are characterised by pursuing aims such as self-satisfaction and hedonism (Liefbroer, 2001).

#### THE CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

The Republic of Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe with a capital Kiev and population of 45.5 million people. On 24 August 1991, independence from the USSR was declared. Administratively, it is divided into one autonomous republic (Crimea), 24 oblasts (provinces) and 2 cities of special status (Kiev and Sevastopol). Kharkiv, where this study was conducted, is a big city in the eastern

part of Ukraine, an administrative centre of Kharkiv oblast. It is the second largest city of Ukraine in terms of population (1.5 million people) after Kiev; the main scientific, industrial, transport and students' centre of the country.

The *aims* of the survey conducted are to determine to what degree the Ukrainians studied in emerging adulthood feel adult in comparison to different significant others to them.

#### METHOD

**Participants.** The participants were 117 persons aged 16-34 ( $M = 22.6$ ,  $SD = 6.2$ ), including 43 adolescents (aged 16-19,  $M = 17.3$ ,  $SD = 1.0$ ); 51 emerging adults (aged 20-29,  $M = 22.2$ ,  $SD = 3.0$ ), and 23 young-to-midlife adults (aged 30-35,  $M = 33.5$ ,  $SD = 1.4$ ). Women were 51 ( $M = 22.8$ ,  $SD = 6.0$ ), and men were 66 ( $M = 22.5$ ,  $SD = 6.4$ ). The majority did not have children (81%). Sixty-eight per cent of participants were living with parents, 11% lived with somebody and 21% lived alone. Participants with college education were 38% and with university degree – 62%.

**Measurement.** The participants were asked to fill in a 52-item questionnaire. There were 43 items on the questionnaire participants were asked to “indicate whether you think the following must be achieved before a person can be considered to be an adult” (Arnett, 2004). They could indicate one of four Likert-style rating scale from 1 – “very important”, 2 – “quite important”, 3 – “slightly important” and 4 – “not at all important”. These 43 items form 7 emerging adulthood markers (scales): *Independence* (6 items), *Interdependence* (5 items), *Role Transitions* (6 items), *Norm Compliance* (8 items), *Biological Transitions* (4 items), *Chronological Transitions* (5 items if a man and 6 items if a woman) and *Family Capacities* (8 items).

Participants were asked on the questionnaire: **(a)** “What are the three most important things for a person to be considered an adult? You may answer by writing in the numbers of any of the 43 items above, or by writing in your own response”. **(b)** “Do you feel like you have reached adulthood?”. Response options

were “yes”, “no” and “in some ways yes, in some ways no”. **(c)** “Indicate how *adult* you feel when you are with each of the following persons: father, mother, brother or sister (if you have any), friends, romantic partner (girlfriend or boyfriend), co-workers (if you have a job) or parents. Response options were in Likert-style: “fully adult”, “partly adult” and “not at all adult”. **(d)** In addition, a variety of questions concerning background and demographic information were included.

Respondents were asked to answer the following seven questions: *to what degree they feel adult when they are with following people: (1) parent, (2) mother, (3) father, (4) brother / sister, (5) intimate partner, (6) friends or (7) co-workers*. They choose one of the following answers in Likert-format: (a) fully adult; (b) partly adult or (c) not at all adult. The answers were coded respectively with 1.00, 0.50 and 0.00, thus the greater the value of the answer the respondent is feeling more adult (at a value of 0.00 the respondent does not feel adult at all, and at a value of 1.00 he/she feels fully adult).

Each of those seven questions is interpreted as *ordinal (rank)* variable because the respondent may only choose among three Likert-format answers. Since each of the above seven questions measures a given psychological characteristic of the respondent, this means that each respondent was measured seven times, i.e. seven characteristics of his/her were measured. That is why in order to compare if there is statistically significant difference between seven psychological characteristics, a Friedman test was conducted with post hoc tests for comparison by pairs of Wilcoxon with adjusted  $p$ -value of Bonferroni. For comparison by *gender*, the Mann-Whitney U test was used, and by *age* and *development status* – the Kruskal-Wallis tests with Bonferroni adjusted post hoc Mann-Whitney U test.

Indicate how ADULT you feel when you are with each of the following persons: father, mother, brother or sister (if you have any), friends, romantic partner (girlfriend or boyfriend), co-workers (if you have a job) and parents.

Response options were in Likert-style and were coded: 1 – “fully adult”, 0.50 – “partly adult” and 0 – “not at all adult”, so the result was between 0.00 – not at all adult and 1.00 – fully adult, with midpoint 0.50 – partly adult.

## RESULTS

*Descriptive statistics and correlation analysis*  
The descriptive statistics and the results of the

correlation analysis are presented in Table 1. The mean values  $M$  (see the lower part of Table 1) for the questions are higher than the mean value for the maximum range of variation  $M = 0.50$ , which shows that the respondents, as a whole, feel more adult in comparison to each of the 7 persons shown. The standard deviation  $SD$  (square root of dispersion) is also approximately equal, which shows homogeneity in the answers of the respondents. Most homogeneous are their answers for

TABLE 1  
SAMPLE CORRELATION MATRIX, MEANS ( $M$ ), STANDARD DEVIATIONS ( $SD$ ), OBSERVED AND MAXIMUM RANGE FOR  
“HOW ADULT YOU FEEL WHEN YOU ARE WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS”  
(0 – NOT AT ALL ADULT, 1 – FULLY ADULT)

Variables/markers	Variables						
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1. parents	1						
2. mother	0.29*	1					
3. father	0.36***	0.62***	1				
4. brother or sister	0.20	0.35**	0.10	1			
5. romantic partner	0.32*	0.32**	0.40***	0.30**	1		
6. friends	0.13	0.31**	0.09	0.46***	0.56***	1	
7. co-workers	0.26**	0.30**	0.24**	0.33**	0.40***	0.59***	1
markers:							
Independence	-0.25*	-0.38***	-0.27**	-0.24*	-0.26*	-0.11	-0.28**
Interdependence	-0.03	-0.14	-0.24*	-0.15	-0.21*	-0.03	-0.10
Role Transitions	0.01	-0.11	-0.13	-0.07	-0.12	0.01	-0.10
Norm Compliance	-0.08	-0.33***	-0.23*	-0.30**	-0.14	-0.24**	-0.24*
Biological Transitions	-0.14	-0.22*	-0.28***	-0.03	-0.03	-0.08	-0.12
Chronological Transitions	-0.03	-0.23*	-0.29**	0.01	-0.12	-0.14	-0.15
Family Capacities	-0.10	-0.08	-0.12	-0.12	-0.09	0.02	-0.02
age	0.11	0.29***	0.28**	0.23*	0.09	0.22*	0.29**
gender	-0.31**	-0.12	-0.21*	0.05	-0.12	0.08	-0.02
children	0.08	0.20*	0.20*	0.34**	0.08	0.18	0.21*
education	0.12	0.04	0.08	0.03	-0.10	-0.19	-0.13
development status	0.25**	0.39***	0.31**	0.27**	0.28***	0.32***	0.38***
living with parents	0.18	0.17	0.21*	0.06	0.18	0.06	0.08
$M$	0.60	0.56	0.54	0.68	0.69	0.63	0.70
$SD$	0.32	0.35	0.36	0.39	0.32	0.37	0.28
Observed range	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0
Maximum range	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0	0.0, 1.0

Note: markers and variables: *age*, *education* (1-college, 2-university), *development status* (1-adolescent, 2-emerging adult, 3-fully adult) were analysed using Pearson's linear correlation coefficients; dichotomous variables *gender* (1-men, 2-women), *children* (0-no, 1-yes), *living with parents* (1-yes, 2-no) were analysed using point-biserial correlation; \*  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ .

parent  $SD = 0.31$ , and most heterogeneous are their answers for *friends*:  $SD = 0.37$ . The range observed for all the seven cases is [0.00, 1.00] and coincides with the maximum possible range. This shows that the respondents had maximum possible different opinion.

The correlation between parent, mother and father (the upper part of Table 1) is medium / big positive, which means that there is big positive association between these three assessments of adulthood.

The correlation between the seven assessments of adulthood and the seven markers is medium negative, which shows that the more adult the respondent feels while with someone of the seven persons listed the less the values of the markers are.

The correlation between the seven assessments and: (a) age, (b) gender, (c) if the re-

spondent has children, (d) his/her education, (e) development status and (f) if he/she lives with his/her parents (see the middle part of Table 1) is mostly weak, which means that the values of the seven assessments of adulthood are very weakly influenced by age, gender, availability of children, education, development status and if he/she lives with his/her parents.

### Gender analysis

The results presented in Table 2 show that, as a whole, all persons studied feel more adult with their intimate partner and the co-workers. They feel less adult in the presence of their parents. Men feel more adult both with their parents and their fathers, in comparison to women.

TABLE 2  
AVERAGE "HOW ADULT YOU FEEL WHEN YOU ARE WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS",  
FOR A WHOLE SAMPLE AND FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Person	All	Gender		Statistics	
		Men	Women	sig.	r
parents	0.60 <sup>a</sup>	0.67	0.55 <sup>a</sup>	*	0.30, T
mother	0.52 <sup>a</sup>	0.60	0.46 <sup>a</sup>	-	-
father	0.48 <sup>a</sup>	0.56	0.44 <sup>a</sup>	*	0.22, S
brother or sister	0.64 <sup>ab</sup>	0.67	0.63 <sup>bc</sup>	-	-
romantic partner	0.68 <sup>b</sup>	0.71	0.66 <sup>b</sup>	-	-
friends	0.62 <sup>ab</sup>	0.60	0.64 <sup>ab</sup>	-	-
co-workers	0.69 <sup>b</sup>	0.71	0.68 <sup>b</sup>	-	-
significance	*	-	*		

Note: low scores represent low relevant importance, and high score represent high relevant importance; (0-minimum, 1-maximum); where there is a statistically significant effect at  $p < 0.05$  of measurements, an asterisk \* appears beneath the relevant column of seven figures and the specific location of the significant difference within the column is shown using superscript letters (<sup>a</sup>, <sup>b</sup>, <sup>c</sup>), with mean scores which do not differ significantly from one another sharing the same superscript letters; means with different superscripts differ significantly between samples i.e., means with (<sup>a</sup>) are statistically significantly smaller than means with (<sup>b</sup>), which are statistically significantly smaller than means with (<sup>c</sup>); and (<sup>ab</sup>) indicates that the mean falls between those indicated by (<sup>a</sup>) and (<sup>b</sup>) but does not differ statistically significantly from either mean; where there is a statistician significant effect at  $p < 0.05$  of two groups (men and women), an asterisk \* appears in the final column; data analyses using Friedman test with Bonferroni corrected post hoc Wilcoxon Signed Rank tests (by columns) and Mann-Whitney U test (by rows); effect size was calculated using Cohen's  $r$  and was interpreted as:  $>0.70$  much larger than typical ( $>L$ ),  $0.50-0.70$  larger than typical ( $L$ ),  $0.30-0.50$  medium or typical ( $T$ ),  $0.10-0.30$  smaller than typical ( $S$ ), according to Cohen (Cohen, 1988).

*Age group analysis*

The results presented in Table 3 show that young people feel more adult both with their father and with their mother in comparison to

adolescents and Ukrainians studied in emerging adulthood. The adolescents studied feel most adult with their friends in comparison to Ukrainians in emerging adulthood and in early youth.

TABLE 3  
AVERAGE "HOW ADULT YOU FEEL WHEN YOU ARE WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS",  
FOR ADOLESCENT (16-19), EMERGING ADULT (20-29) AND MIDLIFE ADULTS (30-35) (ARNETT, 2004)

	Age group (in years)			Significance
	adolescent	emerging adult	midlife adults	
parents	0.48 <sup>a</sup>	0.68 <sup>b</sup>	0.63	—
mother	0.42 <sup>a1</sup>	0.56 <sup>a1</sup>	0.75 <sup>2</sup>	*
father	0.40 <sup>a1</sup>	0.53 <sup>a1</sup>	0.63 <sup>2</sup>	*
brother or sister	0.54 <sup>ab</sup>	0.72 <sup>b</sup>	0.63	—
romantic partner	0.71 <sup>b</sup>	0.68 <sup>b</sup>	0.50	—
friends	0.67 <sup>b2</sup>	0.58 <sup>a1</sup>	0.63 <sup>12</sup>	*
co-workers	0.71 <sup>b</sup>	0.67 <sup>b</sup>	0.75	—
significance	*	*	—	

Note: low scores represent low relevant importance, and high score represent high relevant importance; (0-minimum, 1-maximum); where there is a statistically significant effect at  $p < 0.05$  of measurements, an asterisk \* appears beneath the relevant column of seven figures and the specific location of the significant difference within the column is shown using superscript letters (<sup>a</sup>, <sup>b</sup>, <sup>c</sup>), with mean scores which do not differ significantly from one another sharing the same superscript letters; means with different superscripts differ significantly between samples i.e., means with (<sup>a</sup>) are statistically significantly smaller than means with (<sup>b</sup>), which are statistically significantly smaller than means with (<sup>c</sup>); and (<sup>ab</sup>) indicates that the mean falls between those indicated by (<sup>a</sup>) and (<sup>b</sup>) but does not differ statistically significantly from either mean; where there is a statistician significant effect at  $p < 0.05$  of three groups, an asterisk \* appears in the final column and the specific location of the significant differences within the row of three figures is shown using superscript numbers (<sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>, <sup>3</sup>), with mean scores which do not differ significantly from one another sharing the same superscript number; means with different superscripts differ significantly between samples i.e., means with (<sup>1</sup>) are statistically significantly smaller than means with (<sup>2</sup>), which are statistically significantly smaller than means with (<sup>3</sup>); and (<sup>12</sup>) indicates that the mean falls between those indicated by (<sup>1</sup>) and (<sup>2</sup>) but does not differ statistically significantly from either mean; data analyses using Friedman test with Bonferroni corrected post hoc Wilcoxon Signed Rank tests (by columns) and Kruskal-Wallis test with Bonferroni corrected post hoc Mann-Whitney U test (by rows).

*Development status (Reached adulthood) analysis*

The results presented in Table 4 show that the persons studied, who have reached adulthood, feel more adult in comparison to each of the 7 persons listed. It is striking that those

of them, who feel adult to the lowest degree, feel most adult with their romantic partner. The same trend is also observed with the young Ukrainians who place themselves "in the middle", also adding the fact to it that they feel more adult both with their romantic partner and with their co-workers and brothers and sisters.

TABLE 4  
 AVERAGE "HOW ADULT YOU FEEL WHEN YOU ARE WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS",  
 BY DEVELOPMENT STATUS (REACHED ADULTHOOD): "NO", "IN SOME WAYS YES, IN SOME WAYS NO"  
 AND "YES" (ARNETT, 2004)

	Reached adulthood (development status)			significance
	<i>no</i>	<i>yes/no</i>	<i>yes</i>	
parents	0.44 <sup>a1</sup>	0.60 <sup>ab12</sup>	0.67 <sup>2</sup>	*
mother	0.39 <sup>a1</sup>	0.43 <sup>a1</sup>	0.72 <sup>2</sup>	*
father	0.44 <sup>a1</sup>	0.41 <sup>a1</sup>	0.63 <sup>2</sup>	*
brother or sister	0.44 <sup>a1</sup>	0.63 <sup>b12</sup>	0.76 <sup>2</sup>	*
romantic partner	0.67 <sup>b1</sup>	0.66 <sup>b1</sup>	0.74 <sup>2</sup>	*
friends	0.56 <sup>ab1</sup>	0.57 <sup>ab1</sup>	0.74 <sup>2</sup>	*
co-workers	0.56 <sup>ab1</sup>	0.67 <sup>b1</sup>	0.78 <sup>2</sup>	*
<i>significance</i>	*	*	-	

Note: see notes under Table 3.

#### DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Living apart from your parents. Contracting a marriage. Having a child. Which of these vital and decisive events is most important for the individual's development? Which of them turns adolescents into adults? With which of their relatives and friends do young Ukrainians feel more adult? It is the answers to those questions that this paper is dedicated to.

One of the observed trends from the results obtained from the study presented shows that the men studied from Ukraine feel more adult with their *parents* and more specifically with their *father* in comparison to women. In the notions of the distribution of family and professional roles between men and women, the most significant social role for the woman is considered to be the role of housewife and mother and that is why she carries the responsibility for the relations in the family and the good microclimate. In the Middle Ages, the women were associated with the care for the children or with the image of sexual temptresses. Participation in the social life, success in the occupation, responsibility

for the material security of the family were ascribed to the man. The traditional gender roles defined men as providing the maintenance of the family, contestants, protectors, and the women – as dependent, supporting and emotionally sympathetic. Feminism aims at breaking those traditional gender roles of women. The traditional notions of the specificity of labour content determine that the female labour is in the services sphere, health care, education, that women are rather executors, and men occupy managerial positions. The observed trend and relation between the father and the men studied logically find their explanation in the patriarchal structure of the modern Ukrainian society, which creates to them stronger sense of adulthood in comparison to women studied.

The young women from Ukraine studied, on their part, feel more adult with their *romantic partner* and with their *co-workers*. Since, as a rule, strong commitment and responsibility both to work and to family and home are expected from women, it is expected that they cope equally well both as professionals at the place of work and as wives and mothers. It is for these reasons that for the women studied the relationship *reached degree of adulthood*

– *family – career* is distinguished for attaching greater importance and is assessed as a part of the personal development. The relatively high significance of the combination of family and work as an obstacle to the career growth is also determined by the fact that very often the plans for children is in conflict with professional interests and ambitions because they necessitate temporary suspension of the labour activities of women. On the other hand, women are a subject of incompatible expectations – on the part of the professional role and the female gender role (Eagly, Makhijani & Klonsky, 1992). The recognition of their qualities is realised at by far greater tension, time and efforts, at higher psychological price than with men.

Striking is the fact that the persons studied, who feel adult to the highest degree, experience this feeling when they are in the presence of both their *mother* and their *father*. They highly appreciate *collectivist criteria* such as relations of long-term commitment to the others and a possibility to financially support the parents (Facio & Micocci, 2003).

The most significant criteria to reach adulthood, shown by students from China, represent a mixture of Chinese traditions, such as financial abilities to support own parents, and criteria that reflect the rising trends to individualism in response to the globalisation, such as the ability to make independent decisions (Nelson et al., 2004). The questions posed represent a scholarly “temptation” to the researchers of young people from different countries, to which an answer must be sought and found in the conduct of future empirical studies. Conduct of future studies in order to specify if *individualistic criteria*, such as assuming responsibility for own actions and making independent decisions to reach degree of adulthood, are of significance to young people from Ukraine is coming.

In the study presented, the majority of the young people that participate in it are about to complete their higher education. As a whole, however, little is known both in Ukraine and in the world about those who after finishing a high school start to work. In the USA, they are called “The Forgotten Half”, and in China –

“The Missing Majority” (Nelson et al., 2004). Indisputably, it is this part of the young people that is considerable both on national and international scale, which is to be investigated, and, more specifically, if its representatives also experience uncertainty to a high extent like young people in the world, who are about to complete their education.

The questions that are to be given an answer by means of conduct of empirical studies are how young people in Ukraine pass the path from adolescence to entry into adulthood? Which of the psychological characteristics they develop reflect their status of adults? What events from their path of life contribute to, favour, facilitate or hamper this process? How individual differences affect the period examined? It is in search of an answer to these questions that future studies are to be conducted.

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## ИЗСЛЕДВАНЕ НА ДОСТИГНАТАТА СТЕПЕН НА ВЪЗРАСТНОСТ НА УКРАИНЦИ В НАСТЪПВАЩА ЗРЯЛОСТ

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**Резюме.** *Настъпващата зрялост (2004) е дефиниран период от развитието, който обхваща възрастта между 18 и 30 години. Подобно на други европейски държави в Украйна учените установяват, че той съществува. Очертани са основните му характеристики. Целта на проведеното изследване е да направи съпоставителен анализ в каква степен се чувстват възрастни в присъствието на родители, сиблинги, романтичен партньор, колеги и др. юноши, младежи в настъпваща зрялост и хора в период на зрялост от украински произход. Учатват общо 117 изследвани лица от Украйна между 16 и 34-годишна възраст (M=22.6, SD=6.2), от които 43 са юноши (между 16 и 19 години, M=17.3, SD=1.0), 51 са в настъпваща зрялост (между 20 и 29 години, M=22.2, SD=3.0) и 23 са в период на зрялост (между 30 и 35 години, M=33.5, SD=1.4). От тях 51 са жени и 66 мъже. Направен е анализ по пол, развитиен статус и възраст. Резултатите показват, че като цяло всички изследвани лица се чувстват възрастни в по-голяма степен до своя интимен партньор и колеги и в по-ниска степен до своите родители. Мъжете в сравнение с жените се чувстват по-възрастни в присъствието както на своите родители, така и само на своите бащи.*

**Ключови думи:** критерии за възрастност; настъпваща зрялост; развитие на идентичността; Украйна

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