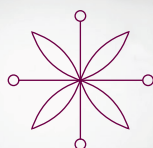


The Abstract Book of the 22nd European Conference on Developmental Psychology



August 25-29, 2025
Vilnius, Lithuania

<https://doi.org/10.15388/ECDP.2025>

The Abstract Book of the 22nd European Conference on Development Psychology

August 25–29, 2025

Vilnius, Lithuania



VILNIAUS
UNIVERSITETO
LEIDYKLA

2026

Scientific committee:

- Vilmantė Pakalniškienė (chair)
- Rima Breidokienė
- Lysanne Te Brinke
- Simona Caravita
- Goda Gegieckaitė
- Neringa Grigutytė
- Jessie Hillekens
- Willem Koops
- Beata Krzywosz-Rynkiewicz
- Francesca Lionetti
- Saulė Raižienė
- Lauryna Rakickienė
- Maja Schachner
- Dagmar Strohmeier
- Spyridon Tantaros
- Peter Titzmann

Local organizing committee:

- Vilmantė Pakalniškienė (chair)
- Roma Jusienė (co-chair)
- Rasa Barkauskienė
- Rima Breidokienė
- Goda Gegieckaitė
- Neringa Grigutytė
- Antanas Kairys
- Vita Mikuličiūtė
- Dalia Nasvytienė
- Saulė Raižienė
- Lauryna Rakickienė
- Monika Skerytė-Kazlauskienė
- Olga Zamalijeva
- Arūnas Žiedelis

Organisers:



Faculty of
Philosophy



Partners & Sponsors:



THE
WEMP
FOUNDATION
愛望基金



LMT

Lietuvos mokslo taryba

Konferenciją, kurios santraukos publikuojamos šiame leidinyje, iš dalies finansavo Lietuvos mokslo taryba (LMTLT), sut. Nr. S-MOR-25-11.

The authors are responsible for the content of their abstracts. The organizers assume no responsibility for the quality of the abstracts or the accuracy of the information.

Copyright © 2026 [Vilmantė Pakalniškienė, Roma Jusienė, Olga Zamalijeva]. Published by Vilnius University Press This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Licence, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. <https://doi.org/10.15388/ECDP.2025>
ISBN 978-609-07-1244-3 (skaitmeninis PDF)

CONSIDERING THE LINKS BETWEEN ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, MENTALIZATION, EPISTEMIC TRUST, AND EATING DISORDERS PSYCHOPATHOLOGY IN YOUNG ADULthood

Rima Breidokienė, Danguolė Čekuolienė, Rasa Barkauskienė, Asta Adler

Institute of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, Vilnius University, Lithuania

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have been increasingly studied as a risk factor and sequelae for eating disorders (ED) symptoms. Fonagy et al. (2015) elaborated views on mentalization in the context of a broader developmental psychopathology approach including ED and conceptualized epistemic trust (ET) as an individual's capacity to acquire new knowledge that supports resilient social functioning. These ideas have received support from theoretical and clinical perspectives. However, empirical links among these variables have not yet been explored. The main goal of this study was to give a deeper look into the associations among ACEs, mentalization, epistemic trust, and ED.

A representative sample of 800 Lithuanian young adults (48.75% female, *Age* = 24.46, *SD* = 3.77). Instruments included the Eating Disorder Examination Questionnaire, Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire, Mentalization Scale, and Epistemic Trust, Mistrust, and Credulity Questionnaire.

The results of the total sample showed that ACEs exerted both direct and indirect effects on the severity of ED symptoms by negatively affecting self-mentalizing and increasing epistemic mistrust. In turn, epistemic mistrust acted as a mediator, partially explaining the link between ACEs and eating psychopathology. Results showed certain differences in the interplay of the examined variables in men and women groups. Only in males, epistemic mistrust did not mediate the relationship between ACEs and ED symptoms.

Results of the current study shed new light on two important facets in the link between childhood maltreatment and eating psychopathology - mentalization and ET. Results indicate that while ACEs are associated with ED in men, this link may operate through self-mentalizing and not through epistemic mistrust. Thus, evaluation of the role of mentalization and epistemic trust/mistrust in psychotherapy for men and women ED remain among the most promising directions for the future studies.