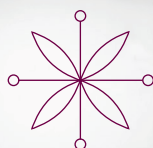


The Abstract Book of the 22nd European Conference on Developmental Psychology



August 25-29, 2025
Vilnius, Lithuania

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PERSONALITY FUNCTIONING AND PEER RELATIONSHIPS IN ADOLESCENCE: A ONE-YEAR LONGITUDINAL STUDY

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As the conceptualization of personality disorders evolves and the dimensional model gains prominence, personality functioning—defined as self and interpersonal processes on a continuum from adaptive to impaired—has become a key dimension of personality psychopathology. Developmental psychopathology research indicates that personality disorders can emerge in adolescence. However, studies on personality functioning development remain scarce due to ongoing conceptual shifts and the novelty of the construct. Adolescence is marked by an increased significance of peer relationships. This study examines the interaction between personality functioning and peer relationships over one year. The sample included 294 adolescents (ages 11-17, 64.6% girls), assessed at two time points. Measures included the Levels of Personality Functioning Questionnaire 12-18, Multidimensional Peer-Victimization Scale, Network of Relationships Inventory – Relationship Qualities Version, and the Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire. Findings indicate that personality functioning difficulties, peer victimization, and best-friend relationship quality remain relatively stable over one year. Difficulties in personality functioning predict later discord with a best friend and increased peer rejection. Among individuals with a history of violence and/or neglect, personality functioning difficulties also predict prior peer rejection experiences. However, past peer victimization and best-friend relationship quality do not predict later difficulties in personality functioning. These findings contribute to understanding the development of personality functioning in adolescence, emphasizing the need for further longitudinal research.