

Mackinnon, S. P., Nosko, A., & Pratt, M. W. (2009). *Stand by me: Intimacy in life narratives of romantic relationships and friendships predicts higher generativity at age 26*. Poster presented at the 4th Emerging Adulthood Conference at the Westin Buckhead in Atlanta, GA, October 30, 2009.

Abstract

A quantitative and qualitative study examined Erikson's ego developmental hypotheses regarding the positive relationship between generativity and intimacy . At age 26, participants told two life stories about "relationship defining moments," one about a romantic partner, and another about a same-sex friend. An interaction was found, whereby participants scored higher on the Loyola Generativity Scale at 26 only when they told stories rated as intimate about both a romantic partner and a friend. "True Love" and "True Friendship" themes arose as prototypical stories in each context. Similarities and differences between the stories told about friends and romantic partners will also be discussed.