



# **ADOLESCENCE**

**SOCIALIZATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

# THE ORIGINS OF ADOLESCENCE

- today, in mainstream, North America, adolescence refers to a transitional period between childhood and adulthood that typically begins with the onset of puberty and lasts to the age of 18 to 21
- historically, and culturally 'adolescence' as a stage has not always existed - term was invented by G. Stanley Hall in 1904
  - in many cultures & 150 years ago, in North America & England, children went abruptly from childhood to adulthood as early as the age of 7 or 8
- around the early 1900s public high schools emerge, as well as laws against child labour resulting in a longer dependence on parents



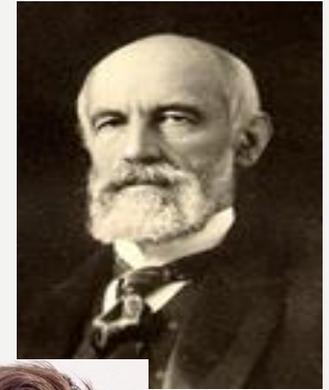
# THEORIES ABOUT ADOLESCENTS

- G. Stanley Hall Storm and Stress
- David Elkind Egocentricity
- Allison Davis Socialized Anxiety

There are many more, but I wanted to keep it relatively short

# G. STANLEY HALL STORM & STRESS

- **1904** Hall conducts landmark study called “Adolescence” where he studied adolescent boys...
  - outlined the characteristics of adolescence – focusing on **emotional development**
  - felt teens often showed **contradictory behaviour** & described the period as one of storm & stress or a time marked by mood swings
    - wanting to be with friends, or wanting to be alone; being mean or being really empathetic; being apathetic or enthusiastic
  - felt these **distinct characteristics of adolescence** were biological & possibly universal, but that culture would play a role as well – he also observed or concluded that most homes, schools & religious organizations failed to understand how stressful this period is
  - felt that ultimately these changes help to sort the **personality** and working through the storm and stress leads to stability, character and maturity



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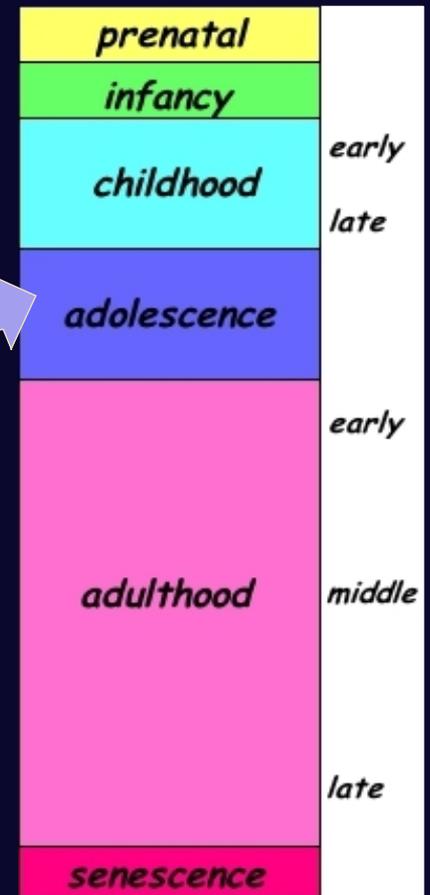
# adolescents

- The group of people
- Teenagers



# adolescence

- The time period
- The stage



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**1940s**



**1950s**



**1960s**



**1970s**



**1980s**

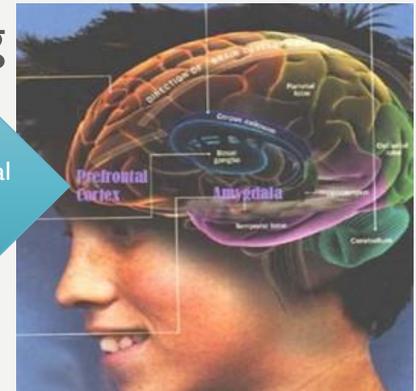
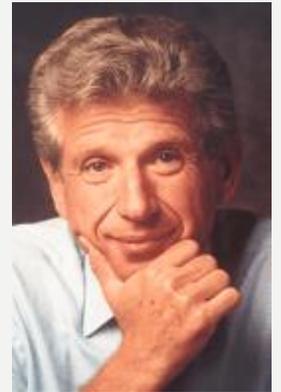


**1990s**



# D. ELKIND THEORY OF EGOCENTRISM

- teen behaviour is complex, but according to David Elkind there are a number of components that make up adolescent behaviour
- the most prominent feature is **egocentrism** (a heightened self awareness and self consciousness think everyone is watching and scrutinizing them)
  - primary feature is the immaturity of the thinking process & underdeveloped reasoning abilities
  - teens are indecisive due to an exaggerated self consciousness
  - teens can be both idealistic & critical
  - teens have a tendency to feel invincible or invulnerable which can lead to risky behaviours



# THE ROLE OF SOCIALIZATION

- **socialization** is the process of learning to become successful members of our society (or not)
  - the teaching of values, norms & roles
- it begins in childhood with family & continues as we mature, in adolescence; peers, school, media and religion often also play a growing role as secondary agents of socialization
  - The role of the family starts to lessen
- however, what we learn in our family of origin often has a lasting influence throughout our lives – both positive and negative ~



# THE ROLE OF CULTURE

- **culture** and **ethnicity** affect how we see ourselves during this important stage
- some youth have to deal with prejudice, discrimination & barriers (real or perceived) in the dominant culture
- identity is connected to a person's culture
  - some First Nations, Metis & Inuit youth struggle partly due to a loss of cultural identity – stripped from their culture over the past 100 years,
    - they have the highest youth suicide rates in Canada



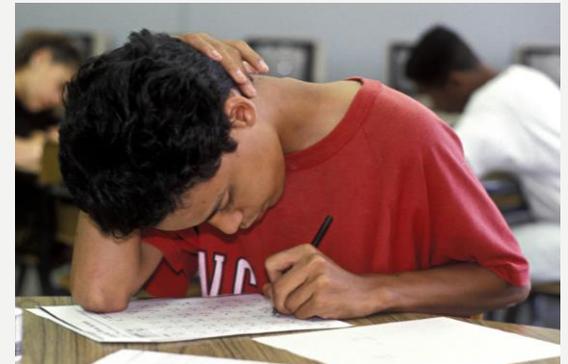
# ALLISON DAVIS SOCIALIZED ANXIETY

- Allison Davis (1902-1983) outlined a number of forces that cause stress and anxiety in adolescents
- he felt that the socialization process includes a phenomenon known as **socialized anxiety**



- **socialized anxiety is the tension and discomfort individuals feel that can motivate or influence their behaviour**

- example senior high school students often feel anxious about being accepted to college or university, this anxiety motivates them to earn better grades



- a measure of successful socialization can be connected to the amount of imposed or learned anxiety the teen is exposed to in his environment... ideally, there is a healthy balance

# ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENTAL THEORIES

- Erik Erikson's Eight Stages of Life
- Jane Loevinger's Theory of Ego Development
- Family Life Cycle Theory

There are many more, but I wanted to keep it relatively short

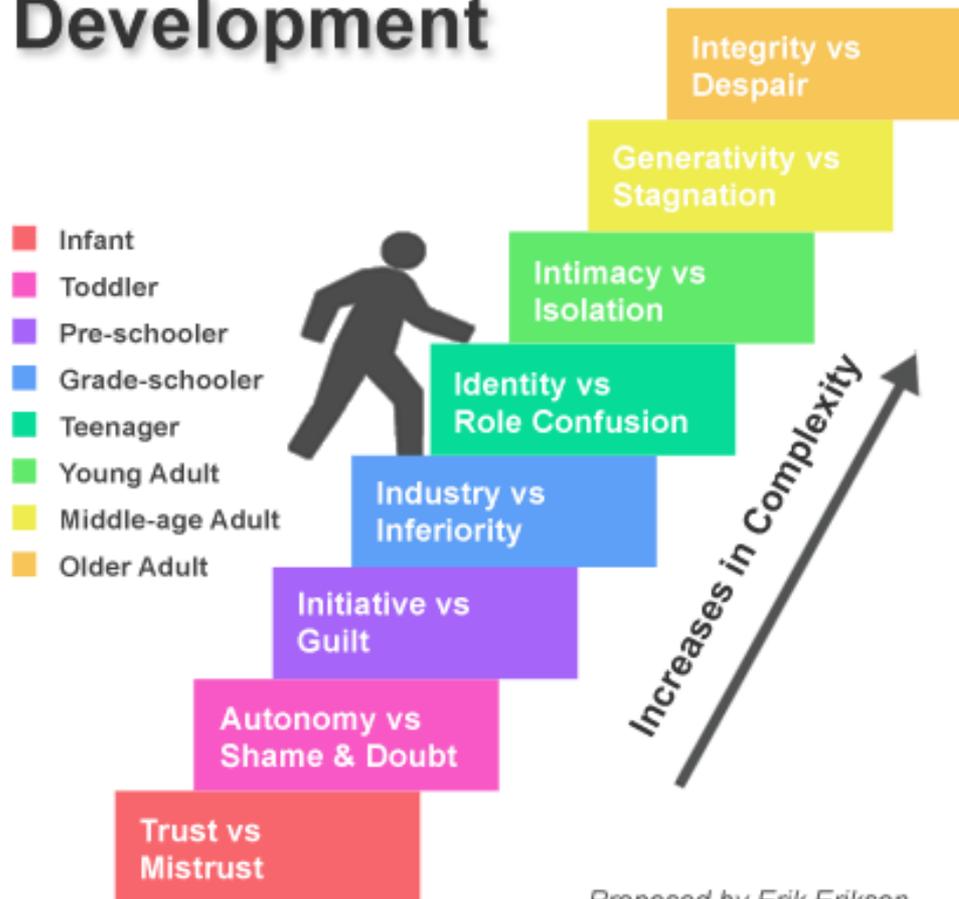
# ERIK ERIKSON 8 STAGES OF LIFE

- Erik Erikson's theory of psycho social development includes **8 distinct stages**
- **at each stage** there is a **task or challenge** that is a theme for that stage
  - for teens it is **identity formation** versus **identity confusion**
- during each stage, we sort out these challenges based on social interactions (feedback and experiences) with family first, then school and community and so on
- through various interactions we achieve or “pass” the test of that stage or not, **regardless** we move on to the next stage
- **healthy resolution leads to positive development** and happiness, whereas **not resolving the issue can lead to difficulties**



# ERIKSONS 8 STAGES

## Stages of Psychosocial Development



Proposed by Erik Erikson

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# JANE LOEVINGER

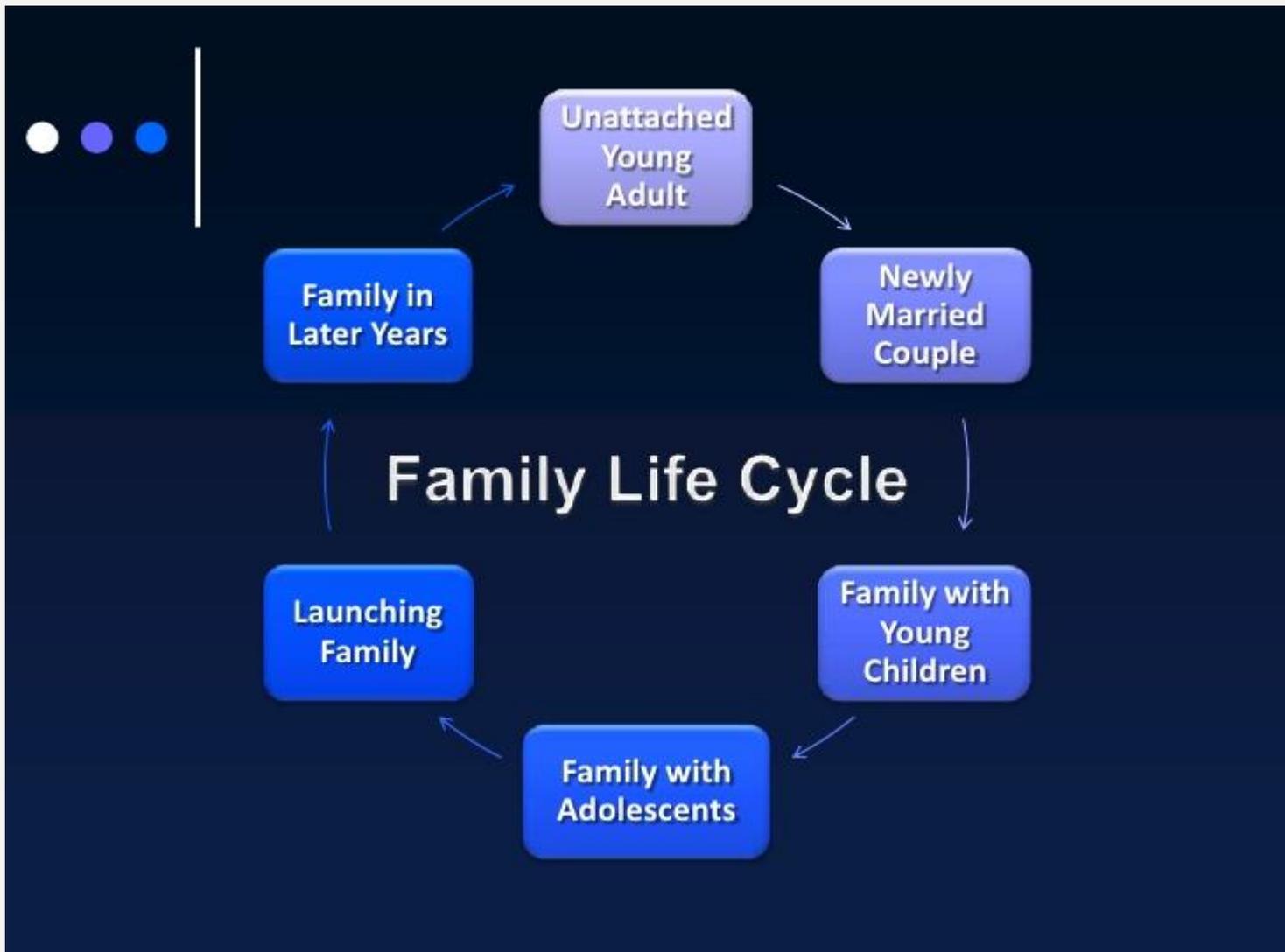
## THEORY OF EGO DEVELOPMENT

- in the 1970s Loevinger identified **10 stages** in the formation of **ego**, or self
- she describes full ego development as having an autonomous self, being self reliant, accepting of others
- **3** of the stages apply to adolescence
  1. **conformist stage**, where adolescents tend to view life in simple, stereotypical ways in an attempt to classify or sort human experience so they can see where they belong in society
  2. **self aware stage**, where young adults begin to understand and accept individual differences among each of us
  3. **conscientious stage**, where we are able to appreciate others as individual in reciprocal (give and take) relationships
- this search for self is key to human development



# THE FAMILY LIFE CYCLE FRAMEWORK

- early adulthood is explained in connection to the [family life cycle](#)
  - parents and children must eventually separate; adolescents eventually leave their family of origin and become independent
  - young adults look for a partner and become established in some sort of career 
  - eventually you get married and form a new family of your own 
- during each stage there are tasks specific to that stage
- the tasks of the young adult include
  - 1) **forming an identity** separate from your family of origin
  - 2) sorting out **starting a career**
  - 3) developing **an intimate relationship** with peers outside the family~



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