

PEERS

Youth Culture

Cofigurative cultures

Which peer group will individual adolescents pick in defining themselves? A number of factors influence this choice.

Gender

Ethnicity

Socioeconomic class

Parents' parenting style

Region of the country

Social skills

Career or academic goals

Self esteem/self confidence

Degree of comfort one feels in the greater society

Personality

Degree of Disenfranchisement from one's community

Extracurricular interest

Style tastes

Life History

Religious beliefs

Social Identification Theory

“The Social Identification model . . . assumes that psychological group membership has primarily a . . . cognitive basis. . . . The first question determining group-belongingness is not ‘Do I like these other individuals?’, but “Who am I?”.
Turner 1982

“A social group can be defined as two or more individuals who share a common social identification of themselves or, which is nearly the same thing, perceive themselves to be members of the same social category.” Turner 1982

Categorize
Identify
Compare (Outgroups to Ingroup)

Ingroup bias

Cliques Isolates, and Crowds

Reference Group

Gang membership

Popular Kids

Unpopular Kids

[Unpopular or]. . .rejected adolescents seem to have interactive difficulties, and they are described by their peers in more negative terms (e.g.,aggressive, disruptive, withdrawn) than their more popular agemates. . . .These rejected children appear to have specific information processing deficits that are contextually dependent; these may lead, in part, to the children's rejected status in the peer group. Indeed, some researchers have suggested that a primary factor contributing to the social deficits of rejected children is a deficiency in the way rjected children process social information and attempt to respond to the social problems that emerge in ongoing social interactions. . . .

Bowker, Bukowski, Hymel, Sippola, 2000

Overly Aggressive

Withdrawn

Aggressive-Withdrawn