

ERIK ERIKSON

- Psychosocial theory of social development
- Extends Freudian psychosexual theory – Neo Freudian
- *Childhood and Society*, 1950



IDENTITY CRISIS

- Inevitable conflict that accompanies the growth of a sense of identity.

STAGES

- Characterized by different conflicts that must be resolved by individual.
- As environment makes new demands, new conflicts arise.
- Must resolve conflict or will struggle with it later in life.
- <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7953598721199398444#>

STAGES

Erikson's stages of personality development

Stage	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Oral	Basic trust vs. mistrust							
Anal		Autonomy vs. shame/doubt						
Phallic			Initiative vs. guilt					
Latency				Industry vs. inferiority				
Genital					Identity vs. role confusion			
Young adulthood						Intimacy vs. isolation		
Adulthood							Generativity vs. stagnation	
Maturity								Ego integrity vs. despair



ORAL-SENSORY STAGE

- Age: Birth to 1 year
- Conflict: Trust vs. Mistrust
- Does child believe caregivers to be reliable?



MUSCULAR-ANAL STAGE

- Age: 1-2 years
- Conflict: Autonomy vs. Doubt
- Child needs to learn to explore the world. Bad if the parent is too smothering or completely neglectful



LOCOMOTOR STAGE

- Age: 2-6 years
- Conflict: Initiative vs. Guilt
- Can the child plan or do things on his own, such as dress him or herself. If "guilty" about making his or her own choices, the child will not function well.



LATENCY STAGE

- Age: 6-12 years
- Conflict: Industry vs. Inferiority
- Child comparing self worth to others (such as in a classroom environment). Child can recognize major disparities in personal abilities relative to other children. Erikson places some emphasis on the teacher, who should ensure that children do not feel inferior.



ADOLESCENCE

- Age: 12-18 years
- Conflict: Identity vs. Role Confusion
- Questioning of self. Who am I, how do I fit in? Where am I going in life? Erikson believes that if the parents allow the child to explore, they will conclude their own identity. However, if the parents continually push him/her to conform to their views, the teen will face identity confusion.



YOUNG ADULTHOOD

- Age: 19-40 years
- Conflict: Intimacy vs. Isolation
- Who do I want to be with or date, what am I going to do with my life? Will I settle down? This stage has begun to last longer as young adults choose to stay in school and not settle.

MIDDLE ADULTHOOD

- Age: 40-65 years
- Conflict: Generativity vs. Stagnation
- Mid-life crisis. Measure accomplishments/failures. Am I satisfied or not? The need to assist the younger generation. Stagnation is the feeling of not having done anything to help the next generation.

MATURITY

- Age: Late Adulthood - 65 years - death
- Conflict: Integrity vs. Despair
- Some handle death well. Some can be bitter, unhappy, and/or dissatisfied with what they have accomplished or failed to accomplish within their life time. They reflect on the past, and either conclude at satisfaction or despair.

CRITIQUES AND CONTROVERSIES OF ERIKSON

- o Favorite method for testing his theory was biographical case study – time consuming, expensive, difficulty to apply to all individuals.
- o Questions regarding belief of identity formation – can individuals change throughout life?
- o Is psychological development completed earlier?



CRITIQUES AND CONTROVERSIES OF ERIKSON

- o Agreement with Freud that personality differences between sexes are biologically based. Controversial
- o Theory is more applicable to boys than to girls
- o More attention is paid to infancy and childhood than to adult life
- o *"It is human to have a long childhood; it is civilized to have an even longer childhood. Long childhood makes a technical and mental virtuoso out of man, but it also leaves a life-long residue of emotional immaturity in him."*
- o — Erik Homburger Erikson (1902-1994)


