

NAME OF PRESENTING AUTHOR: Ida M. Mueller

EMAIL ADDRESS OF PRESENTING AUTHOR: ida.mueller@uni-saarland.de

LOCATION OF PRESENTING AUTHOR: Europe

TIME ZONE OF PRESENTING AUTHOR: Germany

TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Oral paper

MEMBER STATUS: Associate

ELIGIBLE FOR THOMPSON AWARD: Yes

ELIGIBLE FOR ROWEWARD: Yes

TITLE: Genetics, Parenting and Family Functioning - What Drives the Development of Self-Regulation from Adolescence to Adulthood?

FULL AUTHOR LIST: Ida M. Mueller¹, Frank M. Spinath¹, Malte FRIESE¹, Elisabeth Hahn¹

AFFILIATIONS: ¹ Department of Psychology, Saarland University, Saarbruecken, Saarland, Germany

KEYWORDS: self-regulation, personality, cognition, development, family functioning

ABSTRACT:

Self-regulatory competencies develop early in childhood and play a meaningful role in predicting crucial life outcomes. Former research has already specified relevant genetic and environmental influences while primarily investigating early childhood development. In the present study, we used a cross-sectional multi-cohort design to investigate self-regulation from adolescence to early adulthood examining the relative contribution of genetic and environmental influences with a special focus on family environments. Regarding potential environmental influences, previous studies often neglected that parental resources may be distributed differentially between children. Therefore, we investigated whether parenting style and chaotic home environments act as shared and/or non-shared environment on self-regulation. We used data from the German twin family study *TwinLife* (N= 3,354). Twins aged 13, 19 and 25 years rated their self-regulation, perceived parenting behavior and home environment. Analyses revealed increasing mean-level and one-year stability of self-regulation across ages. Particularly from age 19 to 25, genetic influences on self-regulation increased (47 to 73%) while non-shared environmental influences decreased, possibly due to amplifying genetic effects or gene-environment correlation. Furthermore, while CHAOS and negative parenting went along with lower self-regulation, twin difference models revealed that differences in CHAOS

and negative parenting directly predicted differences in self-regulation controlled for genetic and environmental similarities. In contrast, the positive relation between positive parenting and self-regulation was mediated through shared genetic and environmental influences. Our results suggest further developmental processes of genetic and environmental influences after childhood and will be discussed referring to the main theories of self-regulation and differential environmental influences within families.

GRANT SUPPORT: This research was supported by a grant from the German Research Foundation awarded to Martin Diewald (DI 759/11-1), Rainer Riemann (RI 595/8-1), and Frank M. Spinath (SP 610/6-1).

