

**Workshop on the Transitions to Adulthood, Montreal, 15-17 June, 2006.**

The research agenda of the proposed workshop concerns transitions from adolescence to adulthood, broadly defined. This passage entails the study of the complex role transitions that young people face as they move from economic dependence to independence and usually from familial co-residence to the formation of an independent household (Shanahan 2000). The passage to adulthood typically is multi-dimensional involving a series of interconnected demographic, social, and psychological changes. Events such as leaving the parental household, completing education, acquiring a stable job, union formation, and parenthood are complex, interlinked, and associated with psychological development and value changes that often accompany this series of demographic and social events (Settersten, Furstenberg, Rumbaut 2005).

A central aim of this workshop is to draw explicit comparisons between developed nations. We believe that such comparisons provide a strategic site for understanding how and why changes in the nature and timing of the transition to adulthood have, and are taking place, and what policy implications flow for economic, social, and psychological development among young adult cohorts in quite varying national contexts. While the broad demographic dimension of these changes is apparent, little is known about how they come about and their consequences for society, families, and individuals. A burgeoning interest in youth and early adulthood is evident in North America and Europe, but many important questions remain including the diversification of the trajectories that comprise the transitions to adulthood, the individual and societal factors that constrain or expand young people's options, and the understanding of the links between demographic changes and personal characteristics and capacities that seem necessary to successfully navigate the transition to adulthood today.

**Specific objectives**

The workshop will be devoted to four main topics which we believe have general applications for scientists and policy makers.

- 1. Developing New Methods for Describing and Tracking Changes in Early Life Course Transitions**
- 2. The Links between Nations' Characteristics and Young People's Life Trajectories**
- 3. Sources of Inequalities within Countries in Young People's Transition to Adulthood**
- 4. Revising the Theoretical and Empirical Framework to Study the Transition to Adulthood**