Premarital Sex in America
Mark Regnerus and Jeremy Uecker

This book tells the definitive story of the sexual and relationship values and practices of young adults. The authors draw upon their analysis of nationally representative data and scores of in-person interviews to help shed light on numerous questions about the sex lives of young Americans, including how long their relationships last, how quickly they become sexual, why the double standard is so stubborn, who remains a virgin and for how long, how gender imbalances in college change the rules of mating, the “price” of sex and its effects on relationship security, how online social networking and porn alter the market in relationships, how emerging adults think about marriage and relationship permanence, who marries early, why the age at marriage is rising rapidly, and how “red” and “blue” politics are reflected in our sexual choices. This book reveals striking disparities between college students and those who never pursued higher education, between conservatives and liberals, and between men and women in their experiences of romantic and sexual relationships. Although women continue to make great strides in higher education and the economy, their relationships are stalling and making many of them unhappy. Quests for sexual chemistry fall short or even backfire, revealing discordant experiences with serial monogamy among many men and women. And yet the powerful scripts of sexual equality and romantic individualism propel emerging adults forward to try again. The result is an omnibus study of sex and relationships in the lives of heterosexual emerging adults in America.

Debating Emerging Adulthood
Jeffrey Jensen Arnett, Marion Kloep, Leo B. Hendry, and Jennifer L. Tanner

The result is an omnibus study of sex and relationships in the lives of heterosexual emerging adults in America.
In this book two pairs of developmental psychologists take sides in a spirited debate over the theory of “emerging adulthood,” Jeffrey Arnett’s proposal that a new life stage has developed in between adolescence and young adulthood, lasting roughly from ages 18 to 25. Arnett and Jennifer Tanner argue that as young people around the world share demographic similarities such as longer education and later marriage, the 18-25 age period is best understood as entailing the rise of a new life stage of emerging adulthood. However, because the experiences of emerging adults worldwide vary according to cultural context, educational attainment, and social class, Arnett and Tanner suggest that there may not be one but many different emerging adulthoods. An important issue for this burgeoning area of inquiry is to explore and describe this variation. In contrast, Marion Kloep and Leo Hendry assert that stage theories have never been able to explain individual transitions across the life course; in their view, stage theories—including the theory of emerging adulthood—ought to be abolished altogether, and explanations found for the processes and mechanisms that govern human change at any age. This book provides the argument of “stage or process” in full-force, with vigorous disagreements, conflicting alternatives, some leavening humor, and ultimately even some common ground.

From Emerging Adulthood to Young Adulthood
Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

in Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties

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This chapter considers, through the eyes of another group of emerging adults, the passage from emerging adulthood to young adulthood, focusing on the question of what it means to become an adult. The discussion starts by exploring how adulthood has been defined in traditional cultures and in the past in American history, then at how emerging adults today define adulthood and assess their own progress toward adult status. The subjects in this chapter then reflect on their mixed feelings about leaving adolescence — from the perspective of emerging adulthood. They also describe their mixed feelings about becoming adults — from the perspective of emerging adulthood, reaching adulthood promises stability but evokes fears of stagnation. Finally, their views of the future are examined, and how they foresee a
The lives of people from age eighteen to twenty-nine change dramatically but recently this has change has become more profound and a new stage of life has developed. Known as “emerging adulthood”, this stage is distinct from both the adolescence that precedes it and the young adulthood that comes in its wake. Rather than marrying and becoming parents in their early twenties, most people in industrialized societies now postpone these transitions until at least their late twenties. This book identifies and labels this period of limbo, exploration, instability, possibility, and self-focus. An increasing number of emerging adults emphasize the importance of meaningful and satisfying work to a degree not seen in prior generations. Marrying later and exploring more casual sexual relationships have created different hopes and fears concerning long-term commitments and the differences between love and sex. Emerging adults also face the challenge of defending their non-traditional lifestyles to parents and others outside their generation who have made more traditional choices. In contrast to previous portrayals of emerging adults, the book's research shows that they are particularly skilled at maintaining contradictory emotions — they are confident while still being wary, and optimistic in the face of large degrees of uncertainty.

This chapter focuses on the start of Dorothy's career. The 1920s saw women in the United States going where they had not gone before — into voting booths, for example. The world of Dorothy's early adulthood was very different from the coming-of-age time of her mother or even that of her older sister; American women had new freedoms and were
exercising them. To establish herself in songwriting, Dorothy needed not only talent, but also nerve and daring, and the Roaring Twenties fostered those qualities in women far more than previous decades had. Dorothy could look around for encouragement and see flappers of her day trying all sorts of things their mothers had not dared to do. The timing was of great importance, given what lay ahead. Getting a secure foothold in songwriting before the Great Depression hit would be crucial to Dorothy's career.

Reaching a Larger World: Muslim Youth and Expanding Circuits of Operation
Simone AbdouMaliq

in Being Young and Muslim: New Cultural Politics in the Global South and North

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This chapter concerns specific practices of urban youth culture undertaken by youth who are Muslim to construct a particular horizon of youth—a temporal framework that resituates the position of being youth away from the cultural conventions of development. In other words, a means of envisioning a future that enables youth to become something other than youth, but without relying upon the customary means for resolving this transformation, particularly as the transformation into adulthood is something increasingly problematic. The chapter quickly passes through a few different settings, Cameroon, Bangkok, and Marseilles, in the urban South. This tour is undertaken more for its allegorical possibilities than for any pretense of critical comparison, because cities—with their disparate histories, positions, economies, and styles—are comparable only in broad strokes. Similarly, the designation Muslim youth is hardly a coherent category. Accordingly, the divergent sites and popular quarters are assembled here as a means of pointing to realms of possibilities and constraints, perhaps not capable of generalization across settings, but indicative of both fading and emerging parameters of action.
Introduction and Preview
K. Warner Schaie

This chapter presents an overview of the phenomena of adult cognitive development. It lays out the reasons why intelligence in adulthood should be studied by giving a brief history of the study of adult intelligence. It points out that intellectual competence attains increasing importance from middle adulthood onwards, when level of intellectual competence may determine job retention. It discusses whether independent living within the community remains possible in later life, and considers maintenance of control over financial decision making. A conceptual model is then given to tackle the developmental influences that have an impact on the life course of cognition. The model provides the rationale for the various influences related to cognitive development. An account is then given of the history and objectives of the Seattle Longitudinal Study.

Family Studies of Intellectual Abilities in Adulthood
K. Warner Schaie

This chapter gives an account of family studies of intellectual abilities in adulthood designed to consider similarities in adult parent-offspring and sibling pairs as well as similarity in married couples. Of particular interest is new material on changes in the rate of cognitive change across biologically related generations. Married couples were studied for as long as twenty-one years. They showed significant initial within-couple correlations on verbal meaning, inductive reasoning, and word fluency, and social responsibility, and on the Index of Educational Aptitude, even when age and education were controlled. Spousal similarity increased by length of marriage on verbal meaning, and attitudinal flexibility, and on the Index of Intellectual Ability.
Influences of Family Environment on Cognition
K. Warner Schaie

in Developmental Influences on Adult Intelligence: The Seattle longitudinal study

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This chapter presents data from the Seattle Longitudinal Study on the similarity of perceptions about family environments of parents and their adult offspring and the similarity in such perceptions of adult siblings reported in adulthood. Perceptions about family environments are considered both with respect to the family of origin (i.e., the family setting experienced by the study participants when they lived with their own parents) and with respect to the current family (i.e., their family unit at the time these data were collected). Included in this chapter also are analyses of the relation of perceived family environments to reported current intensity of contact between parent and offspring and between sibling pairs.

Introduction
Mark Regnerus and Jeremy Uecker

in Premarital Sex in America: How Young Americans Meet, Mate, and Think about Marrying

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This chapter introduces the topic of premarital sex in America and highlights several introductory themes before describing the book’s parameters, data sources, and directions. Its brief discussions include the changing definition of premarital sex, the nature of emerging adulthood, the sexual significance of turning 18, and the scope of heterosexuality among contemporary emerging adults.
The Partnerships and Practices of Emerging Adults
Mark Regnerus and Jeremy Uecker

in Premarital Sex in America: How Young Americans Meet, Mate, and Think about Marrying

This chapter describes what is known about the sexual behavior of American young adults, beginning with the prevalence of virginity and discussion of primary reasons offered for it. Serial monogamy, however, appears to be the central narrative of American heterosexual behavior. The chapter describes the average number of sexual partners that unmarried young adults report, highlighting how men and women “remember” their sexual pasts differently. Next the chapter outlines the role of oral sex in emerging adults’ lives and relationships — what it means, how its meaning has changed since adolescence, how popular it is, and what men and women think of giving and receiving it, followed by a discussion of anal sex and its rising — though more limited — prevalence. The chapter concludes with discussions of young adults’ contraceptive usage patterns, experiences of pregnancy scares, and the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections among them.

Marriage in the Minds of Emerging Adults
Mark Regnerus and Jeremy Uecker

in Premarital Sex in America: How Young Americans Meet, Mate, and Think about Marrying

This chapter explores the ideas of marriage in the minds of young adults. The vast majority of them wish to get married, yet the institution itself seems disconnected not only from where they are in their lives, but also where many of them want to go. Marriage becomes a future event that will somehow happen someday in the scripted manner in which they conceive of it. In the present, therefore, they remain cautious about it. Those must wait for the right person — not just any sexual partner — or until they’re ready to “settle down” and marry. Many young adults now perceive their 20s as the time to extend your adolescence, enjoy yourself, and try on different identities and relationships before getting
serious. The chapter also explores the prevalence of “early” marriage as well as divorce, and discusses the increasing frequency of cohabitation.

A Longer Road to Adulthood
Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

in Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties

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In the past few decades a quiet revolution has taken place for young people in American society, so quiet that it has been noticed only gradually and incompletely. There has been an increase in the ages of entering marriage and parenthood, a lengthening of time spent in higher education, and a period of prolonged job instability. This trend reflects the development of a new period of life for young people in the United States and other industrialized societies, lasting from the late teens through the mid- to late twenties. This period is much different from adolescence, freer from parental control; a period of independent exploration. It is a new and historically unprecedented period of the life course and it requires a new term and a new way of thinking: emerging adulthood. This chapter provides some historical background on the rise of emerging adulthood and describes the period's distinctive features. The reasons why the term emerging adulthood is preferable to other possible terms are explained.

What Is It Like to Be an Emerging Adult?
Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

in Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties

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This chapter looks at the lives of four emerging adults in order to see what it is like to be an emerging adult and how it is reflected in individual lives. The persons were chosen so because they represent a broad range of backgrounds and experiences in emerging adulthood. Two are male and two are female; two are white and two are members of ethnic minorities; two are college graduates and two are not; and the
four of them grew up in several different parts of the United States. They range in age from twenty-one to twenty-seven. These studies give a taste of the diversity that exists among emerging adults, as well as some of the qualities that are common to hem. None of those studied here are married, and none of them have children. None of them are firmly settled into a career path. Rather, the persons in the profiles were chosen because they exemplify the characteristics that define emerging adulthood as a distinct period of life: the age of explorations, instability, the self-focused, of feeling in-between, and of possibilities.

From Conflict to Companionship
Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

in Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties
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This chapter looks at how relationships with parents change in emerging adulthood. The discussion starts looking at the many facets of emerging adults' relationships with their parents, followed by the changes that take place when emerging adults move out of their parents' households, as well as the experiences of emerging adults who move back in again and those who remain at home. The shift that often takes place in emerging adulthood from a parent-child relationship to a new relationship as friends and near-equals is discussed, along with the enduring repercussions of parents' divorces and remarriages — how emerging adults recall these events and how they believe they have been shaped by them.

Love and Sex
Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

in Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties
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Item type: chapter

This chapter focuses on dating and sexual issues faced by emerging adults. The discussion starts with a look at the ways that emerging adults meet potential love partners, including the role that ethnic background
plays in love choices. Sexuality, including emerging adults' reflections on their first episode of intercourse and their views of the circumstances that make premarital sex acceptable, is then explored. Finally, the chapter examines how the fear of AIDS shapes the sexual consciousness of emerging adults, as well as the experiences of emerging adults who have contracted sexually transmitted diseases.

Meandering Toward Marriage
Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

In the course of emerging adulthood, young people change in a number of ways that make them increasingly ready for marriage. Emerging adults become more capable of enduring intimacy. They come to appreciate the rewards of staying with one person for a longer period of time and developing a deeper emotional closeness. They also come to desire more security and commitment in their relationships. Eventually, the lifestyle of moving from one partner to the next every few weeks or months starts to grow old. Most emerging adults come to desire the stability and comfort that comes from developing a long-term relationship. This chapter looks at the qualities that emerging adults hope to find in a marriage partner and examines how they decide when they would like to marry, including the widespread sense, especially among women, of having an “age thirty deadline” for marriage. Issues of commitment, different motives for cohabitation, and how the fear of divorce shapes marriage expectations are discussed.

The Road Through College
Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

This chapter focuses on the diverse paths that emerging adults take through college. In particular, the experiences of emerging adults during
college are explored. The discussion then shifts to how emerging adults chart their course through college, including choices made on a college major from the many options available to them. This chapter also looks at emerging adults who succeed in college and those who flounder, and reasons for the differences. The American system of allowing such widespread access to higher education is examined and compared to the European system, highlighting the pros and cons of each. Finally, the views of undergraduates about their college experiences, for better and worse, are presented.

Work
Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

in Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties

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This chapter examines how emerging adults go about searching for satisfying work. The conclusion is that emerging adults are highly diverse both in the ways they search for satisfying work and in their success in finding it. The discussion starts by emphasizing that the ideal for emerging adults is finding a job that fits with their developing identity, and it describing emerging adults who look for this identity fit in a systematic way. The chapter describes emerging adults whose search for work is less than systematic, who “fall into” various jobs either because they are unsure of their work identity or because they need to find a job in order to pay their bills. Variations in being ready to make a long-term decision about work are explored, with a focus on differences between emerging adults in their early twenties, who often remain uncertain, and those in their late twenties, who typically have made a definite choice. Influences on job choice, especially the complex influences that parents can have, as well as the dreams that some emerging adults have for an alluring and sometimes elusive work ideal are evaluated. The chapter ends with a section on work and identity that attempts to integrate the previous material into a theoretical framework.
This chapter examines some of the religious beliefs and values that are part of the world views of emerging adults. Both the diversity of emerging adults' beliefs and their common determination to think for themselves with regard to religious issues are explored, along with their responses to two questions concerning their values for their own lives and the values they wish to pass on to the next generation. Together, these two questions provide an outline of the extent to which emerging adults' values reflect individualism and collectivism.