Emerging Adulthood (18-25)

- Age of identity exploration
- Age of instability
- Age of self-focus
- Age of feeling in-between
- Age of possibilities

What defines adulthood?
Defining Adulthood

- Defining exactly when an individual reaches adulthood is surprisingly complex.

- Marker events
  - Sociologists look to events like completing education, entering workforce, leaving home.
  - Marker events are increasingly delayed.

- New ways of conceptualizing adulthood
  - Young adults emphasize responsibility, independent decisions, financial independence.

- Modern transitional period from about 18 to 25
  - "Emerging adulthood"
Continued Identity Development

- Sex vs. Gender
- Cisgender
- Transgender
- Genderqueer
The Kinsey Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Exclusively heterosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Predominantly heterosexual, only incidentally homosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Equally heterosexual and homosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Predominantly homosexual, only incidentally heterosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Exclusively homosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>No sexual contacts or reactions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

99% of men and women who reported being attracted to the opposite sex gave sexual identity as heterosexual/straight.

87% of women and 90% of men who reported being mostly attracted to the opposite sex gave sexual identity as heterosexual/straight.
Emerging Adulthood: Exploring Multiple Identities (Katsiaficas, University of Illinois at Chicago)

- We all have multiple identities in a variety of domains
- Identities are both achieved by individuals and ascribed to them by others

Activity: Draw a picture of your many selves. There is no right or wrong way to do this. Take 10 minutes to put onto paper who you are with the markers and paper provided. You can use drawings, colors, symbols, words …whatever you need to reflect your multiple selves.

Discussion: What identities are represented in the map? What identities are absent from the map? What metaphors are used in the map? How are identities achieved and ascribed? Which ones are ascribed?
Emerging Adulthood: Exploring Ethnic Identity (Juang, University of Potsdam)

- You will view a video clip of James and Paul, two Korean American adoptees raised in Philadelphia. Paul is adopted by Italian-heritage parents and James by Italian-, German-, and Irish-heritage parents.
Emerging Adulthood: Exploring Ethnic Identity (Juang, University of Potsdam)

Pre-Video Discussion: Making Predictions

- Do you think Paul and James often think about being of Korean heritage? If so, what triggers do you think make them think about it? If not, why not?
- What would you guess is their orientation to ethnic identity? How much do you think they identify with the mainstream culture? How much do you think they identify with their Korean heritage culture? Why? How would being adopted influence their orientation to ethnic identity?
- Do you think they will have similar or different ethnic identity orientations? Why or why not?
- They are in their 20s. Do you think they have a clear sense of their ethnic identity? Do you think they are happy and proud that they are a member of their ethnic group? Why or why not?
- One of them has a tattoo “Made in Korea” on his right butt cheek. Which one has it? Why do you think he is the one who has it?
Emerging Adulthood: Exploring Ethnic Identity
(Juang, University of Potsdam)

• Share some predictions with whole class

Six-minute video clip from HBO’s Asians Aloud:
http://vimeo.com/11056493

How does the video connect to our discussions of ethnic identity development?