

Title:

"Going Out" to "Love": Identity Exploration Through Relationships During Emerging Adulthood

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Abstract

This presentation will critically evaluate the aspect of my identity as an emerging adult that is centered on intimate relationships. It will begin with my adolescent conception of what dating would look like as a result of the private religious institution where I attended middle and high school. I will then discuss my dating choices in adolescence and as I emerged into emerging adulthood. Finally, I will evaluate my experience with the term "soul match" and look at my current long-term relationship in light of scholarship on relationships among emerging adulthood. Throughout the discussion, I will bring in studies done on intimate relationships in high school and college, as well as scholarship on relationships and identity. The end result should be a critical examination of my identity development through my relationships from adolescence to adulthood. The study will include both academic resources and personal reflection.