

24
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2024



14.00 – 17.00

Université du Luxembourg

Belval Campus, Maison des Sciences Humaines (MSH)

< Remote Webex Session & Black Box



**Behavioural &
Cognitive Sciences**

Dieter Ferring Memorial Lecture

A systematic review of identity development research: Insights into field trajectories, methodology and priorities

ABSTRACT

Identity, according to Erik Erikson (1950), refers to “the perception of the selfsameness and continuity of one’s existence in time and space and the perception of the fact that others recognize one’s sameness and continuity (p. 50)”. The foundation of identity development research is rooted in the seminal work of Erik Erikson (1950; 1968) and James Marcia (1966), particularly through Marcia’s influential “Identity Status” paradigm. This approach, characterized by two key dimensions—exploration (searching one’s identity) and commitment (the binding nature of a decision)—has shaped the field for over 60 years, laying the groundwork for subsequent conceptual frameworks. The systematic literature review offers a comprehensive overview of a vast corpus of studies (N studies = 900) on identity development research. The review traces the historical trajectory, providing insights into the evolving landscape and explores the foci, methodologies, and conceptual frameworks employed in identity development research. Factors such as publication growth, study design, sample characteristics (size, gender, age, and country) and domains studied are examined. Finally, the relationship between identity development and psychosocial functioning, as portrayed in the literature, is summarized.

SPEAKER



PD Dr. Débora Maehler,

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Débora B. Maehler is a senior researcher and head of the Research Data Centre PIAAC at GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Mannheim, Germany. Furthermore, she teaches developmental psychology at the J. W. Goethe University Frankfurt. She earned her doctorate in psychology from the University of Cologne and habilitated at the J. W. Goethe University. Her research focuses, among other things, on identity and identity development in adulthood, socialization and acculturation processes, cognitive abilities and competence development across the entire lifespan, and survey methodology. She is currently editor-in-chief of the Journal of Open Psychology Data (JOPD) and a member of the editorial board of the journal Personality and Social Psychology Review (PSPR).

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