

# Young Adults: Developmental research

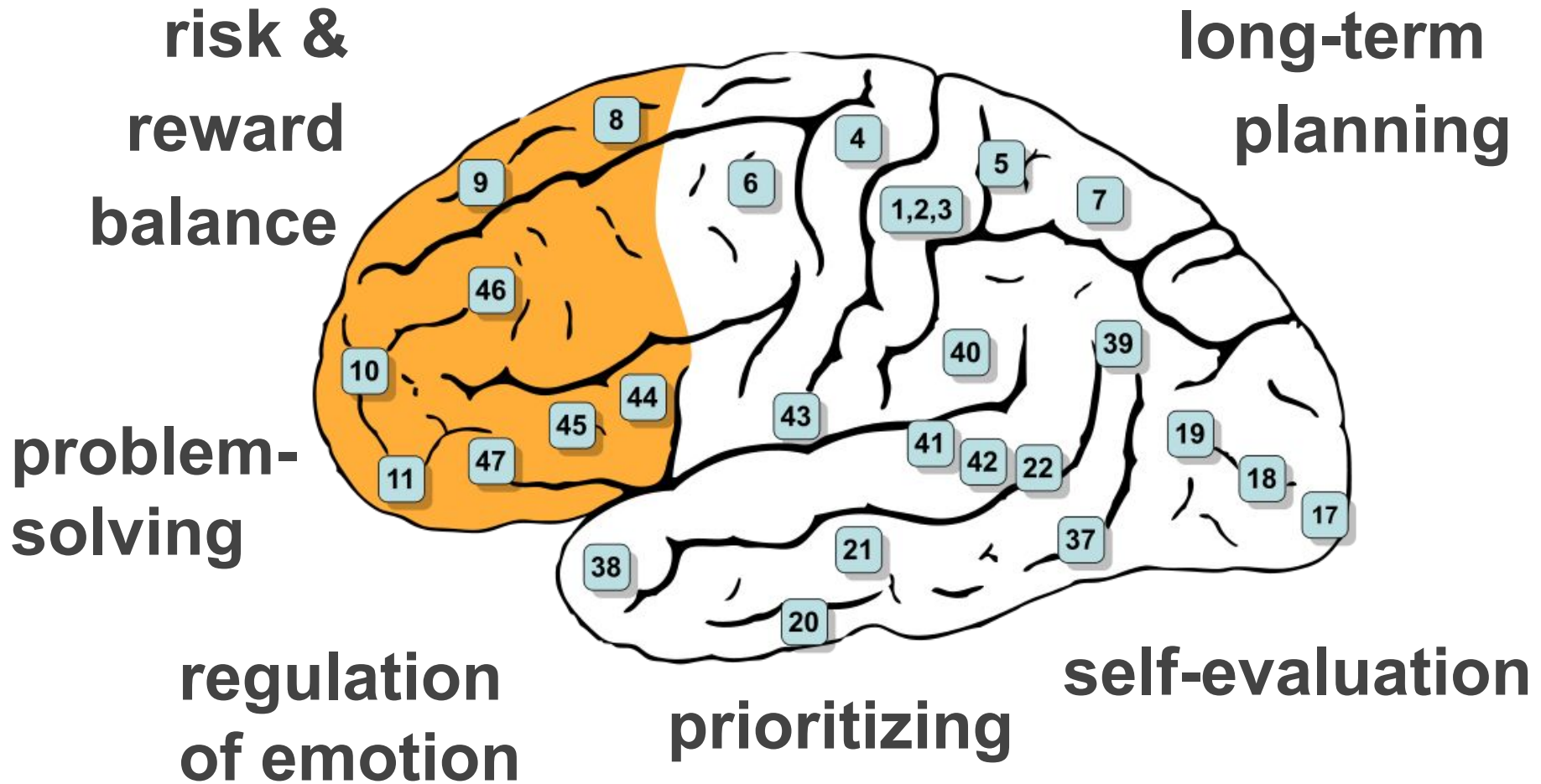


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Slides:  
[bit.ly/YADevelopment](https://bit.ly/YADevelopment)

# Brain development in prefrontal cortex continues well into mid-20s.



# Erikson, Gilligan, Capps offer different psycho-social development accounts.

Age	Theorist	Crisis
Young adulthood	Erikson	Intimacy* vs. isolation (Love)
20s	Capps	Initiative vs. guilt (Purpose)
Adulthood	Erikson	Generativity vs. stagnation (Care)
30s	Capps	Industry vs. inferiority (Competence)

\* “Measuring their strength in the activity of attachment ... highly successful and achieving women do not mention their academic and professional distinction ... If anything, they regard their professional activities as jeopardizing their own sense of themselves.”

-Carol Gilligan, on choice rather than intimacy in YA women

# Psychologist Jeffrey Arnett notes five marks of Emerging Adulthood.

instability

identity  
exploration

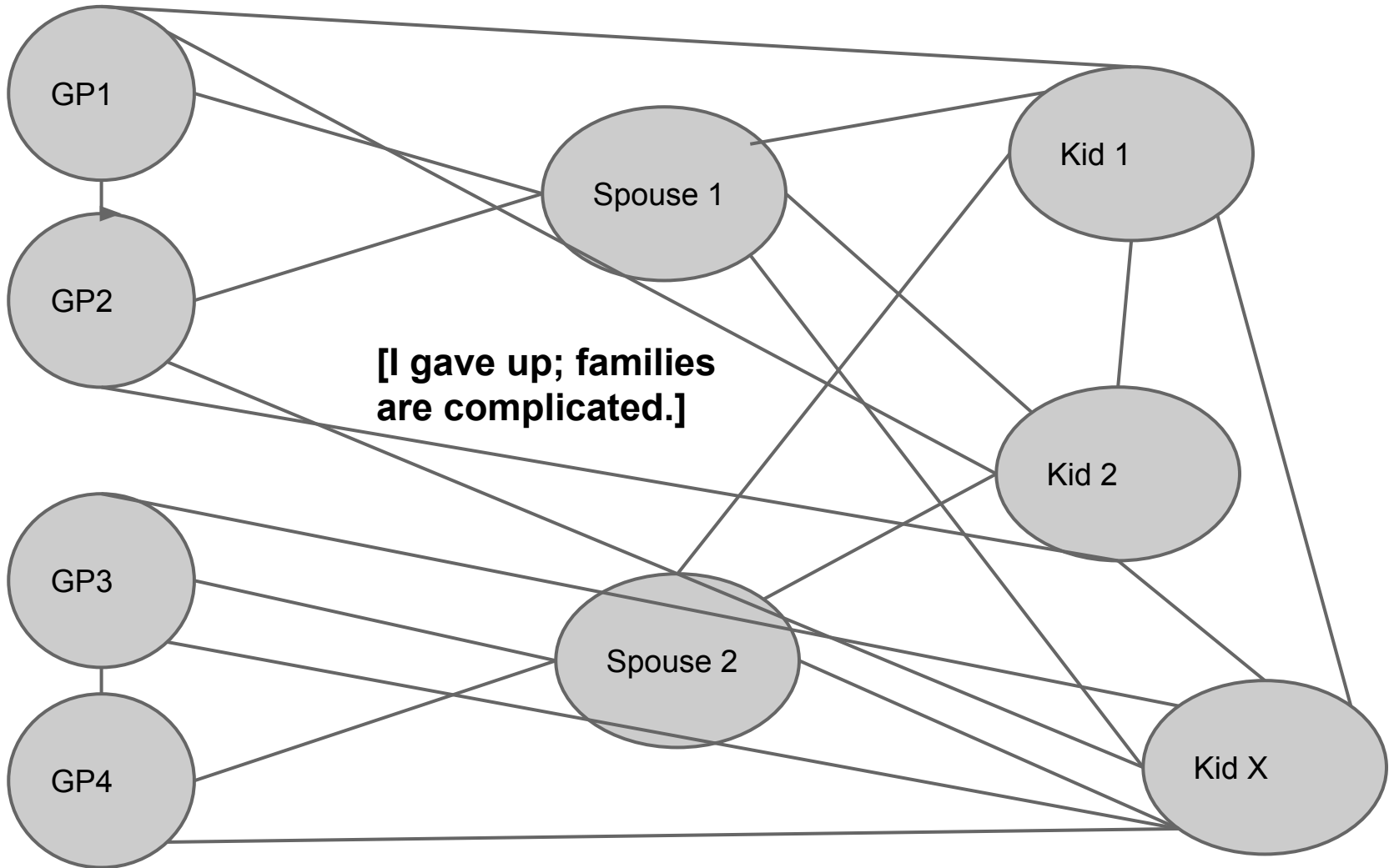
self-focus

in-betweenness

opportunity



# Transition issues: YAs differentiate from one family, start new ones.



# Generational theory is a useful but easy-to-abuse tool.

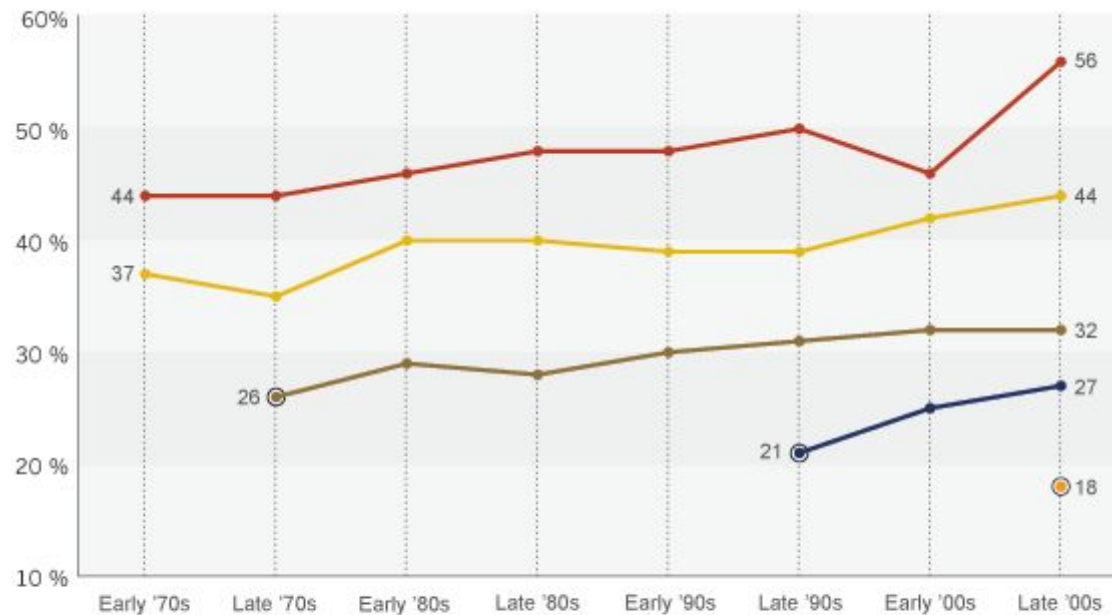
## Millennials as a cohort

<b>Relationship to Institutions &amp; Authority</b>	To elders: good. To institutions: poor.
<b>Family Relationships</b>	Close and positive.
<b>Work-Life Balance</b>	Highly valued.
<b>Communications Style</b>	Highly connected.
<b>Technology Usage</b>	Natural, constant.
<b>Learning Style</b>	Unclear, perhaps no significant difference, likely shaped by communications style.
<b>Religious Expression &amp; Worship</b>	Yearning for authenticity.

# Smith, Pew agree: YAs practice and affiliate less than previous generations

## Attendance at Religious Services, by Generation

Percent saying they attend several times a week, every week or nearly every week



Source: General Social Surveys.

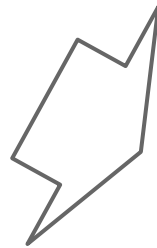
Question wording: How often do you attend religious services?

[RESPONSE CATEGORIES, USED AS PROBES AS NECESSARY: Never, less than once a year, about once or twice a year, several times a year, about once a month, two to three times a month, nearly every week, every week, several times a week.]

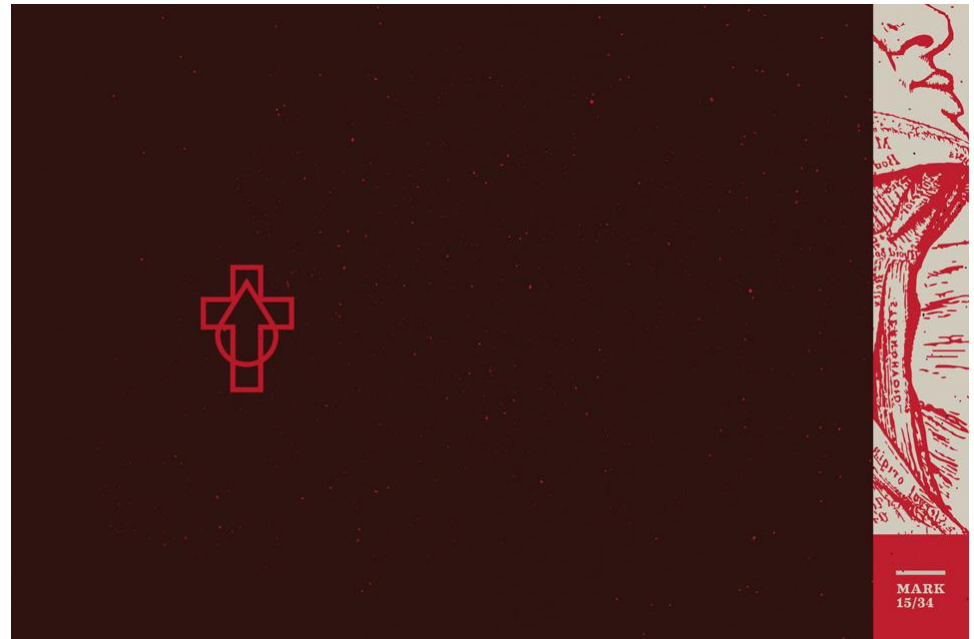
- Millennial (born 1981 or later)
- Gen X (born 1965-80)
- Boomer (born 1946-64)
- Silent (born 1928-45)
- Greatest (born before 1928)
- Indicates point when generations were at comparable ages

**But  
remember  
this story is  
about more  
than just  
church!**

# Fowler saw synthetic-conventional and individuative-reflective faith in YAs.



Deepening faith is claimed faith



Mark 15:34 from [Old and New Project](#)



# **Challenge: Demographics**

The critical mass issue

# **Challenge: Church Culture**

The millennials' place in the boomers' church

# **Challenge: Developmental Needs**

Ministry with the transient and self--focused