

Family as a context for healthy and risky development in adolescence

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This habilitation thesis aims to study several family factors and parenting behaviours and their association with adolescents' health and risk behaviour. The thesis is a collection of 10 studies that have been published over the last 10 years. The studies reflect the consecutive shift in the author's research interests from studying the effects of parental unemployment to focusing on a broader range of family factors to a more nuanced research on parenting with a particular interest in parental control. Study 1 describes changes in family processes during early adolescence; studies 2 and 3 aim to explore the effect of parental unemployment on several family processes as well as adolescents' health; study 4 focuses on several family factors including family structure in relation to adolescent risk behaviour; study 5 explores the mediating process of parental substance use approval between parental and adolescents' risk behaviour; study 6 studies the role of parents in risk behaviour prevention and together with study 7 explores the discrepancies in parental and adolescent perceptions; study 8 uses a person oriented approach to explore the effect of parental control and knowledge on adolescent self-esteem and self-efficacy. Finally, studies 9 and 10 focus on parental control and its various forms in relation to adolescent risk behaviour and self-esteem. The thesis ends with a general discussion, where the studies are discussed within two broad topics: gender differences in family processes and cultural /socio-economical context. The implications for practice and future research are provided.

