

Special Issue

Implicit Measures of Risky Behaviors in Adolescence

Message from the Guest Editors

The adolescence period is marked by a heightened inclination towards risk-taking behaviors. Traditionally, the understanding of these behaviors has been largely based on explicit measures and self-reporting techniques. However, a shift in research paradigms has come to emphasize the substantial influence of implicit processes on adolescent behavior.

Research on the implicit theories of adolescents, such as beliefs about the malleability of personal traits, revealed that these cognitive frameworks can predict responses to peer conflicts and desires for vengeance, thereby influencing risk-related behaviors. Additionally, the role of implicit processes in the context of substance use has been explored, with studies indicating that automatic behavioral tendencies toward alcohol-related stimuli and weak inhibition skills are associated with higher levels of alcohol use among adolescents. This highlights the interplay between implicit processes and individual differences in response inhibition, further elucidating the mechanisms underlying risk-taking behaviors in adolescence.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (1 April 2025)



Adolescents

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.8
CiteScore 1.8



mdpi.com/si/199350

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