



DIPARTIMENTO DI
PSICOLOGIA
GENERALE



WHEN COMING OF AGE MEETS COMING TO TERMS: YOUNG ADULTS LIVING WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS

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Room 4P
Via Venezia 12
Padova

Abstract of the talk:

The diagnosis of a serious illness creates disruption at any age but presents unique coping tasks for young adults in their 20s. Young adulthood is a time of growth and change. The earliest adult years, termed emerging adulthood (Arnett, 2000) are characterized by the development of self-concept and identity, engagement, self-exploration, building of intimate and peer relationships, and pursuit of educational or career goals. Chronic serious illness at this age fundamentally interrupts normative developmental tasks. In this talk I will draw on two studies of psychosocial adjustment to illness in emerging adulthood -- a mixed methods study of emerging adults with blood cancers and a survey study of emerging adults living with a visible skin disease -- to illustrate the unique ways that illness that is off-time in the adult life cycle affects mental health and social relationships and to suggest avenues for psychological intervention.

