This research project focuses on the AIDA scale (Assessment of Identity Development in Adolescence). The scale is aimed at teens 12 to 18 years, and evaluates the sense of identity and its development. We describe the translation to Portuguese process and the main results found. Research in Brazil will be held for a total of 350 adolescents in three different groups: 200 adolescents aged 12 to 18 years old, school children of both sexes that is the normative sample; 100 male adolescents offenders (who accomplish socio-educational measure) and 50 female adolescents, victims of sexual abuse. The data will be evaluated using the SPSS program, and all differences statistically evaluated. According to data of some subjects (pilot study), there are differences between the normative group of adolescents and the two clinical groups, the former presenting more difficulty in the development of identity.

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Validation study: Assessment of Identity Development in Adolescence (AIDA) and junior temperament and character inventory (12–18 JTCI R) in Chile

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Adolescent Identity Treatment Units, from University de los Andes and Instituto Medico Schilkrut (Santiago, Chile) are part of an international group working on a cross-culturally validation of the Assessment of Identity Development in Adolescence (AIDA), a self-reported instrument aimed to differentiate normal identity crisis from identity diffusion among adolescents. We are carrying out the pilot validation study of this instrument on a stratified sample of n = 360, male and female 7th to 12th graders from three socioeconomic statuses (High, Medium and Low) in a representative district in Santiago. Additionally, we are conducting the validation of the Junior Temperament and Character Inventory (12–18 JTCI R), a measure of personality. The validation process will include adding evidence of content and construct validity of both instruments performing qualitative and quantitative data analyses. For instance, focus groups will be conducted to assess the translation and wording of the instruments, and an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) will evaluate the structure of items in both scales. EFA will be performed by using the statistical package LISREL 8.0. Additionally, internal reliability, correlations of the dimensions and descriptive analysis of gender and socioeconomic status (SES) will be done using STATA 9.0.

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Clinical and identity features in a sample of Mexican adolescents boys in conflict with the law: Preliminary results

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The concept of identity, which has been central to the understanding of personality development, plays an important role during adolescence when it either consolidates towards integration, resulting in a “normal” personality or it acquires a diffuse quality tending towards a personality disorder. Focusing on a study trying to elucidate this process, we will present results of an in-depth evaluation of 35 male inmate adolescents, currently being conducted in a penitentiary in Mexico City. The evaluation uses a set of already validated instruments such as the Minnesota A, SCL90 along other instruments currently in the process of validation such as the AIDA, REM-71, JTCI and the Y OQ. Results on this validation process and on the association between identity and personality organization shall be presented followed by a discussion on the main implications for research and clinical work.

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Identity development in a Kosovarian clinical sample

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The self-rating questionnaire “Assessment of Identity Development in Adolescents” (AIDA) has been adapted and translated to the Albanian language, for the purpose of joining the international AIDA research group on identity development in adolescents. The back-translation of the questionnaire has been approved and AIDA is used in clinical setting in Pristina, Kosovo. Preliminary results of identity development in Kosovar adolescents with mental problems will be presented. The results are discussed on the background of changes in a society in transition from pre to post war situation.

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Identity development measured by the questionnaire AIDA (Assessment of Identity Development in Adolescence) in a Swiss-German clinical sample

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Background.– Aim of this study was to examine the differences in identity development in adolescents with different diagnoses from a clinical sample and to contrast it with healthy controls using the AIDA.

Methods.– Up to now, 52 adolescent psychiatric in- and outpatients aged 12 to 18 years were examined using the German version of AIDA. The study is progressing in the Basel clinic and in a practice-cooperation in Frankfurt. To assess psychiatric diagnoses, the German clinical versions of the Structured Clinical Interview for the DSM-IV Axis II Disorders (SCID-II) and a structured psychiatric interview (Kinder-DIPS) were used. The participants of the German validation study for AIDA, 305 students from public schools, were taken as healthy controls.

Results.– Patients with personality disorders (N = 20) showed the highest levels of Discontinuity and Incoherence compared to other patients and to healthy controls (effect sizes greater than 1.9) in line with the expectations. Likewise, the patients with anxiety or depression showed elevated levels of identity diffusion, but with smaller effect sizes greater than 80. In contrast, patients with ADHD