



Living with my folks: Emerging adults and their parents under one roof

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Abstract

This qualitative study focuses on Israeli emerging adults who live at home with their parents, and explores their feelings and thoughts as to the benefits and difficulties of the situation. Semi-structured open interviews were conducted with 18 Jewish non-religious emerging adults who live at home with their parents. Findings reveal that most of the participants experience ambivalence: the comfortable and secure living conditions at home and freedom from financial stress are accompanied by conflicts with their parents. Some participants chose this living arrangement for practical reasons, like saving money for later stages, while others chose to postpone dealing with adult responsibilities and enjoy being care for. The findings reveal that alongside the benefits, emerging adults face substantial challenges in living with their parents while they are on an extended journey toward adulthood.

Keywords: Emerging adults, cohabitation with parents, parent-child conflict, parent-child relationship

The current study is an examination of the perspective of Israeli emerging adults who live with their parents. Emerging adults are people age 18-30 whose transition to adulthood is prolonged. They are in search of self-identity, lack stability, and defer assuming long-term personal and professional commitments. Their employment, love, and worldview experiences delay marriage, parenthood, and professional and career decisions (Arnett 2000, 2001, 2004; Juang and Silbereisen 2001; Shulman and Ben-Artzi 2003; Shulman, Feldman, Blatt, Coken, and Mahler 2005).

Emerging adults and their parents

The asymmetrical parent-child relationships of childhood and adolescence, when parents are the figures of authority and influence, gives way to a more reciprocal, equal, and symmetrical relationship when the children become young adults (Buhl 2007; Tanner 2006). As adolescents move into emerging adulthood, their relationship with their parents usually becomes more stable and closer; communication is more open, mutuality increases, and conflicts decrease (Aquilino 1997; Lefkowitz 2005; Morgan, Thorne, and Zurbriggen 2010; Van Wel, Ter Bogt, and Raaijmakers 2002). Parents learn to see their child as an autonomous individual (Aquilino 2006), while young people learn to see beyond their parents' parenting role and view them as individuals with their own needs, weaknesses, and life histories (Aquilino 2006; Birditt, Fingerman, Lefkowitz, and Kamp Dush 2008; Vassallo, Smart, and Price-Robertson 2009; Youniss and Smollar 1985).

However, this shifting perspective is not always achieved, and relationships may be accompanied by ongoing conflicts (Clarke, Preston, Raksin, and Bengtson 1999), although these tend to decrease as the children enter adulthood, especially after they move out of the

parents' home (Berman and Sperling 1991; Buhl 2007). However, when the young adults are financially dependent on the parents, relationships may be tense (Aquilino 2006; Vassallo et al. 2009).

Emerging adult's residential status

Tense relations between parents and their adult children come to the fore when, as is becoming increasingly prevalent, young adults continue to live with their parents (Arnett 2001, 2004; Aquilino 2006; Settersten and Ray 2010; Vassallo et al. 2009). Recent data reveal that over 50% of 18-24 year olds in Europe and the United States live with their parents (Coleman and Brooks 2009; Kloep and Hendry 2010; U.S. Census Bureau 2011). Some do so because they have prolonged their studies, other because of the high cost of living, and some for the convenience in delaying coping with economic issues. In some cases it is parental separation anxiety (Kins, Soenens and Beyers 2011), or disturbances in separation-individuation (by parents or adult children), that delay grown children from leaving the parents' house (Kins et al. 2011; Kloep and Hendry 2010). In Western society, leaving home has been seen as an important component of entering adulthood, yet recent research revealed that whether individuals live with their parents or away from them is not the sole indication of achieving their self-developmental tasks (Kins et al. 2011; Yanir 2007). Kins et al. (2011) claimed that it is important to note the reasons for the emerging adult's residential status, and that living with one's parents is not a sole indication of success or failure in managing developmental tasks. These researchers stated that "there are cultural differences in expectations and traditions of young people leaving home and becoming independent" (Kloep and Hendry 2010, p. 818). However, regardless of the underlying reasons for remaining in the parents' home, this arrangement impacts upon parent-child relationships. Thus, 21-year-old adults, who live with their parents or not far from them, reported having poorer relationships with their parents than their counterparts who had moved out and away (Dubas and Petersen 1996). This is consistent with Aquilino's (1997) findings that transition to college or full-time employment, as well as cohabitation or marriage, were associated with closer, more supportive, and less conflicted parent-child relationships.

Parent-child relationships are determined by the child's life circumstances (Fusternberg 2010). Thus, these relations are better when children in their mid-twenties who reside with their parents study, work, or seek employment, than those where the children struggling with independence. In all cases, parents and adult children living together requires both parties to adjust to new patterns of interaction to meet everyone's needs and demands (Yanir 2007). This is the time in parents' lives when they must deal with the changes and challenges of midlife, begin facing their own aging (DeVries, Kerrick, and Oetinger 2007), and perhaps deal with the realization that they had not – nor will they – accomplished all their goals, and the ensuing disappointment. Parents experience slowing down physically and changes in their sexual drive; increasingly around them relatives and friends are diagnosed with various illnesses, and some die (Colarusso and Nemiroff 1987), and many continue to hold full-time jobs which they combine with caring for their children and their own parents (Fingerman, Pitzer, Chan, Birditt, Franks, and Zarit. 2011; Gautun and Hagen 2010).

Parents of adult children are ambivalent in their role perception, and the way parents in their 50s or 60s handle young people's prolonged dependency of with their children leaving home (Hendry and Kloep 2007), has an impact on their own psychological adjustment and their future relationships with their adult children (Kloep and Hendry 2010). It can be assumed that the macro social changes that affect the life trajectories of emerging adults, affect their parents' lives as well (Kloep and Hendry 2010).

Emerging adults in Israel

Middle-class Israeli Jewish emerging adults are very similar to their North American counterparts (Mayseless and Scharf 2003; Schwartz 1994; Shulman et al. 2005). Both groups attribute importance to individualistic values, and tend to postpone the assumption of adult roles like marriage, parenthood, and vocational decisions. The rate of young adults who live with their parents is similar – 45% of 20-30 year olds in Israel live with their parents and receive a monthly allowance from them (Ben-Naftaly 2008).

However, while the numbers may be similar, the reasons are different. At age 18, most Jewish Israeli men and women are drafted. During their two or more years of service, they are often exposed to high levels of responsibility, independence, and emotional maturity (Mayseless 1993; Mayseless and Scharf 2003), all this while they continue to reside at home when not on base. However, exposure to a highly demanding and rigid authoritarian system, one that controls the enlisted person's life, may contribute to delaying full adulthood (Shulman, Blatt, and Walsh 2006). Thus, personal growth within the military may also increase dependent behavior and interfere with the natural experimentation processes of emerging adults (Gal 1986; Mayseless and Scharf 2003; Shulman et al. 2006; Yerushalmi 1997). Assuming adult responsibilities is further delayed by a custom that began developing in Israel in the mid-1980s, whereby, following discharge from the army, many young Israelis go on an extended journey. They are on the road for six months or more, usually in the Far East or South America, a journey that has come to “characterize part of the transition to adulthood among Israeli young people” (Shulman et al. 2006, p. 232). To help the transition to independence, all discharged soldiers receive a one-time stipend (equivalent to \$4,000-\$10,000, depending on length and type of service), for paying for higher education, purchasing a home, starting their own business, or marriage (Division for Discharged Soldiers 2012).

Research scope and objectives

The timing and demography of leaving home are well known to researchers, but little is known about how young adults manage the longer period of co-residence and economic dependency (Furstenberg 2010). The present study is an attempt to expand knowledge about emerging adults' views of their experience of living with their parents in the parents' homes, with Israeli emerging adults as the research population. The research tool was a three-question protocol, based on a research protocol designed to explore the experience of parents who live with their emerging adult offspring (Dor 2013). The original protocol focused on the parents' point of view, and for this study, the questions were adapted to reveal the way emerging adults feel and handle this period in their lives.

METHOD

Participants' Characteristics

The research literature defines the lower end of emerging adulthood as age 18. However, this study takes under consideration Israeli reality – two to three years of compulsory military service, during which the young adults live at home when not on base. Therefore the youngest participants in this research are 21 years old.

The participants in this qualitative study were 18 Jewish non-religious unmarried emerging adults (10 women, 8 men) who lived in their parents' home in northern Israel. Participants were 21-30 years old ($M = 24.6.45$, $SD = 4.4$); of middle to upper-middle socioeconomic status, all honorably discharged from the army. All had a separate room in their parents' houses, and two had a separate living unit with a private entrance. Five of the emerging adults lived with one parent only – four with a divorced parent, one with a widowed parent. Five of them had

younger siblings who still lived at home as well. Sixteen of the 18 were employed, mostly part time (e.g., waiting tables, customer service, and sales), and two were job hunting. Sixteen planned to pursue higher education and planned on preparing for the required psychometric exams, 12 were either planning on going on an extended journey or were back from it. Ten of the 18 emerging adults had already made specific plans for the future and planned on saving money, with four having moved out in the past and living in rented apartments, only to return to their parents' home due to financial difficulties.

Sampling Method, Procedure, and Data Collection

The snowball method, through the researcher's friends, was used to reach participants for this study. The initial inquiry yielded four participants, who referred the researchers to other possible participants, of whom eight more were recruited. Six additional participants came through Facebook. Participation was voluntary, and participants were guaranteed confidentiality, and were also told that they could withdraw from the study at any stage. The one-on-one, 45-70 minute interviews took place in the participants' homes, at their convenience. The interviews were audio recorded with participants' permission. Pseudonyms were assigned to maintain anonymity.

Research Instrument and Data Analysis

For this qualitative study, a semi-structured open interview was used, a tool that enables interviewees to expand and clarify their answers, and to give examples. The interviews followed a three-question research protocol (Dor 2013), aimed at exploring the emerging adults' feelings and experiences relating to living with their parents. The questions were: (1) Generally speaking, how would you describe your feelings about living at home? (2) Are you coping with any difficulties that are directly related to your living at home? (3) Are there any benefits or advantages to living at home?

A thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke 2006; Sandelowski & Barroso 2003) was used to analyze the interviews, with the aim being to derive distinct themes regarding each of the questions. To establish thematic reliability, two researchers began by separately searching for systematic, recurring, visible, and direct content; they referred back to this content by frequency of appearance and their interpretation of their significance to the interviewees. During the interpretation process, the researchers divided the content (which they had agreed upon) into groups, identified prominent themes, and named each theme.

RESULTS

The findings were analyzed according to their content. For each interview question, the themes are listed in the order in which the questions were asked (in some cases, the interviewees gave more than one answer). Table 1 presents the themes identified in every question, by participants' gender.

Table 1. Themes identified in every question, by participants' gender

		N=18	
Question	themes	Women n=10	men n=8
General feeling	Secure	8	6
	Stuck	6	5
	Rational thinking	8	7
Difficulties	Intimate relationships	4	5
	Arguments over financial issues	3	3
	Lack of privacy	6	4
	Chores	4	5
	Arguments over Future planning		4
Benefits	No financial worries	7	4
	Full convenience	3	6

Question 1. Generally speaking, how would you describe your feelings about living at home?

As seen in Table 1, three groups of themes were identified for this question: feeling secure (8 women, 6 men), feeling stuck (6 women, 5 men), and rational thinking (8 women, 7 men).

Feeling secure. Seven of the participants, claimed that living at home made them feel secure. They were never alone, they did not worry about money issues, and they always could turn to their parents for advice or help:

It's good to come home and to know that someone is waiting for me, listens to me and sees if I need some help. I'm not alone. My family is with me (Mali, woman, 22).

I am always in a safe and warm environment, no matter what. It keeps me constantly on a safe track (Odem, woman, 21).

Feeling stuck. This theme, expressed by 11 participants, presented the emerging adults' impression that they were too dependent on their parents, more than they should be at this stage of their lives. While they enjoy the comforts of living in the parents' home, they also feel that the arrangement somehow holds them back and does not encourage them to move on and take charge of their lives.

I Believe I'm too dependent. If my parents were to go away for two weeks, I'd probably not cook or clean the house, unless I really had to (Sara, woman, 21).

If my mom spoils me that much, I don't feel that I have to give so much. I believe she spoils me too much. I wouldn't do it to my child. But I kind of enjoy it, and I got used to having all of this. My mom does everything in the house and never asks for help. I don't offer any help myself, they don't expect me to (Eran, man, 26).

The basic needs that are fully met in the parents' house hold back the emerging adults from initiating participation in everyday responsibilities (e.g., paying bills or doing household chores). In many ways the participants describe their life with their parents in term reminiscent of life during childhood, with the differences that they are now free to come and go at will, and socialized with people of their choice.

Rational thinking. Fifteen of the participants referred to their living with their parents as the best option for that time, one that helps them handle the high cost of living. Although living with their parents was not their first choice, a rational view of their situation and at the range of available options led them to conclude that living with their parents was right move for the present, allowing them to save money for a future of independence.

I work and save money. If I lived on my own, I wouldn't be able to save. I'll move when I'll have a girlfriend and we'll decide to live together. Right now it's a good time to save (Ron, man, 23).

It seems that future orientation occupies some of the emerging adults, and this orientation is what makes them continue living with their parents. They choose to refer less to their feelings about living with their parents and more to the financial circumstances that make them choose to delay moving out. Those of them who work long hours claim that it would be a waste to move out and to pay for an apartment that they will hardly use anyway.

Question 2. Are you coping with any difficulties that are directly related to your living at home?

As seen in Table 1, this question yielded five themes, the highest number of themes of the three research questions. The themes were intimate relationships (4 women, 5 men); arguments over financial issues (3 women, 3 men); lack of privacy (6 women, 4 men); household chores (4 women, 5 men); arguments over future planning (4 men).

Intimate relationships

This theme pointed to a difficulty that some the participants experienced in intimate relations, and this difficulty was more prevalent among participants who were not in a steady relationship at the time of the interview. They spoke of the inconvenience of going out on a date and meeting new people in the presence of parents:

Each time I bring a girl home, they have something to say.... Sometimes I meet someone, I want to bring her to the house, we want to have sex. It might be someone I don't want my parents to meet. I might give up just to avoid this and to spare her all the questions. It's an embarrassment (Or, man, 24).

These situations, which could interfere with the emerging adults' privacy, could cause them to go out on fewer dates and have these dates out of the house. The parents, who express their opinions on their child's new friend, might prevent the emerging adult from entering into intimate relationships. The need to "pass the parents' test," perhaps even on the first date and before the emerging adults themselves have formed an opinion on this relationship, could be a serious hindrance to developing a relationship.

Arguments over financial issues. In this theme the participants claimed that their parents expected them to manage their finances in a certain way, and that they were being criticized if they did not meet these expectations.

Last month I bought myself a new cell phone. Naturally, I used my own money.. It was quite an expensive one. My mom didn't approve. She said I always spend too much (Revital, woman,23).

Although 16 of the 18 participants were employed, they felt that their parents did not always approve of the way they spent the money they earned. In some cases they felt that their parents thought that they (the emerging adults) did not earn enough and should look for a better-paying job, and at times the parents interfered with their children's financial decisions.

Lack of privacy. This theme expresses the challenge that the emerging adults face in that they must put up with their parents' questions, requests, and criticism. They do not always get the quiet they need, and sometimes feel they are being interrupted by their parents.

Suppose I'm sitting in my room after I get home from work. Suddenly my mom enters without knocking. She just wants to bring me clean laundry or something. That freaks me out. Sometimes I can be rude to her because of that.... (Or, man, 24).

The need for privacy is manifested in many other ways, among them the desire not to be asked too many questions about work, future plans, friends, and intimate relations. In some cases emerging adults want to be left alone after work or a date, but living with their parents puts them in a position where their need for privacy is not always met.

Household chores. This theme is also one of the challenging issues in the lives of the emerging adults who live with their parents. When expected to give a hand with chores, emerging adults may find themselves arguing with their parents about what has to be done and when. These arguments make them feel like little children again as they know that their parents still have the say at the house.

I have to do a lot around here. My father never helps around the house, so even if I'm tired after a crazy day at work, I still have to clean or buy groceries for the house. If I lived on my own I'd just skip it (Cheli, woman, 24).

The emerging adults are aware of their duties in their parents' house, and carry them out in order to avoid confrontation. It's a give-and- take relationships in a way, however it is also a platform for potential conflict when a new task comes up, or when the parents disapprove of the way a task was.

Arguments over future planning. This them illustrates the potential conflict between the emerging adults and their parents. Although most of the participants in this study had jobs, albeit low-paying, unskilled occupations, they describe arguments with their parents about their plans for the future.

My parents have a lot to say about the way I live my life. They don't think highly of my job [telemarketing]. They don't approve of my life style. They say I spend too much money just to have fun. They want to know what I plan to do with myself in the future. At this point I don't plan on going to university. Who knows, maybe someday? But this issue pops at least twice a week (Adi, man, 25).

The participants who referred to this theme felt that they had to be tolerant of their parents, who constantly express their expectations and doubts regarding their children's future. As they have chosen to live with their parents, they learned to live with their parents' remarks, but sometimes they argue and answer back. While they know that their parents mean well, it is not easy for them to hear "When I was your age...", and would be satisfied not to hear that criticism so often.

Question 3. Are there any benefits or advantages to living at home?

As can be seen in Table 1, two main themes were identified regarding this question: no financial worries (7 women, 4 men) and convenience (3 women, 6 men).

No financial worries. This theme represented the emerging adults' need to invest their time and money in ways that suit their wishes and aspirations. As the high cost of living in the "real world" entails expenses they are not ready or able to assume, they see the great financial advantage that comes with living with their parents.

Rents are too high in this area, and the rent is just the beginning. You also have to pay for gas, electricity, groceries, municipal taxes and much more. Here I don't have to worry about all this. And I prefer to save money for later (Yair, man, 27).

It was also clear from the participants' answers that they valued the relatively high standard of living they had in their parents' home. They somehow knew that they would have to settle for much less if and when they moved out and lived on their own. At this stage they prefer to spend their own money on things other than household expenses, and living with their parents gives them that option.

Convenience. This theme demonstrates that some emerging adults still enjoy being cared for even at this stage of their lives. Although they are perfectly capable of taking care of their own basic needs (like food preparation) and also are capable of taking care of the house maintenance, they still enjoy that all that is done by someone else – their parents.

I can call on my way home from work, and ask my mom to fix me dinner. Everything is ready by the time I get home (Hadar, woman, 21).

When you don't have to worry about paying taxes, preparing food, doing laundry, etc., all's really comfortable and there's no stress at all. I know I'll have to do it all one day, but I enjoy not doing it for now (Gal, man, 26).

The emerging adults who participated in this study seem to admit that they enjoy postponing the day when they will assume responsibilities over certain domains in their lives. They chose to stay with their parents, who can offer them the conditions to postpone dealing with duties that they see as adults' duties.

Summary of the research findings

Overall, most of the participants in this study experience ambivalence: Along with comfortable and secure living conditions at home and no financial tension, they enter conflicts with their parents over various issues such as household chores, expenses, future plans, and need for privacy. Some of them chose this living arrangement for practical reasons, like saving money for later stages, while others chose to postpone dealing with adult responsibilities and enjoy being taken care of for a little longer.

DISCUSSION

The current study focused on emerging adults who live with their parents, and examined their feelings and perceptions of this arrangement. Emerging adulthood as a developmental stage has been of interest to researchers since the 1990s. However, there is little research about the ways emerging adults manage this prolonged period of co-residence and economic dependence (Furstenberg 2010).

The findings in this study indicate that the emerging adults express ambivalent feelings. Along with the comfort and security of living at home, and the lack of financial stress, they have conflicts with their parents over issues such as household chores, expenses, future plans, and need for privacy. Of the three research questions, the one about the difficulties of living with parents was given the highest emphasis by the participants.

It seems that emerging adults must handle several kinds of conflicts with their parents, one of which is their parents' expectations regarding their children's future plans. The parents criticize when they feel that their children's plans are inappropriate for their chronological age. This finding is consistent with previous research (Furstenberg 2010), which revealed that mutual accommodation of parents and with children in their mid-twenties is smoother when the children are employed or studying, than when the emerging adult shows no drive toward future independence. According to Dor (2013) and Furstenberg (2010), parents are more accepting and less judgmental of the children living at home if they believe that their children are moving in a positive direction toward achieving the developmental tasks of their age. Interestingly, the vast majority of the participants in this study had jobs and earned their own money, perhaps indicating that they were showing signs of moving toward future independence. Nonetheless the arguments over future plans that some of the participants mentioned, may imply that having a job alone does not satisfy the parents, and does not prevent them from being judgmental and less accepting of their children's condition. To be more accepting, it seems that some of the parents must be under the impression that their children are moving in an age-appropriate direction, one that holds benefits for their future. A part-time job, such as waiting tables, is not necessarily a suitable situation.

Part of the parents' criticism entails the parents' comparing themselves to the children, stating that "at your age" they were autonomous financially and psychologically, a statement that seems to add tension to the relationship. In many ways the parents do not consider the social, economic, technological, and cultural changes that have also made changes in the lives of families (Furstenberg 2010). Many of the jobs that young people would like involve university or college education, and such schooling takes time, whereas in the parents' generation it was easier to earn a living and support a family with a high-school diploma only. As a result, we witness dramatic delays in the age of leaving home, marriage, and starting a family. Arnett (2004) claims that young people in contemporary Western societies view the traditional aspirations of adulthood – job security, marriage, and a family – as obligations that are not their top present priorities. While they view adulthood and its obligations as offering security and stability, they also perceive them as a one-way path that closes the option to all other possibilities. According to Cohen, Kasen, Chen, Hartmark, and Gordon (2003), living with the parents may inhibit emerging adults from creating intimate relations, and without such relations, they are slow to commit and form a family.

The findings show that the emerging adults who live with their parents do so mostly because it gives them a sense of security, in addition to the fact that they believe that financially it will be too difficult to live on their own. They believe that the high cost of living and their limited

income will lead them to a hard financial struggle in their daily life. At the same time they are also under the impression that getting all their needs from their parents, holds them back and delays their independence. While they know that they could manage somehow on their own, they realize that this independence comes at the cost of a substantial lowering of their standard of living, and entails a less comfortable life and fewer savings for the future – conditions which they are unwilling to accept. It is possible that this delay encourages parents to expect more maturity and responsibility from their children while they are at home, and this, in turn, might increase potential conflicts, as seen in this study. The emerging adults themselves prefer to pay the price of having conflict with their parents, dealing with lack of privacy and interference in their intimate relationships, or arguing with their parents about chores, rather than handle the effort and responsibility that accompany living on their own. Indeed, living as an emerging adult with one's parents, is apparently not an easy task. Better relationships with the parents are documented especially among those who had moved farther away from home, while poorer relationships reported among emerging adults who live at home (Aquilino 1997; Dubas and Petersen 1996).

The two-three year mandatory military service in Israel creates a unique situation. Parents and their 18-year-old children had already undergone a gradual separation while the children were in the army. Upon the children's discharge, the family must learn to readjust to living together, a move that requires special accommodation in families where the soldiers served away from home and came back on leave. At this stage the children are a few years older and might have gone through some changes that parents view with disapproval.

Interestingly, until approximately the mid-1990, social norms in Western countries called for children to leave home early, and young people felt uncomfortable if they stayed at the parents' home beyond their mid-twenties, because it seemed to be a mark of poor socialization (Schnaiberg and Goldenberg 1989). When emerging adults live with their parents, there often is a heavy burden that families bear in (Settersten and Ray 2010), and not all families can afford to support another adult at home, financially and emotionally. Because this is an individual process that an emerging adult undergoes, and because it might take a few years, it is quite possible that some conflicts will develop between parents and their emerging adult children a result of this heavy burden. Settersten and Ray (2010) have recommended that social institutions will have to deal with this issue and not assume that parents can be responsible for their children for an unlimited period of time. However, as emerging adulthood now extends into the fourth decade of life, perhaps it is the emerging adults themselves who should take the initiative and move out of the uncomfortable comfort zone into full adulthood.

Research limitations

Although the findings of the current study add to current knowledge about emerging adults, some of its limitations should be noted. First, as a qualitative research, the extent to which we can generalize these findings to the entire Western population is limited. Second, it is quite possible that due to the sensitive topic of this study, not all participants felt comfortable enough to open themselves and may have held back during the interviews. Third, the participants were not asked about their perception of their level of maturity. According to Klope and Hendry (2010), these perceptions have a great deal to do with the parents' willingness to "let go." In addition, the late leaving home of the participants in the current study was not examined through the prisms of over-parenting and over-controlling. Munich and Munich (2009) who examined over-involved parents, found that "overparenting includes an excessive involvement with and concern about the child's mental state and adaptive capacity that leads to a relative absence of space for the development of structuralized self and object relations" (p. 228), and it is possible that over-parenting is an issue in some of the cases.

Fourth, the interviewees were all middle-class people, and it is likely that interviews with participants in different areas, and from different social backgrounds, might have led us to other results and insights. Fifth, we need to recognize that families in which co-residing was extremely conflicted and negative are not likely to continue it for long, thus we may not be picking them up in this sample. Finally, based on the present research it is not possible to determine whether emerging adults who live at home where there are younger siblings, stay home longer. This is an issue for future research. Nonetheless, we hope that the participants were honest in their answers to the interviewers' questions and their authentic voices are a main contribution of the current study, which overall represents a significant opportunity for a deeper understanding of the experience of emerging adults, in the extended journey toward their adulthood.

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