

Invitation

Children's Research Centre Annual Lecture

“Coming of Age in the 21st Century: The New (and Longer) Road to Adulthood”

**Speaker: Professor Jeffrey Jensen Arnett,
Department of Psychology, Clark University, USA.**

**Respondent: Dr Maureen Gaffney, Chair of the
National Economic and Social Forum (NESF).**

**Wednesday 14th November 2007,
5.15pm – 6.45pm (followed by reception),
Edmund Burke Theatre, Arts Building,
Trinity College.**

**Please RSVP by Wednesday 7th November 2007 to
Siobhán O'Brien, Tel: 01-8962901. Email: crcentre@tcd.ie.**

How has coming of age changed in recent decades in Ireland and other Western countries?

The ages of entering marriage and parenthood have risen, education lasts longer, and many young people use their twenties to pursue a wide range of experiences in the course of moving gradually toward adult commitments. Professor Arnett is associated with the idea that there is a new stage of the life course, that he calls “**emerging adulthood**”, that exists between adolescence and young adulthood in many parts of the world. He will discuss his ideas on the nature of emerging adulthood and its variability across cultures and countries drawing out the implications for young people, parents, families and society and what this shift might mean in terms of the design of policies and services.

Who should attend?

• Adults of all ages!	• Parents	• Practitioners
• Policy makers	• Academics	• Researchers

The Speakers

Professor Jeffrey Jensen Arnett

Jeffrey Jensen Arnett is a Research Professor in the Department of Psychology at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. During 2005 he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He received his Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Virginia and was formerly associate professor at the University of Missouri. He is the editor of *Journal of Adolescent Research* and of two encyclopedias published in 2007, the *International Encyclopedia of Adolescence* (Routledge, two volumes) and the *Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media* (Sage, two volumes). Dr. Arnett is the originator of the theory of emerging adulthood and the author of numerous articles on emerging adulthood, as well as the textbook *Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood: A Cultural Approach* (2004, Prentice Hall). His book *Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens Through the Twenties*, was published in 2004 by Oxford University Press. He has also edited a book on emerging adulthood (with Jennifer Tanner), *Emerging Adults in America: Coming of Age in the 21st Century*, published in 2006 by APA Books.

Dr Maureen Gaffney

Dr. Maureen Gaffney is the Chair of the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) and a board member of the Health Service Executive (HSE). She was recently appointed to the Chair of the National Monitoring Committee for the Programme for Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development under the National Development Plan. She was a Law Reform Commissioner from 1986-1996 and a Senior Lecturer and Director of the Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology at Trinity College Dublin. She is a Council Member of the ESRI and of the Insurance Ombudsman of Ireland Council.