The psychological sovereignty in three cultures during transition from adolescence to youth

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The psychological sovereignty (PS) is a person’s ability to maintain and defend a part of personalized environment (Altman, 1985; Clayton, 2012; Heft, 2012; Nartova-Bochaver, 2008). According to parts of personalized environment, there are Body, Territory, Things and Belongings, Regime habits, Social contacts, and Values sovereignties identified. As a phenomenon, the PS is a trait of lower order, highly correlating with social adaptation and well-being. Our study was aimed at investigation on how PS changes within transition from adolescence to youth. In the current research we compared a PS level in relation to gender, age, and culture. The Psychological Sovereignty Questionnaire-2010 was used; the participants were adolescents (Mage=13) and university students (Mage=21), N=780, 361 males, 419 females, randomized at age, gender, and culture (Armenia, China, Russia). All of cultures are collectivistic and have had the socialistic past but vary in religion. Results show: the older respondents, the higher their PS level, with the exception of Armenian girls. Moreover, developmental PS changes in females are more critical than in males, independent of the directions of these changes. The culture factor differs adolescents female in PS level but doesn’t adolescents male at all. University students are much more various in PS depending on culture. To sum up, the cultural differences are stronger in older students. PS scores, its general profiles and dynamics differ depending on gender. We found the lowest PS level in Chinese girls, and the highest one in Chinese young women. Chinese and Russian boys are more sovereign than girls, but Armenian girls are more sovereign than boys. This is because of the prevalent parent style varies among cultures widely. The results are discussed according to gender and cultural socialization. Supported by Russian Fund for Humanities, Project 16-06-00239/16.

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