

The presented dissertation focuses on the process of transition into adulthood through the eyes of young people and the eyes of their mothers. The research study is based on the theory of J.J. Arnett, who identified a new development period “emerging adulthood” [Arnett, 1998]. We use three different perspectives to look at the process of transition into the adulthood: Developmental psychological, sociological and cultural-anthropological. Description of each period associated with the transition to adulthood is extended by the context of a family in which a young person is raised, and by a culture in which the person grows. By introducing these three perspectives in the first part we are creating a theoretical framework for the empirical part of our work. In the empirical part the qualitative study is presented. As the research method semistructured in-depth interview with young Czechs and their mothers was used. Our goal was to understand the perception of the notion of adulthood by young people aged 18 to 30 years and the way they describe their own process of transition into the adulthood. We wanted to determine whether young Czechs show signs of “emerging adulthood.” We were also interested in how the relationship between a mother and her offspring, the upbringing, and the cultural context influence the adolescence. We ask the mothers what the term adulthood means to them, how they judge the adulthood in their own children, what in their opinion were the important moments to their children, and how would they describe the evolution of their relationship and style of the upbringing. Our aim was to determine whether the view of the transition to adulthood through the eyes of young and through the eyes of their mothers differ. Finally, our last issue was whether there were some specific cultural features of cultural transition into adulthood in Czech young people.