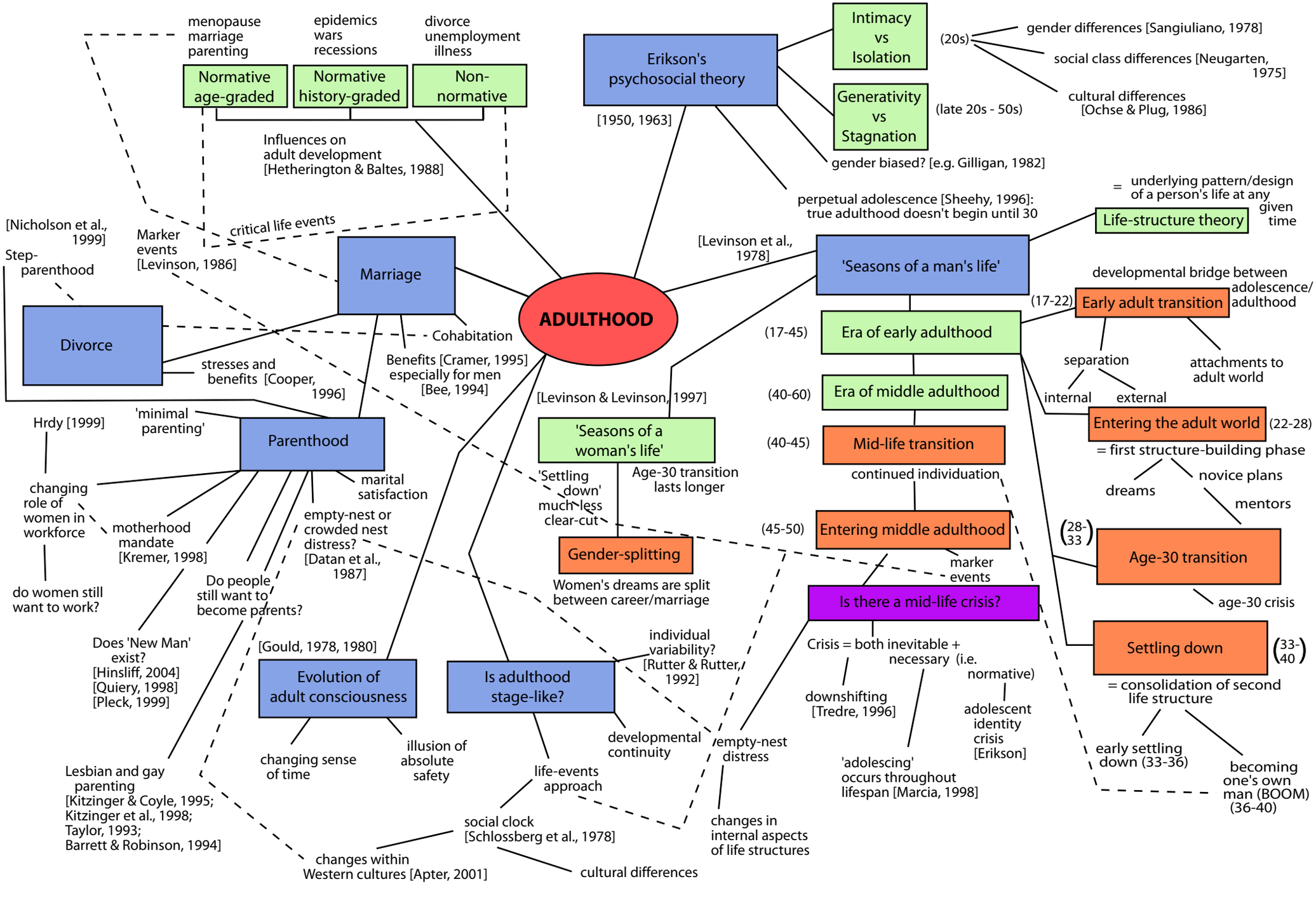
ADULTHOOD
Erikson's psychosocial theory
[1950, 1963]
Intimacy vs Isolation
(20s)
gender differences [Sangiuliano, 1978]
social class differences [Neugarten, 1975]
cultural differences [Ochse & Plug, 1986]
Generativity vs Stagnation
(late 20s - 50s)
gender biased? [e.g. Gilligan, 1982]
perpetual adolescence [Sheehy, 1996]: true adulthood doesn't begin until 30
Normative age-graded
menopause marriage parenting
Normative history-graded
epidemics wars recessions
Non-normative
divorce unemployment illness
Influences on adult development [Hetherington & Baltes, 1988]
Marriage
critical life events
Marker events [Levinson, 1986]
[Nicholson et al., 1999]
Step-parenthood
Divorce
stresses and benefits [Cooper, 1996]
Cohabitation
Benefits [Cramer, 1995] especially for men [Bee, 1994]
Parenthood
Hrdy [1999]
'minimal parenting'
changing role of women in workforce
do women still want to work?
motherhood mandate [Kremer, 1998]
Does 'New Man' exist? [Hinsliff, 2004] [Quiery, 1998] [Pleck, 1999]
Do people still want to become parents?
empty-nest or crowded nest distress? [Datan et al., 1987]
marital satisfaction
Lesbian and gay parenting [Kitzinger & Coyle, 1995; Kitzinger et al., 1998; Taylor, 1993; Barrett & Robinson, 1994]
[Levinson et al., 1978]
'Seasons of a man's life'
= underlying pattern/design of a person's life at any given time
Life-structure theory
(17-22)
Early adult transition
developmental bridge between adolescence/ adulthood
separation
internal
external
attachments to adult world
(17-45)
Era of early adulthood
(40-60)
Era of middle adulthood
(40-45)
Mid-life transition
continued individuation
(45-50)
Entering middle adulthood
marker events
Entering the adult world
(22-28)
= first structure-building phase
dreams
novice plans
mentors
(28-33)
Age-30 transition
age-30 crisis
Settling down
(33-40)
= consolidation of second life structure
early settling down (33-36)
becoming one's own man (BOOM) (36-40)
[Levinson & Levinson, 1997]
'Seasons of a woman's life'
Age-30 transition lasts longer
'Settling down' much less clear-cut
Gender-splitting
Women's dreams are split between career/marriage
Is there a mid-life crisis?
Crisis = both inevitable + necessary (i.e. normative)
downshifting [Tredre, 1996]
adolescent identity crisis [Erikson]
'adolescing' occurs throughout lifespan [Marcia, 1998]
[Gould, 1978, 1980]
Evolution of adult consciousness
changing sense of time
illusion of absolute safety
Is adulthood stage-like?
individual variability? [Rutter & Rutter, 1992]
developmental continuity
empty-nest distress
life-events approach
social clock [Schlossberg et al., 1978]
changes in internal aspects of life structures
changes within Western cultures [Apter, 2001]
cultural differences