**Background**

- Social anxiety (SA) has a median age of onset of 13 years old.
- Interpersonal stress (IS) often occurs during adolescence and is associated with anxiety.
- Socially anxious adolescents are more prone to encountering IS with peers in the form of rejection, which has implications for self-esteem (SE).
- The association between IS, SA, and SE during adolescence is unclear.

**Research Question**

Does interpersonal stress moderate the relationship between social anxiety and self-esteem?

**Hypothesis**

- Adolescents with high IS will show a stronger negative relationship between SA and SE, as compared to adolescents with low IS.

**Methods**

- **Participants**: 681 youth (M_age = 11.8, SD = 2.4; 55% female)
- **Procedure**: Questionnaires at baseline (T1) and 36 months later (T2)
- **Measures**:
  - Multidimensional Anxiety Scale for Children (MASC)
  - Self-Esteem Questionnaire (SEQ)
  - Adolescent Life Events Questionnaire (ALEQ)
- **Data Analytic Strategy**:
  - Linear regression models
  - Included baseline SE, age, and gender as covariates

**Results**

- SA at T1 did not have a significant effect on SE at T2 ($\beta = -0.157, p = 0.231$)
- IS at T1 significantly predicted SE at T2 ($\beta = 0.204, p = 0.013$); however, the effect disappeared once age and gender were added ($\beta = 0.136, p = 0.099$).
- Age ($\beta = -0.162, p < 0.001$) and gender ($\beta = -0.113, p = 0.005$) significantly predicted SE at T2.
- The relationship between SA and SE was not moderated by level of IS ($\beta = -0.136, p = 0.288$).

**Conclusion**

**Discussion**

- Similar to past research, we found increasing trajectories of SE.
- Main effects of IS and SA on SE were not significant.
- Age and gender were strong predictors of later levels of self-esteem.
- Relationship between SA and SE was not moderated by IS.

**Future Directions**

- Examine IS, SA, and SE across multiple developmental stages with more frequent assessments.
- Examine gender differences in developmental trajectories of SE.

**References**