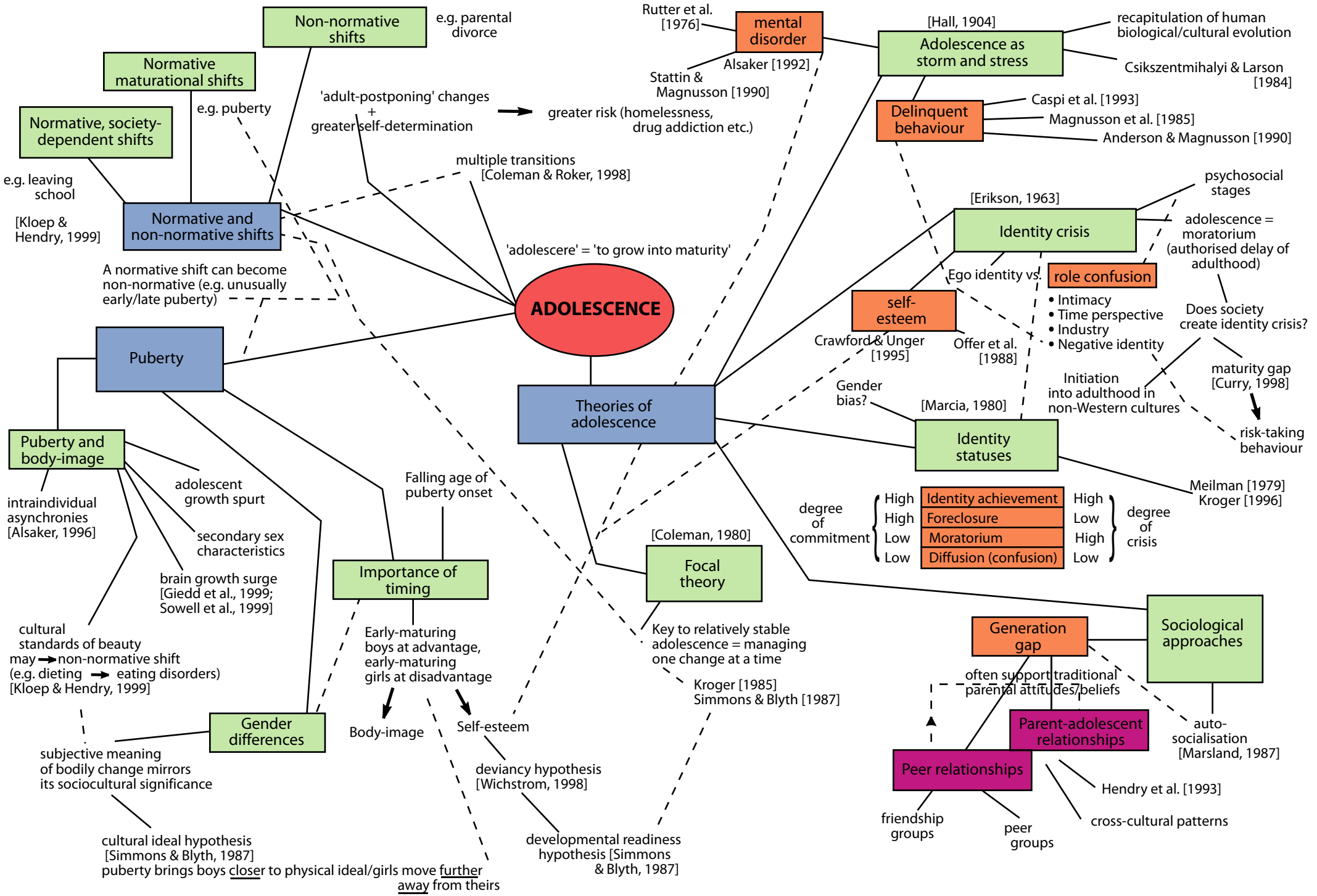
ADOLESCENCE
'adolescere' = 'to grow into maturity'
Normative and non-normative shifts
Normative, society-dependent shifts
e.g. leaving school
[Kloep & Hendry, 1999]
Normative maturational shifts
e.g. puberty
Non-normative shifts
e.g. parental divorce
'adult-postponing' changes + greater self-determination
greater risk (homelessness, drug addiction etc.)
multiple transitions [Coleman & Roker, 1998]
A normative shift can become non-normative (e.g. unusually early/late puberty)
Puberty
Puberty and body-image
intraindividual asynchronies [Alsaker, 1996]
adolescent growth spurt
secondary sex characteristics
brain growth surge [Giedd et al., 1999; Sowell et al., 1999]
cultural standards of beauty may → non-normative shift (e.g. dieting → eating disorders) [Kloep & Hendry, 1999]
Gender differences
subjective meaning of bodily change mirrors its sociocultural significance
cultural ideal hypothesis [Simmons & Blyth, 1987]
puberty brings boys closer to physical ideal/girls move further away from theirs
Importance of timing
Falling age of puberty onset
Early-maturing boys at advantage, early-maturing girls at disadvantage
Body-image
Self-esteem
deviancy hypothesis [Wichstrom, 1998]
developmental readiness hypothesis [Simmons & Blyth, 1987]
Theories of adolescence
Focal theory
[Coleman, 1980]
Key to relatively stable adolescence = managing one change at a time
Kroger [1985] Simmons & Blyth [1987]
mental disorder
Rutter et al. [1976]
Alsaker [1992]
Stattin & Magnusson [1990]
Adolescence as storm and stress
[Hall, 1904]
recapitulation of human biological/cultural evolution
Csikszentmihalyi & Larson [1984]
Delinquent behaviour
Caspi et al. [1993]
Magnusson et al. [1985]
Anderson & Magnusson [1990]
Identity crisis
[Erikson, 1963]
psychosocial stages
adolescence = moratorium (authorised delay of adulthood)
Ego identity vs.
role confusion
• Intimacy
• Time perspective
• Industry
• Negative identity
self-esteem
Crawford & Unger [1995]
Offer et al. [1988]
Does society create identity crisis?
maturity gap [Curry, 1998]
risk-taking behaviour
Initiation into adulthood in non-Western cultures
Gender bias?
Identity statuses
[Marcia, 1980]
Meilman [1979] Kroger [1996]
degree of commitment
degree of crisis
High High Identity achievement High
High Low Foreclosure Low
Low High Moratorium High
Low Low Diffusion (confusion) Low
Sociological approaches
Generation gap
often support traditional parental attitudes/beliefs
Parent-adolescent relationships
Peer relationships
friendship groups
peer groups
Hendry et al. [1993]
cross-cultural patterns
auto-socialisation [Marsland, 1987]