

Money and Feelings. An Interpretation of the Factors of Financial Support from Parents to Young Adults – Marie-Clémence Le Pape, Mickaël Portela and Élise Tenret

[Link to the article](#)

The article on one page

o Key Question

Do feelings play a part in the financial support that parents provide to their young adult children? In particular, do the quality and intensity of family relationships have an influence on it? Such a question makes it possible, on the one hand, to better identify the determining factors of family relationships and, on the other hand, to understand the economy of the financial support provided by parents to their children and the role played by relationships, beyond traditional variables such as parents' resources.

o Methodology

The paper is based on data from the *Enquête nationale sur les ressources des jeunes* (ENRJ, a national survey on young adults' resources carried out by the DREES – the statistical directorate of the Ministry of social affairs – and Insee), conducted in 2014. It uses econometric methods to identify the effects of relationship variables on the support provided to young adults. The situation of young adults whose parents are separated is also studied.

o Main Results

- The frequency of young people's contact with their parents (intensity), as well as the quality of the relationship, depends on both the characteristics of the young people and those of their parents. In particular, students, youngers and women have more frequent contact with their parents.
- All other things being equal, the intensity and quality of the relationships between young people and their parents affect, beyond the traditional factors identified in the literature (such as parental resources, social category, the young person's activity status), the level of the financial support.
- The less contact young people have with their parents, the higher the financial support they get, but the better the quality of the relationship (especially when separated parents), the higher it is.

o Message

The findings presented in this article point towards a statutory norm being replaced by an emotional norm. In fact, the quality of the relationship between parents and children appears to be as determining of parental support as the socio-demographic characteristics of the parents and of their children. The weight of relationships has a varying impact, depending on the family situations, and exhibits gendered effects, which are particularly interesting for understanding familial support mechanisms in a context of increasing family separation and reconfiguration. In terms of public policy, this ultimately raises questions about access to rights and social resources for young adults: should parental resources always be taken into account in the criteria for allocating these rights?