Social and emotional factors
Scott-Parker, B. & Watson, B. (2017)

What is this book chapter about?
We know that young drivers are adolescents and, as such, are developing from a child to an adult. During this time, a breadth of emotional and social factors are influential upon their behaviour, including their driving behaviour.

This chapter summarises the nature of emotional influences such as driver stress, driver mood, depression and anxiety, sensitivity to reward and sensitivity to punishment, sensation seeking propensity and impulsivity. In addition to summarising some of the measurement tools (such as surveys and MRI studies) that are used to provide insight into this area, the chapter also summarises a breadth of social factors related to parents, peers, other drivers, and police.

In addition, the chapter summarises theories relevant to emotional and social factors, some of these theories coming from psychology and criminology. In addition, how graduated licencing and resilience programs can address emotional and social influences is discussed.

Finally, a number of research priorities are identified, including the development of effective interventions for young drivers.