

FED ERC Seminar

Developmental Trajectories of Relational Aggression From Middle Childhood Through Early Adolescence

Date & Time: 25 November 2015, 13:00 – 14:00 (Light lunch begins at 12:30pm)

Venue: Room 2036, Faculty of Education (E33)

Language: English

Audience: UM Staff / Postgraduate Students

Enquiries & Registration: Mr. Alan CHANG (FED_Event@umac.mo); Tel: 8822-4109

** Complementary light lunch will be provided.*

Abstract

Despite of the amount of studies on relational aggression in the past decades, there is an obvious lack of longitudinal studies in literature, with few studies examining children's relational aggression in a non-Western cultural context. This study investigated the development of relational aggression in a sample of Chinese youth (N = 2,274, 52% boys) from middle childhood through early adolescence. Relational aggression was assessed via peer and teacher ratings from Grade 4 (Mage = 10 years) and then annually through Grade 9. Childhood predictors and adolescent outcomes were obtained from mother-ratings, teacher-ratings, self-reports, sociometric nominations, and school records. Latent class growth analysis identified four trajectories for both peer and teacher ratings: a no aggression trajectory, a low-increasing trajectory, a moderate-decreasing trajectory, and a chronically high trajectory. Children in the increasing, decreasing and high aggression trajectories were more likely from families with low socioeconomic status and harsh parenting in middle childhood, and experienced adolescent maladjustment, including rule-breaking behavior, poor peer relationships, and poor academic achievement. Boys were rated as more relationally aggressive than girls, the childhood predictors and adolescent outcomes of relational aggression, however, were similar for both genders. Limitations and directions for future research are discussed.

Speaker

Dr. Liang CHEN is currently a lecturer in Department of Psychology, Shandong Normal University, China. His research interests include aggression and peer victimization, peer relationship; parenting and adolescent future orientation. He has published extensively in these topics in SSCI and SCASI journals.

