

## Abstract

Based on Bakan's theory of agency and communion and the Chinese structure of values, we re-defined and assessed individual differences in gender role attributes among Hong Kong Chinese, and investigated how these attributes relate to thematic and non-thematic motivations and quality of daily subjective experience. 292 college students were administered a 27-item adaptation of the Personal Attributes Questionnaire (PAQ). Sub-samples completed inventories for assessing thematic motivations (PRF, Strivings), non-thematic motivations (WPI, GCOS, POI), and underwent the Experience Sampling method (ESM). We factor analyzed the PAQ items and regressed the factor scores on motivational orientations obtaining final models by backward elimination. We then regressed, via multilevel modeling, experiential variables on the PAQ factor scores. The PAQ yielded an orthogonal 3-factor solution comparable to the one obtained on Anglo-Saxon samples: Communion (femininity), Cognitive and Behavioral (masculinity). Yet, Communion was stripped of intimacy content and behavioral was enriched with emotional and social-action content. The PAQ components were predicted weakly by agentic and communal motivations and fairly by non-thematic motivations. Communion predicted daily happiness and awareness of the presence of others, and concentration, Cognitive control of the activity, relaxation, and lower negative affect, Behavioral higher negative affect, concentration, effort in the activity, and sense of acting toward overall goals. Gender role attributes in Chinese culture have somewhat different connotations from Anglo-Saxon cultures and are indicators of personal growth, intrinsic/extrinsic interest, locus of causation, and daily subjective experience more than of communal and agentic motivations. Findings are discussed in terms of the specific bio-cultural selective pressure in Chinese societies.