

## Abstract

Lesbians, especially within the Chinese context, have often been excluded from empirical studies. The present study aims to explore the relations among the lesbian identity development, parental acceptance and the self esteem of Chinese lesbian participants in Hong Kong. Questionnaires were distributed in person or via the internet to 135 lesbians, age range from 13 to 28. Results showed that the Gay Identity Questionnaire (Brady, & Busse, 1994) demonstrates adequate reliability and validity in the current sample. However, the stage of identity development derived from the Gay Identity Questionnaire failed to predict the self esteem of participants. In contrast, parental acceptance, both maternal and paternal, was found to be predictive of participants' self esteem and the status of coming out. Differences were found between the predictive value of maternal and paternal acceptance. Maternal acceptance was found to be more significant in predicting self esteem while paternal acceptance was more related to the status of coming out.