

## Abstract

This present study aimed at explaining gang involvement in Hong Kong in the light of socioemotional selectivity theory (SST), studying whether adolescents were more likely to turn to gangs when they had limited time perspective, yet lacking emotionally close social partners in family or friends. Results showed that gang members reported more limited time perspective and higher percentage of emotionally close social partners, but among which fewer came from family or friends when compared with that of non-gang members, suggesting the role of gang membership in satisfying the emotional goals of gang members. Socioemotional selectivity theory was also found to better explain the relationship between social preference and psychological well being than the Person/ Society Value Congruence Theory, yielding insights to the nature of intervention that is appropriate to gang members.