

Abstract

Gender differences in social network characteristics are well documented in the literature. Socioemotional Selectivity Theory postulates that it is an individual's time perspective that determines his/her selection of social partners, whereas cultural studies reveal that indigenous emphasis of interpersonal relatedness also guides social interactions among Chinese people. The present study aimed at examining the impacts of time perspective and Renqing on social network characteristics, and the relation between these associations and psychological well-being. Sample included 236 Chinese men and women. Results showed that time perspective and adherence to Renqing norms did not account for gender differences in the number of relatives. Women with lower adherence to Renqing and limited time perspective had better psychological well-being when they had more emotionally close social partners in the network and received more emotional support from their social partners, whereas men, and women with higher adherence to Renqing and expansive time perspective did not show such patterns. Both men and women with limited time perspective and lower adherence to Renqing reported poorer psychological well-being when they had smaller networks, and fewer relatives and nuclear family members in the networks. The findings of the present study contributed to a better understanding of men's and women's social relationships and psychological well-being.