

Abstract

Taking a collectivist orientation towards interpersonal difficulties, this research developed a model to study the two dimensions of emotional responses to being harmed. Whereas previous work conducted in the western countries focused on the individualistic emotion of anger, we added the social relational emotion of worry in this study. Moreover, under the belief that relational concerns are a vital element for collectivists, image loss and relationship harm were also assessed as predictors of emotional responses. The two predictors of perceived image loss and blame were found useful in predicting the complex emotional response of anger, while image loss and the perceived harm to the relationship predicted the complex emotional response of worry. The introduction of image loss and relationship harm predicting worry provides another perspective in addition to the western focus on using blame to predict anger. Assuming an indigenous Chinese perspective, this research supplemented the normal Western constructs by incorporating more salient collectivist concerns, pushing our models of social processes to be more comprehensive and ultimately universal in their scope.