

Abstract of thesis entitled:

Positive and Negative Cognitions: Their Links with Parenting Styles and Psychopathology

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Abstract

Negative cognitions have had a long history of being associated with various types of psychopathology. The relationship between parenting and psychopathology was also believed to be mediated by negative schemas (McGinn et al., 2005). Nonetheless, to date, the contribution of positive cognitions in the above links has been very much overlooked. Thus, the present study aimed at incorporating positive cognitions with negative cognitions such that a more complete picture of the association between parenting, cognitions and psychopathology could be examined. It was hypothesized that positive cognitions would have a unique contribution on top of their negative counterparts in both depression and aggression. It was also assumed that parenting styles would lead to psychopathology via the mediating effects of both positive and negative cognitive schemas. A total of 523 Form 2 to 5 local Chinese high school students of both sexes in Hong Kong participated in the present study. Factor analyses were performed to examine the factor structure of the Parenting Scale and the Young Schema Questionnaire – Short Form (YSQ-short form; Young & Brown, revised 1994). Results indicated sound factorial validity for both measures. Correlation, regression analyses and hierarchical regression analyses were further conducted to test the

hypotheses. Findings empirically proved that positive cognitions contributed uniquely towards the development of psychopathology over and above negative schemas. Both positive and negative cognitions were also found to be the mediators of parenting styles and psychopathology.