

Abstract of thesis entitled

**“Attribution of Illness and Forgiveness in Relation to Psychological Distress in  
HIV-Infected Persons in Hong Kong”**

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The study examined the relationships between attribution of illness, forgiveness, and psychological distress in HIV-infected persons in Hong Kong (N=122). A set of questionnaires were used including Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS), and two tailor-made rating scales for assessing attribution of illness and forgiveness. Multiple regression analyses were used to examine the moderating and mediating effects of forgiveness in the association between attribution of illness and psychological distress. Results showed that HIV-infected persons tended to attribute the HIV-infection to self. Depression and anxiety were positively associated with external attribution of illness through mediation of unforgiveness. High unforgiveness of self and low forgiveness of self were the most powerful predictors of depression, whereas attribution of illness to god or fate was the single predictor of anxiety. The results provided directions for future researches in local population.