

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between interpersonal trust and loneliness among university students. Previous research found that people who were low in interpersonal trust were lonelier. As is proposed by many researchers, loneliness has two sub types which are emotional and social loneliness. Two bases of trust are also proposed which are emotional trust and reliability trust. Emotional trust is a better predictor than reliability trust of both social loneliness and emotional loneliness. The study found that generally there was gender difference in the pattern of relationship between trust and social loneliness. For women, emotional trust is a better predictor than social loneliness. For men, either reliability trust or emotional trust is a good predictor of social loneliness.