

Abstract of thesis entitled

“A Longitudinal Study of the Influence of Peer Comments on Dating Commitment  
among Hong Kong Late Adolescents: Moderation by Attachment Style”

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The present longitudinal study examined the instant and long-running influences of negative peer comments on adolescents' dating commitment, while exploring the moderating role of attachment style. A total of 240 Hong Kong late adolescents (100 males and 140 females) completed a questionnaire about their attachment style, dating commitment, and negative comments on their partnership received from best friend and were tracked three months later for information about their latest dating commitment. Results showed that (a) exposure to negative peer comments were negatively associated with current dating commitment; (b) the influences of negative peer comments, both short-term and long-term, were stronger for anxious individuals

than secure individuals; (c) the short-term influences of negative peer comments were stronger for anxious individuals than avoidant individuals; (d) the long-term influences of negative peer comments were stronger for avoidant individuals than anxious individuals; (e) males are more likely to receive negative peer comments on their romantic relationship from a cross-sex friend than females. Implications of these findings are discussed to shed light on the moderating effect of adolescents' personal characteristics on the linkages between peer disapproval and relationship outcomes.