

ABSTRACT

Lots of research has been done in North America to understand different types of stigma among different populations. Limited research has been done in Chinese HIV-positive MSM to better conceptualize the HIV-stigma they face within the context of traditional Chinese culture.

The present study attempted to examine the indirect impact of the traditional Chinese value – filial piety – on overall well-being in HIV-positive MSM in China and to investigate the potential protective role of psychological flexibility. Two hundred and thirty four HIV-positive MSM from two local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Xi'an, Shaanxi province in China participated in the study. Filial piety was found to have an indirect negative effect on overall well-being via self-stigma as gay, a point estimate of $-.04$, with a 95% bias-corrected bootstrap CI based on 5000 bootstrap samples ($-.11$ to $-.003$). Moderated mediation analysis for the whole model showed that for MSM who have low psychological inflexibility (i.e. scoring one SD below mean on AAQ), self-stigma as gay did not mediate the relationship between filial piety and overall well-being. Practical implications of the findings were discussed.