

Irreconcilable political differences in families: Longitudinal survey data

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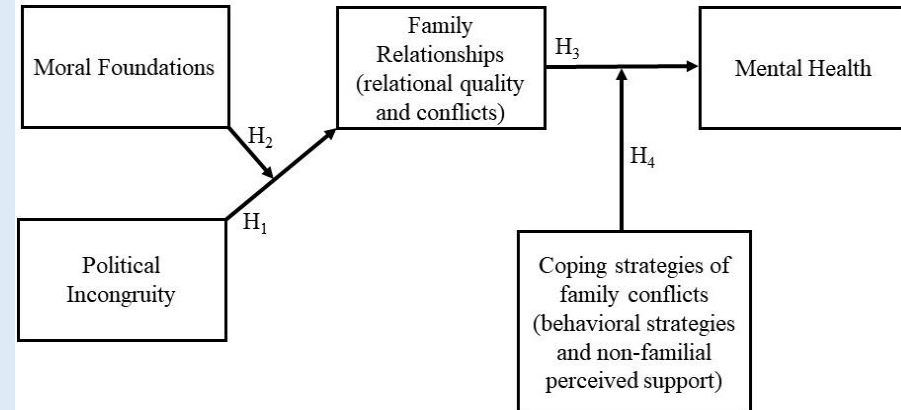
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Background

Family is known to be important on socializing and cultivating the political ideology of an individual. However, the 2019-Anti Extradition Bill Movement caused consequential political polarization and chasms not only in the community but also within family (Youth Research Centre of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, 2019). The political stance might be an emerging theme in the parent-child conflicts, imposing additional family risk yet little known impacts in families with political incongruence (Ojeda & Hatemi, 2015; White & Rogers, 1997). Besides, the differences in endorsement of moral foundations underlying the different conceptions of an ideal society were found between the liberals in US and conservatives, along the left-right political spectrum in Italy as well as between the Pan-Green and Pan-Blue coalition in Taiwan (Battista et al., 2018; Graham et al., 2009; Hsu et al., 2019). To date, the differences in the endorsement of moral foundations are not investigated between the pro- and anti- government camps in Hong Kong. The present study aims to explore the different profiles of family vulnerability and the protective factors in Hong Kong families with political incongruence.

Method & Statistical analysis

A three-wave prospective online survey, with 4-month interval, will be distributed using Qualtrics in (1) young adults aged 18-30 years OR (2) parents of the young adults from families with political incongruence (N=788, accounting for 50% attrition rate). The endorsement of moral foundations will be assessed by the Hong Kong version Moral Foundations Questionnaire. Other measures include parent-child contact and family relationship; perceived social support from different sources; political incongruity; support for violent radicalization; mental health symptoms; and sociodemographic data. The potential moderating effect and the impact of moral foundation as well as perceived social support on the progress of family adapting to the political relevant conflicts and the mental health outcomes will be examined using regression analysis, latent profile analysis, cross-lagged modeling, and latent growth curve analysis.



Discussions

The present study will identify the key vulnerability and strengths in the process of adapting to the political incongruence within family. Findings will add to the existing literature by understanding the familial conflicts related to political incongruence with the perspective of moral foundations. The conceptual framework by the family resilience model of facing family risks and cultivating positive adaption (FRM; Henry et al., 2015)) will provide insights on ways to customize conflict resolving strategies and pathways to boost the family resilience.

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