

## Abstract

The relation between age, social orientation, co-operative behaviour and socialisation was examined. Social orientation was assessed using the Ring test and the Decomposed Game. And co-operative behaviours were operationalized as the proportion of co-operation choice in an iterated Prisoner's Dilemma game. Socialisation towards co-operation was assessed by children's exposure to stories, Chinese sayings and idioms related to mixed-motive interactions. These measures were administered twice as both a test and retest a summer holiday apart. Results show that (a) younger children were more individualistic than older children, (b) younger children exhibited less co-operative behaviours than older children, and (c) the effect of age on co-operative behaviours was mediated by socialisation towards co-operation values and norms. The results also suggested that socialisation of Chinese culture fosters children's development of co-operation behaviours.