

Abstract of thesis entitled:

The Influence of Unemployment on Hong Kong Chinese Men's Mental Health:
The Role of Gender Role Conflict

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The present study investigated the effect of the socialization of gender role to Hong Kong Chinese men over their response on their unemployment situation. Gender role conflict exists when rigid, sexist, or restrictive gender roles lead to personal restriction, devaluation, or violation of an individual or others. People who possess a high level of gender role conflict are at higher risk for psychological distress. Two of the three hypotheses were supported. First, unemployed men who showed higher gender role conflict and lower self-esteem and general self-efficacy were found to possess a higher level of psychological distress, especially in depression and anxiety. Second, gender role conflict, self-esteem and general self-efficacy were discovered to act as salient influencing factors between the predictive relationship of employment status and mental health condition. The third hypothesis on the interaction relationships between gender role conflict, general self-efficacy and self-

esteem was partly supported. Unemployed men with high levels of general self-efficacy were buffered against the harmful effect of gender role conflict on their mental health condition. These findings suggested that men who had psychological distress over their unemployment status had higher levels of gender role conflict or that men who struggle with gender role conflict would experience increased levels of psychological distress during unemployment period. Both implications and limitations of the present study were discussed.