

An Investigation into the Conceptualizations, Underlying Processes and Predictors of
the Cognitive and Emotional Aspects of Forgiveness

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Abstract

To investigate the conceptualizations, processes and predictors of forgiveness from a new perspective, both cognitive and emotional aspects of forgiveness were examined. A quantitative research method was employed in an attempt to establish a two-dimensional model of forgiveness – cognitive and emotional aspects of forgiveness. Specifically, the present study added a new perspective to forgiveness by investigating definitions of forgiveness from both individualistic and collectivistic worldviews (Study 1). Forgiveness is a complex cognitive and emotional process, but the specific underlying mechanisms – cognitive and emotional processes in an intergroup context have rarely been explored. Hence, the present study sought to understand the cognitive and emotional mechanisms underlying intergroup forgiveness across cultures (Study 2). Predictors of intergroup forgiveness have been identified in existing literature, however it remains unclear if these predictors are associated with the cognitive and emotional aspects of forgiveness differently. Therefore, the present study extended previous literature by examining predictors of cognitive and emotional forgiveness in an experimental setting (Study 3).

撮要

從一個新的角度調查寬恕的概念，流程和預測因素，本研究對於認知和情感方面的寬恕進行了檢測。為建立一個寬恕的二維模型 – 認知和情感寬恕，本研究採取定量研究方法。具體而言，本研究增加了一個新的角度 – 從個人主義和集體主義的世界觀，來調查寬恕的定義（研究一）。寬恕是一種複雜的認知和情感過程，但很少有人探討具體的底層機制 – 在組群之間的認知和情感過程。因此，本研究的目的是了解跨文化寬恕的認知和情感機制（研究二）。現有文獻中已經確認一般寬恕的預測因素，但目前還不清楚這些預測因素與不同認知和情感方面的寬恕是否不同。因此，本研究擴展以往的文獻研究（研究三），用實驗的方法去測試認知和情感寬恕的預測因素。