

### **Abstract**

Previous research suggested that characteristics of emerging adulthood were likely to vary in different historical and cultural context. Little work has been done to study the subject of emerging adulthood in Hong Kong, a place where Chinese and Western culture intertwined. The purpose of this study was to explore the existence of emerging adulthood in Hong Kong, to investigate emerging adults' conceptions of transitions to adulthood and how these conceptions relate to their self construal. Results showed that the 271 young people (age 18-29) in Hong Kong displayed a higher level of identity exploration, instability, self-focus, feeling in-between and possibilities than the older adults suggesting the concept of emerging adulthood as a unique developmental period applied in Hong Kong. Results indicated that "financially independent from parent" was less important when compared to other studies in both western and eastern cultures. It suggested that unique socio-economic situation will influence emerging adults' conceptions of transition to adulthood. Overall, participants had a higher interdependent than independent self construal. Adulthood criteria of interdependence, norm compliance and family capacities are positively related to their interdependence self construal. It might be the reflection of Chinese culture and collectivism. Criteria of independence was neither related to independence nor interdependence self construal. It might imply that in the context of transition to adulthood, being independent is core requirement, and it is independent of one's cultural background and self concept.

*Keywords:* emerging adulthood, self construal, culture, transition to adulthood, Hong Kong