

PSYC 4920 Senior Thesis Research II

Student: Lai Wing Yu (1155049930) || Supervisor: Prof. Hui Chin Ming

Topic:

**“Break up is my fault, so I believe in yuan!”: Yuan belief
and self-attribution of breakup**

(Abstract only)

Abstract

The present study investigated self-attribution of breakup and the endorsement of a belief that regarded external agents as main facilitator of a relationship (i.e., yuan belief). Competing hypotheses on the direction of correlation between self-attribution of breakup and yuan belief endorsement were tested in study 1. Results indicated stronger self-attribution of breakup predicted stronger but not weaker yuan belief endorsement, which suggested that yuan belief endorsement could be motivational due to self-attribution. Study 2 was an experimental study which further looked at the causal link between self-attribution of breakup and yuan belief endorsement. As hypothesized, results showed that people who attributed breakup to the self more than to the partner had higher yuan endorsement; however, the underlying mechanism was still a puzzle.

Keywords: breakup, attribution, yuan, implicit theories of relationships