

Abstract

This study explored the relationship between perceived political discord, political conversation and family satisfaction between young adults and their parents. It was hypothesized that political disagreement hinders political conversation and negatively affects relationship satisfaction between young adults and parents, and family communication schemas interact with political discord in affecting political communication and satisfaction. Participants were 113 young adults between 18 and 25 years of age in Hong Kong. Significant negative effects of perceived political discord on political conversation and family satisfaction were observed. In addition to perceived discord, conversation orientated family communication pattern and expressive family communication environment significantly predicted political conversation and satisfaction, however, no interaction effects between communication schemas and other variables were observed. Results indicated that political conversation mediated the association between political discord and perceived family satisfaction. Contradictory to the lay belief that “politics never ends well”, political conversation had a positive effect on family satisfaction. These findings and implications for further studies are discussed.

Key words: political discord; family communication patterns; communication schemas; political conversation; family satisfaction