

**Emerging Adults' Identity Styles, Commitment and Emotional Functioning in China:
Moderating Effects of Region and Gender**

Abstract

This study investigated the associations of Chinese emerging adults' identity styles with their identity commitment and emotional functioning while considering moderating effects of region and gender. Four hundred twenty-five college students (285 females; 140 males; mean age = 21.30 years, $SD = 1.61$) and their parents in Hong Kong and Guangzhou participated. Hierarchical multiple regression analyses revealed that the informational and normative styles were positively related, while the diffuse-avoidant style was negatively related to identity commitment and emotional functioning. Significant moderating effects of region and gender were found in the informational style predicting emotional functioning. The positive relationship between the informational style and emotional well-being was stronger in Guangzhou than in Hong Kong and for males than females. The exploratory analysis also indicated that the effects of the identity styles on emotional functioning were mediated by identity commitment. Theoretical and practical implications were considered.

Keywords: emerging adults, identity formation, identity styles, identity commitment, emotional functioning