

## *How Family Matters in Shaping Offspring Worldviews: Personal and Interpersonal Antecedents of Children's Social Axioms*

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*The present study examined the applicability of social beliefs in school-aged children and investigated factors contributing to the formation of their views about the world. As an extension of the authors' previous work on family dysfunction and social axioms, they hypothesized a mediation model to identify personal and interpersonal antecedents for two dimensions of social axioms, namely, social cynicism and reward for application. Data on general family functioning were collected from elementary school students in Hong Kong. Results of path analysis showed that family dysfunction predicted self-esteem and relationship harmony negatively; in turn, self-esteem predicted social cynicism negatively and relationship harmony predicted reward for application positively. These findings confirmed the mediating effect of self-esteem on personal development and that of relationship harmony on interpersonal development, with both*

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*leading from the quality of family functioning to different beliefs on the dimensional profile of a person's social axioms. The direct effect of family dysfunction was also significant on the two axioms. Together, these results support the position that familial influences shape the formation of a child's worldview.*

*Keywords: social axioms, self-esteem, relationship harmony, family dysfunction, children*

家庭對塑造子女的世界觀如何重要：兒童社會通則的個人及人際前因

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摘要

本研究調查社會信念對在學兒童的應用性，及研究促進他們的世界觀形成的因素。作為有關家庭功能失調 (family dysfunction) 和社會通則 (social axiom) 研究的延續，作者假設一個中介模型來鑑定社會通則中兩個維度，即憤世嫉俗 (social cynicism) 及付出有回報 (reward for application) 的個人及人際前因。這研究收集了香港的一群小學生總體家庭功能的數據。路徑分析 (path analysis) 的結果顯示家庭功能失調負向預測自尊心 (self-esteem) 及和諧關係 (relationship harmony)；另一方面，自尊心負向預測憤世嫉俗的信念，及和諧關係正向預測付出有回報的信念。這些結果確定自尊心與和諧關係在個人及人際發展上，令家庭功能的質素導致社會通則中不同的信念維度構成中介作用，而家庭功能失調對以上兩個社會通則都有顯著的直接影響。這些結果皆支持家庭影響塑造孩童世界觀的立場。

關鍵詞：社會通則、自尊心、和諧關係、家庭功能失調、兒童