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5070: Social relationships and adolescent development in cultural contexts

Convenor: C. Chen (*INVITED SYMPOSIUM*)

5070.3: Adolescents and their important non-parental adults (VIPs): A cross-cultural perspective

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Most of the developmental research on social relationships has focused on parents and peers. Little emphasis has been placed on other social relationships. We (Beam et al., 2002; Chen et al., 2003; Greenberger et al., 1998) have recently shown that many adolescents report having a non-parental adult who plays the role of VIP non-parental adult who has had a significant influence on the adolescent and on whom the adolescent can rely on for support. This paper will discuss this line of research and present data from about 1500 adolescents from five countries (China, Korea, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and the U.S.).