

The Universal and Culture Implication Reflected in the Infant-Child Sleep Arrangement

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Since 1980 the indigenous psychology has become a hot issue in the countries outside North-America area. However, its emphasis on the psychological study of specific cultures seems to be incompatible with the goal of pursuing universal laws of main-stream psychology. In this article, we present three empirical studies about infant-child sleep arrangement: a cross-cultural study between Taiwan and France, and two Taiwan emic studies. The prevalent co-sleep pattern in Taiwan and the prevalent sleep-alone pattern in France clearly reflect the difference of self-other boundary between relationalism and individualism cultures. Based on the results of these three studies, we also clarify the meaning of one-mind many mentalities. In this article it is shown in the divergent development of self-other boundary and self-construal based on the same universal process of attachment-separation-individualization for adapting to norms of different cultures in which a child grows up. All infants in this world are on the same process of attachment-separation-individualization, but in the Western world, the socialization of children emphasizes the aspect of separation and the development of independent self, whereas, in Chinese society, the emphasis of relationalism blurs the parent-child boundary and the development of interdependent self.

Keywords: *attachment-separation-individualization, parent-child relation, self-construal, self-other boundary*