

Intergenerational Conflict and Reconciliation: The Unique Experiences of Older Bicultural Asian-Canadians

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This poster will present a work-in-progress study on the unique experiences of intergenerational conflict among older bicultural Asian-Canadians. Research has been beginning to examine how bicultural individuals participate in a new culture while retaining a degree of traditional cultural norms and values. This complex process needs to be understood in a family context, as the family's reaction to the bicultural individual can influence the experience. Specifically, immigrant parents may acculturate at a slower rate compared to the children, resulting in an acculturation gap, which has been associated with intergenerational conflict. This conflict may lead to detrimental effects on well-being and an increase in vulnerability to psychological distress and problems. Much of research has focused on adolescent and young adult intergenerational conflict, which leaves a significant gap. It is important to extend knowledge beyond that cohort in order to further develop theoretical knowledge of the progression of intergenerational conflict. As adult Asian-Canadians proceed through life, parental relationships will change, and it is important to understand how these individuals have navigated, resolved or accepted conflict. This understanding may have important implications for counselling bicultural Asian-Canadians. The poster will reflect themes of reconciliation and conflict from the literature, on intergenerational parent-child relationships, as well as explore possible implications for counselling.