

Salami Slicing Publication Practices by a Group from Liaoning Normal University

A recent investigation reveals that an author group from Liaoning Normal University with core authors of ZHU Xingchen (朱星辰) exhibits several salami-slicing publication practices.

	10.1186/s40359-025-02641-z	10.3389/psyg.2023.1231920	10.3389/psyg.2023.1290911
Title	Parenting pathways to friendship: how Self-Control and emotion management skills mediate preschoolers' social lives in China?	Parenting style and children emotion management skills among Chinese children aged 3-6: the chain mediation effect of self-control and peer interactions	The association between authoritarian parenting style and peer interactions among Chinese children aged 3-6: an analysis of heterogeneity effects
Submitted	2024-11-18	2023-06-01	2023-09-08
Published	2025-04-02	2023-09-18	2024-01-08
Participant	2,397 participants were recruited from 16 kindergartens (both public and private) in 10 provinces in seven geographic regions (northern, eastern, southern, central, northwestern, southwestern, and northeastern) of China		
Independent Variable	Parenting style (authoritarian and authoritative)	Parenting style (authoritarian and authoritative)	Parenting style (authoritarian)
Dependent Variable	Peer interactions	Emotion management skills	Peer interactions
Mediating variable	self-control, emotion management	self-control, peer interactions	—
Moderating variable	—	—	Gender, Age, Family SES
Theory	Social Learning Theory + Self-Regulation Theory	Ecosystem Theory + Morris's Triple Model of Early Childhood Adjustment	Family Systems Theory + Social Role Theory
Ethical Approval	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided

Articles [1]–[3] are such examples. They report findings from the same questionnaire study, involving the same participant group: 2,397 children aged 3–6 years and their parents, recruited from 16 kindergartens across 10 provinces in seven geographic regions of China (northern, eastern, southern, central, northwestern, southwestern, and northeastern). In these articles, authoritarian and/or authoritative parenting styles were used as independent variables, while the dependent variables differed: peer interactions were examined in articles [1] and [3], and emotion management skills in article [2].

	10.1186/s40359-025-02455-z	10.32604/ijmhp.2024.058744
Title	Associations between overprotective parenting style and academic anxiety among Chinese high school students	Associations between Rejective Parenting Style and Academic Anxiety among Chinese High School Students: The Chain Mediation Effect of Self-Concept and Positive Coping Style
Submitted	2024-09-19	2024-09-19
Published	2025-03-11	2025-01-31
Participant	A total of 2,760 participants from 12 high schools in three provinces in China (Shanxi, Hebei, and Henan, which are mainly concentrated in northern and central China) were selected to ensure a diverse sample. The survey was conducted at the beginning of the 2023 academic year	
Independent Variable	Overprotective Parenting Style	Rejective Parenting Style
Dependent Variable	Academic Anxiety	Academic Anxiety
Mediating variable	Self-concept, Positive Coping Style	Self-concept, Positive Coping Style
Chain mediation path	Parenting Style --> Self-concept --> Positive Coping Style --> Academic Anxiety	Parenting Style --> Self-concept --> Positive Coping Style --> Academic Anxiety
Moderating variable	Gender	Residence
Theory	Self-Determination Theory + Attachment Theory	Self-Determination Theory + Attachment Theory
Ethical Approval	Not provided	LSDJYXY2023001

Articles [4] and [5] provide further examples. Both describe results from another questionnaire study conducted during the 2023 academic year, with the same participant pool of 2,760 students from 12 high schools in three provinces (Shanxi, Hebei, and Henan) in China. The independent variables differed between the two articles, overprotective parenting style in article [4] and rejective parenting

style in article [5], respectively, whereas the dependent variable (academic anxiety), mediating variables (self-concept and positive coping style), and the chain mediation path (parenting style --> self-concept --> positive coping style --> academic anxiety) were identical in both.

These salami-slicing practices are believed to be intended to boost the authors' publication records, especially those of the core author, ZHU Xingchen. However, they provide limited contributions to the scientific community.

[1] 10.1186/s40359-025-02641-z

[2] 10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1231920

[3] 10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1290911

[4] 10.1186/s40359-025-02455-z

[5] 10.32604/ijmh.2024.058744

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