

## 学位論文抄録

Risk and protective factors for psychopathology in youth: The roles of parent-child relationships and childhood experiences

(親子関係と小児期体験が青少年の精神病理に及ぼす影響の検討)

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## Abstract of the Thesis

**Background and Purpose:** Childhood experiences are crucial factors for child development and mental health. Three studies were conducted to acquire a broad knowledge on the effects of parenting and childhood experiences on psychopathology. The first study portrays an example of common parent-child relationships, the second study represents the impacts of harsh discipline, and the third study depicts disrupted parent-child relationships.

**Methods:** Study 1 was conducted on a college sample to identify the appropriate factorial structure of the Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI) to be used with a Japanese sample by conducting confirmatory factor analysis and to disentangle the relationships between parenting styles and depressive symptoms. Study 2 was conducted on a sample of young adults who have been exposed to harsh corporal punishment (HCP) to investigate the effects of harsh physical discipline on brain development. Study 3 was conducted with institutionalized children to explore the impacts of adverse childhood experiences on depressive symptoms.

**Results:** Study 1 concluded that the 4-factor model PBI fitted the best for a Japanese sample, and it also illustrated the significance of paternal parenting on depressive symptoms of female college students. Good paternal parenting predicted low depressive symptoms through low stressor, low thinking error, and high self-efficacy. Study 2 revealed that young adults exposed to HCP had decreased gray matter volume in the right medial frontal gyrus, left medial frontal gyrus, and right anterior cingulate gyrus than those who have never been exposed to HCP. Study 3 showed that, among institutionalized children, exposure to maltreatment prior to entry into institutions predicted depressive symptoms through attachment and self-esteem while exposure to parental illness, death, and criminal behaviors did not.

**Conclusions:** Harsh parenting and adverse childhood experiences may result in abnormal brain development and psychiatric symptoms, while healthy parent-child relationships with caring and nurturing environment may lead to positive psychological development. Suggestions for prevention and intervention are discussed from ecological systems theory's perspectives.