UNIVERSITY OF MACAU DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLGOY

Parental Supervision, Delinquent Peers, and Delinquency in Macau

By

LO PUI LENG, RITA

Student ID: M-A9-6822-9

Supervisor: Dr. Zhao Ruohui

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Abstract of thesis entitled

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Family and peers are identified as important factors that influence juveniles. It has been suggested that juveniles with weaker bonds of social control are more likely toengage in risky behavior and delinquency. This is particularly the case when they associate with delinquent peers; they are more likely to commit crimes and as their peers reinforce their delinquent behavior.

This study examines the effect that family and peer relations have on delinquency, especially with regard to the interrelation of parental supervision, parental attachment, and delinquent peersas they relate to juvenile delinquency. In addition, it proposes to test whether parental control or peers are more important in explaining delinquency.

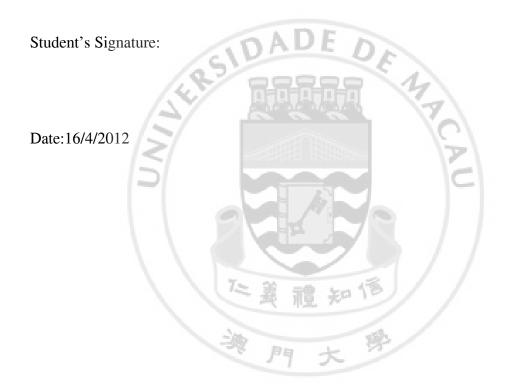
The current study includes 386 respondents aged 11–20 years enrolled in secondary schools in Macau. Results from the logistic regression suggest that parental supervision and attachment, or a higher level of social control, decrease the possibility of juvenile involvement in delinquency; on the other hand, delinquent peers foster delinquency

among juveniles. Combining parental supervision, parental attachment, and delinquent peers in measuring status offenses and delinquency, delinquent peersstill significantly account for status offenses and delinquency after controlling for gender, age, family structure, and family socioeconomic status. Parental attachment significantly affects only status offenses; it does not significantly account for delinquency. In addition, parental supervision no longer affects delinquency and status offense in the integrative model.

Key Words: parental supervision, parental attachment, delinquent peers, status offense, delinquency

DECLARATION

Lo Pui Leng, hereby states that this thesis is my own original work, aside from the sections in which origins are clearly stated. All of the materials in this thesis have never been used (partially or wholly) in fulfilling the requirements for any degree orqualification at this university or other universities prior to this submission.



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The completion of this master's thesis will be a memorable experiencefor me. I am delighted to have been able to research and write a thesis that expands my knowledge of delinquency.

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Notwithstanding the above mentioned support for this study, I take full responsibility for any errors that may be found in this thesis. I love my Lord and family, and I dedicate this thesis to them.

CONTENTS

Abstract		2-3
Declaration.		4
Acknowledg	gements	5
List of tables	s	7
Chapter I	Introduction	
	Overview of Juvenile Delinquency	9-13
	The Significance of the Study	14-16
Chapter II	Literature Review	
	Social Control Theory and Previous Studies	17-20
	Social Learning Theoryand Previous Studies	21-23
	Integrative Theory and Previous Studies	24-25
	Previous Studies in Macao	26-32
Chapter III	Methodology	
	Sample	34-36
	Dependent Variable	36-38
	Independent Variable	37-38
	Control Variable	39-42
Chapter IV	Analysis and Findings	43-62
Chapter V	Discussion	64-67
Chapter VI	Conclusion and Limitations	68-72
Appendix	Questionnaire	70-76
Bibliography	y	80-84

LIST OF TABLES

- Figure 1 Complete Scale of Key Variables
- Table 1 Descriptive Statistics of All Variables in the Study
- Table 2 Correlations among Parental Supervision, Parental Attachment, Delinquent

Peers, Status Offense, and Delinquency

- Table 3 Cross Tabulation between Parental Supervision and Status Offenses
- Table 4 Cross Tabulation between Parental Supervision and Delinquency
- Table 6 Cross Tabulation between Parental Attachment and Status Offenses
- Table 7 Cross Tabulation between Parental Attachment and Delinquency
- Table 8 Cross Tabulation among the Level of Father Attachment and Delinquency
- Table 9 Cross Tabulation among Delinquent Peers and Status Offenses
- Table 10 Cross Tabulation among Delinquent Peers and Delinquency
- Table 11 Logistic Regression Results among Parental Supervision, Parental

Attachment, Delinquency Peers, and Status Offenses

Table 12 Logistic Regression Results among Parental Supervision, Parental

Attachment, and Delinquent Peers on Delinquency

- Table 13 Cross Tabulation between Delinquent Peers and Status Offenses
- Table 14 Logistic Regression Results among Parental Supervision, Parental

Attachment, Delinquent Peers, and Status Offenses

Table 15 Cross Tabulation among Age and Delinquency

Table 16 Logistic Regression Results among Parental Supervision, Parental

Attachment, and Delinquent Peers on Delinquency

Table 17 Cross Tabulation among Status Offenses and Reasons for Delinquent

Behavior

Table 18 Cross Tabulation among Status Offenses and Reasons for Delinquent

Behavior

Table 19 Cross Tabulation among Parents Prohibited Peers and Delinquent Peers

Table 20 Cross Tabulation among Delinquent Peers and Responsesto Parent

Prohibition

Table 21 Cross Tabulation among Delinquent Peers and Parental Attachment