

**UNIVERSITY OF MACAU**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**Parental Supervision, Delinquent Peers, and  
Delinquency in Macau**

By

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Abstract of thesis entitled

**Parental Supervision, Delinquent Peers, and Delinquency in Macau**

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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 to engage 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 peers as 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 peers still 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 or qualification at this university or other universities prior to this submission.

Student's Signature:

Date: 16/4/2012



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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.

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