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The Cross-Cultural Characteristics of Conflict among Indonesian, South Korean, and United States Adolescents

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Poster Presentation P50

**THE CROSS-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CONFLICT AMONG
INDONESIAN, SOUTH KOREAN, AND UNITED STATES ADOLESCENTS**

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Conflict is a common characteristic of interpersonal relationships across all developmental periods and many consider it an inevitable aspect of close relationships. It is evident that there are significant differences across cultures in terms of implicit models and understandings of conflict and how it should be resolved. The current study explores reports of conflict in reciprocated friendships in Indonesian, South Korean, and United States adolescents. Data from U.S. seventh grade students (N=123, Mean age of 12.45 years) was collected and compared to data previously obtained in Indonesia and South Korea (French, Lee, & Pidada, in press). Using multiple measures, data was collected on several dimensions of friendship including loneliness, intimacy, exclusivity, and conflict. Male and female Korean children reported significantly more conflict with reciprocated friends across both measures of conflict compared to U.S. and Indonesian youth. Reports of conflict across close relationships revealed that Indonesian youth reported more conflict with friends compared to Korean and U.S. youth who reported more conflict with mothers. Relationships with siblings were also more conflictual across all three countries with U.S. students reporting significantly higher amounts.