

# **A Study of Love and the Marriage Life of the Younger Generation in Urban China**

– The 80s “One-child” Generation and Their Parents –

GAO Jin

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University

**Keywords:** 80s “One-child” generation, marriage and love, parent-child relationships

Views on marriage and love reflect the characteristics of the ages. In China, as well, as times have changed, people have come to love and marry in very different ways. This paper focuses on the love lives and marriages of the “one-child” generation, living in cities in China and born in the 1980s.

The author conducted interviews with young people from the “one-child” generation of the 80s and their parents in Shandong Province and collated the data using the KJ method. Their characteristic ideas regarding love and marriage have become clear, showing conflicts and problems between parents and children.

Previous studies and interviews show that young people in China have evolved from “marrying at a mature age in a negative way” to “marrying at a mature age in an independent way.” Views on marriage differ between men and women in China due to still-existing differences regarding gender consciousness. The female generation of the 80s may have greater emotional conflict issues, and a comparative analysis of parents and children indicates the co-existence of conflicts and interdependence between those of the 80s “one-child” generation and their parents.