While most studies of infidelity focused on the experiences of the couple and the third party, little attention was paid to the child of infidelity.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this study is two-fold:
(a) to understand the experiences of the child of infidelity;
(b) to understand the changing process of the parent-child relationship after infidelity.

**METHODOLOGY**

A qualitative narrative study using semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted in this study. Three adult children of infidelity were interviewed. (see Table 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Background of the participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nickname (sex)</td>
<td>The parent who had infidelity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yong (F)</td>
<td>father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiang (M)</td>
<td>father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qiáng (F)</td>
<td>mother</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the narrative analysis method (Lieblich, Tuval-Mashiach, & Zilber, 1998), the "whole-content" model were used to understand "what children of infidelity had experienced" and the "category-content" model were used to describe "the changes in the parent-child relationship."

**RESULTS**

**WHAT CHILDREN OF INFIDELITY HAD EXPERIENCED**

Most of the children feel resentment not only at the betrayers but also at the affective unreasonable reactions of the betrayed parents. In addition, seeing, conflicts between parents, being emotional blackmailed, being asked to do wrongful things, being involved in the triangulation, becoming a scapegoat or lacking parents' attention often causes the feeling of discomfort, scare, grievance, self-blame, helplessness, or loss. Feeling powerless about the parental conflicts, the children of infidelity try to avoid conflicts by different ways and seek emotional attachments outside. When they are developing intimate relationships in their adulthood, they are extremely hesitant and cautious about not making the same mistakes as their parents.

**THE CHANGES IN THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP**

By analyzing with the Structural Family Theory of Minuchin (1974), this study finds that most of the parental subsystem boundaries change as soon as the parental infidelities are revealed. The children might become the Parental Child who either replaces the absent parent or becomes the caretaker of the betrayed side. The coalitions between parents and children might cause tension among family members. (see Figure 1.) Furthermore, as this study focuses on the changing process of the parent-child relationship, the boundary shifting of the three participants' parental subsystems is as Figure 2.

**DISCUSSION**

This study discusses the differences between the viewpoints of children and adults in the frame of culture and gender as follows:
(a) In Taiwanese culture, a female's infidelity isn’t easy to be forgiven and is usually to end in divorce after the infidelity, while a male's infidelity is not.
(b) All of the children did not agree with their parents’ infidelities; however, the affection of the son was not easy to express as much as the daughters.
(c) Unlike parents who wanted to maintain their integrity and were not willing to divorce, the ongoing parental conflicts caused the children to feel great pressure and became angry and disappointed with their parents.
(d) The expression of caring and trying to communicate with children helped to improve the relationship between parents and children. However, Taiwanese parents were not always good at expressing their love for their children, even if they did love their children, the children of infidelity often cannot feel the love of their parents when they were young.

**REFERENCE**
