Revisiting tiger parenting: From cultural essentialism to multiple frames of reference

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Popularised by Amy Chua, the concept of tiger parenting is colloquially used to refer to intensive parenting, that is, when parents strictly plan and closely scrutinise nearly every aspect of their children's lives. Such parenting styles are often stereotypically associated with Asian parenting, which has led to culturalist explanations.

Contrary to this trend, the presentation provides a nuanced understanding of tiger parenting by analysing wider socioeconomic, cultural, policy and educational conditions shaping parenting practices. Drawing on a recent empirical study in Hong Kong, this presentation argues that tiger parenting practices are increasingly necessitated by fiercely competitive education systems and becoming globalised across ethnic groups and across the social class spectrum.

The concept of tiger parenting and its main parameters should be scrutinised and re-situated within a richer analytical tapestry that accounts for issues surrounding parental beliefs and mindsets, educational structures, social influences, cultural roots, class preferences, and global aspirations.

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