Infant-mother attachment is established over the first two years of life and beyond. This attachment forms the most important basis for the child’s psychological growth and development (Bowlby, 1988). In contrast to the considerable volume of international research on infant attachment development, significantly less research has been conducted in China (Ding et al., 2012), and there is no data regarding the comparison of infant-mother attachment between the urban and rural areas of China.

In China, urban and rural areas have highly significant differences in parent's education level, lifestyle and the concept of parenthood. These differences lead to significantly different parental rearing styles between parents from urban and rural China. Parent's ideas and attitudes about parenting may affect the level of security in the attachment infant's form to their parents (Liu et al., 2007).

The hypotheses are:
1. Mothers in urban China will differ in their parenting styles from mothers in rural China.
2. There will be a difference in the level of security found in the attachment relationship between infant-mother dyads in urban and rural China.
3. Mothers’ parenting style will be correlated to infant-mother attachment security.

Experimental studies on infant-mother attachment relationship in China are still rarely reported (Hu & Meng, 2003). Of the studies reported, most have focused on economically developed cities, while fewer studies reported data about attachment relationships in rural areas, with no study comparing urban and rural areas in China yet.

Therefore, the proposed comparison of attachment security between urban and rural China will add significantly to the body of research.

The focus of this proposed study is on the mother as the attachment figure. It is necessary to do similar research while focusing on the father as the attachment figure.

Future research should focus on the longitudinal aspects of attachment in rural and urban China, perhaps assessing attachment later in childhood or adolescence (using the same participants if possible).

100 healthy infants aged 12-18 months and their mothers; randomly selected from Beijing and Changli town of Hebei Province.

A revised Chinese corrected version (Yue et al., 1993) of the questionnaire will be used to assess mothers’ rearing style.

The AQS 3.0 (Waters, 1987) will be used to evaluate attachment security. Correlations between mother’s scores and expert’s security criteria will be calculated to obtain scores of infants' level of attachment security to their mothers.