

Perceptions of Equity and Social Networks

Katsuhide MORO I

Austin and Walster (1974, 1975) argue that persons attempt to maintain both Person-specific Equity and Equity with the World. This study was designed to test the Equity with the World hypothesis. Questionnaires were administered to male and female undergraduates ($N=148$). They were asked to list up five persons of their friends. They assessed equity/inequity and the emotional quality of relationships with the listed friends. Furthermore, their networks of friendships were assessed as a whole.

The main results are as follows:

- 1) Perceptions of equity were accompanied with three kinds of moods, labeled as "contentment," "anger," and "guilt."
- 2) Little support was found for the Equity with the World hypothesis in the rating of individual friendship or the whole network.
- 3) The density of social networks (Hirsch, 1980) was associated with a motivation to maximize rewards.