

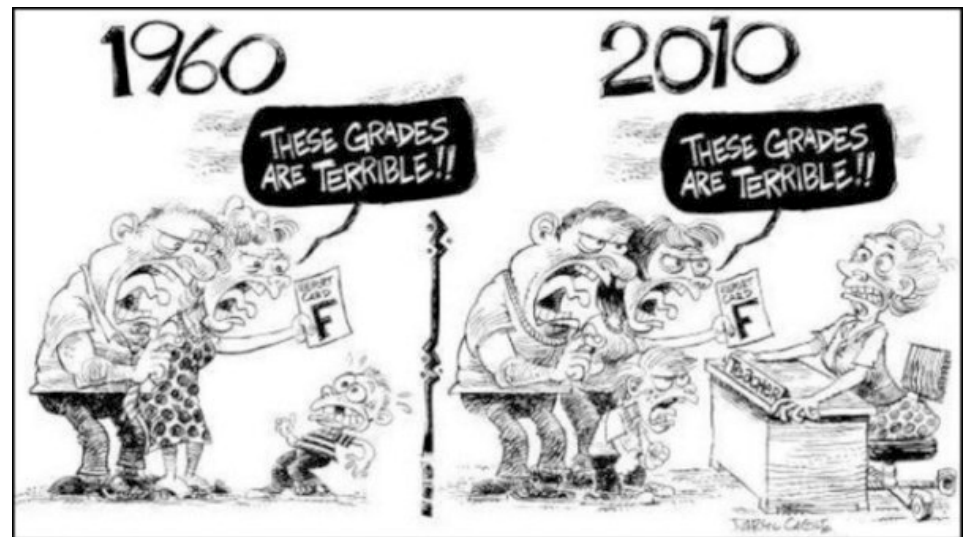
# When parents become too involved in school

## Understanding parental overinvolvement in a changing social world

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# Introduction

Better safe than sorry?



# Introduction

Better safe than sorry?



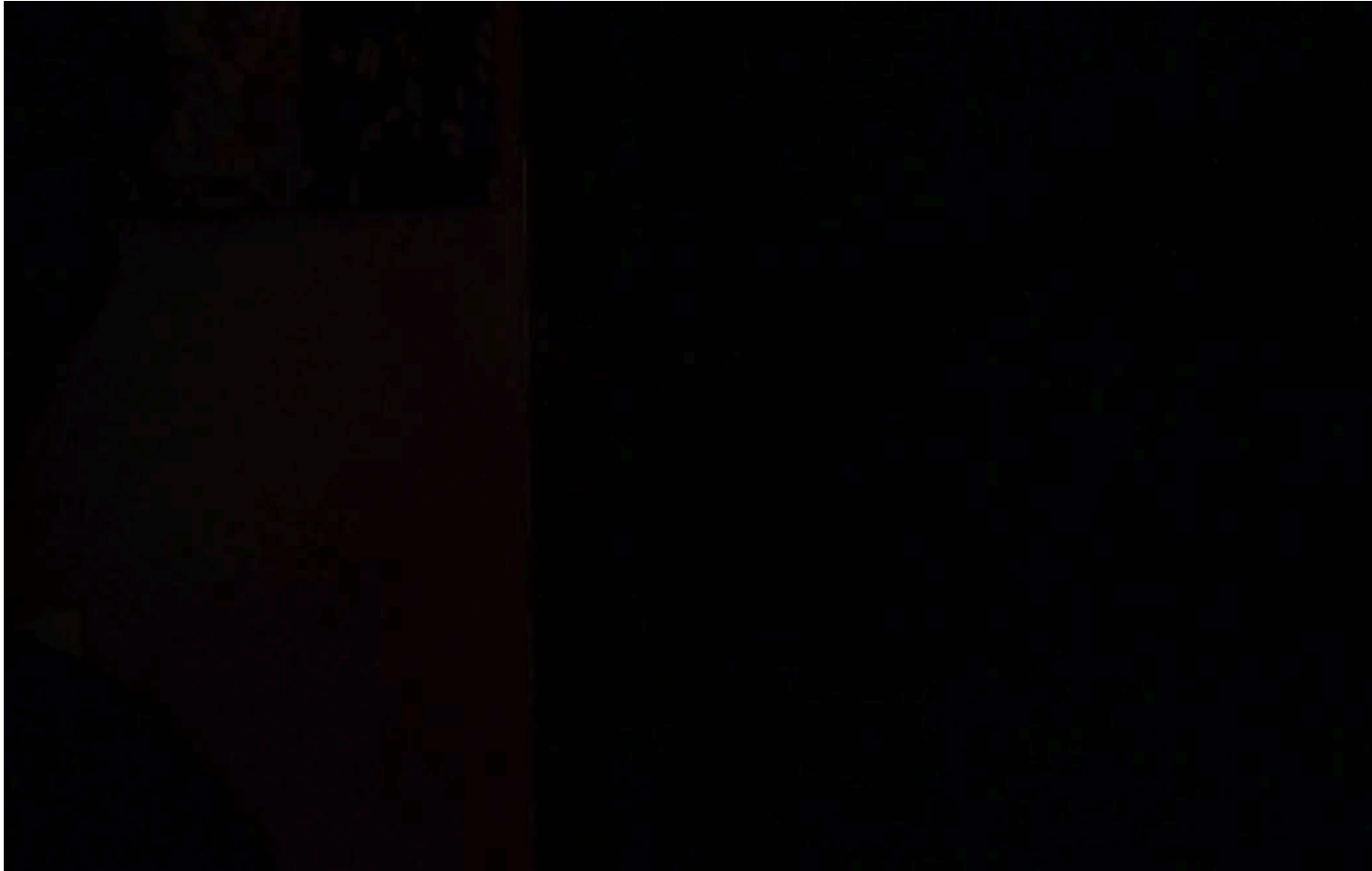
# Introduction

Better safe than sorry?



# Introduction

## Big Little Lies



# Parental school involvement

## Conceptualization and past research

Parents' commitment of resources to the academic context of children (Grolnick & Slowiaczek, 1994)

- School-based involvement
  - Home-based involvement
- Essential for psychosocial adjustment, achievement, and motivation (e.g., Barger et al., 2019)

But: more is not always better

→ How, whom, and why? (Pomerantz et al., 2007)

# Overprotective parenting

## Conceptualization

« The provision of a level of protection that is excessive, considering the child's developmental level » (Thomasgard et al., 1995)

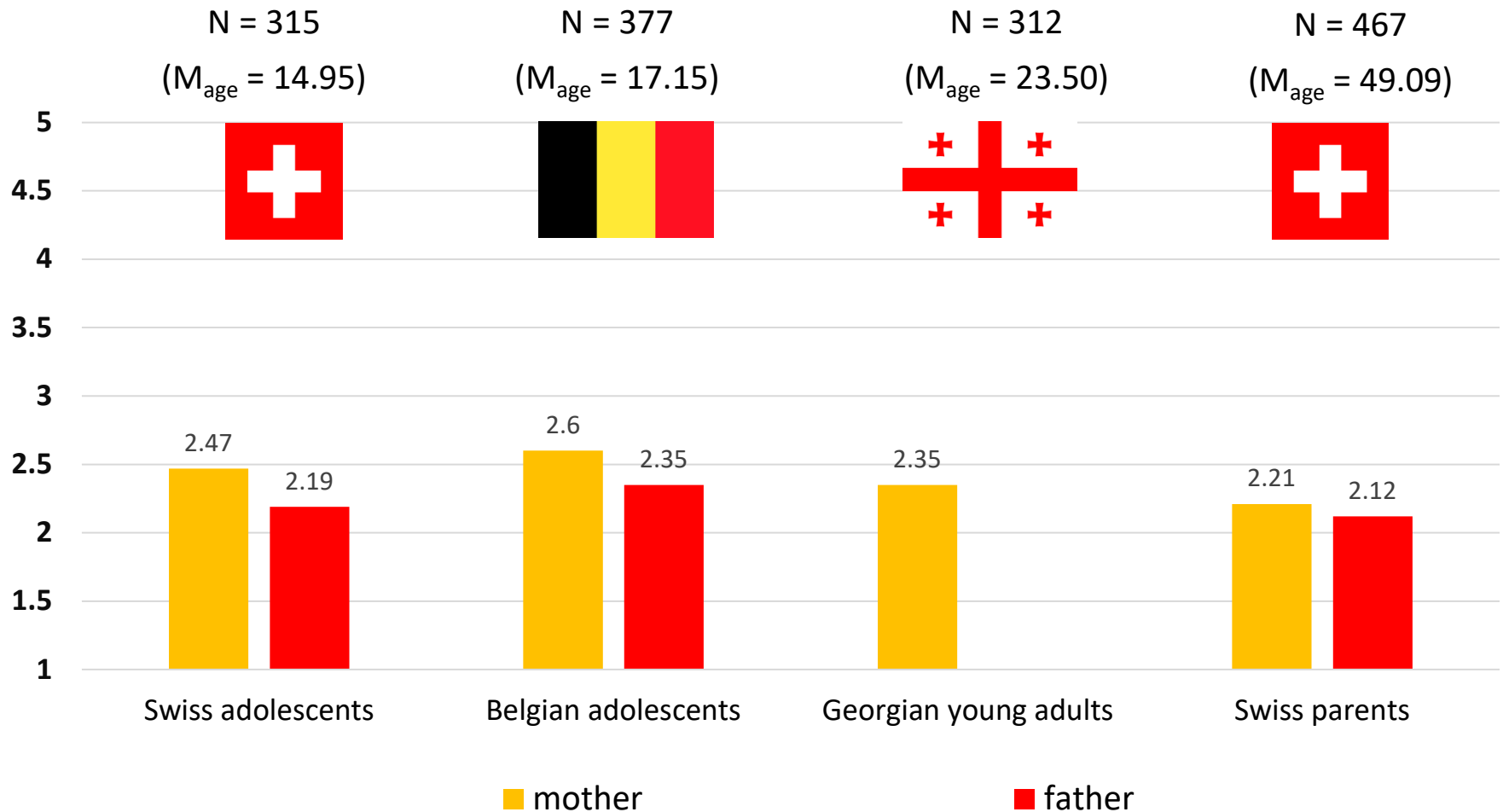
In adolescence and young adulthood, e.g.,

- Premature problem-solving
- Anxious rearing
- Academic overinvolvement
- Infantilisation
- Intrusiveness

E.g., « My mother/father often intervenes in things that I could actually solve myself » (Chevrier et al., 2023)

# Overprotective parenting

## Some prevalence data



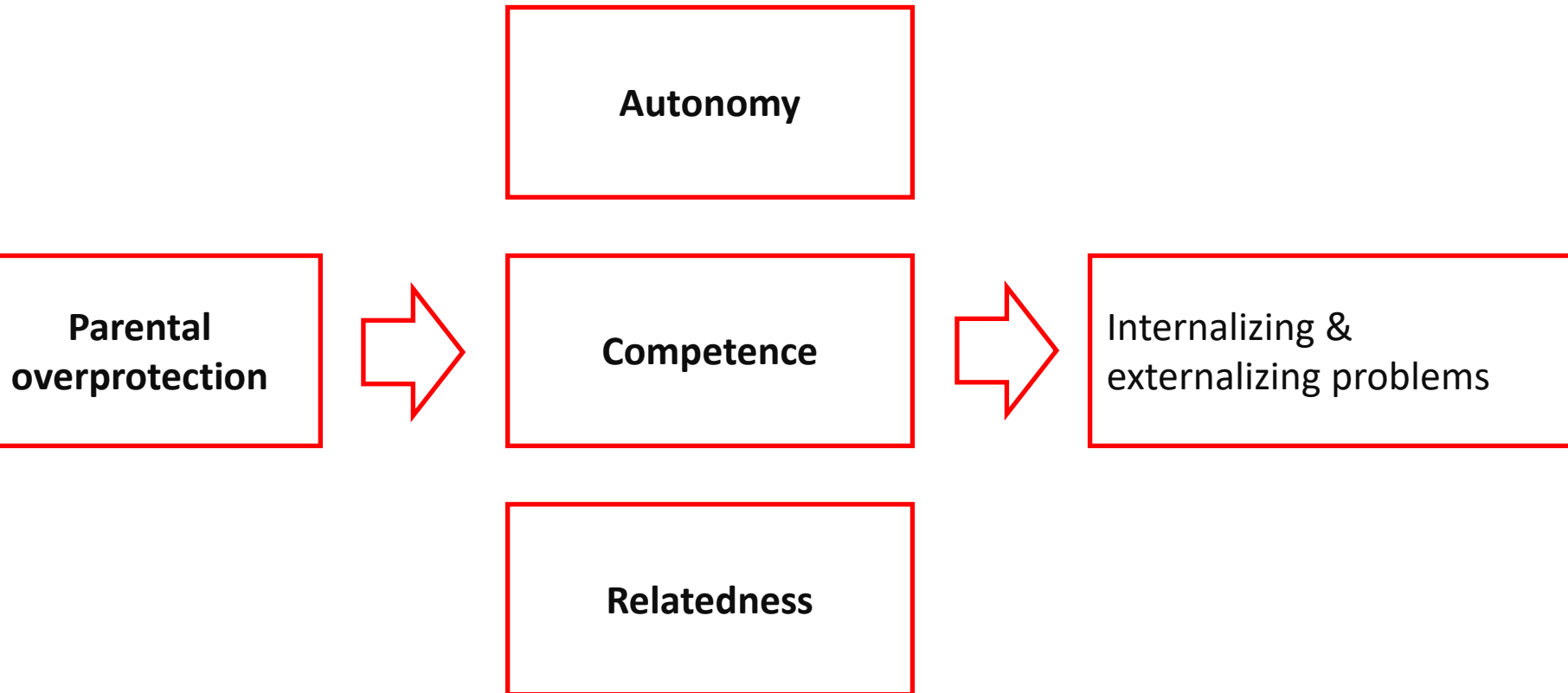


# Consequences

## Psychopathology



N = 402 mother-adolescent dyads



Van Petegem, S., Antonietti, J. P., Nunes, C. E., Kins, E., & Soenens, B. (2020). The relationship between maternal overprotection, adolescent internalizing and externalizing problems, and psychological need frustration: A multi-informant study using response surface analysis. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 49, 162-177.

# Consequences

## School-related outcomes

### Outcomes:

- Academic success (e.g., Howard et al., 2019)
- Self-regulated learning, motivation (e.g., Hong et al., 2015)
- School burnout (Love et al., 2020)

### Mechanisms:

- Grit, self-control (e.g., Howard et al., 2019; Love et al., 2020)
- Procrastination (e.g., Hong et al., 2015)
- Self-efficacy (e.g., Bradley-Geist & Olson-Buchanan, 2011)
- Maladaptive perfectionism (e.g., Hayes & Turner, 2021; Schiffrin & Liss, 2017)

# Overprotective parenting

## Determinants

### Parent factors

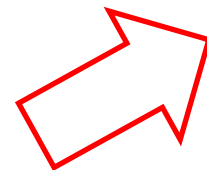
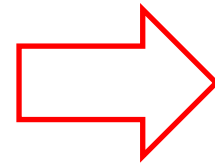
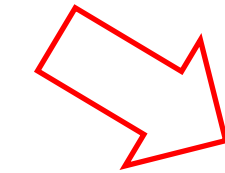
- Anxiety, perfectionism
- Attachment style

### Child factors

- Inhibition
- Pediatric conditions

### Contextual factors

Societal, economic and cultural factors?



**Parental  
overprotection**

# SAFE-SORRY

## Macrocontextual factors

### Intensive mothering ideology

(Hays, 1996)

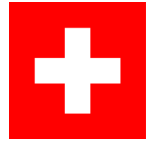
E.g., self-sacrifice

→ Pressure, guilt, shame

→ Gendered representations

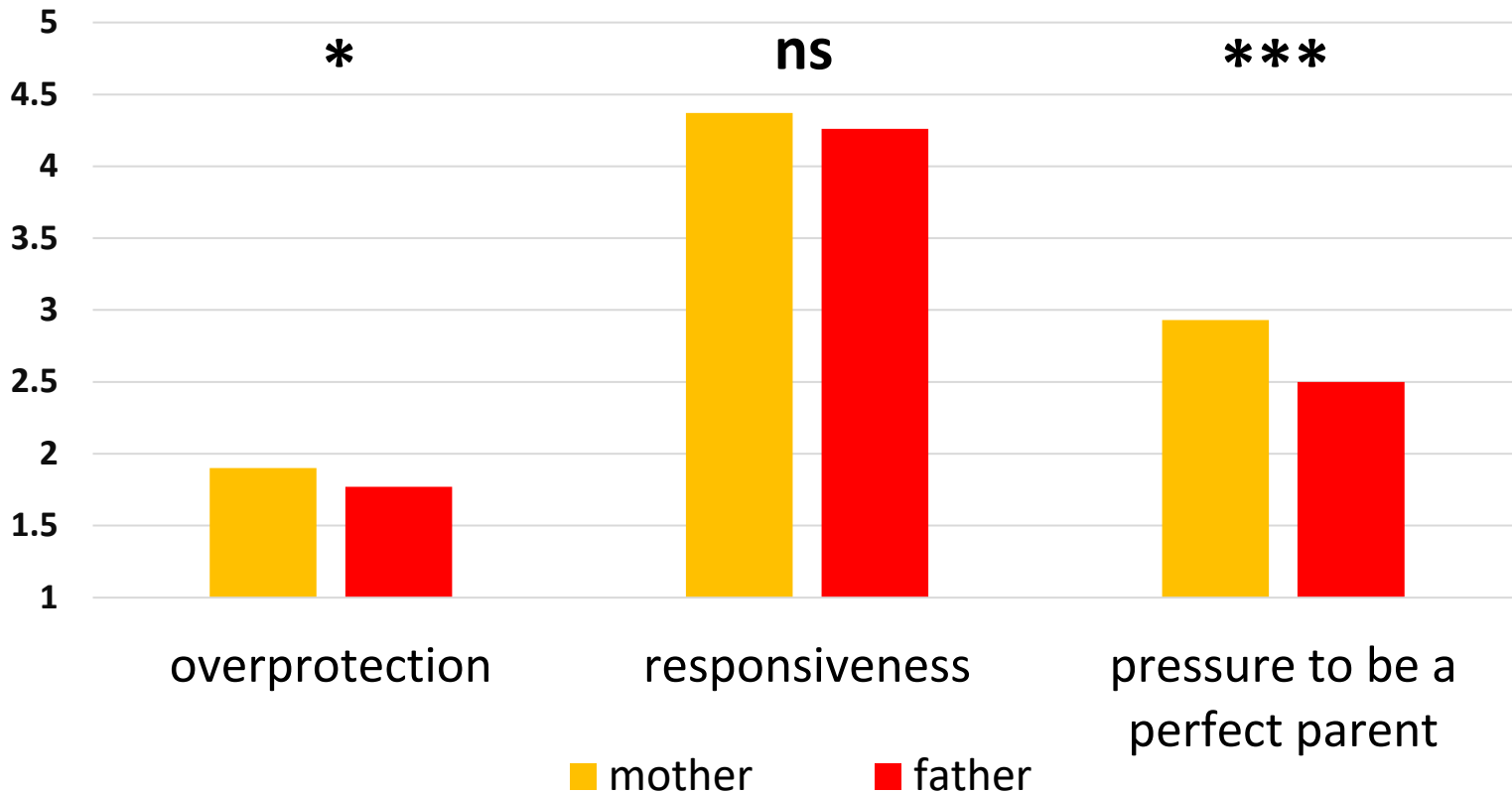


# Societal expectations



## Parents under pressure

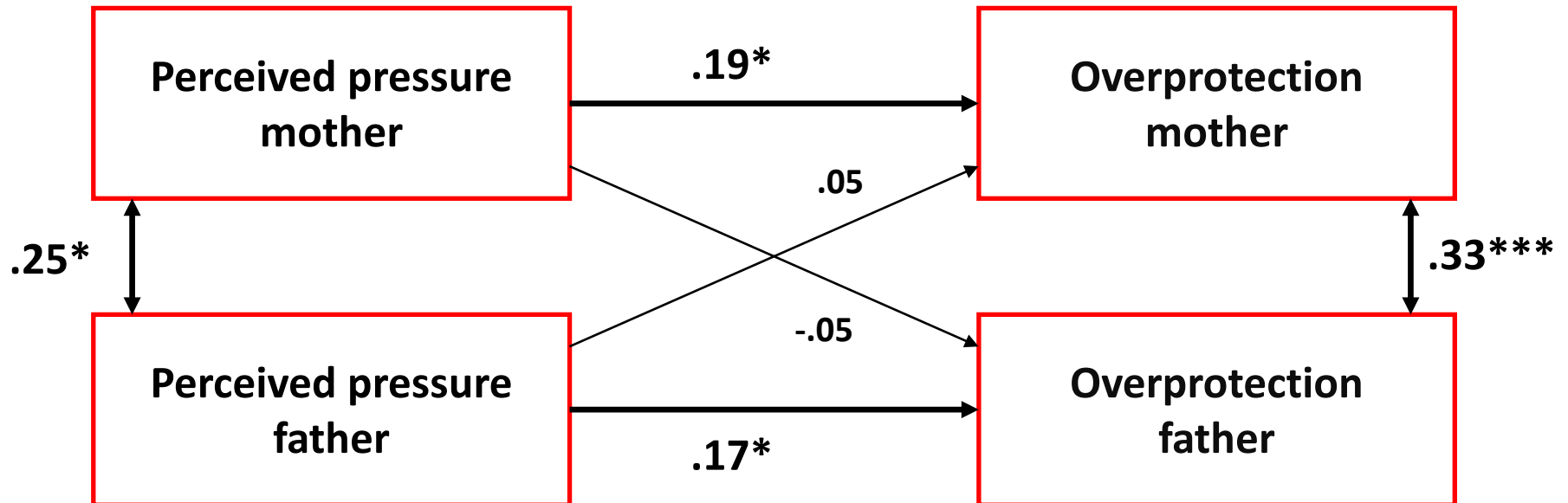
N = 146 mother-  
father dyads



Venard, G., Zimmermann, G., Antonietti, J.-P., Eira Nunes, C., & Van Petegem, S. (2023). Parenting under pressure: Exploring gendered differences and associations with parental responsiveness, overprotection, and overvaluation. *Manuscript submitted for publication.*

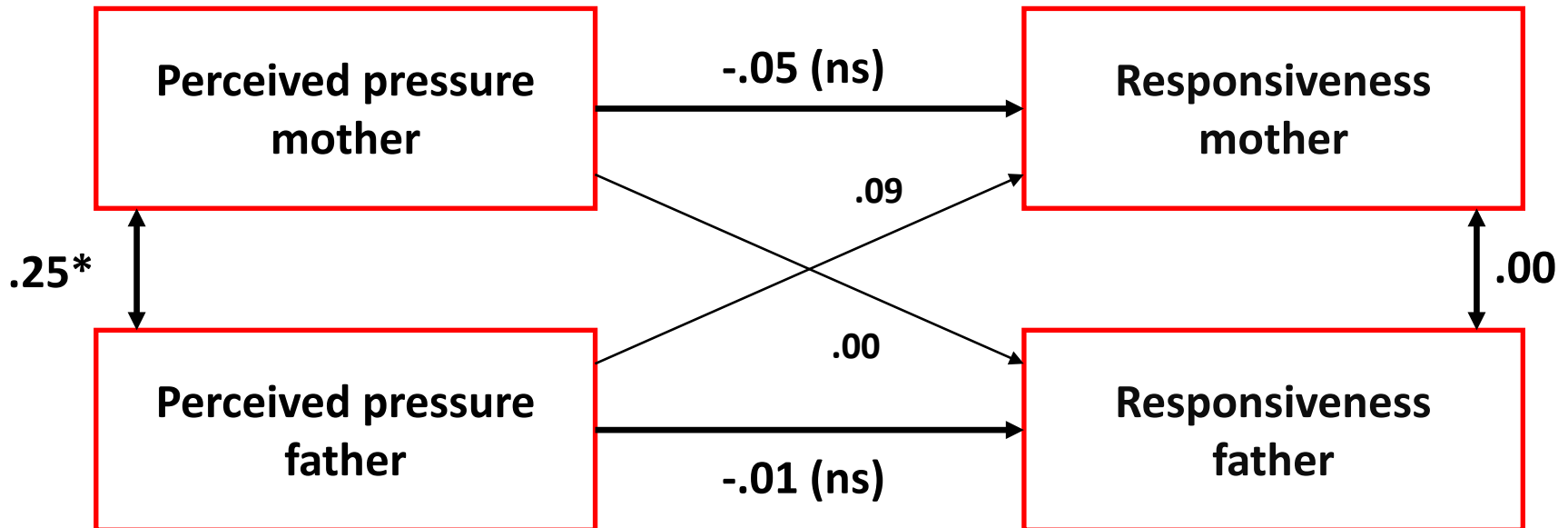
# Societal expectations

## Parents under pressure



# Societal expectations

## Parents under pressure

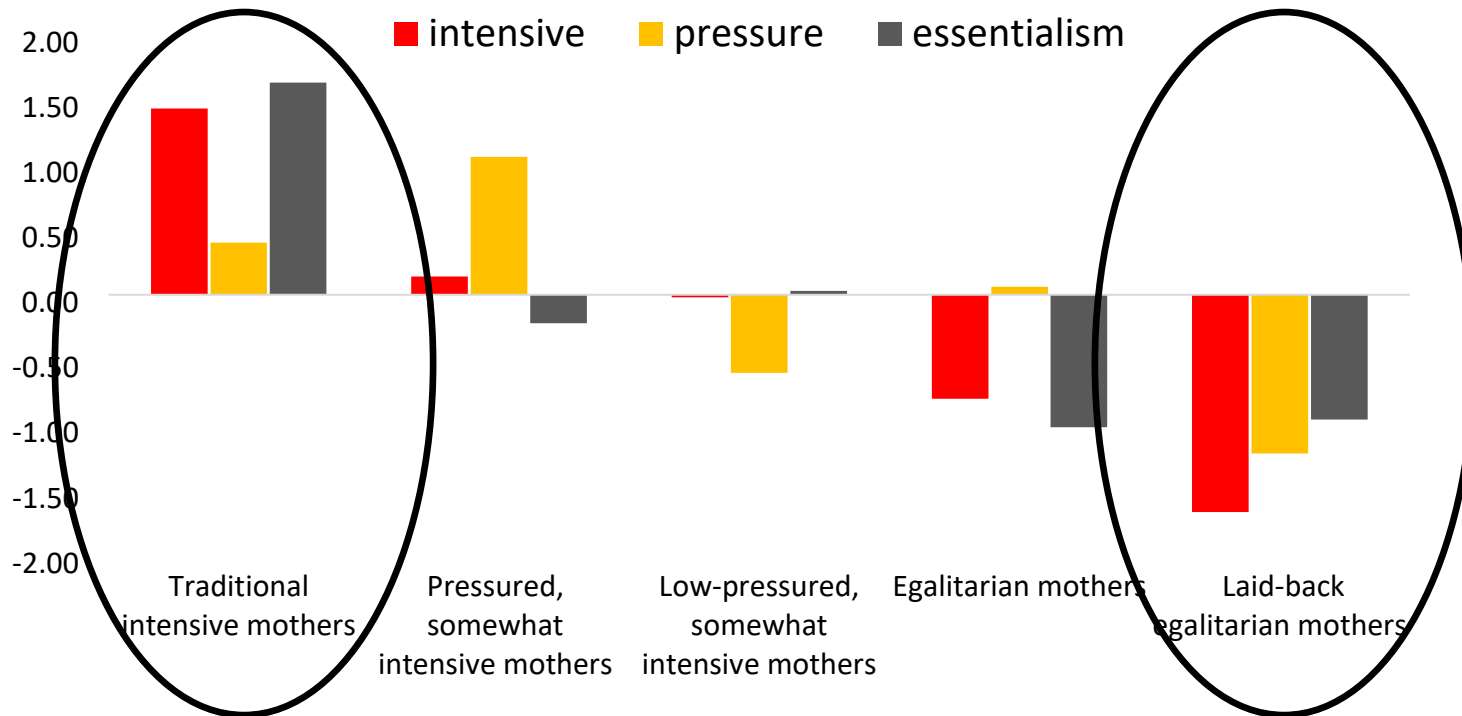


# Societal expectations



N = 1002 parents

## Typological approach



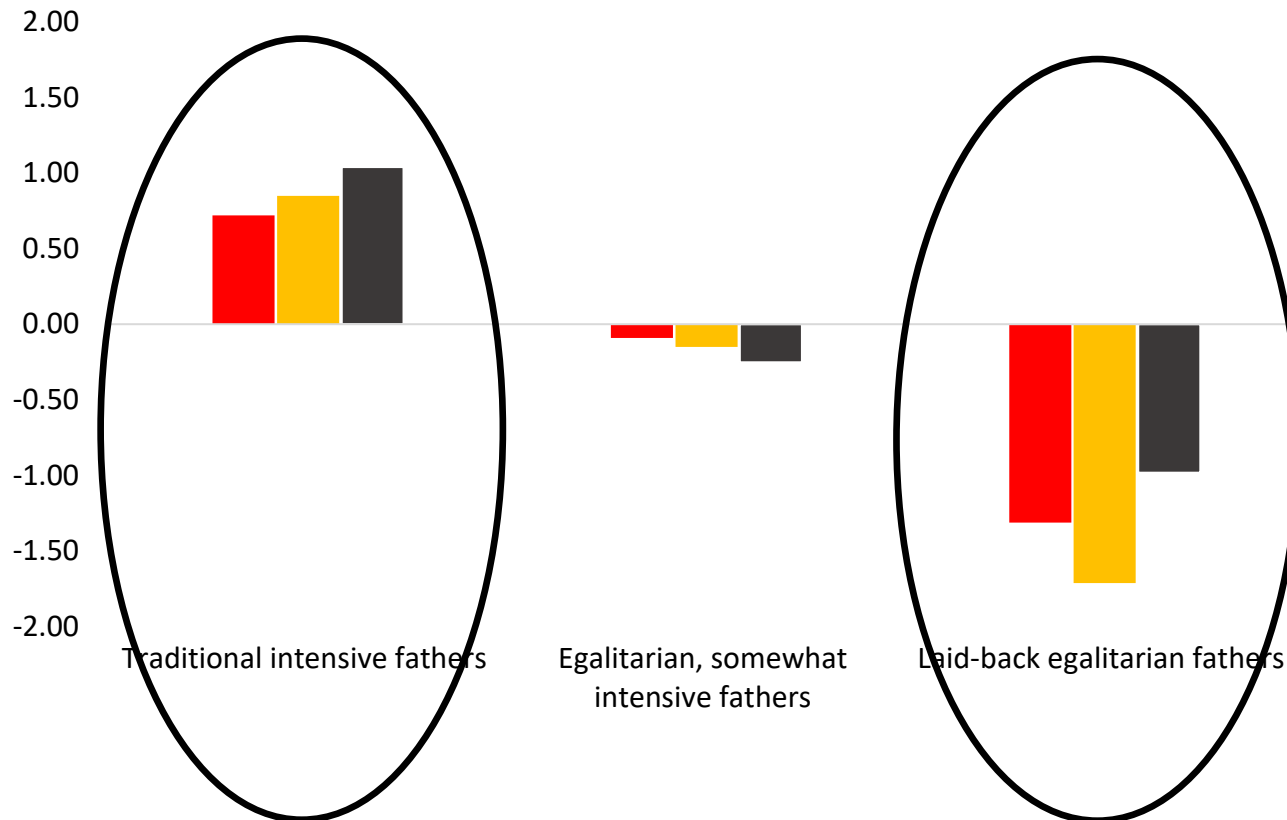


# Societal expectations



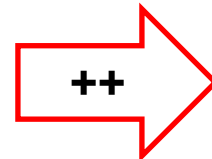
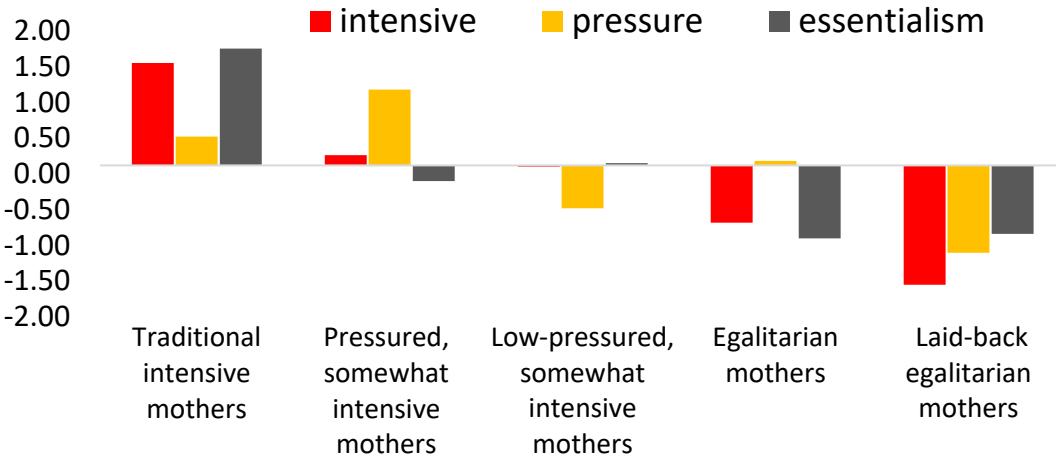
N = 1002 parents

## Typological approach

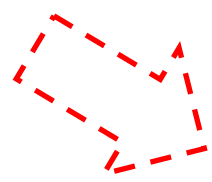
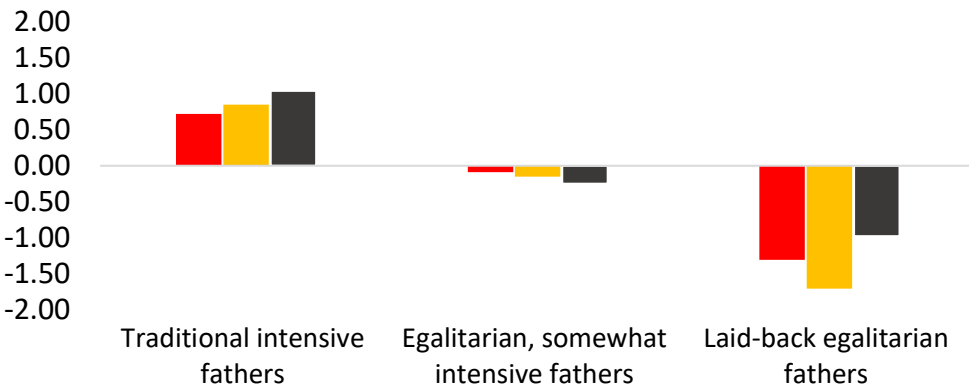


# Societal expectations

## Typological approach



**Overprotection & controlling involvement**



**Positive involvement**

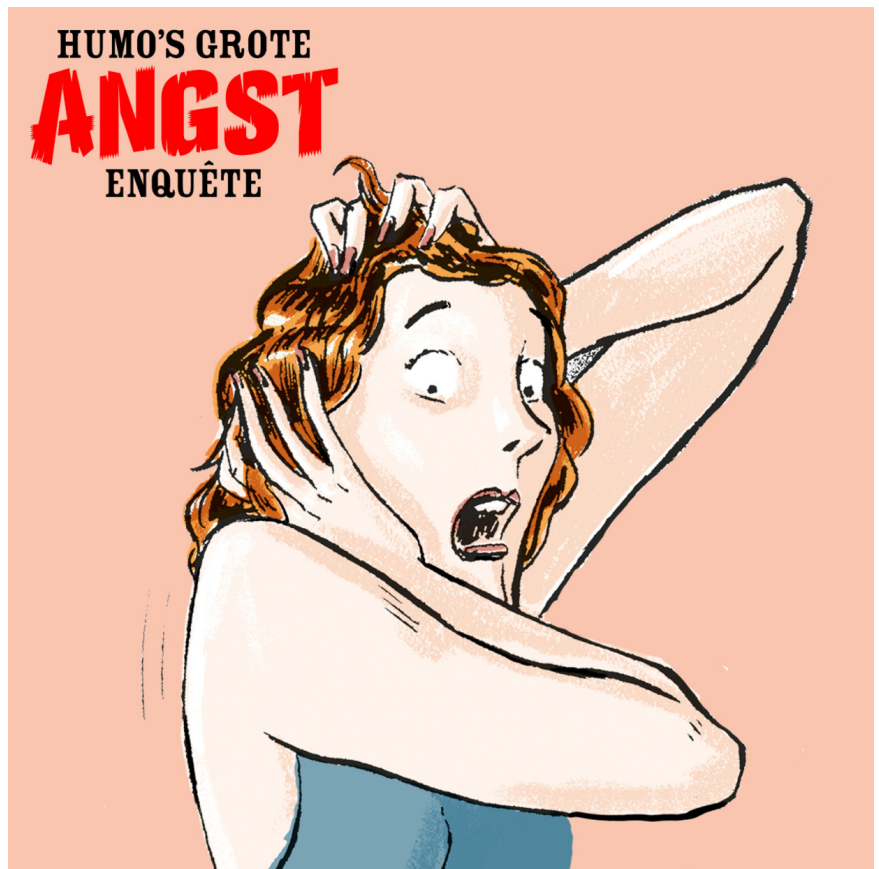
# Macrocontextual factors

## Survey

(HUMO, june 2022)

### The Belgians are worried, concerned or afraid about...

Rising prices and the own financial situation	82%
War, terror, and international security	81%
Climate change and extreme weather	73%
Health (incl. mental), pandemics and diseases	70%
Political situation in Belgium and Europe	67%
Refugees and migration	64%
Digitalisation	59%



# Macrocontextual factors

## Economic inequality and parenting



### **LOVE, MONEY, AND PARENTING**

How Economics Explains  
the Way We Raise Our Kids

**Matthias Doepke & Fabrizio Zilibotti**

# Macrocontextual factors

## Parents' economy perceptions

Focus on parents' *school involvement* (Cheung et al., 2016)

- Controlling involvement
- Autonomy-supportive involvement

## Parents' economy perceptions

- *Personal* situation (financial scarcity) (Hilbert et al., 2021)
- *National* economy
  - Perceived income inequality (Sommet et al., 2019)
  - Perceived national job insecurity (Shoss et al., 2022)

# Economy perceptions

Parents' school involvement



N = 908 parents

**Controlling  
involvement**

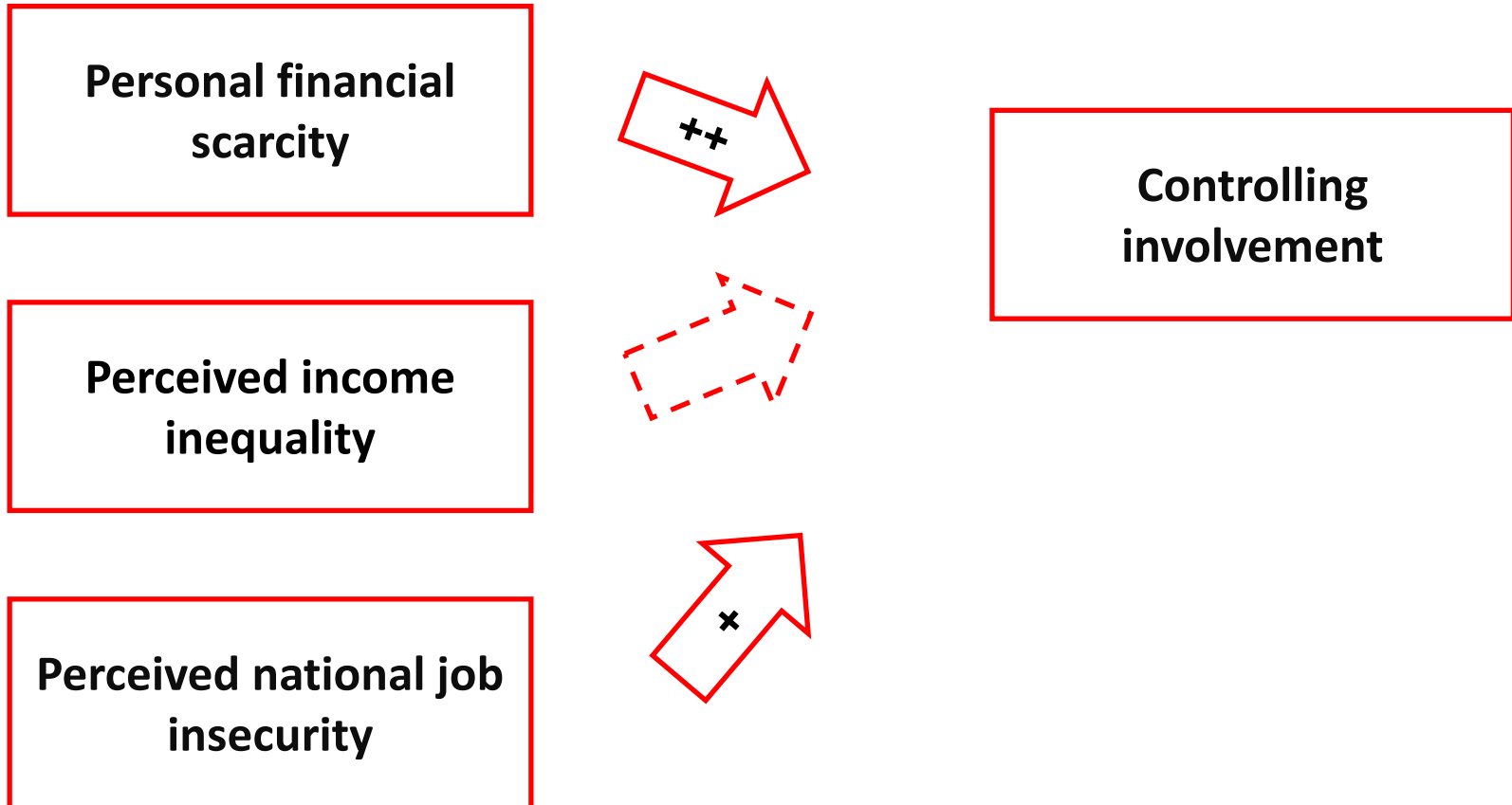
**Autonomy-supportive  
involvement**

# Economy perceptions



N = 908 parents

## Parents' school involvement



# Conclusion

## What to take home?

### Overprotective parenting

- Different from appropriate school involvement
- Risk factor for difficulties

### Macrocontextual factors

- Societal expectations and pressures
- Economic insecurities



contact

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