

SAFE SORRY

Gender Ideology and Overprotective Parenting:
Examining the Intervening Role of Parents' Adherence
to an Intensive Parenting Ideology

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Introduction

Social norms about gender roles shape our ideologies about how to be a good mother or a good father and may prescribe different parenting practices for mothers and/or fathers.

Gender Ideology

- Traditional Vs Egalitarian
- 2 facets
 - Essentialism: breadwinner / caregiver model → mothers naturally better parents than fathers
 - Gender attitudes concerning the role of women and men in the society

Intensive parenting

Parents must be attentive, available, responsive → important implications for a child's development

- Parents totally responsible for their children's outcomes → parental determinism (Lee et al., 2014)
- Parents should sacrifice themselves for their children (Loyal et al., 2017)
- Childcare is a child-centered activity (Hays, 1996)

→ Extreme pressure on parents, and especially mothers ?
→ Different standards of parenting ? Intensive mothering VS involved fatherhood (Lee et al., 2014)

Overprotective Parenting

- Excessive level of parental protection, considering the developmental level of the child (Thomasgaard et al., 1993)
- Important consequences on :
 - Children's mental health (Segrin et al., 2012)
 - Parents' mental health (Zimmermann et al., 2022)
- Two types of O.P.
 - Anxious (anxiety-driven age-inappropriate overprotective behaviors)
 - Ego-enhancing (boosting the child's ego in excessive ways) (Chevrier et al., 2022)

RESEARCH GOALS

- Examine the relation between parental gender ideology and parenting
- Intervening role of adherence to intensive parenting
- Same model for mothers and fathers?

Results

Table 1 Descriptive statistics, internal consistencies, and correlations between the variables

		Mean (SD)	α	1	2	3
1. Traditional Gender Ideology	Mothers	2.03 (.55)	.76	-		
	Fathers	1.92 (.57)	.88	-		
2. Intensive Parenting	Mothers	3.00 (.65)	.89	.47***	-	
	Fathers	2.83 (.60)	.89	.37***	-	
3. Ego-Overprotection	Mothers	2.41 (.67)	.67	.23*	.43***	-
	Fathers	2.29 (.60)	.70	-.17	.01	-
4. Anxious-Overprotection	Mothers	1.73 (.52)	.78	.24*	.28**	.14
	Fathers	1.54 (.46)	.84	.37**	-.01	.06

MOTHERS

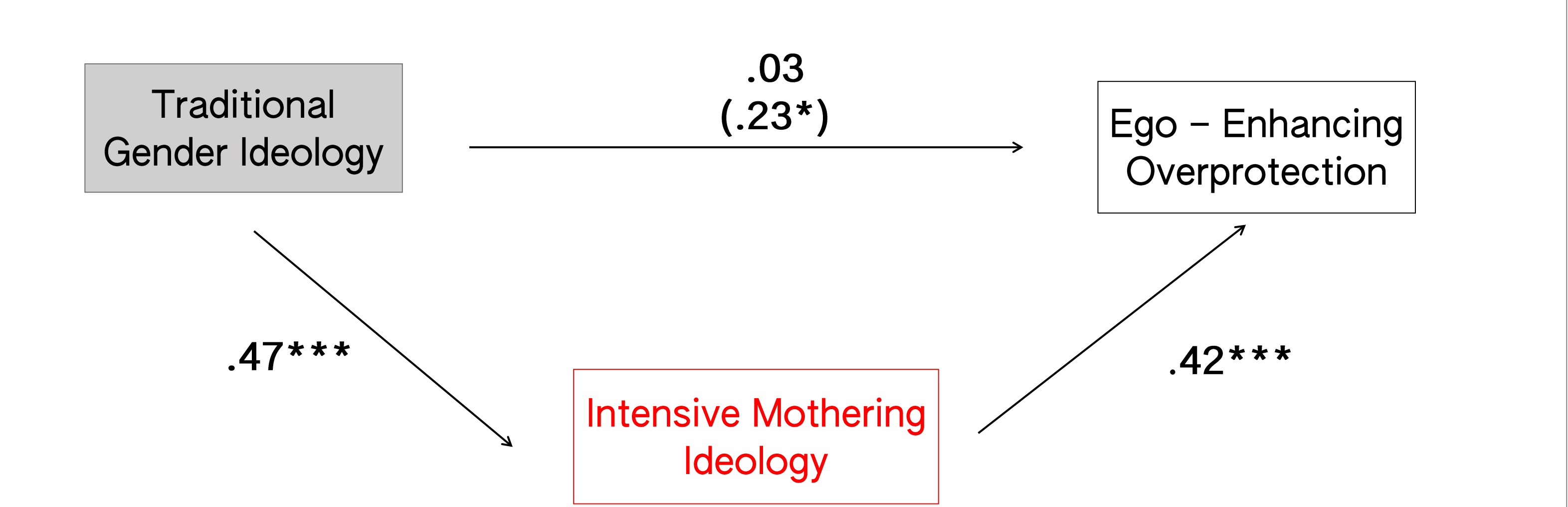


Figure 1. Mediation model for mothers' Ego-Enhancing Overprotection
Note. Coefficients correspond to standardized betas. Values in parentheses indicate the direct relationship before conducting the mediation model.

FATHERS

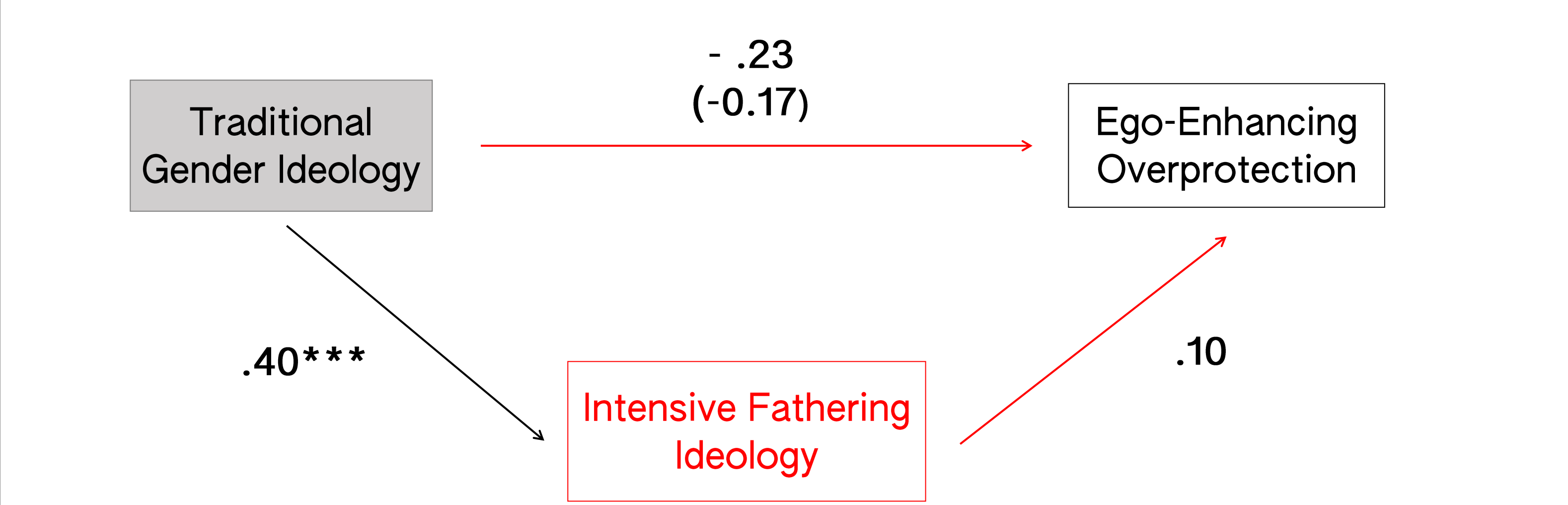


Figure 2. Mediation model for fathers' Ego-Enhancing Overprotection
Notes. Coefficients correspond to standardized betas. Values in parentheses indicate the direct relationship before conducting the mediation model. Red arrows indicate non-significant relationship.

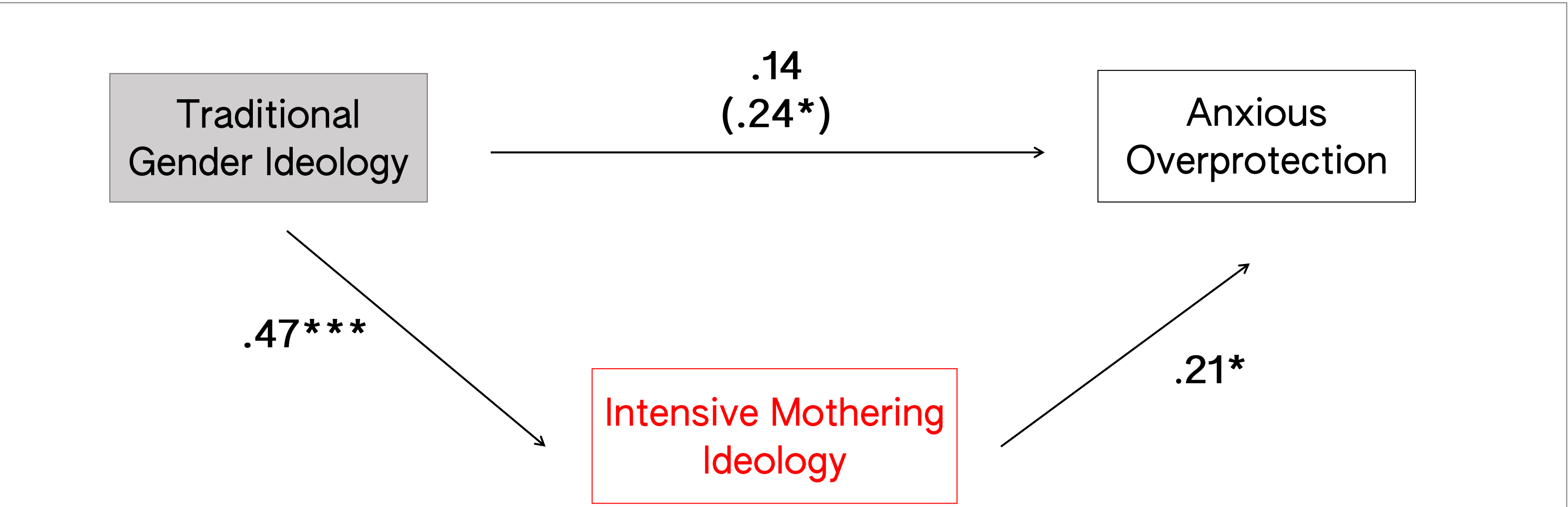


Figure 3. Mediation model for mothers' Anxious Overprotection
Note. Coefficients correspond to standardized betas. Values in parentheses indicate the direct relationship before conducting the mediation model.

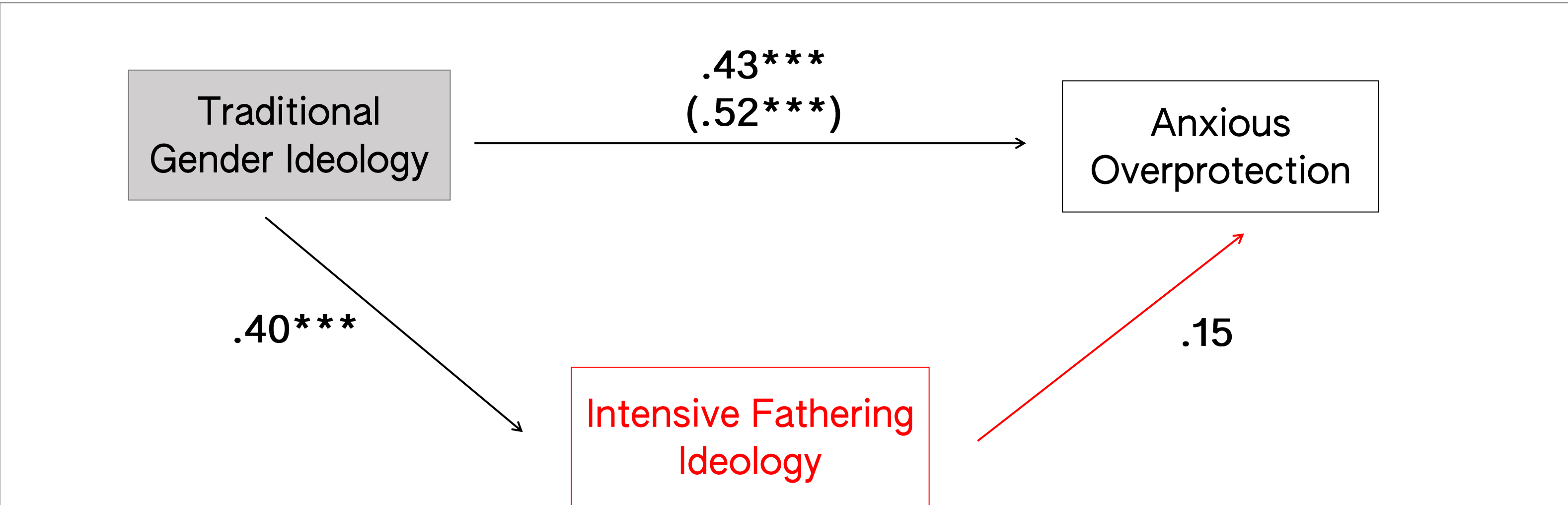


Figure 4. Mediation model for fathers' Anxious Overprotection
Note. Coefficients correspond to standardized betas. Values in parentheses indicate the direct relationship before conducting the mediation model. Red arrows indicate non-significant relationship.

Discussion

- Intensive parenting ideology relates to a traditional gender ideology for both parents
→ Different meaning for mothers and fathers ? → Intensive fathering expectations not in line with a traditional gender ideology for fathers
- Intensive parenting translates to overprotective parenting only for mothers
→ The ones typically affected by the high demanding expectations of intensive mothering discourse? (Newman & Henderson, 2014)
→ Link stronger with ego-enhancing overprotection / In line with a highly child-centered intensive parenting (mothering?) ideology (Hays, 1996)
- Traditional gender ideology and anxious overprotection of fathers ?
→ Traditional breadwinner model vs new, more involved father models
→ Intensification of fatherhood? (Lee et al., 2014)

FUTURE RESEARCH

- Better understand how fathers experience contemporary fatherhood (e.g., Johansson, 2011)
- Beyond the traditional VS egalitarian ideology (Grunow et al., 2018)
→ implications for parenting?
- Clusters of parents?



This research was supported by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement n° 950289).

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