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 \rightarrow 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 \rightarrow • <u>Two types of O.P.</u> important implications for a child's development

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)

SAMPLE

Method

- N = 177 Belgian parents of adolescents ($M_{age} = 16.6, 56.3\%$ female)
- 104 mothers (M_{age} = 48.09, 76% in couple, 75% university diploma, 54% monthly household revenue > \in 4000)
- 73 fathers (M_{age} = 49.77, 82% in couple, 80% university diploma, 71% monthly household revenue > €4000)

MEASURES

- Parents totally responsible for their children's outcomes \rightarrow 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)
- \rightarrow Extreme pressure on parents, and especially mothers?

 \rightarrow Different standards of parenting ? Intensive mothering VS involved fatherhood (Lee et al., 2014)

Results

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

		Mean (SD)	α	1	2	3
1. Traditional	Mothers	2.03 (.55)	.76	-		
Gender Ideology	Fathers	1.92 (.57)	.88	-		
2. Intensive	Mothers	3.00 (.65)	.89	.47***	-	
Parenting	Fathers	2.83 (.60)	.89	.37***	-	
3. Ego-	Mothers	2.41 (.67)	.67	.23*	.43***	-
Overprotection	Fathers	2.29 (.60)	.70	17	.01	-

- - Anxious (anxiety-driven age-inappropriate overprotective behaviors)
 - Ego-enhancing (boosting the child's ego in excessive ways) (Chevrier et al., 2022)

RESEARCH GOALS

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

Overprotective parenting (Chevrier et al., 2022)

Anxious Overprotection (10 items) \rightarrow "I immediately see danger whenever my child wants to do something new."

Ego-Enhancing Overprotection (6 items) \rightarrow "When my child is not doing as well at school, I say that it is not his/her fault."

Adherence to intensive parenting ideology (self-constructed)

Child Centeredness (5 items) \rightarrow "Children should be the greatest" preoccupation in a mother's / father's life."

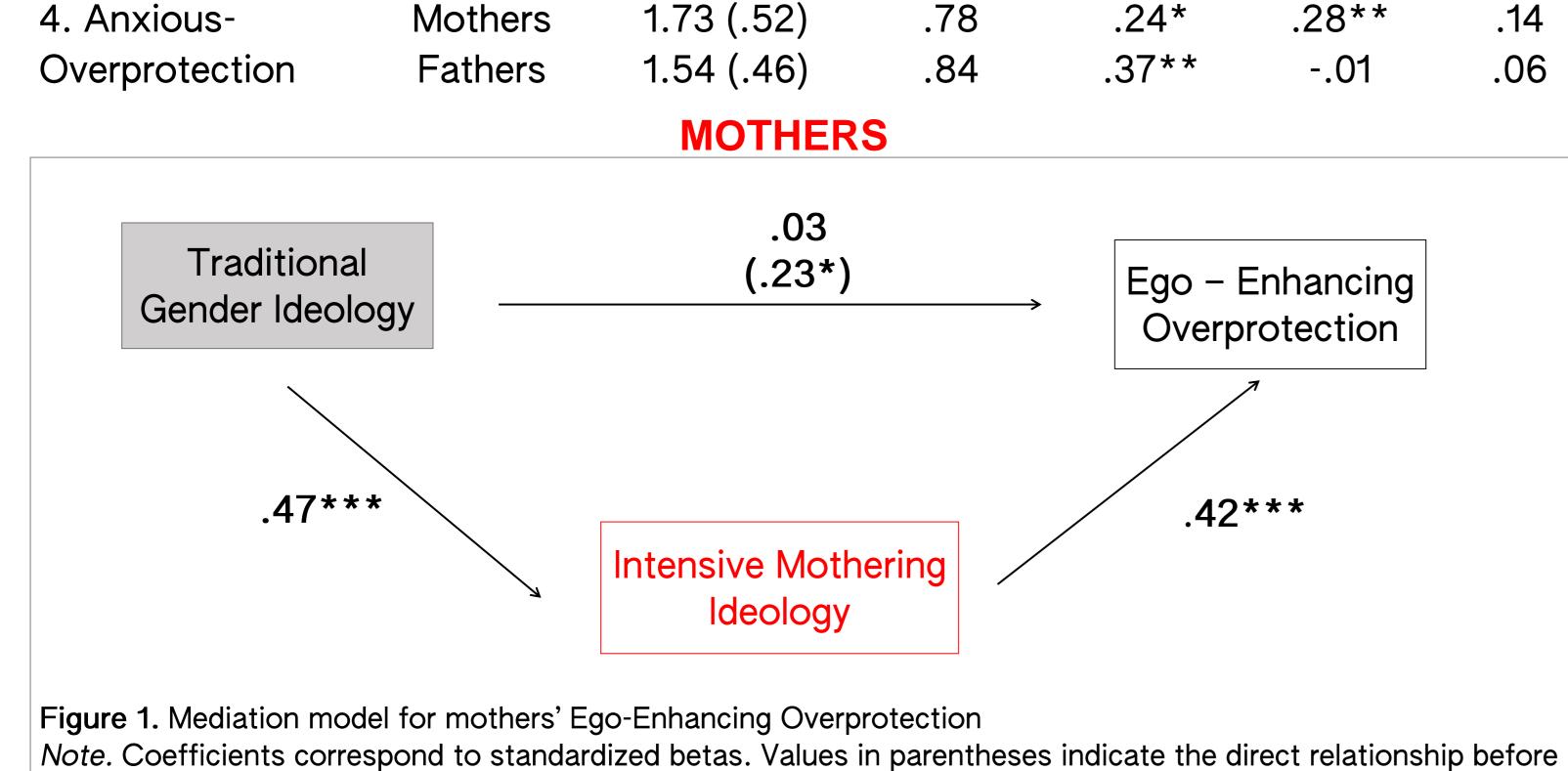
Parental Sacrifice (5 items) \rightarrow "A mother/father should be ready to make almost any sacrifice for their children."

Parental Determinism (5 items) \rightarrow "Ultimately, it is the mother /father" who is responsible for how her / his children turn out."

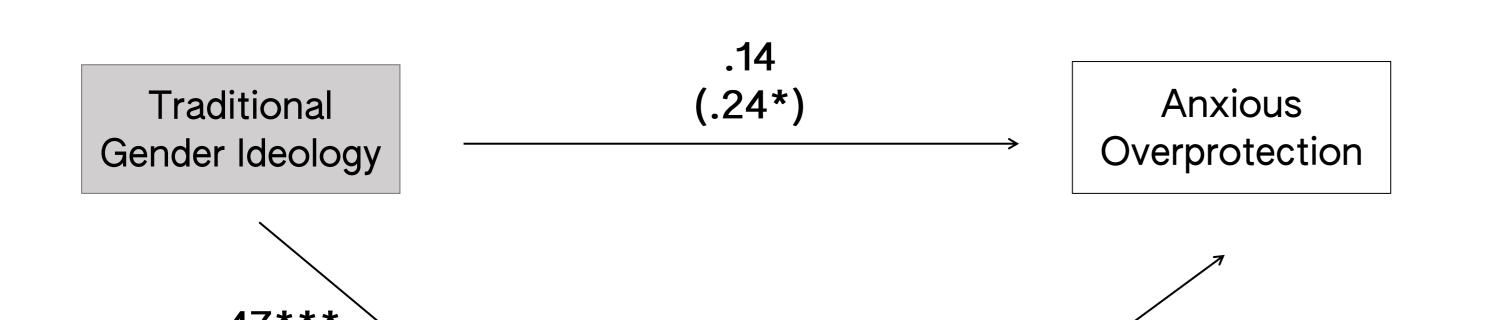
Traditional Gender Ideology (Liss et al., 2013; Greenstein et al., 2012)

Essentialism (6 items) \rightarrow "Although fathers are important, ultimately" children need mothers more."

Traditional Gender Attitudes (8 items) \rightarrow "A woman must have" children to feel fulfilled."



conducting the mediation model.



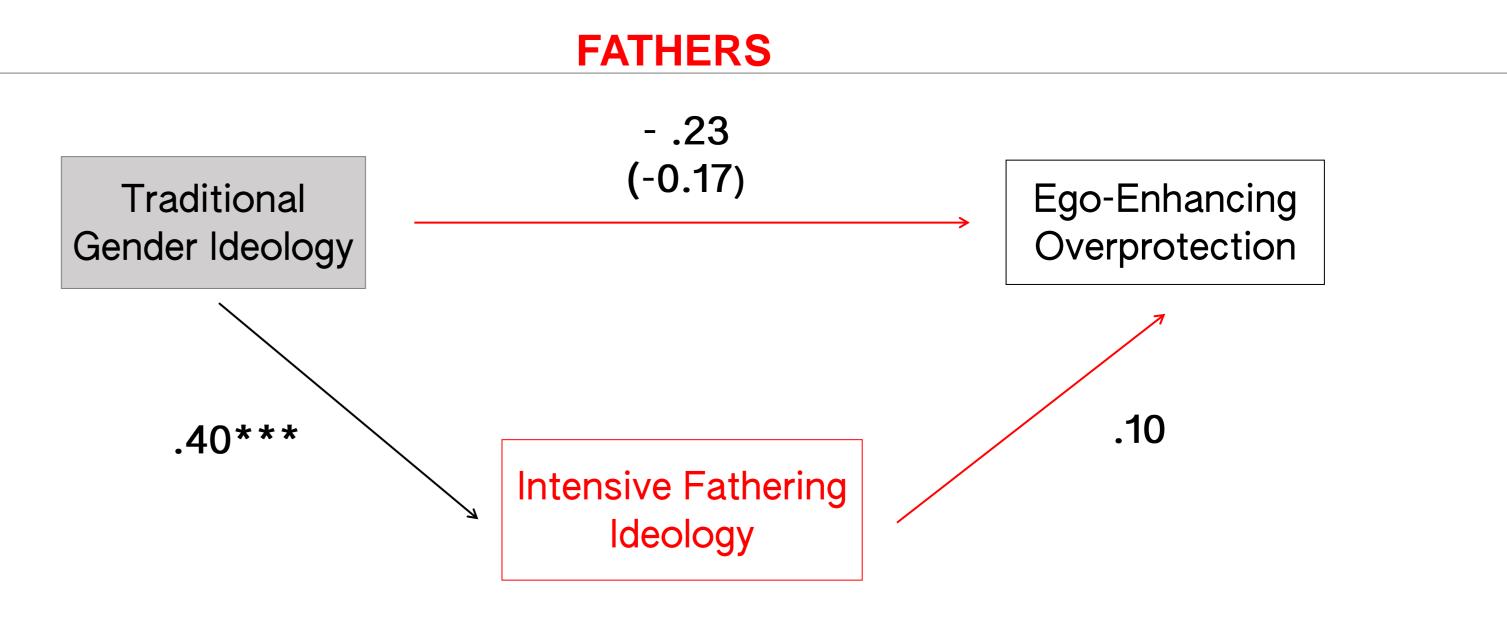


Figure 2. Mediation model for fathers' Ego-Enhancing Overprotection Notes. Coefficients correspond to standardized betas. Values in parentheses indicate the direct relationship before conducting the mediation model. Red arrows indicate non-significant relationship.

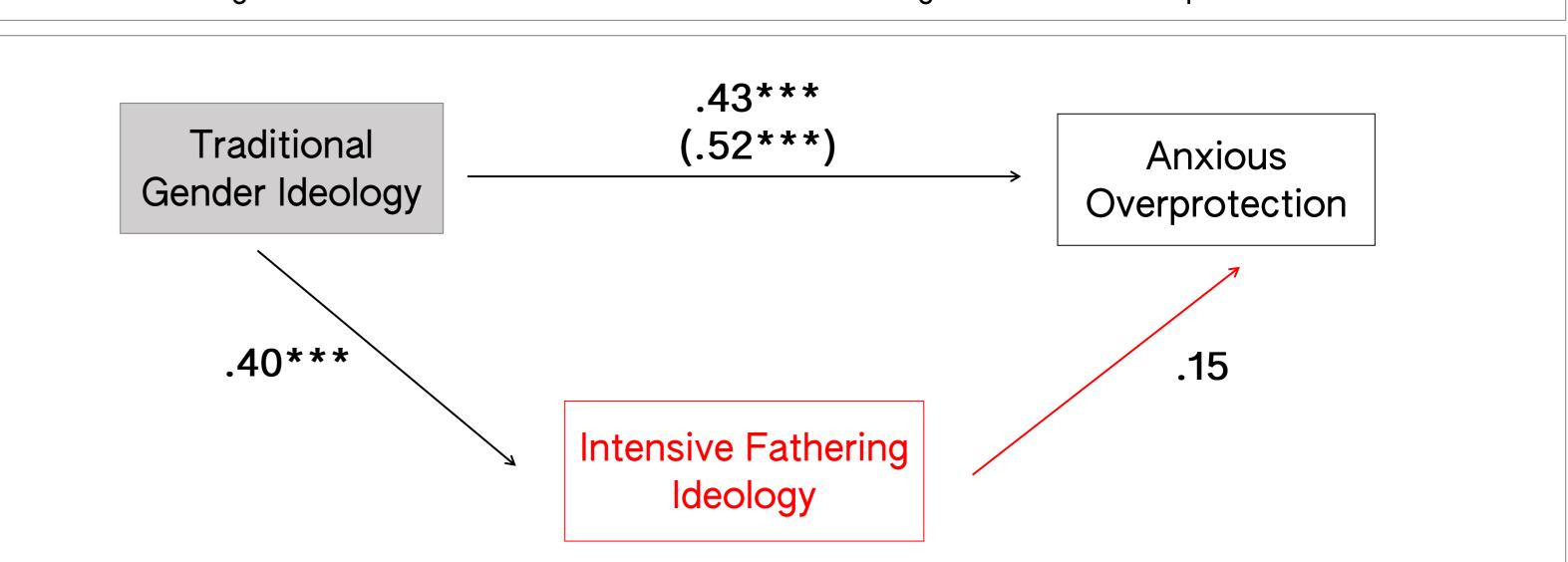




Figure 3. Mediation model for mothers' Anxious Overprotection

Note. Coefficients correspond to standardized betas. Values in parentheses indicate the direct relationship before conducting the mediation model.



- Intensive parenting ideology relates to a traditional gender ideology for **both parents** \rightarrow Different meaning for mothers and fathers ? \rightarrow 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? \rightarrow Traditional breadwinner model vs new, more involved father models \rightarrow Intensification of fatherhood? (Lee et al., 2014)



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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.

FUTURE RESEARCH

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