

# Better safe than sorry?

## Identifying causes of overprotective parenting in a changing social world

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# Introduction

Better safe than sorry?



# Overprotective parenting

## Conceptualization

History: pediatric and psychiatric literature (e.g., Parker, 1983)

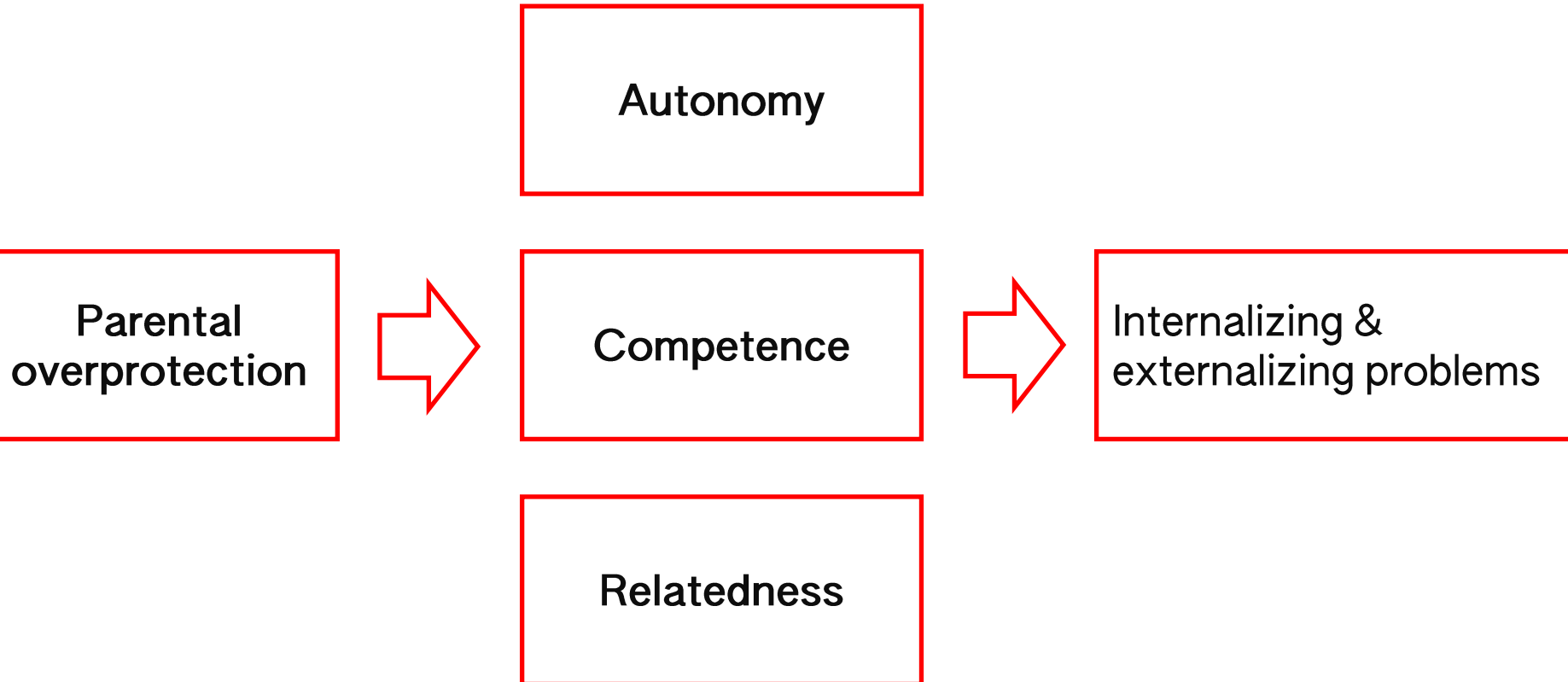
« The provision of a level of protection that is excessive, considering the child's developmental level » (Thomasgard et al., 1995)

In adolescence and young adulthood, e.g.,

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

# Overprotective parenting

## Consequences



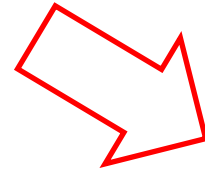
Van Petegem, S., Antonietti, J. P., Nunes, C. E., Kins, E., & Soenens, B. (2020). The relationship between maternal overprotection, adolescent internalizing and externalizing problems, and psychological need frustration: A multi-informant study using response surface analysis. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*,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

# Overprotective parenting

## Determinants

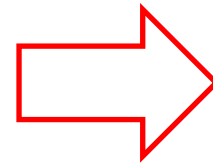
### Parent factors

- Anxiety, perfectionism
- Attachment style



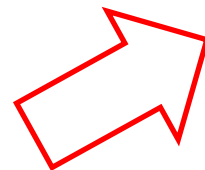
### Child factors

- Inhibition
- Pediatric conditions



### Contextual factors

Societal, economic and cultural factors?



Parental  
overprotection

# SAFE-SORRY

## Macrocontextual factors

Intensive mothering ideology  
(Hays, 1996)

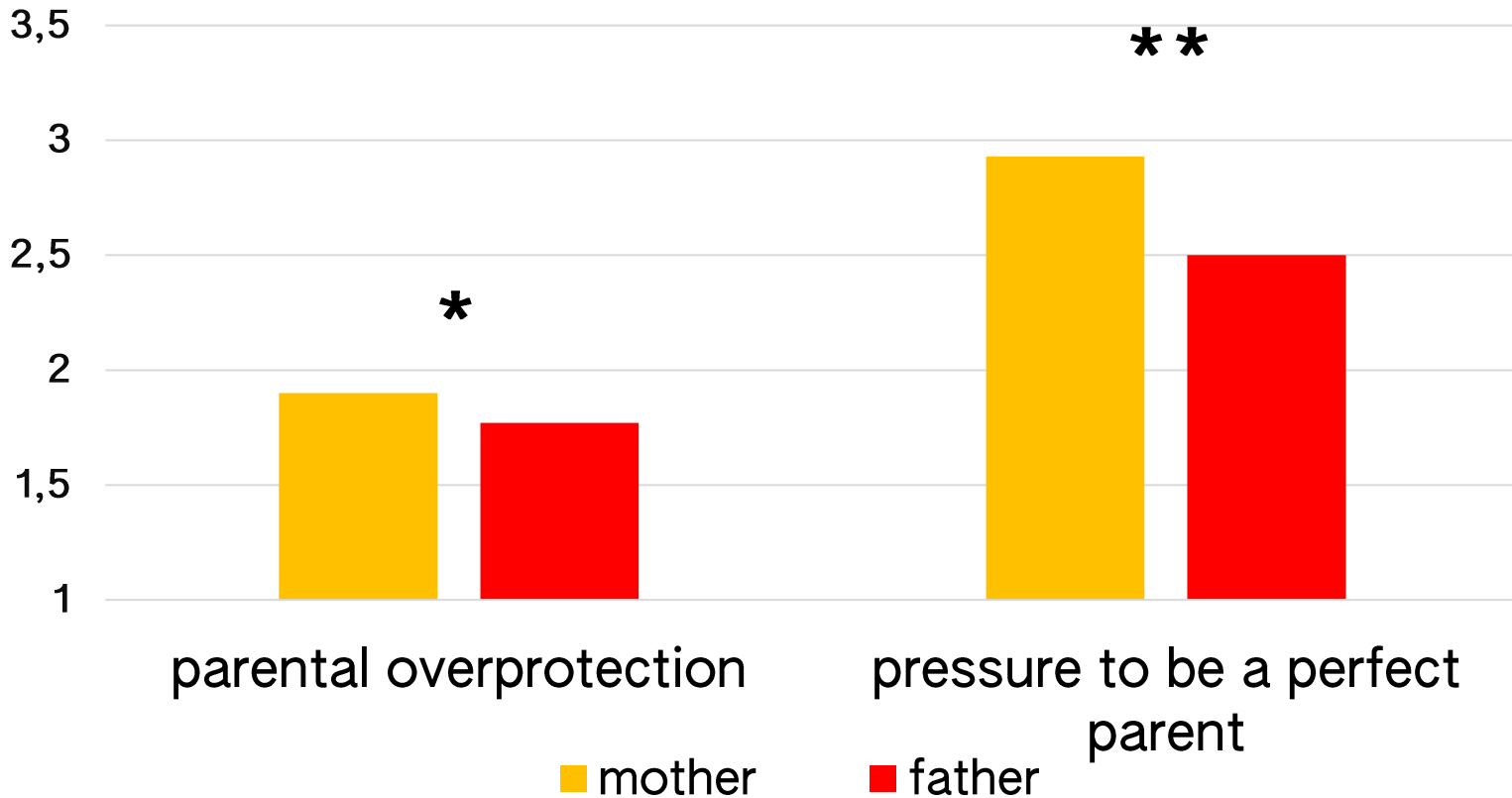
E.g., self-sacrifice

- Pressure, guilt, shame
- Gendered representations



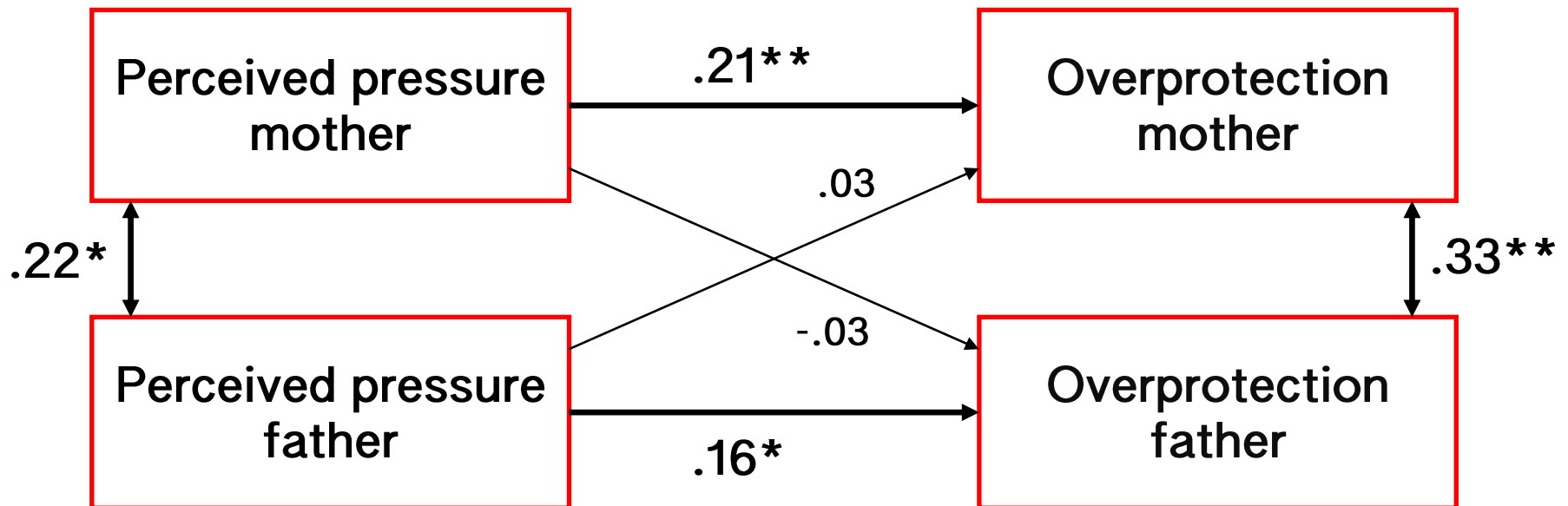
# Swiss data

## Parents of adolescents



# Swiss data

## Actor-partner interdependence model





# SAFE-SORRY

## Macrocontextual factors

### Pressure on parents

- Intensive mothering ideology (Hays, 1996)

### World = dangerous

- « culture of fear » (Furedi, 2018)

### Economic inequality

- Competitiveness and precarity (Doepke & Zilibotti, 2019)

### Risk and resilience

# SAFE-SORRY

## Methodology

### Longitudinal study

- Parents of adolescents transitioning out of highschool

### Experimental and qualitative research

- Sexting: qualitative and vignette-base
- Economic inequality: observational

### Cross-cultural study

- Collaboration between 8 (+3) countries



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