

Better Safe than **Sorry**

Parents' perceptions of the economy, intolerance to uncertainty, and parental involvement in academics

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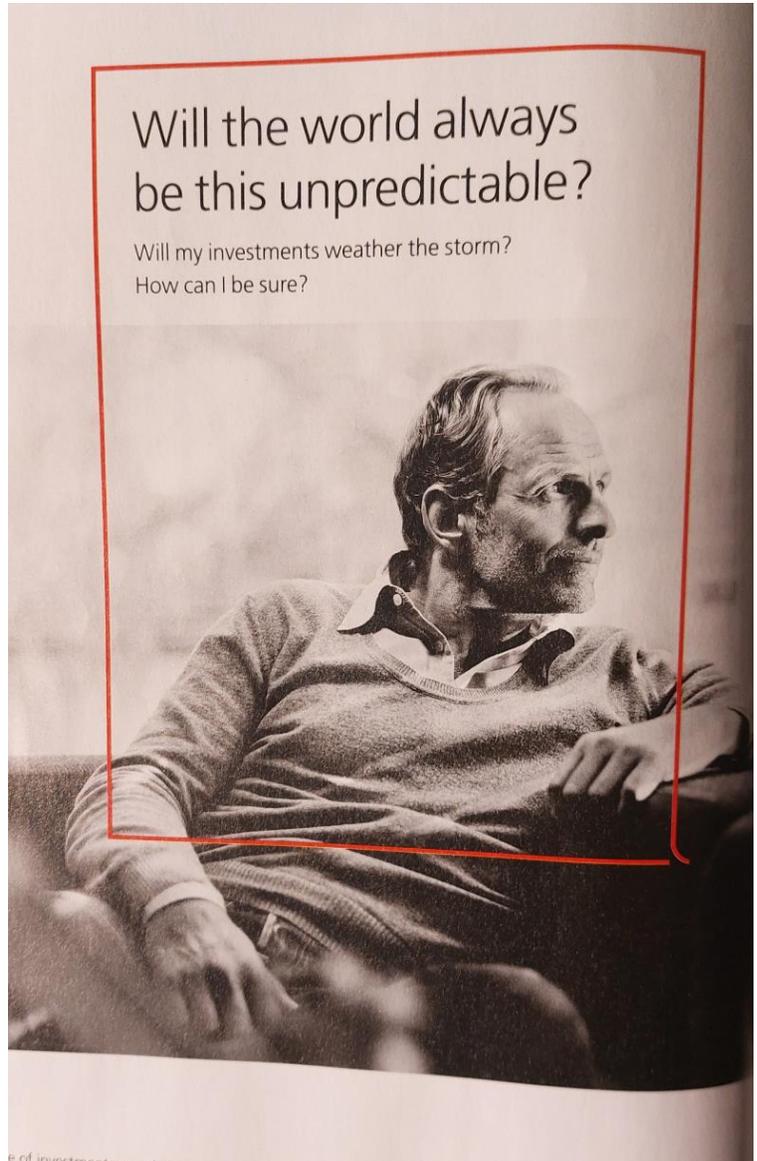
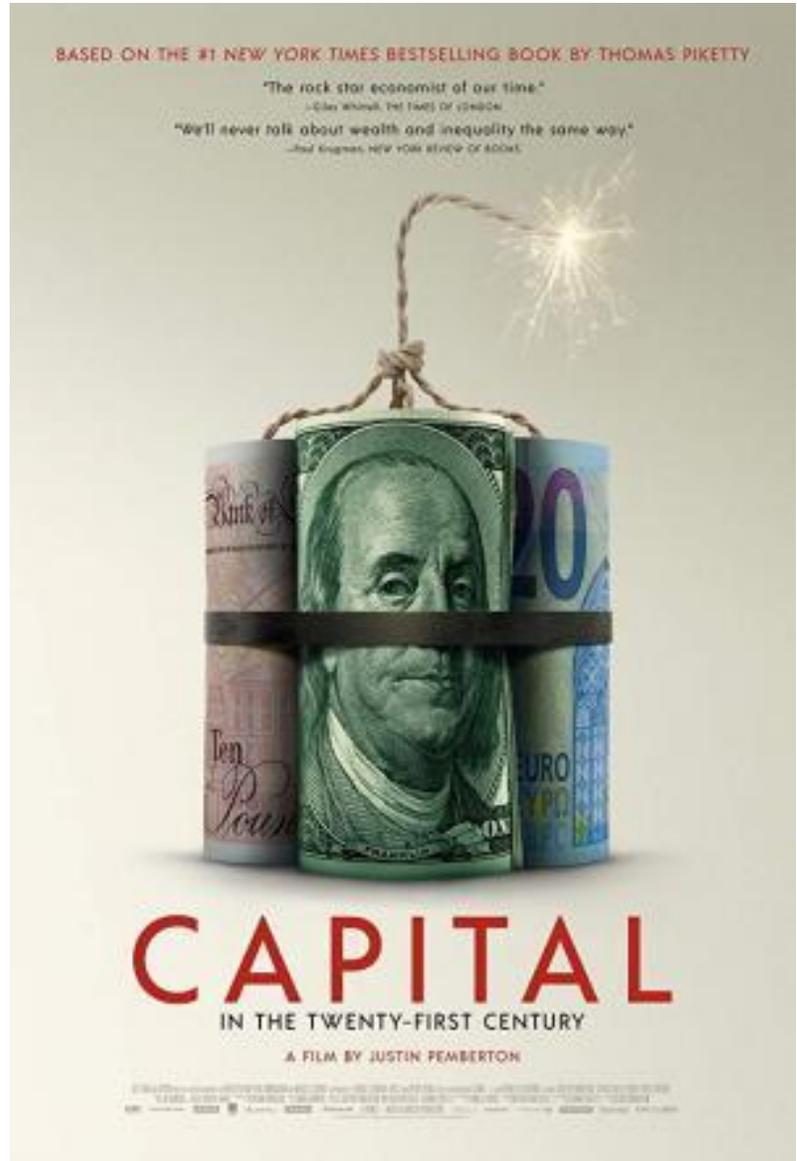
Background

Goals

Methods

Results

Limitations & Discussion



1 How do parents perceive economic threats and insecurities?

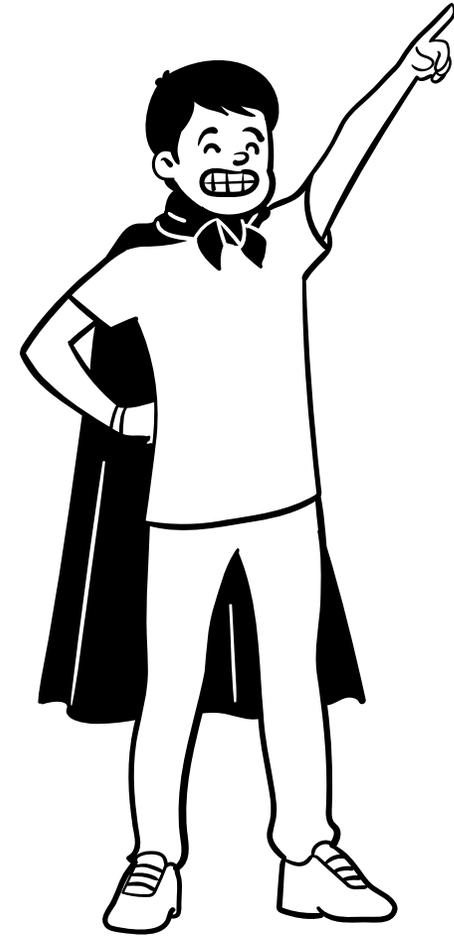
- Economic inequality
- Job insecurity



2 How might it shape their parenting involvement?

3 Which parents might be more or less sensitive?

Higher national inequality driving **overinvolved parenting** out of an effort to ensure academic success and security for their children's futures.



Perceptions of job insecurity (individual) have been linked to authoritarian parenting

Could parents be taking their economic insecurities about the job market home with them? (Spillover mechanism)

For which parents might this be true?



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Research Goals

Study 1 Relation between parental economic perceptions and dimensions of parental academic involvement

Study 2 Potential moderating role of parental personality (i.e., intolerance to uncertainty)

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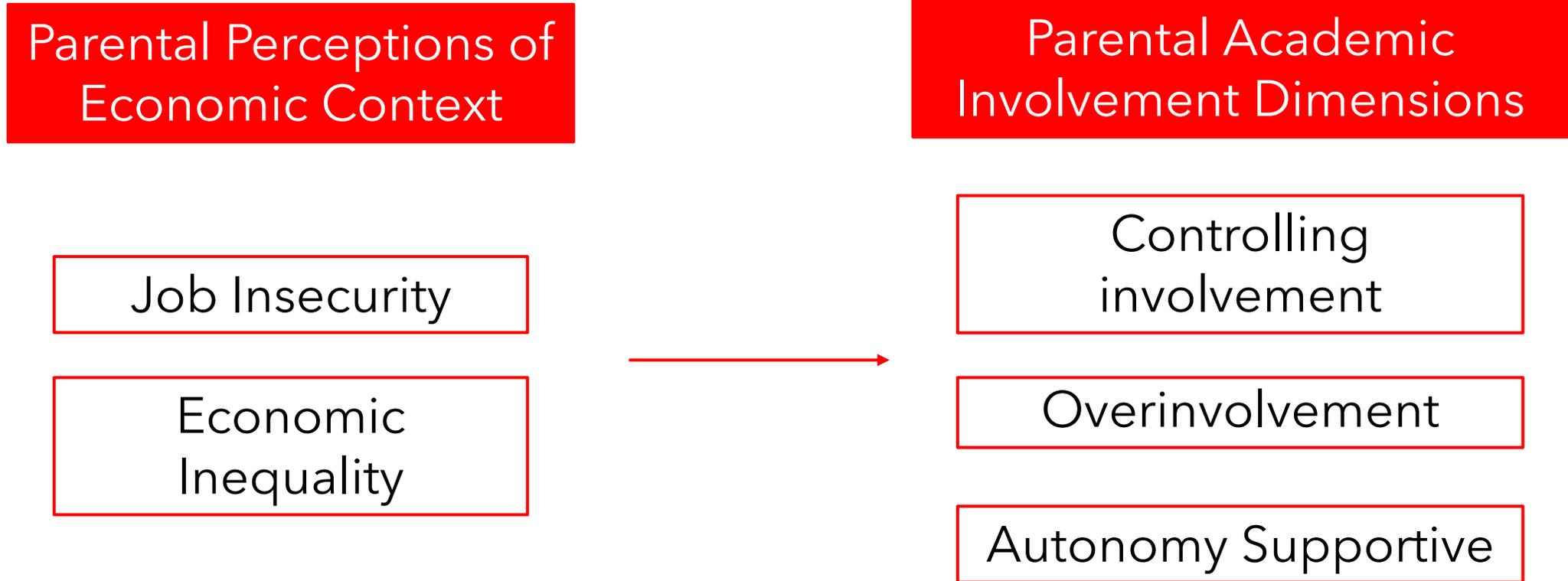
Study 1

Study 2

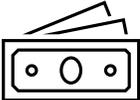
Results

Limitations & Discussion

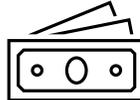
Study 1: Direct links were tested between parental perceptions of the economic context and their involvement



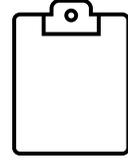


Mother characteristics	
n	710
M _{age}	48.7 years
	81% higher education
	37% had a household income over €4,300



Father characteristics	
n	457
M _{age}	50.5 years
	77% higher education
	48% had a household income over €4,300

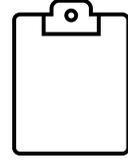
Scales



Parents Perceptions of their Involvement

- a. Academic Overinvolvement (adapted from Chevrier et al., 2022, 5 items)
- "I meddle in the school affairs of my child."
 - "I am constantly checking in with my child about school results."
 - "I am overly concerned about my child's academic performance."

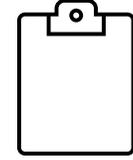
Scales



Parents Perceptions of their Involvement

- b. Autonomy Support (Cheung et al., 2016, 8 items)
 - “I allow my child to make her own decisions about her school work”
- c. Controlling involvement (Cheung et al., 2016, 10 items)
 - “I tell my child that when she is older, she will appreciate the expectations I had for her about school”
 - “I insist my child do things my way when it comes to school”

Scales



Parental Perceptions of the Economic Context

- a. National Economic Inequality (3 items, Sommet et al., 2019)
 - “There is an enormous gap between the rich and the poor.”
 - “There is a big difference between the highest 1% income and the others.”
- b. National Job Insecurity (3 items, Schoss et al., 2022)

In Belgium...

- “there is a general feeling that many people will soon lose their jobs”
- “a lot of people feel insecure about the future of their jobs”

Scale Reliabilities

Scale	Cronbach's α Mother	Cronbach's α Father
Job Insecurity	0.82	0.82
Economic Inequality	0.83	0.82

Scale Reliabilities

Scale	Cronbach's α Mother	Cronbach's α Father
Academic Overinvolvement	0.63	0.74
Controlling involvement	0.81	0.80
Autonomy Support	0.77	0.71

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Job market insecurities

French-speaking Belgian parents scored on average around the middle on feelings of insecurity about the labor market in Belgium.



Income inequality

French-speaking Belgian parents, on average, agree that there is much income inequality in our society.



Overview: Regressions for Mothers and Fathers on Different Parenting Involvement Dimensions



Over-involvement

Controlling

Autonomy-Supportive

Variable

Inequality

.00

.00

.02

-.05

.06

.05

Standardized coefficients: *p < 0.05 **p < 0.01 ***p. < 0.001

Overview: Regressions for Mothers and Fathers on Different Parenting Involvement Dimensions



Over-involvement

Controlling

Autonomy-Supportive

Variable

Job Insecurity

.16***

.15**

.15***

.20***

-.03

-.03

Standardized coefficients: *p < 0.05 **p < 0.01 ***p. < 0.001

Overview: Regressions for Mothers and Fathers on Different Parenting Involvement Dimensions



Over-involvement

Controlling

Autonomy-Supportive

Variable

Income

-.10

-.11

-.20**

-.23*

-.02

-.12

Standardized coefficients: *p < 0.05 **p < 0.01 ***p. < 0.001

Overview: Regressions for Mothers and Fathers on Different Parenting Involvement Dimensions



Over-involvement

Controlling

Autonomy-Supportive

Variable

	Over-involvement	Controlling	Autonomy-Supportive
Job Insecurity	.16***	.15**	.15***
Inequality	.00	.00	.02
Income	-.10	-.11	-.20**

Standardized coefficients: *p < 0.05 **p < 0.01 ***p. < 0.001

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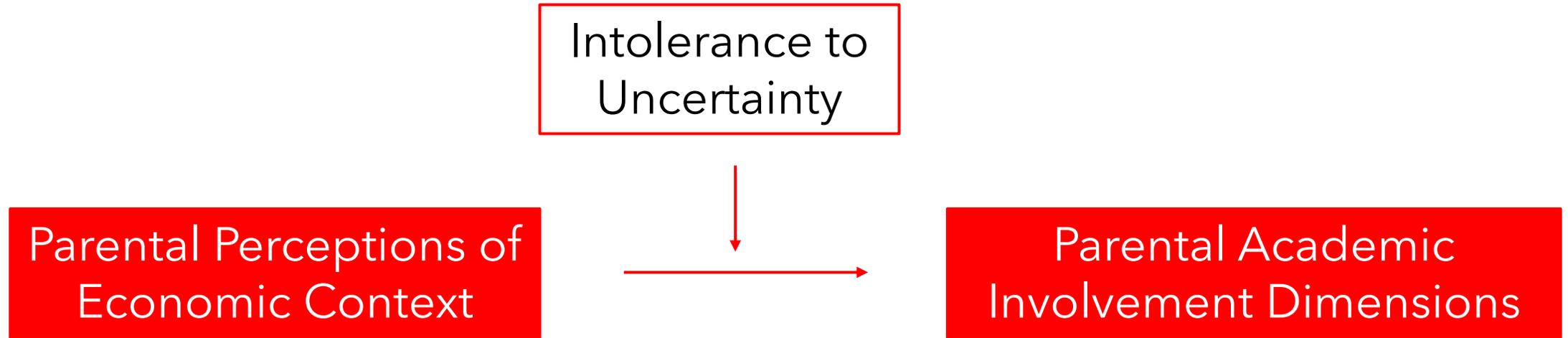
Study 1

Study 2

Results

Discussion

Study 2 : The moderating effect of intolerance to uncertainty was tested



- ✓ 1 free carry-on
- 🧳 1st checked bag: €60

Continue

- ✓ 1 free carry-on
- ✓ 1st checked bag free

Continue

- ✓ 1 free carry-on
- ✓ 2 free checked bags

Continue

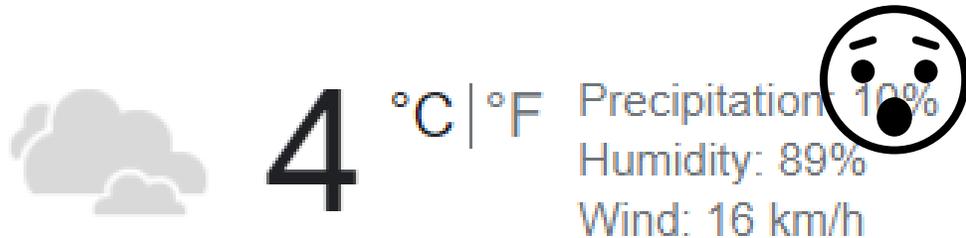
Fare and baggage fees apply to your entire trip. The exact bag fees are **unknown**. **Bag fees may be higher at the airport.** [Delta bag policy](#)

The exact bag fees are **unknown**.



The uncertain nature of parenting: "Will my child return to class in one piece?"

Uncertainty Intolerance



“Tendency to find possible future negative events unacceptable and threatening *regardless of the probability of their occurrence*”

Intolerance to Uncertainty

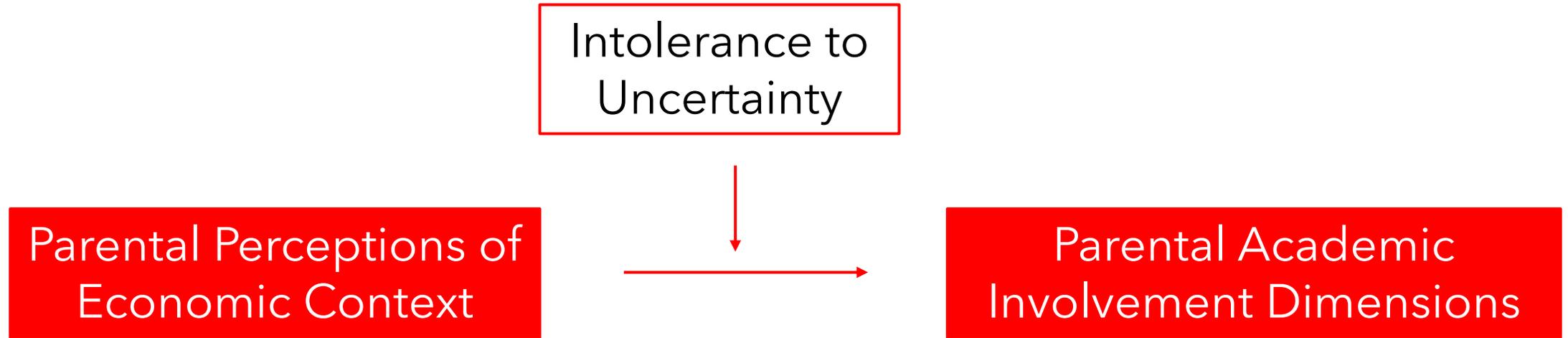
I've got 99 problems and 86 of them are completely made up scenarios in my head that i'm stressing about for absolutely no reason



Blood pressure
Anxiety
Threat perception
"What if" thoughts

-
4. Greco & Roger, 2003; Buhr & Douglas, 2009, Davey et al., 2007, Ottavani et al., 2014

Study 2 : The moderating effect of intolerance to uncertainty was tested



Scales

Prospective Anxiety subscale of the Intolerance to Uncertainty scale

(Carleton et al., 2007, 12 items)

- "Unforeseen events upset me greatly"
- "I can't stand being taken by surprise"
- "One should always look ahead so as to avoid surprises"

Background

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Study 2

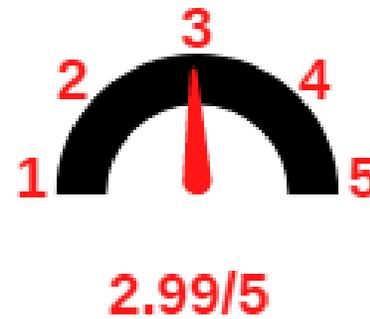
Discussion

Scale Reliabilities

Scale	Cronbach's α Mother	Cronbach's α Father
Intolerance to Uncertainty	.88	.89

Intolerance to Uncertainty

Parents on average scored at the midpoint on their ability to tolerate certainty.



Overinvolvement

Variable



Coeff.



Job Insecurity

.10*

.08

Uncertainty intolerance

.16**

.08

Job Insecurity x Uncertainty
intolerance

.00

.00

No moderator effect

Standardized coefficients; *p < 0.05 **p < 0.01 ***p. < 0.001

Controlling involvement

<i>Variable</i>		Coeff.	
Job Insecurity	.05		.15**
Uncertainty intolerance	.18***		.09
Job Insecurity x Uncertainty intolerance	-.04		.02

No moderator effect

Standardized coefficients; *p < 0.05 **p < 0.01 ***p. < 0.001

Background

Study Goals

Methodology

Results

Limitations & Discussion

Limitations

We cannot infer causal relationships among the variables

- These shortcomings will be addressed with **future long-term research**

Little ability to interpret differences between parental gender

The way you feel about jobs in your country may affect your parenting

When you feel secure about jobs, you exert less controlling involvement

This holds for fathers and for mothers

Intolerant to uncertainty matters, the more intolerant, the more controlling and overinvolved

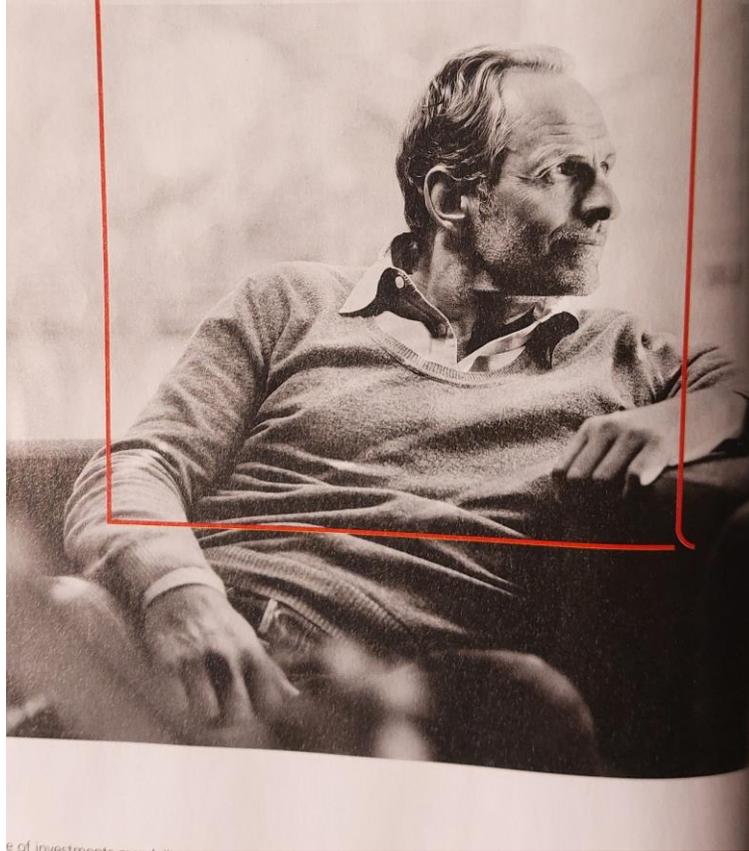


Academic overinvolvement and controlling parenting as a coping strategy in the face of economic threats and insecurities



Will the world always
be this unpredictable?

Will my investments weather the storm?
How can I be sure?



Thank you!