

How Do Turkish Immigrant and Native Belgian Adolescents Interpret Psychological Control, Monitoring, and Overprotective Parenting Practices?

Şule Selçuk^a, Stijn Van Petegem^b

^aHacettepe University, TURKEY, ^bUniversité Libre de Bruxelles, BELGIUM

INTRODUCTION

- Adolescents' interpretations of and reactions to parenting practices vary considerably (Kakihara et al., 2010; Smetana et al., 2011; Van Petegem et al., 2019).
- These variations are of critical importance since the impact of parenting practices on adolescent adjustment differs according to adolescents' interpretations of these parenting practices (Camras et al., 2017).
- However, there is a dearth of research that has directly focused on adolescents' interpretations of parental control practices (e.g., Camras et al., 2017; Kakihara & Tilton-Weaver, 2009).
- **The main aim of this study:**

To investigate the role of cultural background in adolescents' interpretations of parental control practices and to better understand the cultural roots of differential interpretations.

Specifically, we aim to (1) compare immigrant Turkish adolescents' and native Belgian adolescents' interpretations of three types of parental control practices listed below in terms of perceived parental intentions, anticipated feelings, and perceived legitimacy of the parental control practices

- ✓ *Psychological control*: love withdrawal & guilt induction
- ✓ *Monitoring*: solicitation & rule-setting
- ✓ *Overprotection*: anxious rearing & premature problem solving

2) examine the mediating role of various cultural dimensions (perceived cultural normativity of parental control practices, adolescents' individualistic and collectivistic orientation and self-construals) and the predictive role of acculturation orientations of Turkish immigrant adolescents on adolescents' parental control interpretations, controlling for perceived parental warmth (see the conceptual model).

METHOD

Participants

- 200 second- and third-generation Turkish immigrant adolescents & 200 native Belgian adolescents aged between 16-18 years residing in French-speaking parts of Belgium [based on G-power analysis (effect size = .20, α = .05, power = .85)]
- Adolescents will be recruited through schools with a high number of immigrant students and via youth centers ("Maisons des Jeunes")

Procedure

- Vignette development in English
- Translation & back-translation of study materials
- Ethical approval & pilot study
- Passive informed consent from parents and written informed consent from adolescents
- Data collection in schools and youth centers in group sessions

Materials

- **Demographic information questionnaire**
 - gender, age, their parents' birthplace (i.e., Belgium versus another country), languages spoken at home, household income, parents' age, education level, subjective socioeconomic status, etc.
- **Vignettes and measures after each vignette**
 - 6 vignettes consisting of two to three sentences depicting a hypothetical situation in which the mother uses one of the six control behaviors.
- **Veridicality of the vignettes**
 - 2 items evaluating realism and credibility of the vignettes
- **Perceived similarity with parents' behaviors and perceived frequency** (control variables)
 - 2 items evaluating perceived similarity with their own parents' behavior and perceived frequency of such parental behaviors
- **Interpretations of Parenting Control Practices**

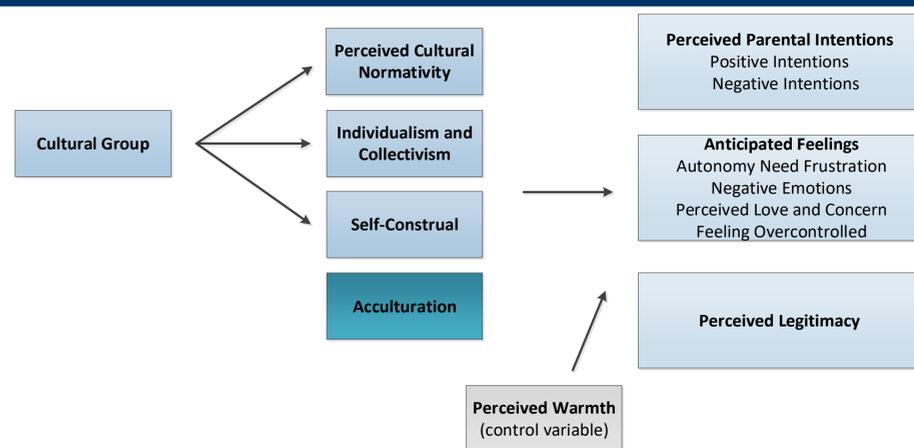
After each vignette, adolescents will rate 20 items after the statement "If my mother would act as such,..."

- 1) Underlying parental intentions
 - Positive intentions (3 items), Negative intentions (3 items)
- 2) Anticipated feelings
 - Autonomy need frustration (3 items), Negative emotions (2 items), Perceived love and concern (3 items), Feeling overcontrolled (3 items)

METHOD (continued)

- 3) Perceived Legitimacy (3 items)
 - **Perceived Cultural Normativity**
 - 1 item adapted from Lansford et al. (2005)
 - **Individualism and Collectivism**
 - 8-item Individualism and Collectivism Scale (Triandis & Gelfand, 1998): horizontal individualism & vertical collectivism
 - **Self-Construal**
 - 21-item Autonomy-Relatedness in Family Scales (Kağıtçıbaşı et al., 2006)
 - **Acculturation Orientation** (only Turkish immigrant adolescents)
 - 14-item Vancouver Index of Acculturation (Ryder et al., 2000)
 - **Parental Warmth** (control variable)
 - 10-item acceptance subscale of the revised Child Report of Parent Behavior Inventory (CRPBI; Schaefer, 1965)

THE CONCEPTUAL MODEL



HYPOTHESES

- H1:** Compared to native Belgian adolescents, Turkish immigrant adolescents will report relatively more benign interpretations regarding all parental control practices [less negative and more positive intentions (1a), less negative feelings (1b), and greater legitimacy perceptions (1c)].
- H2:** Across both cultural groups, higher perceived cultural normativity will be related to more benign interpretations (2a). Differences in cultural normativity perceptions will account for the between-group differences that are expected in Hypothesis 1 (2b).
- H3:** Across both cultural groups, individualistic orientation will be associated with more negative interpretations whereas collectivistic orientation will be linked with more benign interpretations (3a). Differences in individualistic and collectivistic orientation will account for the between-group differences that are expected in Hypothesis 1 (3b).
- H4:** Across both cultural groups, compared to the autonomous-separate self-construal, the related and autonomous-related self-construals will be associated with more benign interpretations (4a). Differences in self-construals will account for the between-group differences that are expected in Hypothesis 1 (4b).
- H5:** Greater orientation to the Belgian culture (in terms of acculturation) will be associated with more negative interpretations, whereas greater orientation towards Turkish culture will relate to more benign interpretations among Turkish immigrant adolescents.

ANALYSIS

- Repeated measures MANCOVA and follow up ANCOVAs to test Hypotheses 1a, 1b, and 1c
- Path analyses to test Hypotheses 2, 3, 4
- A separate path analysis in which acculturation orientation is included as a predictor to test Hypothesis 5

REFERENCES

- Camras, L. A., Sun, K., Fraumeni, B. R., & Li, Y. (2017). Interpretations of parenting by mainland Chinese and US American children. *Parenting, 17*(4), 262-280. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15295192.2017.1369330>
- Kağıtçıbaşı, C., Baydar, N., & Cemalcılar, Z. (2006). *Autonomy and Relatedness Scales* (Progress Report). Istanbul: Koc University.
- Kakihara, F., & Tilton-Weaver, L. (2009). Adolescents' interpretations of parental control: Differentiated by domain and types of control. *Child Development, 80*, 1722-1738. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8624.2009.01364.x>
- Kakihara, F., Tilton-Weaver, L., Kerr, M., & Stattin, H. (2010). The relationship of parental control to youth adjustment: Do youths' feelings about their parents play a role? *Journal of Youth and Adolescence, 39*, 1442-1456. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-009-9479-8>
- Lansford, J. E., Chang, L., Dodge, K. A., Malone, P. S., Oburu, P., Palmérus, K., ... & Quinn, N. (2005). Physical discipline and children's adjustment: Cultural normativeness as a moderator. *Child Development, 76*(6), 1234-1246. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8624.2005.00847.x>
- Ryder, A. G., Alden, L. E., & Paulhus, D. L. (2000). Is acculturation unidimensional or bidimensional? A head-to-head comparison in the prediction of personality, self-identity, and adjustment. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 79*(1), 49-65. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.79.1.49>
- Schaefer, E. S. (1965). Children's reports of parental behavior: An inventory. *Child Development, 36*, 413-424. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1126465>
- Smetana, J. G. (2011). Adolescents, families, and social development: How teens construct their worlds. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Triandis, H. C., & Gelfand, M. J. (1998). Converging measurement of horizontal and vertical individualism and collectivism. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 74*(1), 118-128. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.74.1.118>
- Van Petegem, S., Zimmer-Gembeck, M., Baudat, S., Soenens, B., Vansteenkiste, M., & Zimmermann, G. (2019). Adolescents' responses to parental regulation: The role of communication style and self-determination. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, 65*, 101073. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appdev.2019.101073>

CONTACT: sule.selcuk@hacettepe.edu.tr