

**“I’ll protect you
from everything”:**

**A gender approach
to parents’
overprotective
responses to
perceived threat**

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Overprotective Parenting

“excessive level of parental protection and involvement considering the developmental level of the child”

(Thomasgard et al., 1995)



Overprotective Parenting



. detrimental for both children and parents' mental health (Meeussen & Van Laar, 2018; Roskam & Mikolajczak, 2018; Schiffrin et al., 2019; Van Petegem et al., 2019; 2021)

. under-studied societal factors, e.g., economic context, environmental threats, social pressure, gender norms, etc.

(Doepke & Zilibotti, 2019; Fingerman et al., 2012; Furedi, 2018; Gaunt, 2016)

Research

Sample

Survey distributed through students in their last 2 years of secondary school



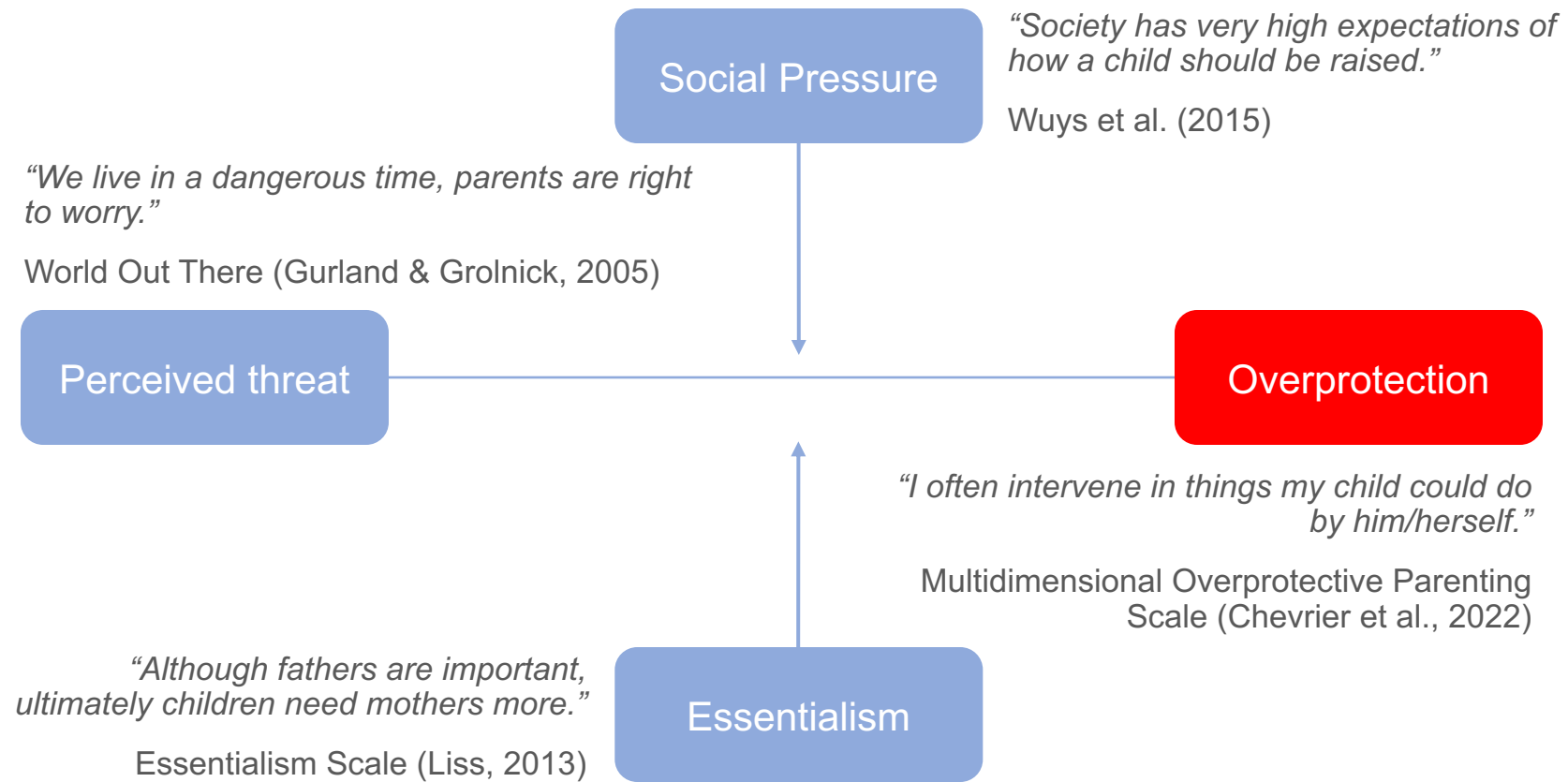
$N = 957$

♀ 591 · 366 ♂

$M_{age} = 49 (SD = 5)$

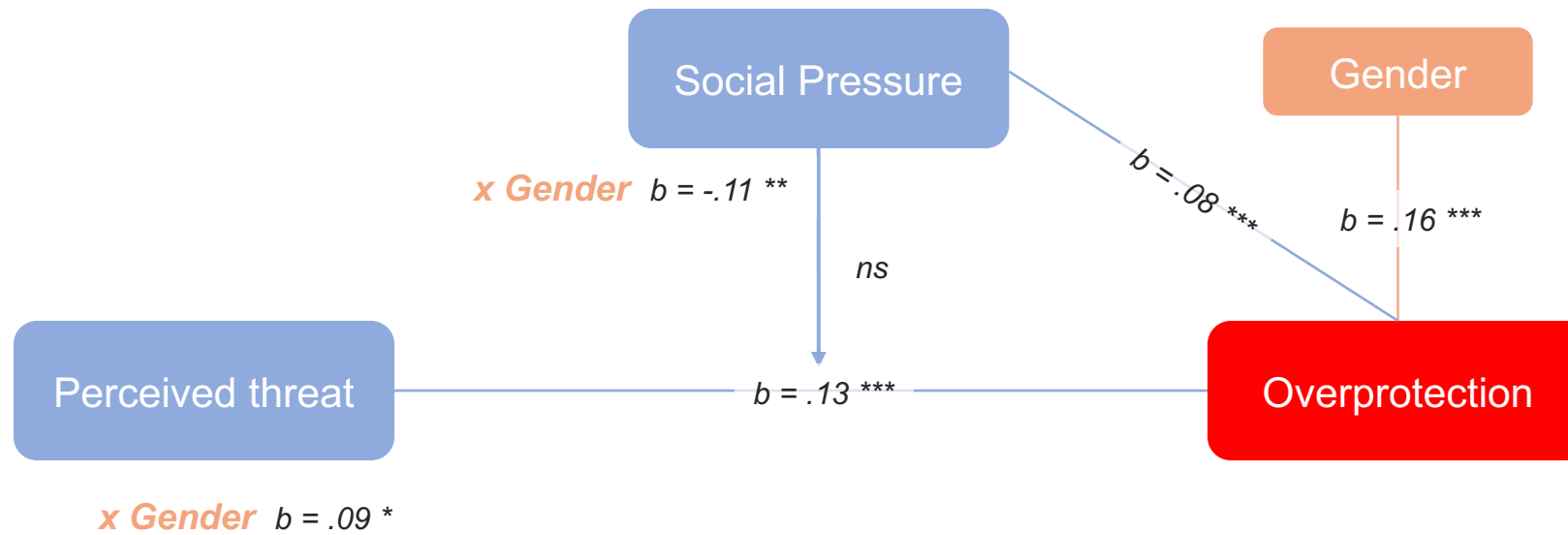
Research

Methods



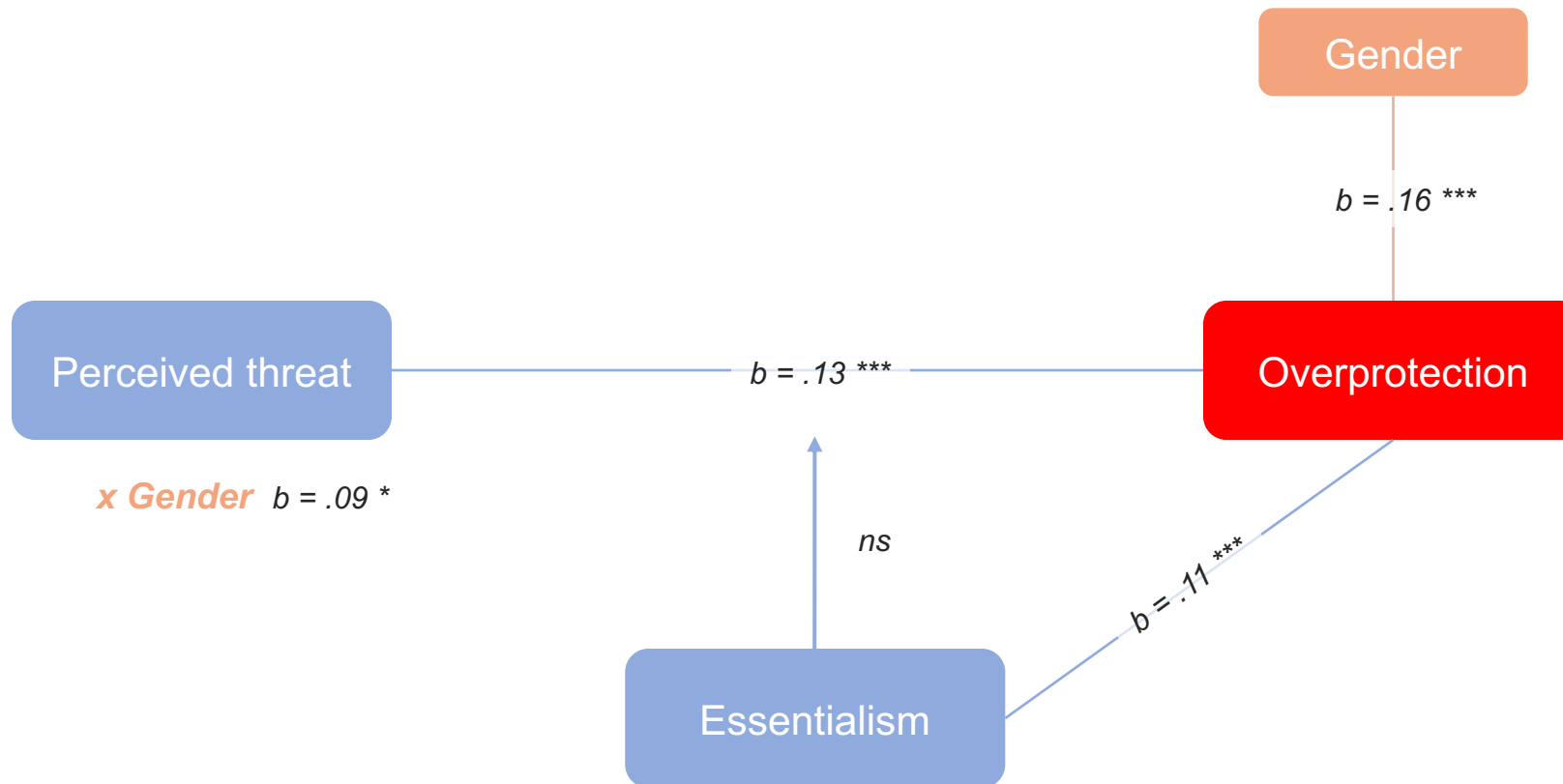
Research

Results



Research

Results



Research

In sum



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- . more threat, more pressure, and more overprotection for mothers
- . less pressure for fathers, yet translates into more overprotection
- . social pressure and gender essentialism both relevant to understand overprotection, but don't account for the effect of threat perception

Thank you!

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