

INTRODUCTION

Increasing income inequality across the globe

- Social and health costs (e.g., Pickett & Wilkinson, 2009)
- Role of the parenting context in reproduction of inequality through differences in involvement? (e.g., Doepke & Zilibotti, 2019; Kalil, 2015)

PARENTAL SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Quality of parental involvement (Pomerantz et al., 2007)

- **Autonomy support:** Encouraging self-direction, considering child's perspective, allowing children to make decisions
- **Controlling involvement:** Exertion of pressure to force children toward particular outcomes

ECONOMY PERCEPTIONS

Parents' perception of economic situation

- **Income inequality:** Laypeople's beliefs about the current distribution of outcomes, such as money and wealth (Hauser & Norton, 2017)
- **National job insecurity:** Perception of prevalence of job insecurity in country (Shoss et al., 2022)

RESEARCH GOALS

- **Research question 1:** relations between economy perceptions and parental involvement?
- **Research question 2:** moderation by financial scarcity?

METHOD

SAMPLE

- 908 parents of adolescents ($M_{age} = 17.1$ years, 54.8% girls)
- 533 mothers (58.7%), mean age = 48.9 years
 - 88% employed
 - Education: 19% high school or lower, 39% bachelor or equivalent, 42% master or higher
 - Median household income: between €4300 and €5400
 - Subjective SES = 4.2 (on 1-10 scale)
- 375 fathers (41.3%), mean age = 50.9 years
 - 92% employed
 - Education: 25% high school or lower, 29% bachelor or equivalent, 47% master or higher
 - Median household income: between €4300 and €5400
 - Subjective SES = 3.8

PARENTING

Controlling involvement (9 items; Cheung et al., 2016)

« If my child is not studying as much as I think he/she should, I tell him/her of all the sacrifices I have made for him/her » ($\alpha = .82/.80$)

Autonomy-supportive involvement (7 items; Cheung et al., 2016)

« I allow my child to decide things about his/her studying for himself/herself » ($\alpha = .81/.78$)

ECONOMIC PERCEPTIONS

Perceived income inequality (3 items; Sommet et al., 2019)

« In Belgium, there is a huge gap between the rich and the poor » ($\alpha = .84/.79$)

Perceived job insecurity (3 items; Shoss et al., 2022)

« In Belgium, a lot of people feel insecure about the future of their jobs » ($\alpha = .81/.83$)

Financial scarcity (12 items; Hilbert et al., 2021)

« I often don't have the money to pay for the things I really need » ($\alpha = .90/.91$)

RESULTS

Preliminary analyses. Gender differences.

	Mother	Father	t(905)
Autonomy-supportive involvement	4.38	4.30	2.71**
Controlling involvement	1.92	2.06	-3.48***
Perceived income inequality	4.03	4.15	-2.64**
Perceived national job insecurity	2.84	2.80	1.03
Financial scarcity	2.00	1.92	2.27*

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Research Question 1. Direct relations.

	Autonomy support	Control
Model 1: inequality		
Gender	.09**	-.14**
Perceived income inequality	.05*	-.02
Model 2: job insecurity		
Gender	.08**	-.14**
Perceived national job insecurity	-.02	.13**

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Research Question 2. Moderation by financial scarcity.

	Autonomy support	Control
Model 1: inequality		
Gender	.10**	-.16***
Perceived income inequality	.06*	-.04
Financial scarcity	-.05	.21***
Interaction	.06	.04
Model 2: job insecurity		
Gender	.09**	-.16***
Perceived national job insecurity	.00	.07*
Financial scarcity	-.04	.18***
Interaction	.03	.01

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Notes.

- All analyses involved multilevel modeling using GLS estimation, with parent as Level 1 and parental dyad as Level 2.
- Supplementary analyses indicate no moderation by gender.

DISCUSSION

Parents' economy perceptions

- Perceived income inequality: limited effects
 - Small positive association with autonomy support
 - System justification? Perceived legitimacy?

- Perceived national job insecurity
 - Predictive of more controlling involvement
 - Beyond personal economic situation

Financial scarcity

- No moderation
 - More controlling involvement
 - Cf. family stress model (Conger et al., 2002)