

Parenting typologies in Georgian and Belgian
adolescents:
Associations with self-esteem

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Introduction

- Parenting context characterized by high responsiveness, high structure, and autonomy support is associated with better children outcomes
- Parenting context characterized by low responsiveness, low structure, and psychologically controlling practices is less favorable for child development

Pinquart, 2017; Rothenberg et al., 2020; Soenens et al., 2019

- The cross-cultural generalizability of the accumulated evidence remains debated

Study aim

- To identify perceived parenting typologies based on four dimensions of parenting (responsiveness, structure, psychological control, autonomy support) in the samples of Georgian and Belgian adolescents
- And examine how identified parenting profiles are associated with adolescent self-esteem across two country samples

Parenting dimensions

Responsiveness - the extent to which parents are responsive to a child's needs, and the degree of parental involvement, acceptance, and warmth

Davidov & Grusec, 2006

Structure - a set of active parental strategies involving the communication of clear and consistent expectations for appropriate behavior, provision of clear guidelines and rules for children's actions

Grolnick & Pomerantz, 2009

Psychological control - parental attempts to manipulate the child's psychological experiences by using guilt induction, shaming, and love withdrawal when their child does not meet parental expectations

Barber, 1996; Soenens & Vansteenkiste, 2010

Autonomy support - an empathic approach to the child's perspective, affording adolescents with choice opportunities whenever possible and encouraging their exploration based on their personal values and interests

Soenens et al., 2007

Parenting typologies

- **Supportive - high structuring parenting** - parents are perceived as responsive to children and provide clear rules and expectations regarding their behavior. These rules are provided in an autonomy- supportive way.
- Similar to the authoritative parenting style

Baumrind, 1966

- This profile has been associated with high self-esteem (Gao et al., 2021; Li et al., 2010; Piquart & Gerke, 2019; Raboteg-Saric & Sakic, 2014; Szkody et al., 2020), high academic achievement (Piquart & Kauser, 2018; Teuber et al., 2021), prosocial behavior (Kaniušonytė & Laursen, 2020; Padilla-Walker et al., 2012), adaptive coping (Gao et al., 2021), less substance use, and less internalizing and externalizing problems (Olivari et al., 2018; Piquart, 2017a, 2017b; Steinberg et al., 2006).

Parenting typologies

- **Supportive-low structuring/controlling parenting** - high levels of perceived responsiveness and autonomy support, low levels of structure and psychological control.
- Similar to the permissive parenting style

Baumrind, 1991, 1966; Maccoby and Martin, 1983

- Findings regarding association with adaptive outcomes have been inconsistent. It is positively associated with self-confidence (Aunola et al., 2000) and active problem coping (Wolfradt et al., 2003), and higher levels of externalizing problems (Lamborn et al., 1991)
- A recent meta-analysis studying the links between parenting styles and self-esteem suggested the existence of moderators such as country

Pinquart & Gerke, 2019

Parenting typologies

- **Highly controlling parenting** - low responsiveness and autonomy support and high levels of both structure and psychological control (i.e. structure being provided in a controlling way).
- Similar to the authoritarian parenting style.

Baumrind, 1991, 1966

- It has been shown to be negatively associated with self-esteem (Pinquart & Gerke, 2019), academic achievement (Pinquart, 2016), and empathic behavior (Antonopoulou et al., 2012) and positively linked with depersonalization and anxiety (Wolfradt et al., 2003), psychological distress (Parra et al., 2019), externalizing problem behavior (Katz et al., 2019; Kuppens & Ceulemans, 2019) and internalizing symptoms (Pinquart, 2017).

Parenting typologies

- Uninvolved parenting - low levels on all dimensions.
- Similar to the neglectful parenting style

Maccoby and Martin, 1983

- It is typically related to negative outcomes such as lowered self-esteem (Pinquart & Gerke, 2019), delinquency (Hoeve et al., 2008), poor academic achievement (Pinquart, 2016), and internalizing and externalizing symptoms (Pinquart, 2017).

- Countries and their norms and values (i.e., the macrosystem) provide the context for family interactions (i.e., the microsystem).

Bronfenbrenner, 1986

- According to **relativist perspective**, the correlates of specific parenting profiles would be dependent on the specific cultural context. A number of studies found that in interdependent cultural contexts, controlling parenting approaches are not associated with harmful outcomes

Dwairy et al., 2006; Ho et al., 2008; Louie et al., 2013; Rudy & Halgunseth, 2005

- According to more **universalistic perspective**, more optimal parenting typologies (e.g., supportive-high structuring) would yield more beneficial outcomes, whereas less optimal parenting typologies (e.g., highly controlling) are detrimental across cultures

Lunetti et al., 2021; Soenens & Vansteenkiste, 2010; Sorkhabi, 2005

Belgium

Located in Northwest Europe.

Culture is characterized by individualistic rather than collectivistic values.

Children are socialized to define themselves in terms of their individual characteristics rather than by affiliation to social groups.

Perceived parenting practices, according to Belgian adolescents, is generally close to the authoritative parenting ideal.

Traditional gender stereotypes are relatively weak (Goossens & Luyckx, 2007).

Georgia

Located at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia.

Culture is relatively high on cultural embeddedness (Schwartz, 2006).

The role of parental authority is important and influence one's decision making beyond adolescence (Omanadze et al., 2017).

Traditional gender-defined family roles are still strong in Georgia, with men viewed as the principal breadwinner and women being mostly responsible for family life (CRRC, 2019).

Study goals

1. To examine patterns of Georgian and Belgian adolescents' perceptions of their mothers' and fathers' parenting using cluster analysis
2. To examine whether the prevalence of these parenting profiles was different across the Georgian and Belgian samples
3. To examine the associations of these different parenting typologies with self-esteem and to test for the possible interaction effect of country in these association

Method

- **Sample**

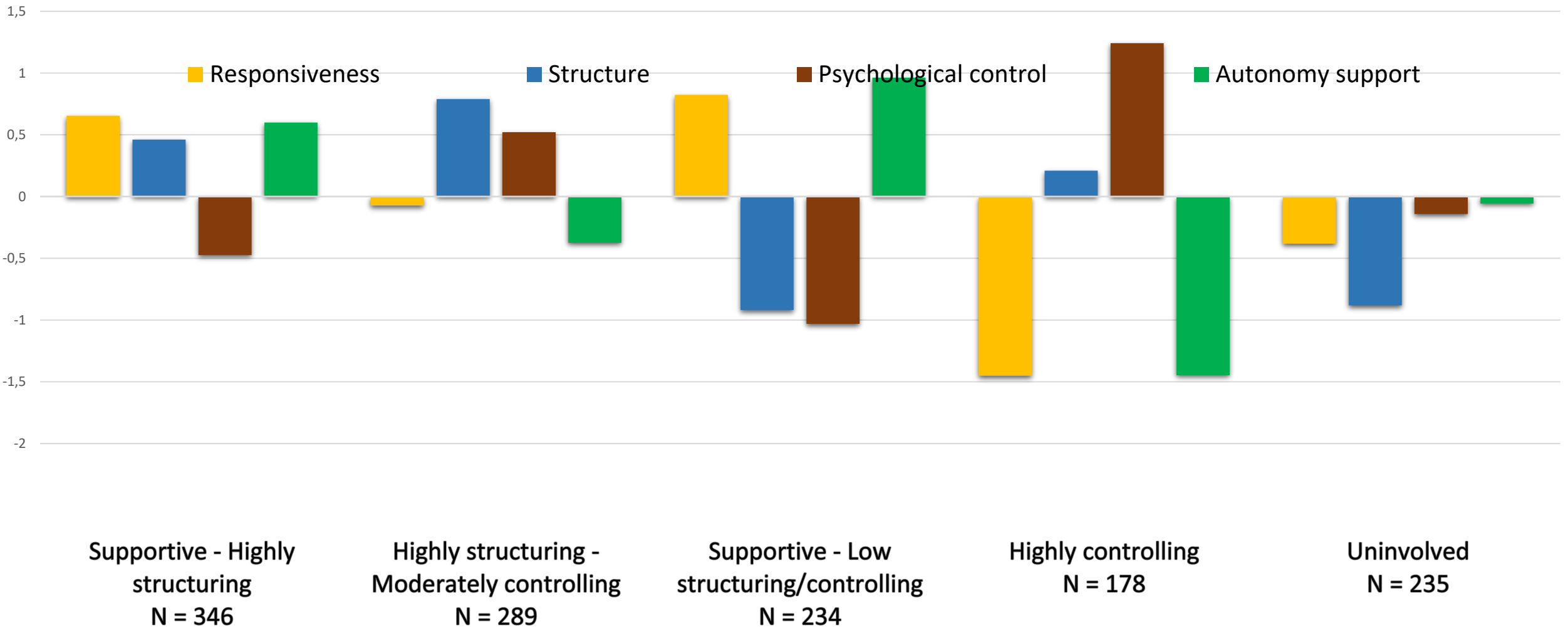
511 Georgian adolescents (Mage = 15.41, SD = 1.43, 57.3% female)

836 Belgian adolescents (Mage = 16.27, SD = 1.39, 58.1% female)

Instruments

- Responsiveness - Child Report of Parent Behavior Inventory (CRPBI; 7 items e.g., *“My mother/father is able to make me feel better when I am upset”* Schaefer, 1965; Schludermann & Schludermann, 1988)
- Structure - behavioral expectations subscale of the Behavioral Control Scale (5 items e.g., *“My mother/father wants me to learn to follow rules and regulations in and outside of the home”*, Barber, 2002)
- Psychological control - Psychological Control Scale (8 items, e.g., *“My mother/father is less friendly with me if I do not see things her/his way”*, Barber, 1996)
- Autonomy support - Perceptions of Parents Scale (POPS; 6 items e.g., *“Whenever possible, my mother/father allows me to choose what to do”*, Grolnick et al., 1991).
- Self-esteem - general self-worth subscale of the Self-Perception Profile for Adolescents (Harter, 1988).

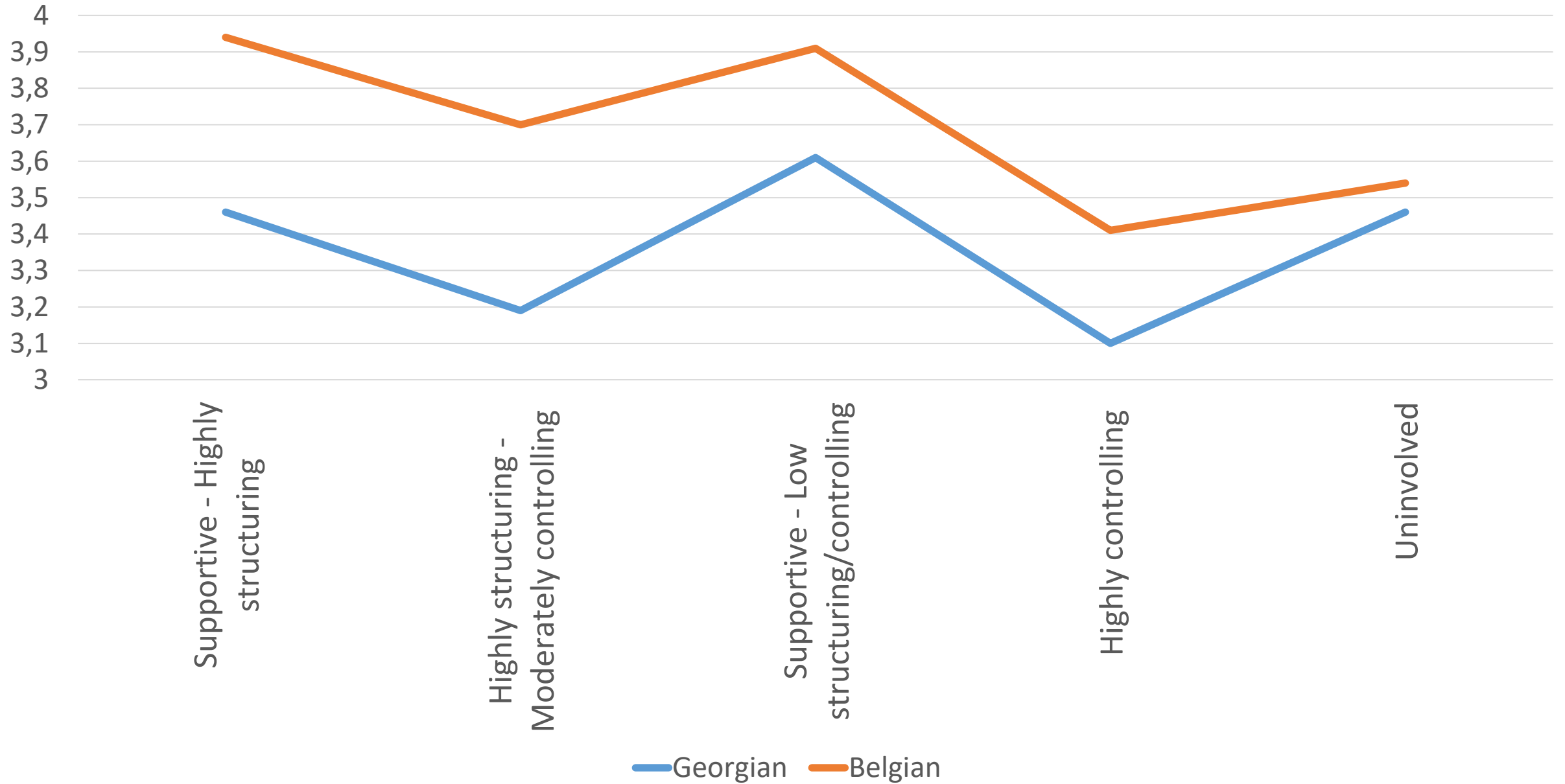
Results – main analysis



	Supportive – Highly structuring	Highly structuring – Moderately controlling	Supportive – low structuring/contr olling	Highly controlling	Uninvolved
Georgia					
Maternal parenting	141 (29%) [.6]	100 (20%) [-1.1]	98 (20%) [.8]	70 (14%) [.2]	86 (17%) [-.5]
Paternal parenting	110 (22%) [.2]	112 (23 %) [-2]	113 (23%) [.5]	97 (19%) [1.4]	63 (13%) [.3]
Belgium					
Maternal parenting	205 (26%) [-.5]	189 (24%) [.9]	136 (17%) [-.6]	108 (14%) [-.1]	148 (19%) [.4]
Paternal parenting	165 (22%) [-.2]	232 (30%) [1.6]	163 (21%) [-.4]	117 (15%) [-1.2]	91 (12%) [-.3]

- Regarding country differences, **Belgian adolescents** ($M = 3.70$, $SD = .03$) were found to have higher self-esteem level than **Georgian adolescents** ($M = 3.37$, $SD = .03$) $F = 73.08$, $p = .000$, $\eta^2 = .10$).
- One interaction between country and parenting typology was found:
 - **Paternal uninvolved typology was associated with moderate level of self-esteem in Georgian sample** ($M = .3.46$; $SD = .85$), **whereas with significantly lower self-esteem in Belgian sample** ($M = 3.55$; $SD = .67$, $F(4, 1253) = 2.60$, $p < .05$).

Country differences



- Prevalence of parenting typologies were mostly similar across Georgian and Belgian samples
- Association of parenting typologies with self-esteem mostly revealed cross-cultural similarity except one difference
- Certain parenting practices, as a function of one's cultural background and one's individual characteristics, may be differently interpreted and translated into subjective experiences.
- As a consequence, universal mechanisms behind the link between parenting and their effects on child functioning might operate differently, in the sense that the effects of certain parenting practices are qualified as a function of how these practices are experienced and interpreted

- The principle of **Universalism without Uniformity** describe the potential existence of variety of forms of psychological functioning across cultural contexts, but at the same time recognizing the existence of an underlying common human nature

Shweder and Sullivan, 1993

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Parenting typologies in Georgian and Belgian adolescents: Associations with self-esteem

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Abstract

The parenting context is of fundamental importance for the optimal development of adolescents. Making use of a person-centered approach, we derived parenting typologies from the perspective of Georgian and Belgian adolescents based on four dimensions of perceived parenting (responsiveness, structure, psychological control, and autonomy support). Further, we examined how perceived parenting typologies were associated with adolescents' self-esteem. The study sample included 511 Georgian and 830 Belgian adolescents ($N = 1341$; 48% female). A cluster-analytic procedure on the full sample was conducted separately for

Thank you for your attention!