

Theoretical background

Parents' **negative beliefs** about
→ their children
(causal attributions)
→ themselves as parents
(self-efficacy)
related to **negative parenting**

PARENT'S THREAT BELIEFS
Parents' beliefs about the world
as unsafe and unstable
related to negative controlling
and overprotective parenting

→ a world now threatened by
CLIMATE CHANGE

OVERPROTECTIVE PARENTING

Level of protection that is
excessive considering the
development of the child
→ Anxious rearing
→ Premature problem-solving
→ Infantilisation
→ Privacy invasion



Research goals

- Is parents' climate change anxiety associated with threat beliefs?
- which in turn would be associated with overprotective parenting?

Method

SAMPLE

- 890 Belgian parents
- >40% fathers
- Parents' $M_{age} = 50$ yrs (SD=5.46)
- Adolescents' $M_{age} = 17.0$ yrs (SD=.69)
- 54,6% girls - 45,3% boys
- Parents educ: 46,9% university degree

THREAT BELIEFS

Beliefs that the world is unsafe, unstable, unpredictable, where there is not enough resources and opportunities for everyone (World Out There, Gurland & Grolnick, 2005)
→ 10 items, $\alpha = .89-.87$ (M-F)
→ «It makes me nervous to think about all the dangers kids are exposed to today.»

CLIMATE CHANGE ANXIETY

Negative feelings about climate change (Ogunbode et al., 2021)
→ 5 items, $\alpha = .89-.87$ (M-F)
→ "When I think about climate change, I feel anxious".

OVERPROTECTIVE PARENTING

Premature problem solving, anxious rearing, privacy invasion, infantilisation (MOPS; Chevrier et al. 2022)
→ anxious overprotection subscale
→ 10 items, $\alpha = .90 - .89$ (M-F)
→ «I try to solve all of the problems of my son/daughter without him/her having to do anything»

ANALYSIS STRATEGY

- R version 4.1.2
- SEM
- Separate models mothers/fathers



Results

Figure 1. Means of study variables for mothers and fathers

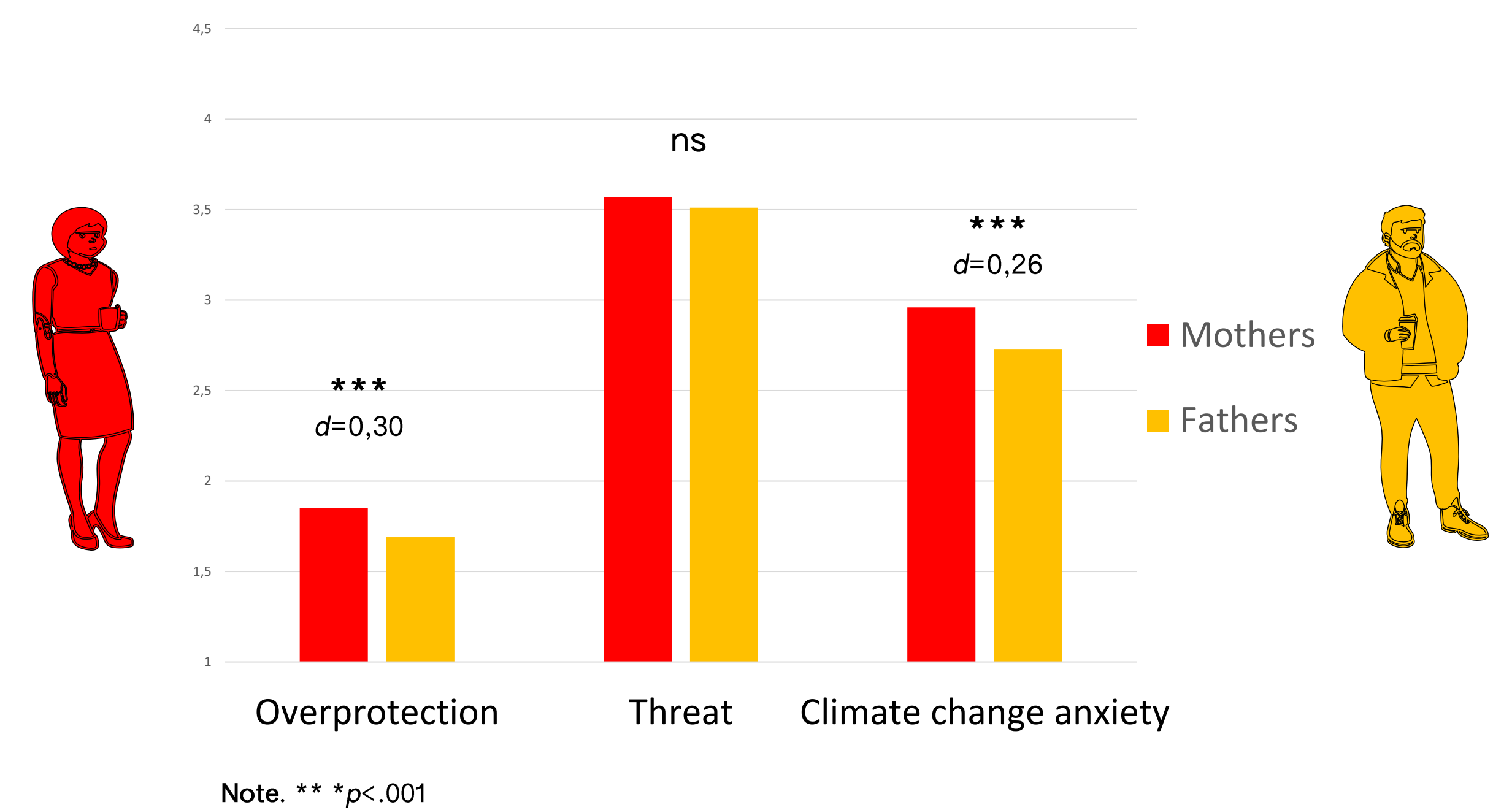


Figure 2. Direct relation between mothers and fathers' climate change anxiety and overprotection

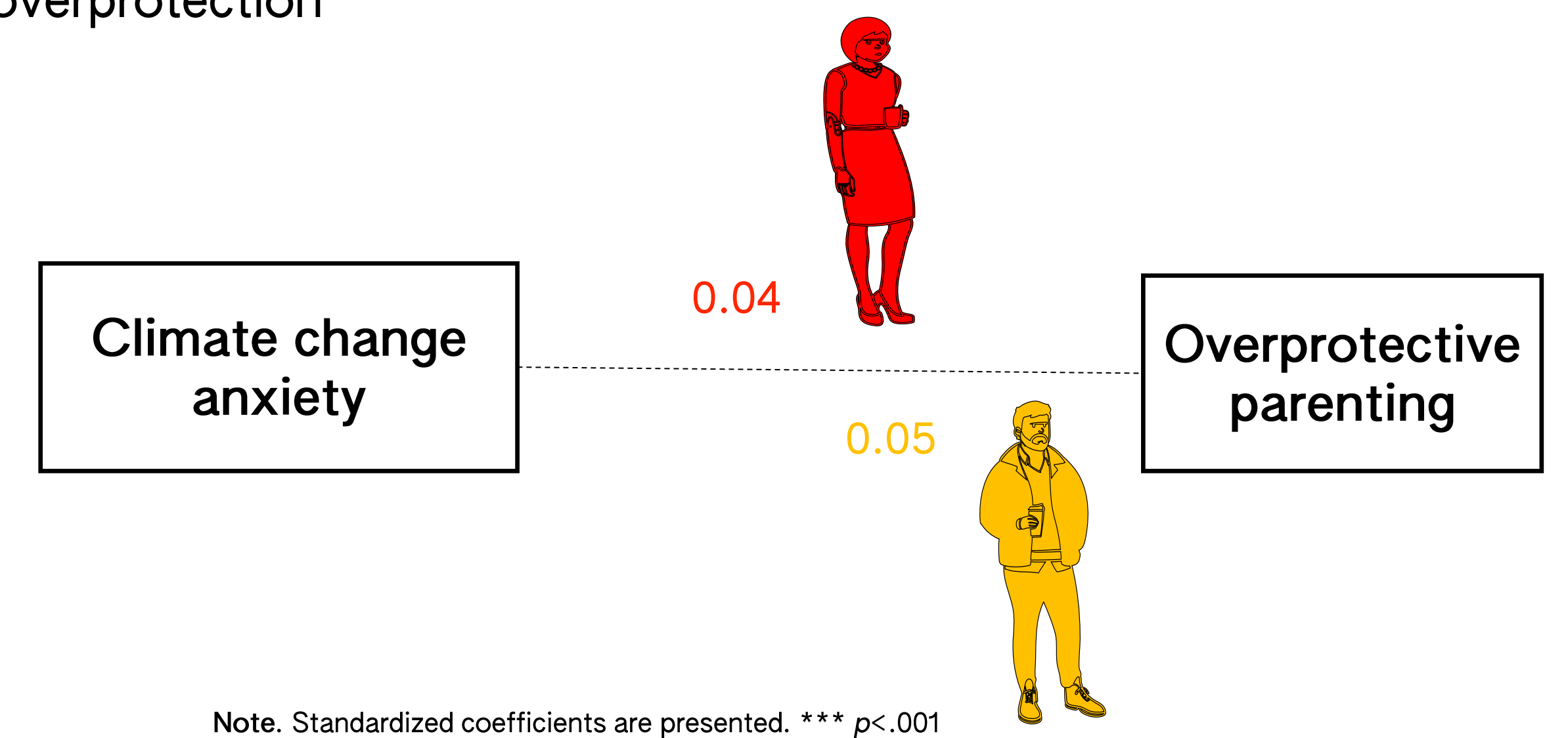
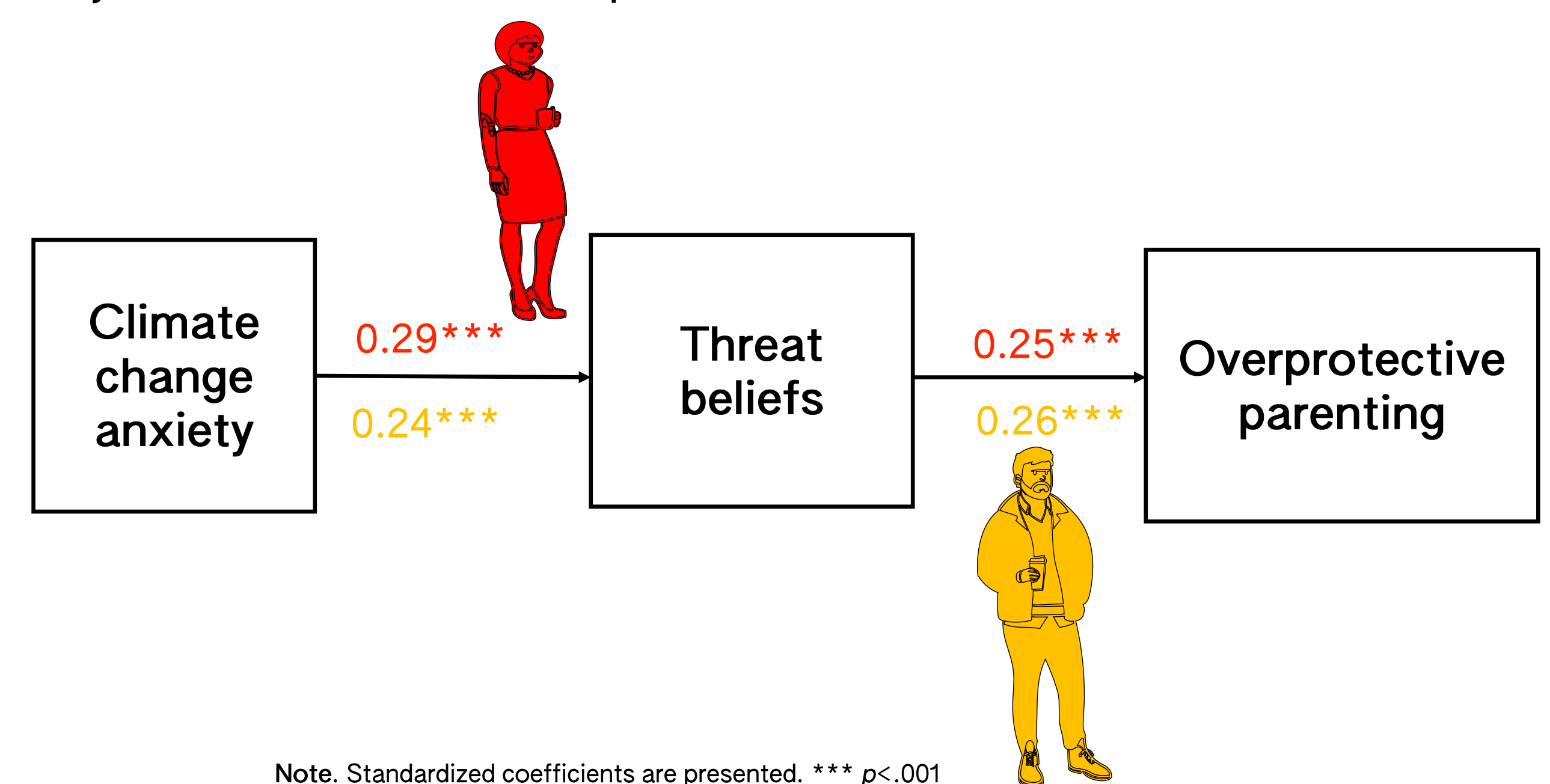


Figure 3. Indirect relation between mothers and fathers' climate change anxiety, threat beliefs and overprotection



Discussion

Parents' climate change anxiety relates to threat beliefs
→ Both maternal and paternal beliefs

Threat beliefs relate to overprotective parenting
→ Both maternal and paternal beliefs

No direct relation between climate change anxiety and overprotective parenting
→ Climate change anxiety: too distal?

Future research

- Climate change anxiety and **future parenting** (e.g. motivation to have or not to have children)?
- Parents' climate change anxiety **across time and countries**
- Association of climate change anxiety with **other parenting dimensions** (e.g., academic involvement, autonomy support, etc.)