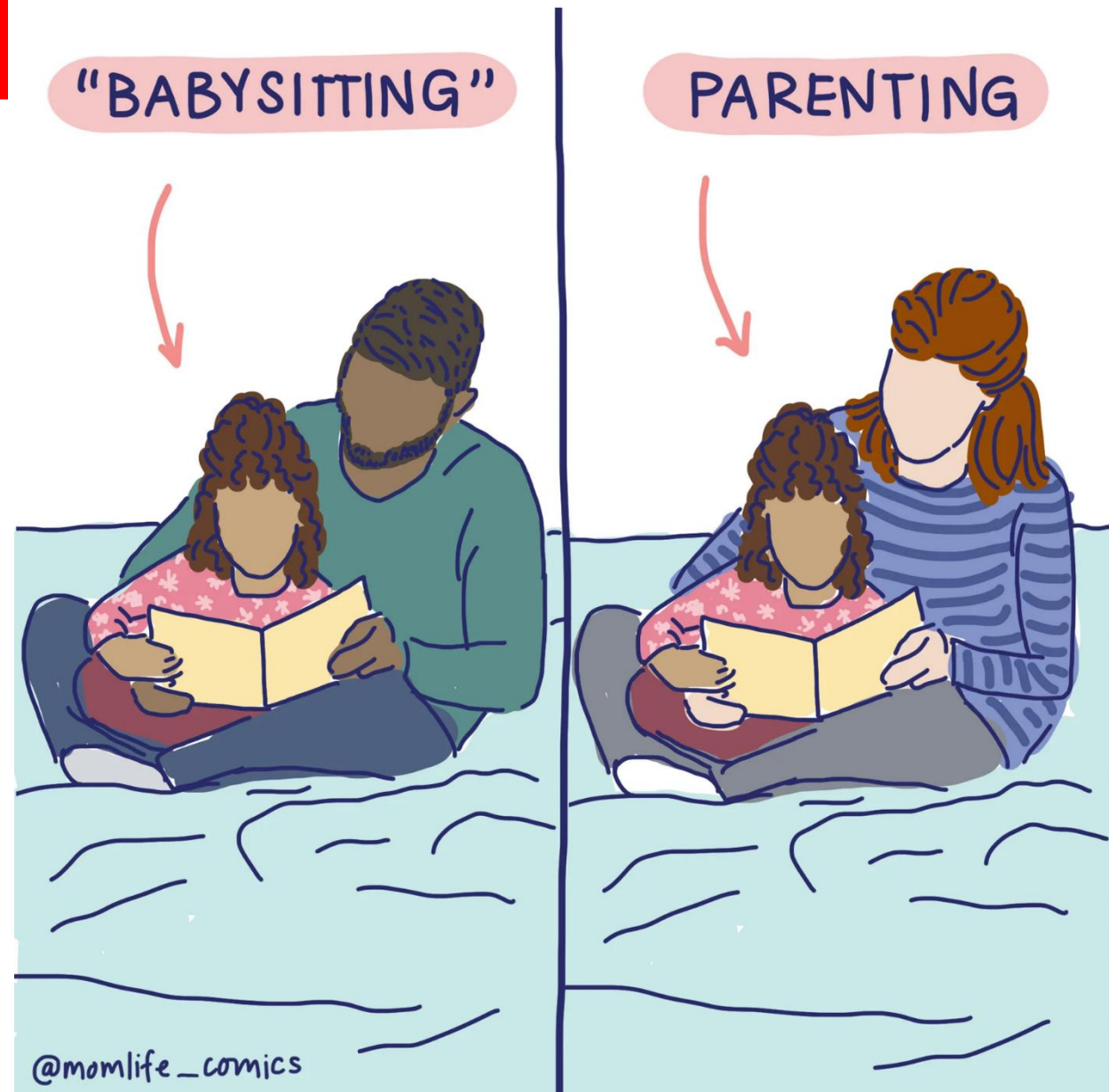


Fathers' Involvement and Mothers' Gender Essentialist Beliefs About Parenthood: A Longitudinal Study

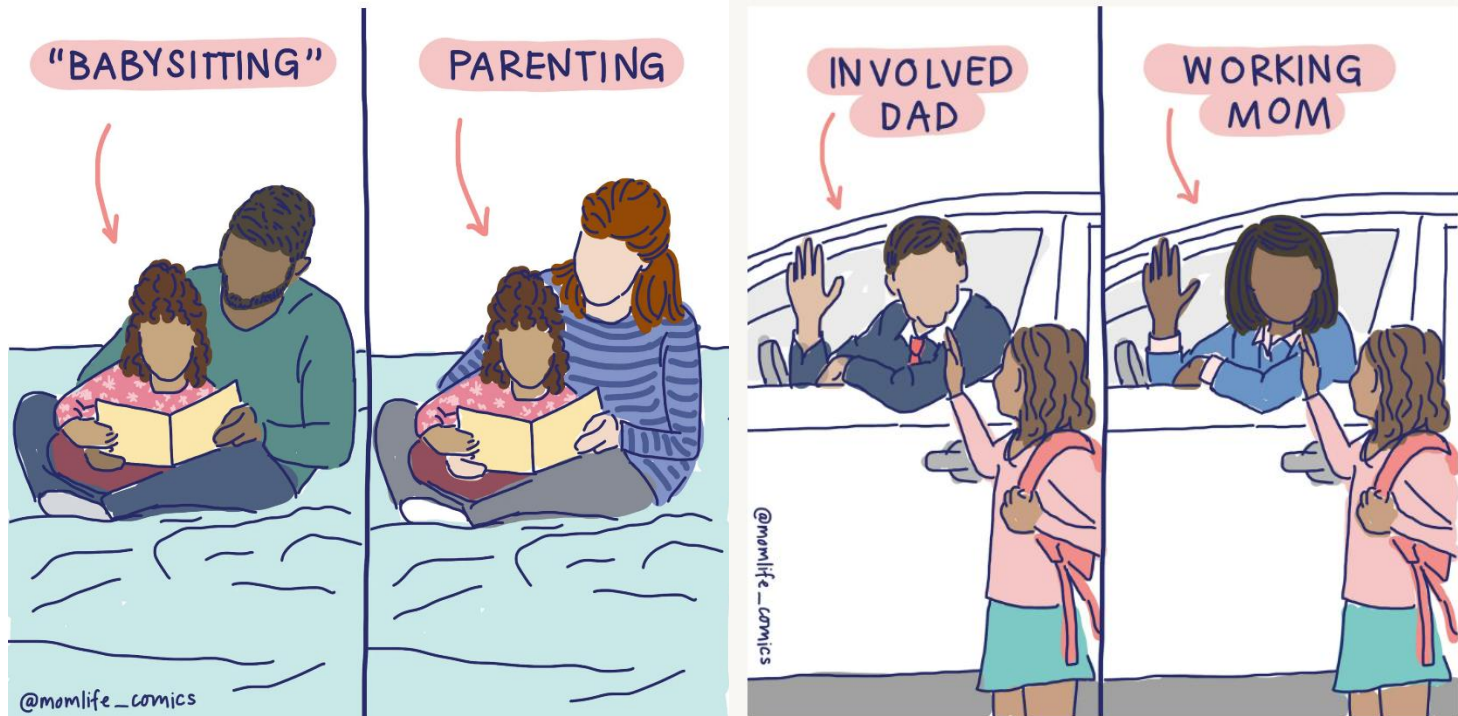
Cindy Eira Nunes, Elli-Anastasia Lamprianidou, Gaëlle Venard, & Stijn van Petegem

IARR 2024



Fathers' involvement

- Modern families and new expectations towards fathers
- Despite changes,
 - Disparities persist
- Different factors at the societal and individual levels



Paternal Identity.


Gatekeeper

Sex Roles (2024) 90:267–282
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-024-01111-1>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Brent A. McBride · Geoffrey L. France

Mother's Involvement, Work and Child Development

Ruth Gaunt¹  · Françoise

Accepted: 23 November 2024
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Key Words: father involvement, maternal gatekeeping, gender essentialism


Abstract

Gender essentialist beliefs

“Fathers are biologically less suited to parenting than mothers”

Original Article

The Relations Between Parents' Gender Equality Values and (co)parenting: Examining Actor-Partner Effects in an Australian Community Sample

Cindy Eira Nunes¹ , Elli-Anastasia Lamprianidou¹,
Melanie J. Zimmer-Gembeck², and Stijn Van Petegem^{1,3}

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...e still divided predomi-
...division of family roles
...h mothers' and fathers'
...with a more traditional
... childcare provided by
...nly essentialism was a

1) Gatekeeping Hypothesis

➔ mother's essentialism => gatekeeping => lower paternal involvement



- Maternal Gatekeeping (Allen & Hawkins, 1999)
“Discourage and control the other parent’s involvement in childcare”

2) Cognitive Dissonance Hypothesis

- Traditional shift after transition to parenthood (e.g., Buchler et al., 2017)

Expectations



Vs. Reality



⇒ Paternal involvement lower than expected => mothers' essentialism

Objectives

- Concurrently test 2 HYPOTHESES
 - 1) Mothers' essentialism <-> Fathers' parenting practices
 - 2) Maternal gatekeeping as a mediator

Sample

SAFE SORRY

N= 373 families through secondary schools

- Parents of adolescents in penultimate year of obligatory schooling
- 3 Assessments (every 6 months)



48.8 (5.1) years old
53% University degree
86% working (>1/3 part-time)



50.7 (5.5) years old
54% University degree
91% working (1/10 part-time)

52% married couples (17% separated/divorced)

2.1 children

19% families < 2800 €/month

Fathers' Measures



T1 & T3

- **Responsiveness** (Schaefer, 1965; 7 items)

I give my child a lot of care and attention.

- **Autonomy support** (Cheung et al., 2016; 8 items)

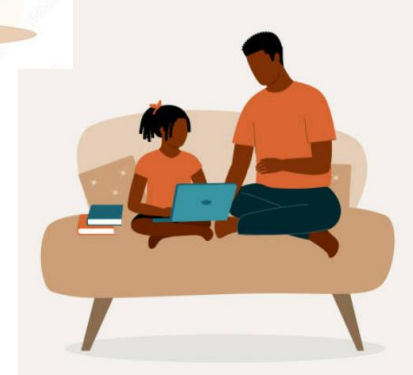
I allow my child to make choices about his/her studying as much as possible.

- **Overprotection** (Chevrier et al., 2023; 10 items)

I give my child the impression that I don't want him/her to grow up.

- **Controlling Parenting** (Cheung et al., 2016; 10 items)

For things related to school, I'm usually in charge.



Mothers' Measures

T1 & T3

Essentialism (Liss et al., 2013; 5 items + Loyal et al., 2017; 1 item)

Although fathers are important, ultimately children need mothers more.

T2

Gatekeeping (Allen & Hawkins, 1999; 3 items)

It's hard to teach my partner the skills necessary to do certain childcare tasks right, so I'd rather do them myself.

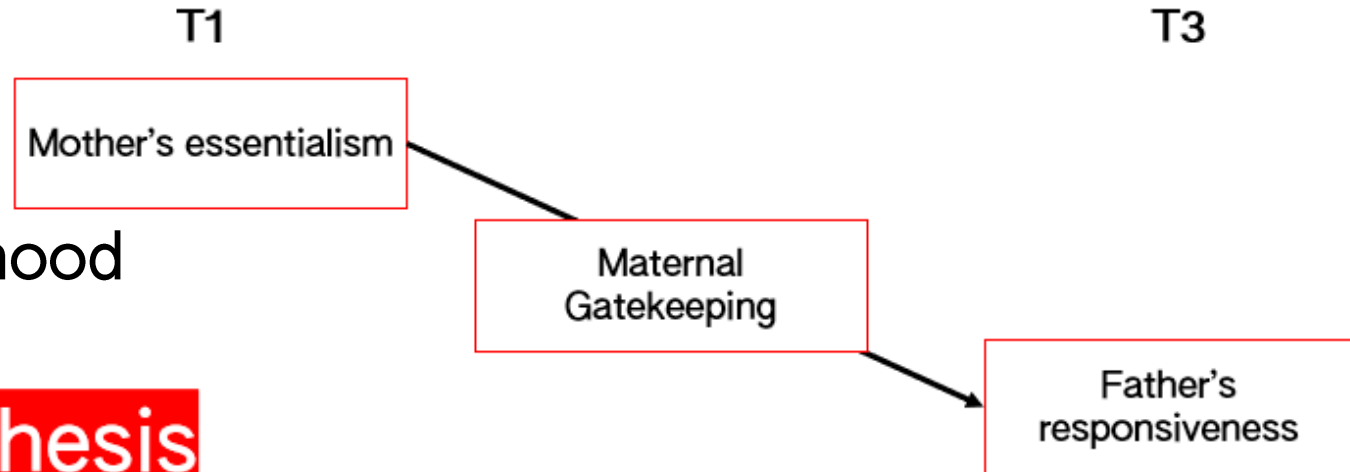


Method

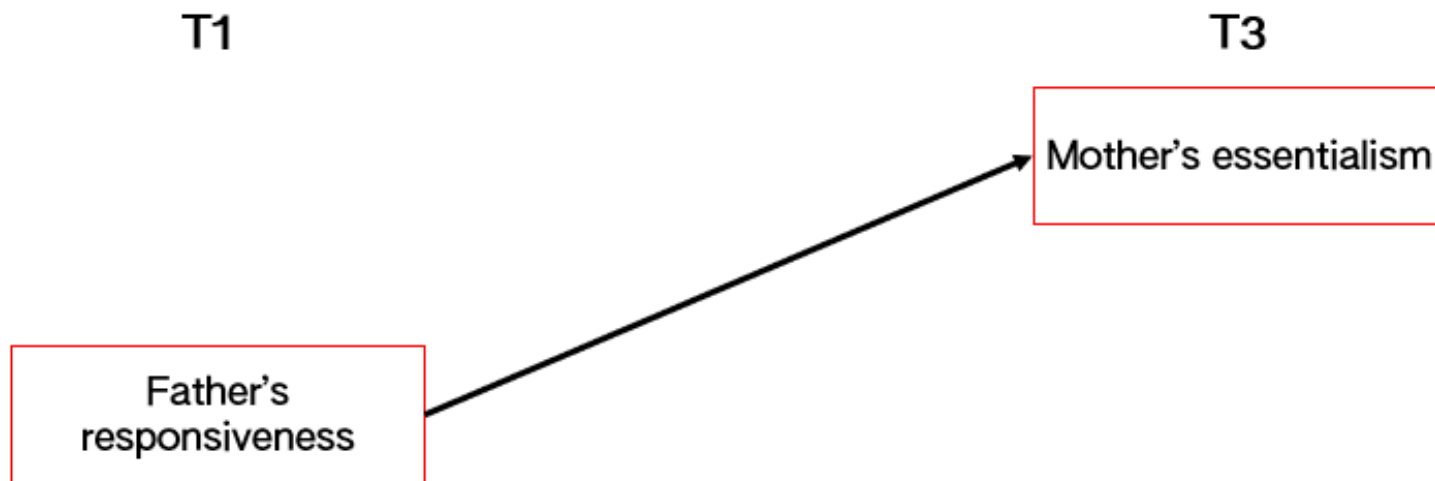
Cross-lagged

- Wave 1-3
- Mothers and fathers
- Fathers' practices separately
- Full information maximum likelihood

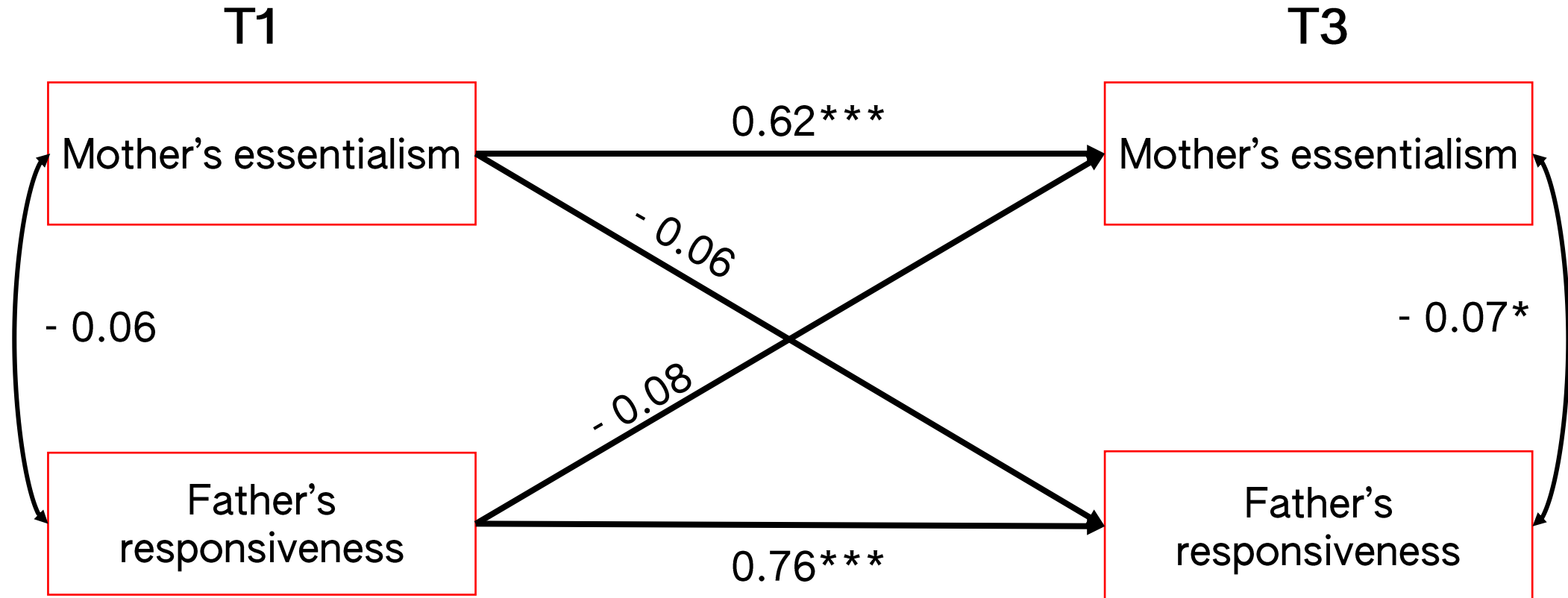
Gatekeeping Hypothesis



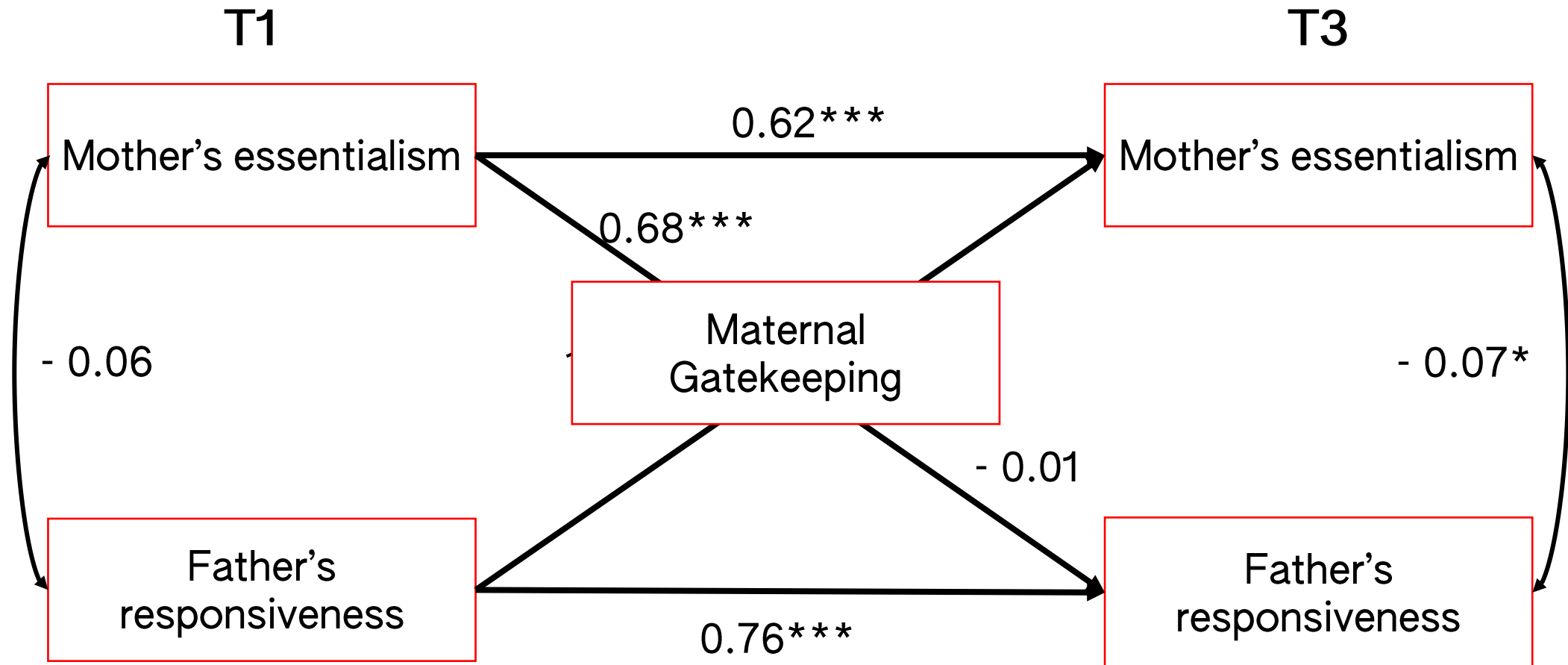
Cognitive Dissonance Hypothesis



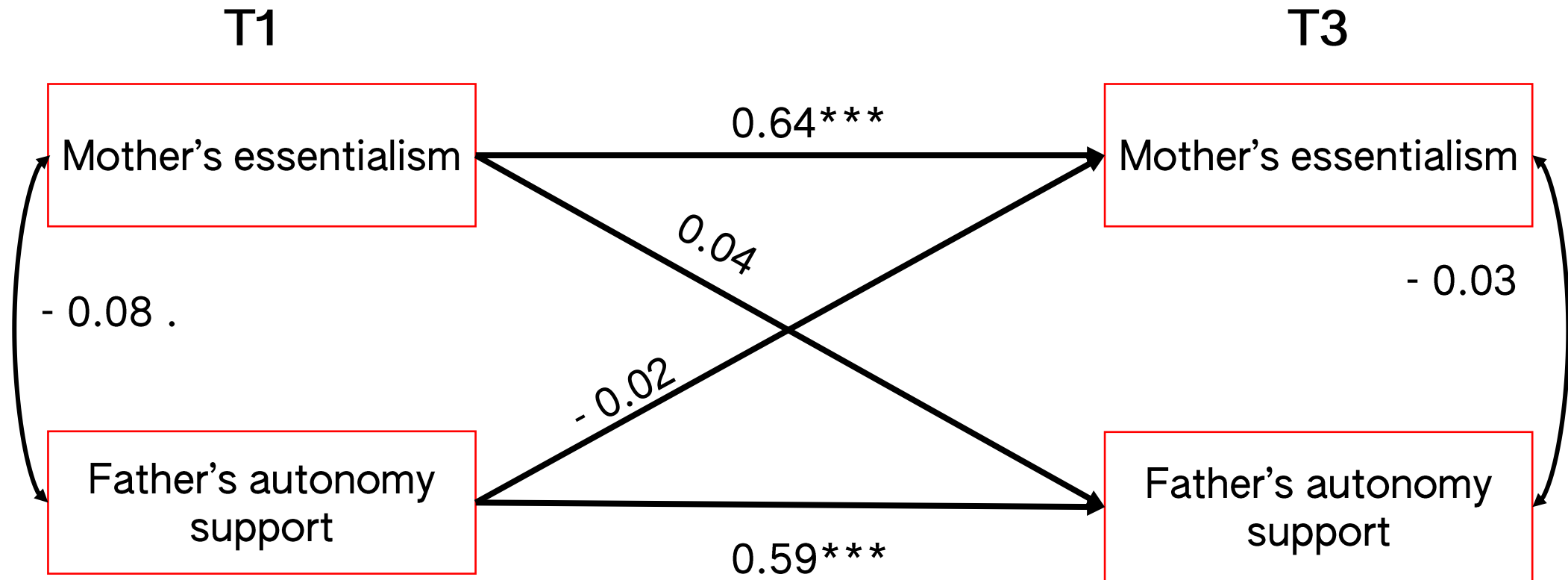
Responsiveness



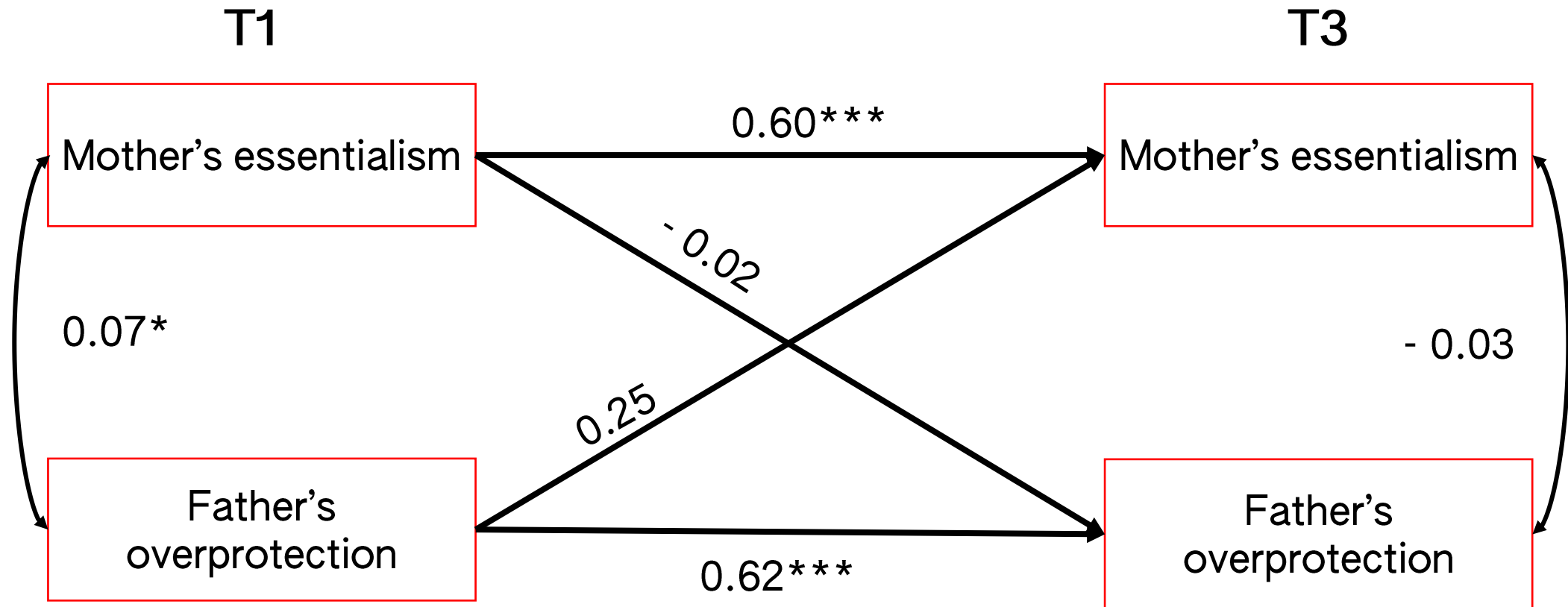
Responsiveness : Gatekeeping hypothesis



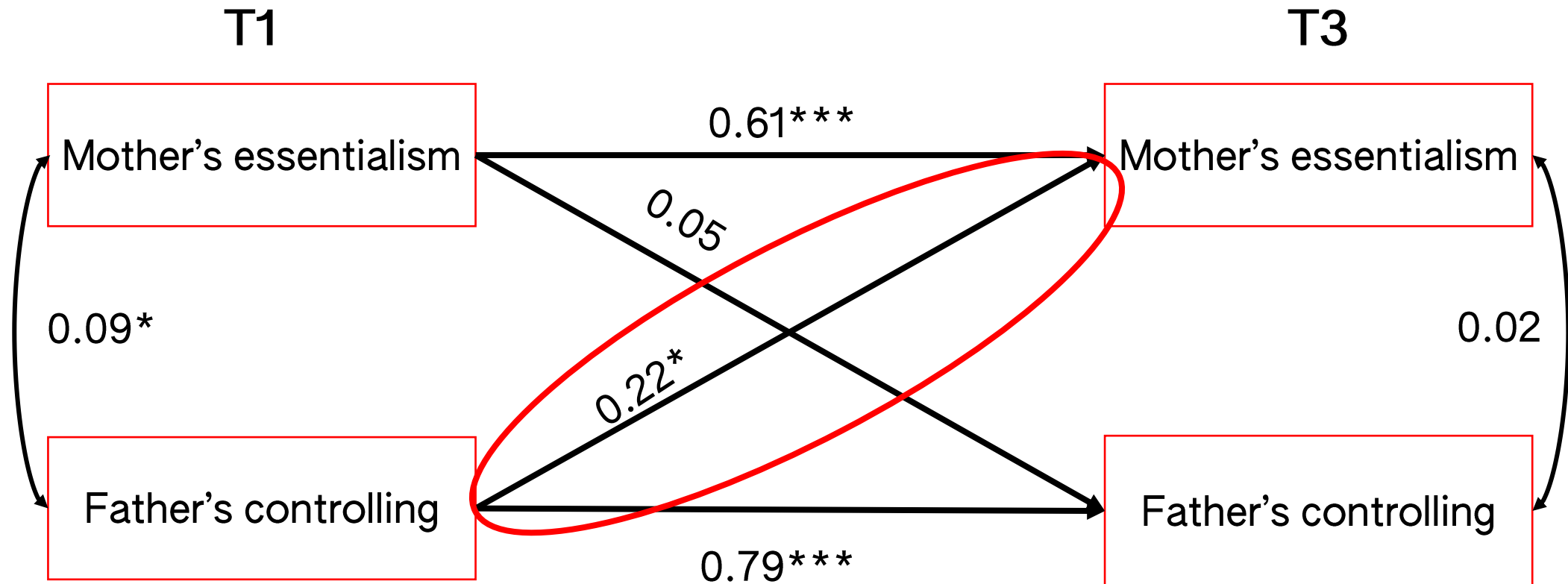
Autonomy Support



Overprotection



Controlling Parenting



Discussion

- Some support for the **cognitive dissonance hypothesis**
 - **Fathers' controlling** parenting predicts **mothers'** endorsement of more gender **essentialist** beliefs
- No evidence for **the gatekeeping hypothesis**
- Parents of teenagers => earlier processes?

Avoid mother blaming discourses & Consider how behaviors may shape beliefs

"If we empower women to work outside the house, without expecting men to work inside the house—then we aren't empowering women. We're exploiting them."

—Farida D.

@peanut

Thank you for your attention!



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