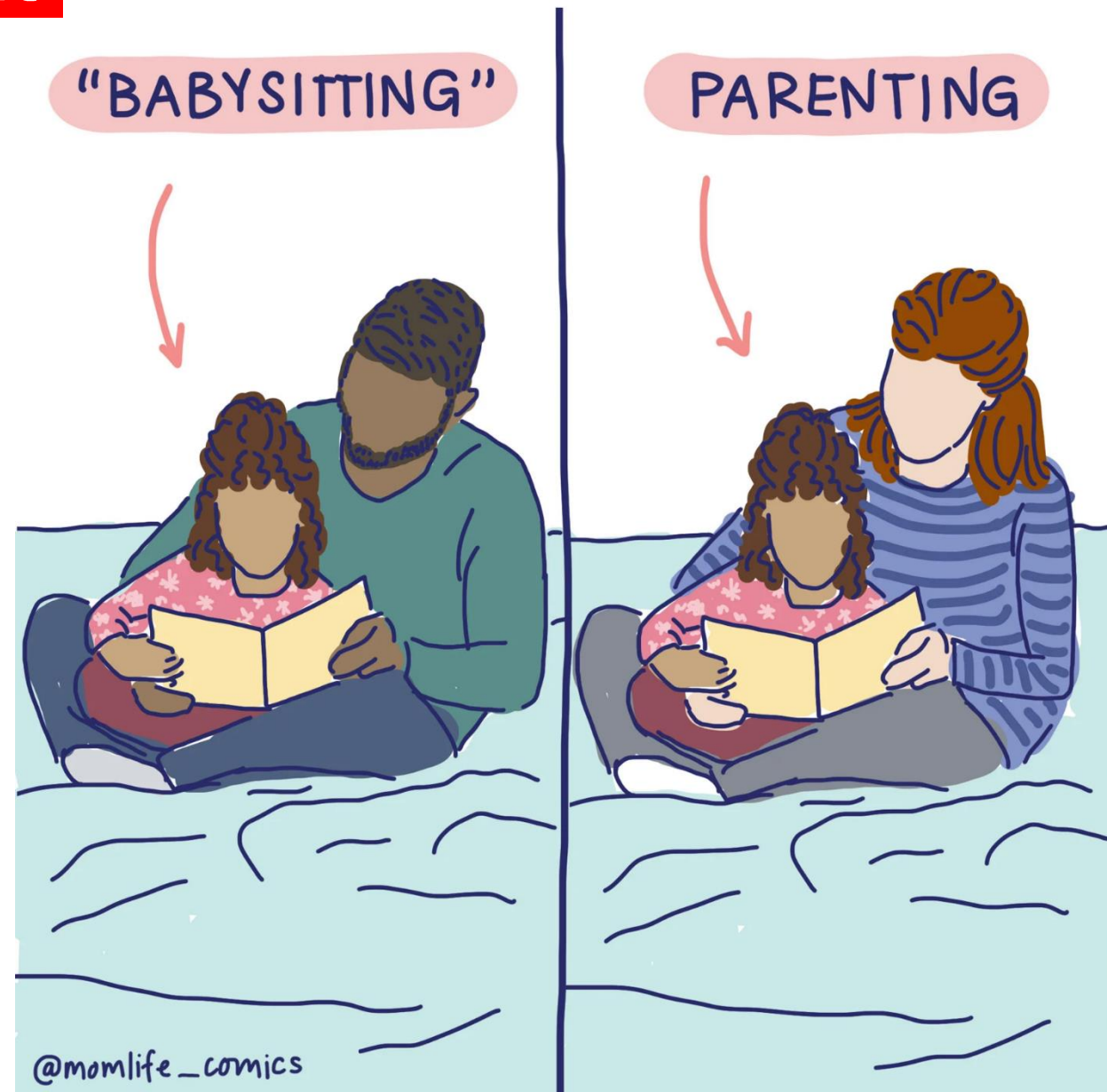


Examining the Interplay Between Father's Involvement and Mothers' Gender Essentialist Beliefs About Parenthood

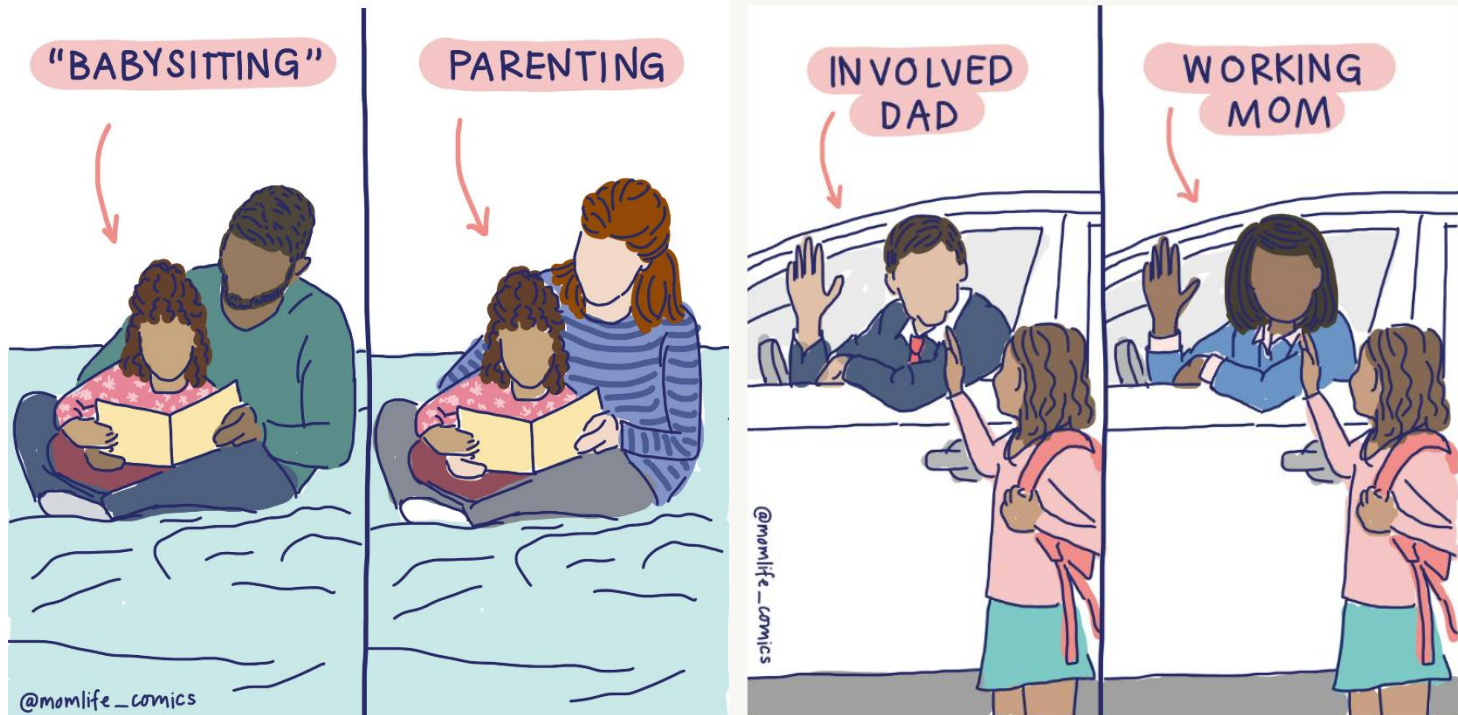
Cindy Eira Nunes, Elli-Anastasia Lamprianidou,
Gaëlle Venard, & Stijn van Petegem

ESA 2024



Fathers' involvement

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



Paternal Identity, Gatekeeping, and

Sex Roles (2024) 90:267–279
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11119-024-10000-0>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE


Brent A. McBride · Geoffrey L. Greig


Abstract: The purpose of this study was to examine the extent to which mothers influence the parenting of their children. Data were collected from both mothers and fathers. Findings revealed that mothers received investments in their parenting from their partners. Findings also revealed that paternal and maternal gatekeeping as well as

Key Words: father involvement, maternal gatekeeping, paternal gatekeeping

Original Article

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

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Melanie J. Zimmer-Gembeck², and Stijn Van Petegem^{1,3}

Ruth Gaunt¹  · Francine

Accepted: 23 November 2023 / Published online: 23 January 2024

Gender essentialist beliefs

“Fathers are biologically less suited to parenting than mothers”

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DOI: 10.1177/0192513X241236552
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still divided predomi-
nantly between
mothers' and fathers'
with a more traditional

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 & Sample

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

With

N= 373 families through secondary schools

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



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)

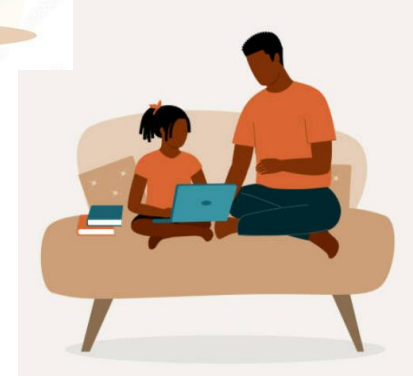
I allow my child to make choices about his/her studying as much as possible.

- **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.

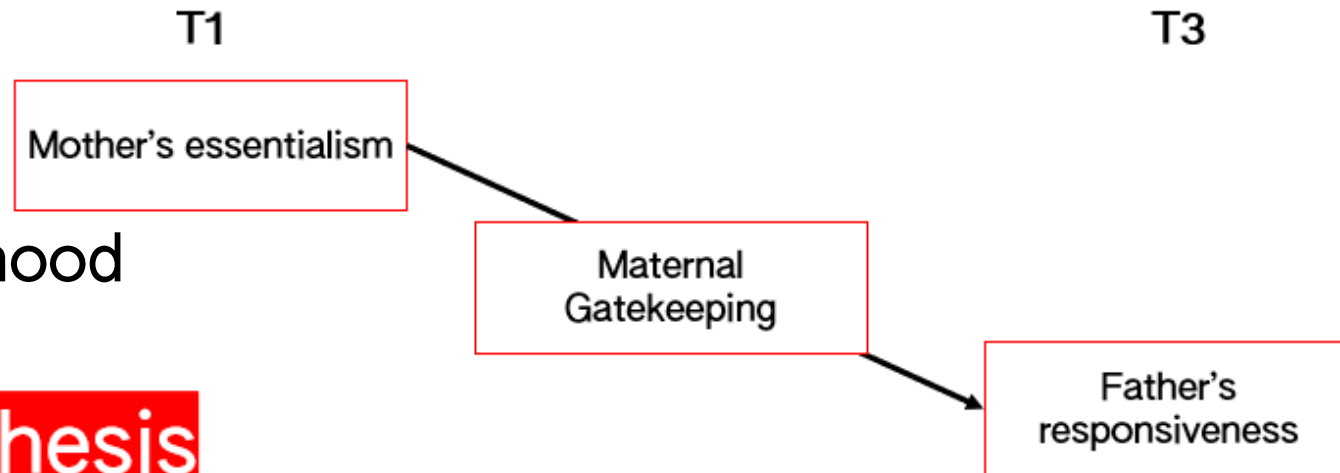


Method

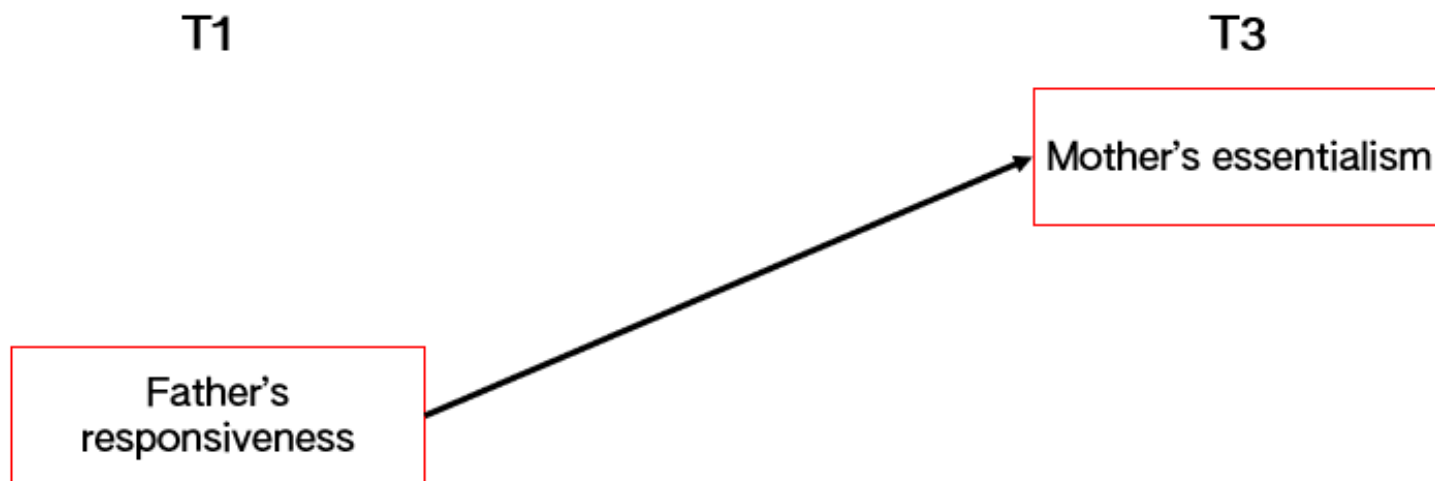
Cross-lagged

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

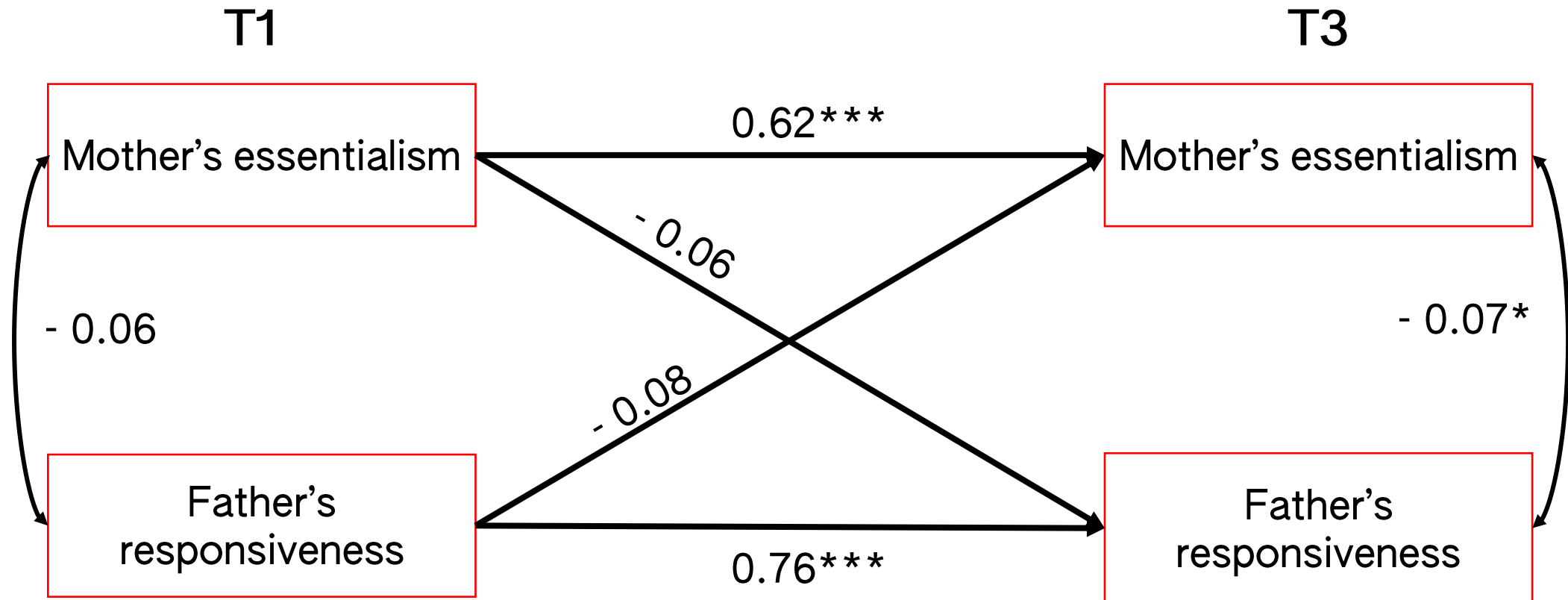
Gatekeeping Hypothesis



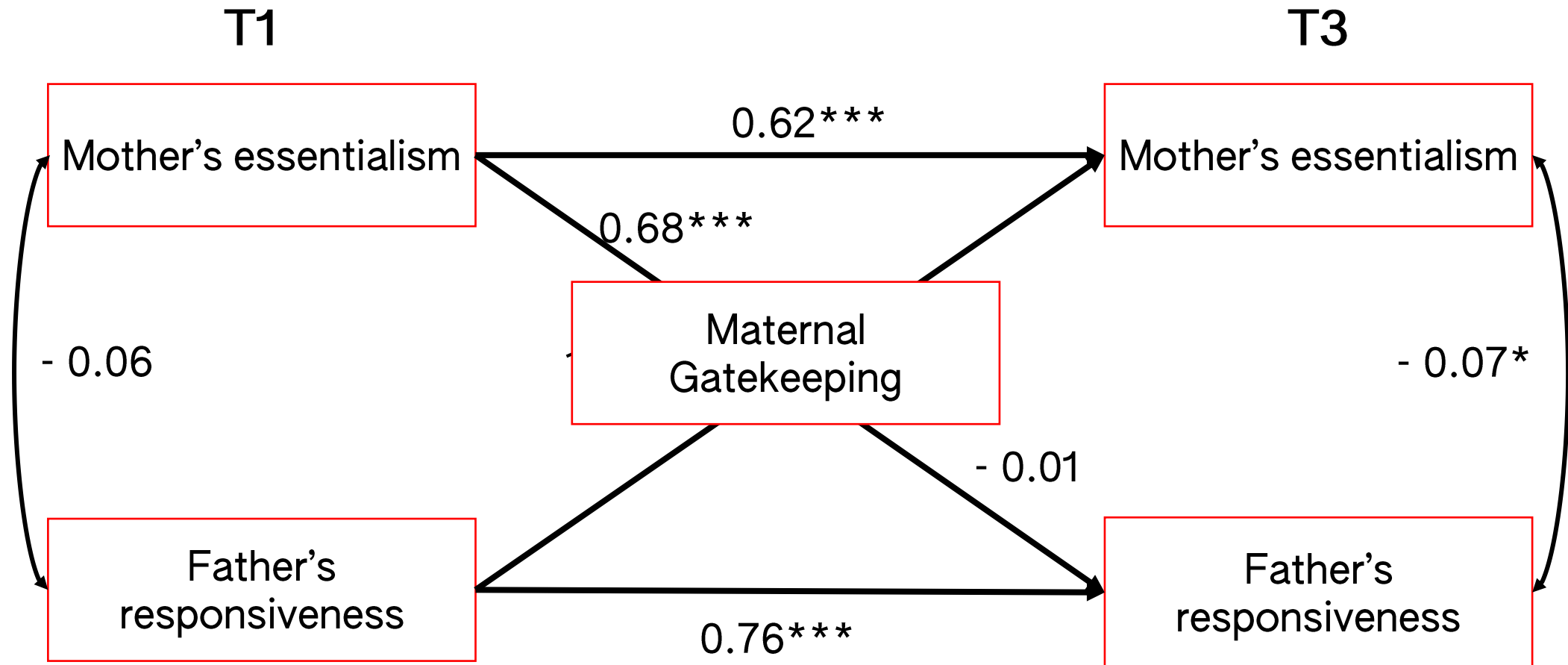
Cognitive Dissonance Hypothesis



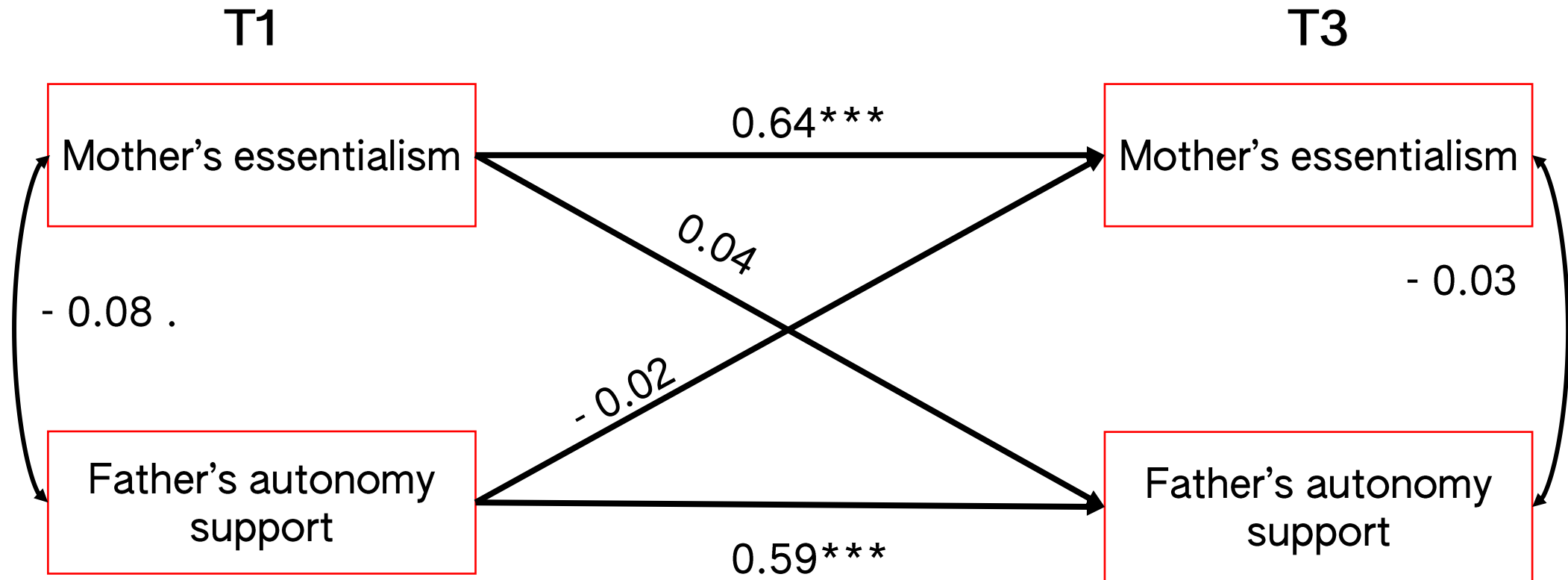
Responsiveness



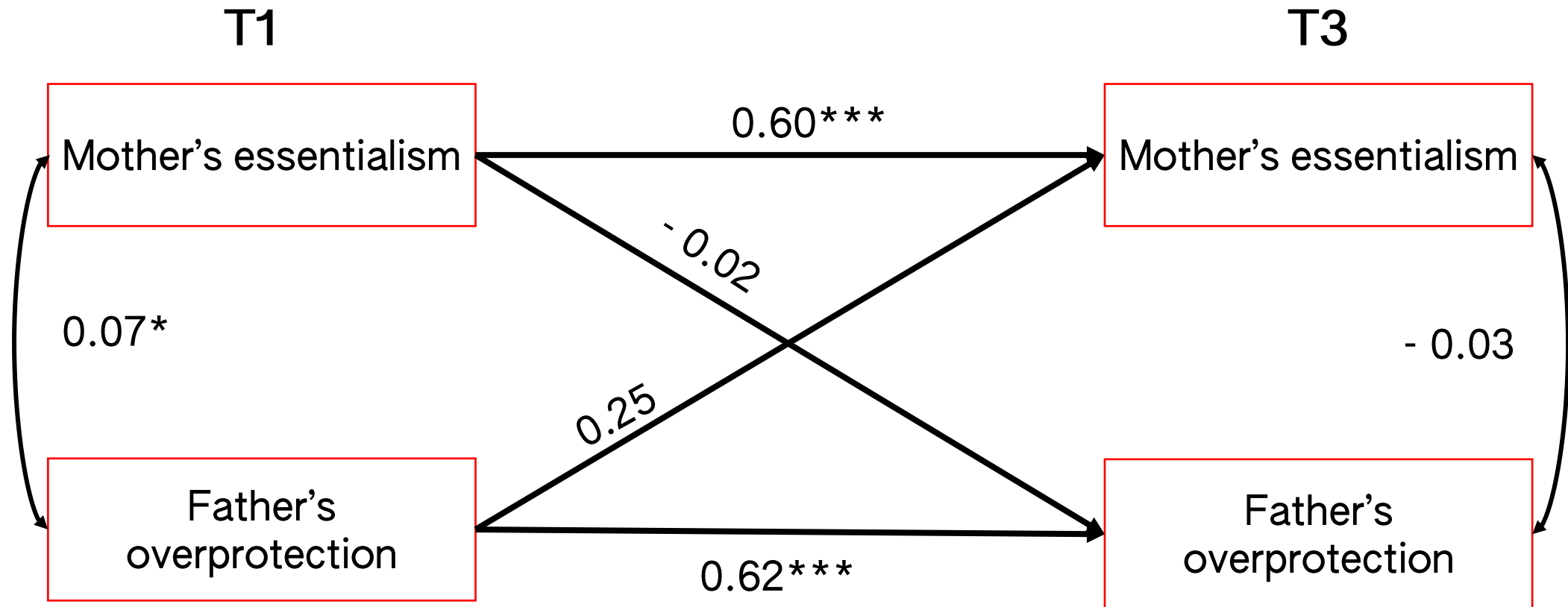
Responsiveness : Gatekeeping hypothesis



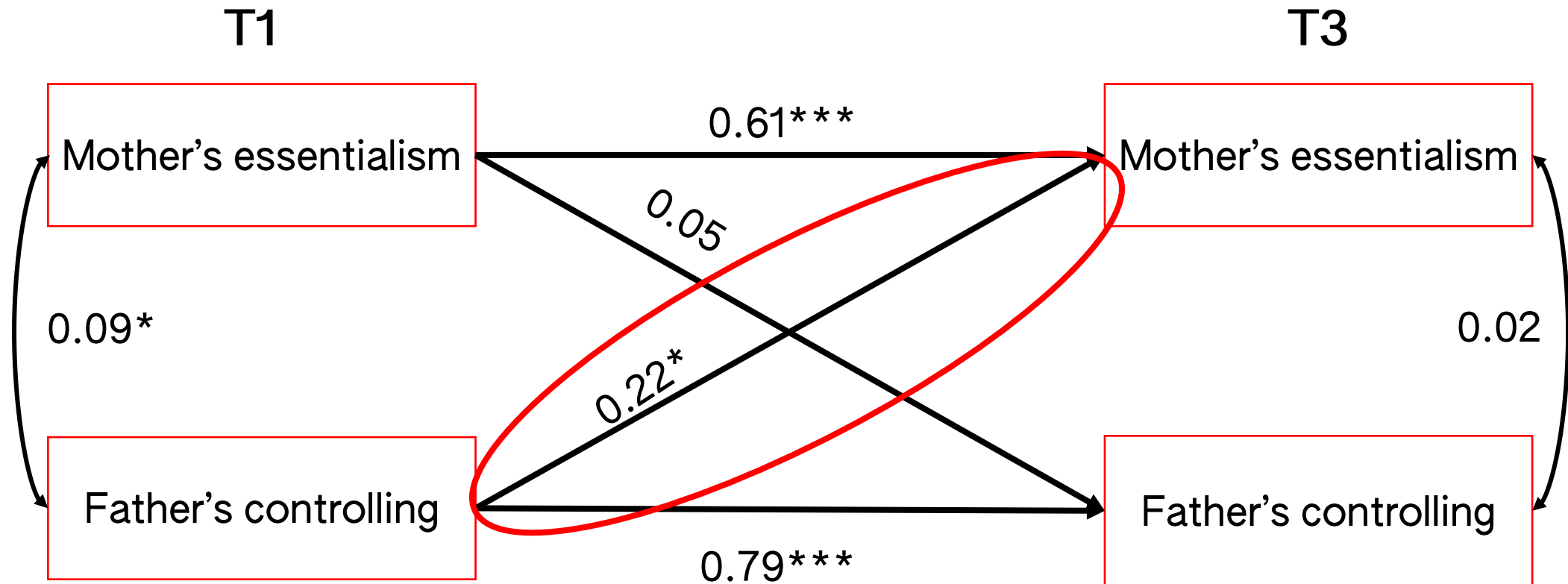
Autonomy Support



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**
- Lot of stability
- 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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