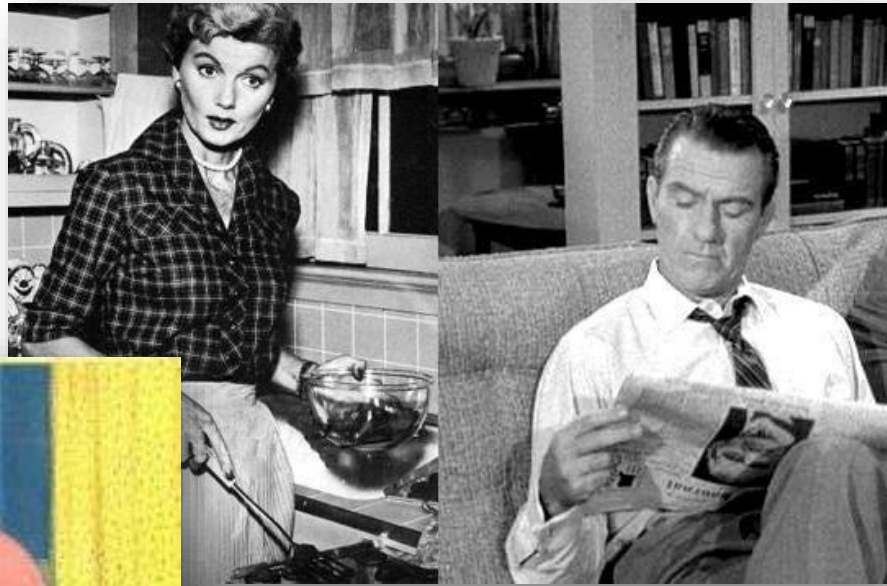


Elli-Anastasia Lamprianidou¹, Cindy Eira Nunes¹,
Ruth Gaunt², Gaëlle Venard³, & Stijn Van
Petegem^{1,4}

¹Université Libre de Bruxelles, ²University of Lincoln,
³University of Lausanne, ⁴FNS-FNRS Research Associate

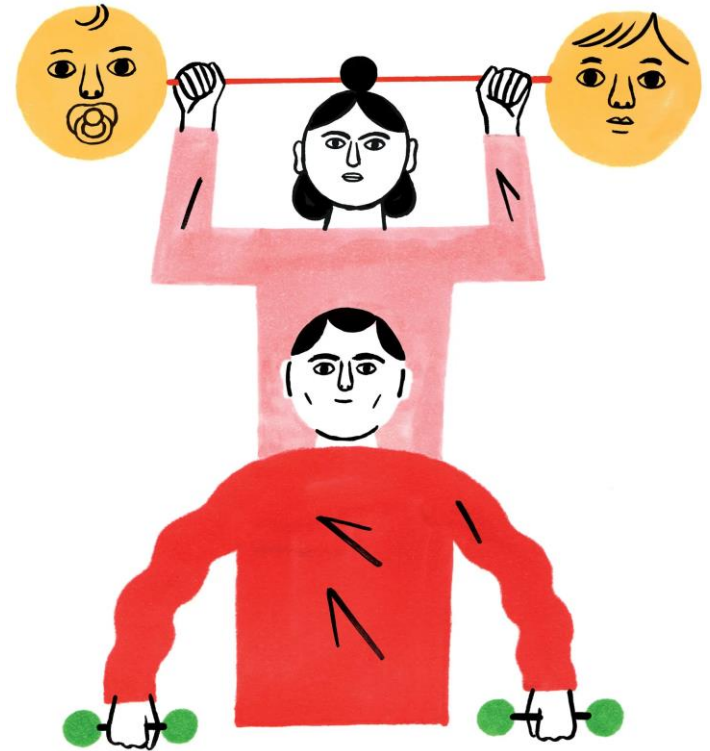


Parents' Gender Beliefs and the Quality of Their Parental Involvement: The Role of Gender Essentialism



Role of Gender Essentialism

- Men and women **biologically distinct**, and thus **better suited for different societal roles**, including **parental roles** (Hays, 1996)
- Link with **gender inequalities in the family** and the division of childcare tasks (e.g., Pinho & Gaunt, 2021)



→ Quantity of parents' involvement!

Quality of Parents' Involvement

- **Involvement** that is **attuned** / **not attuned** to children's developmental stage
- **Supporting** VS **frustrating** children's and adolescents' developmental and psychological needs

(Deci & Ryan, 2012)
(Gutman & Eccles, 2007)

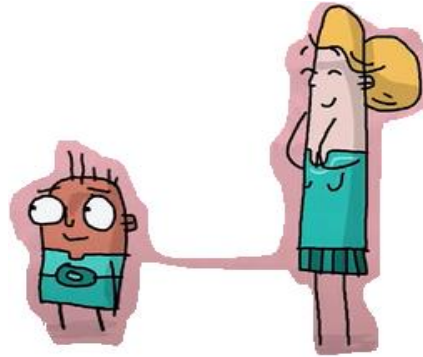


VS

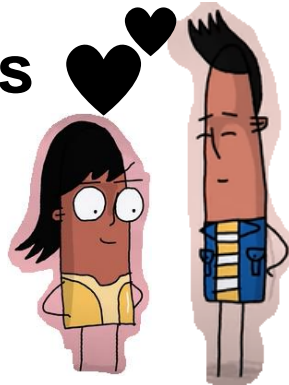


Positive vs Negative Involvement

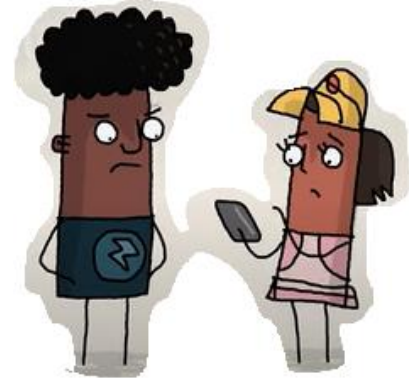
○ **Autonomy Support**



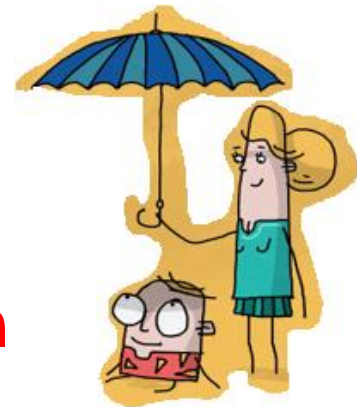
○ **Responsiveness**



○ **Controlling Parenting**



○ **Overprotection**

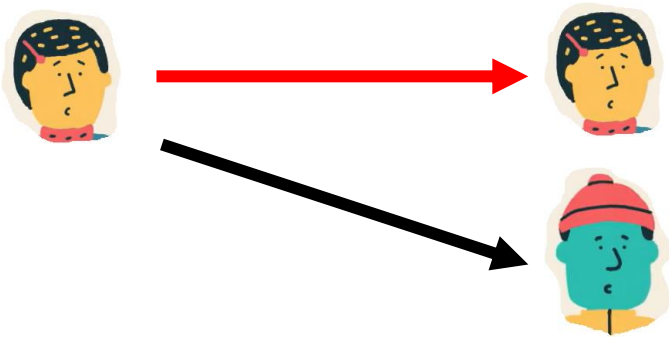


Study 1



Actor-Partner Interdependence Model

- Actor effect = relationship within one parent
- **Partner effect** = relationship from one parent to the other parent (Kenny et al., 2006)



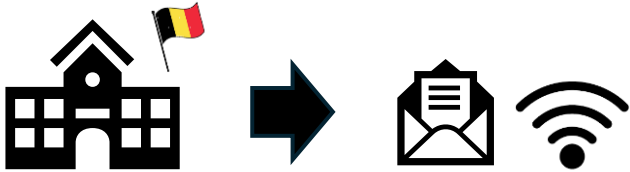
- **Links essentialism – parents’ involvement**

 Positive



 Negative

Participants


1,260 Belgian parents of adolescents (Mean age = 16.9, 54% girls)



Mean age = 48.9

 = 45%
 = 88%





 = 54%

(20% single/separated/divorced)



Mean age = 50.6

 = 48%
 = 92%



Measures

- **Gender Essentialism** (Liss et al., 2013; 5 items; MIMI, Loyal et al., 2017; 1 item)

According to me, men do not naturally know what to do with children.

- **Positive involvement**

Autonomy support (Cheung et al., 2016; 7 items)

I allow my child to make choices about their studying as much as possible.

Responsiveness (Schaefer, 1965; 7 items)

I give my child a lot of care and attention.

- **Negative involvement**

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

Even if my child is not having trouble with their homework, I tell them how to do it.

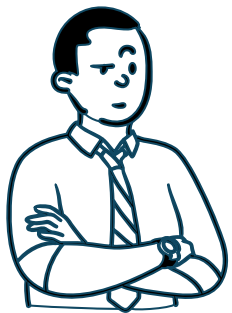
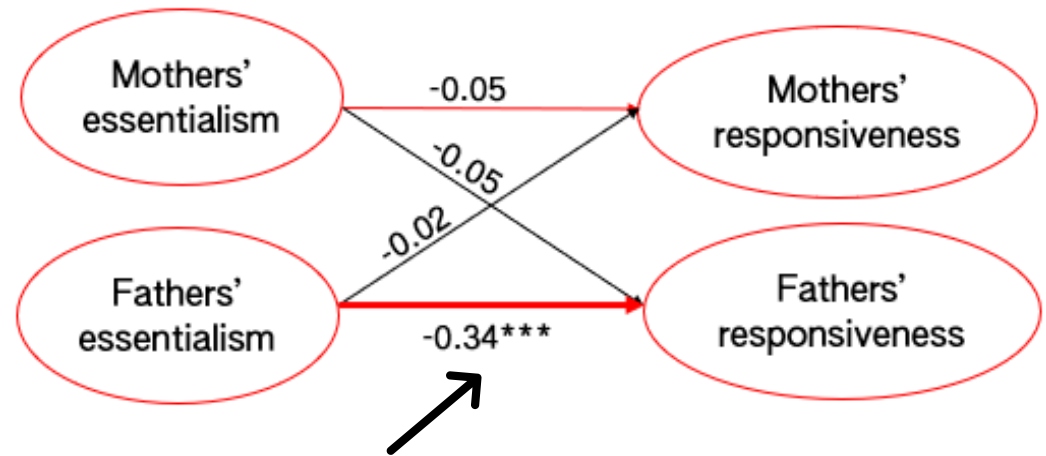
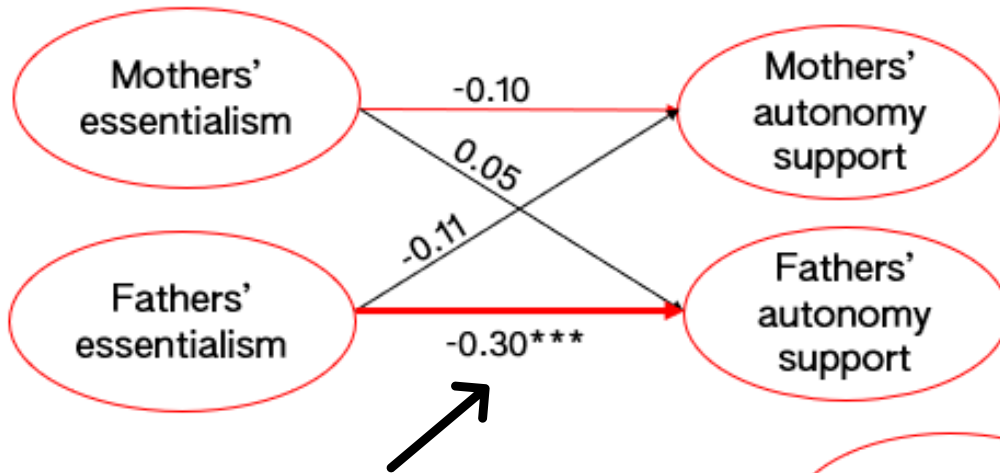
Overprotection (Chevrier et al., 2023; 10 items)

I immediately see danger whenever my child wants to do something new.

Results



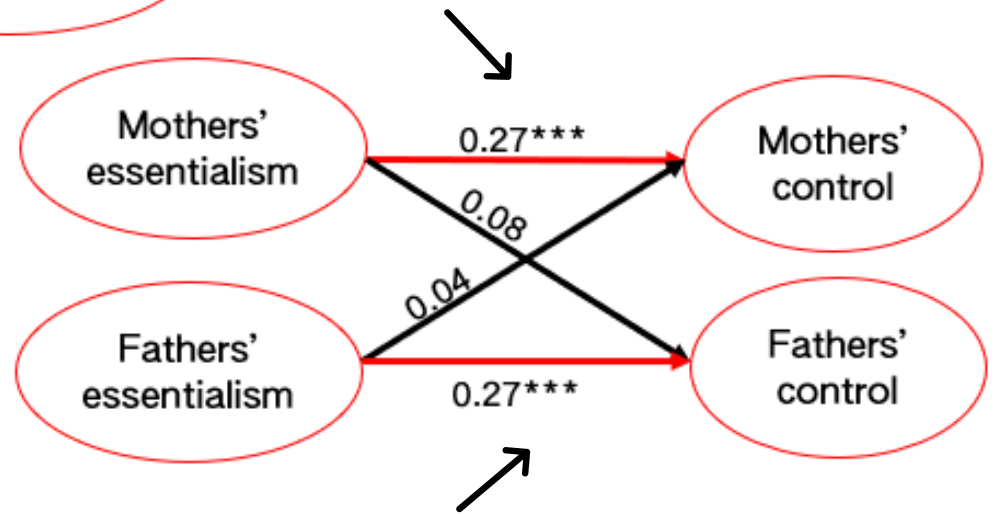
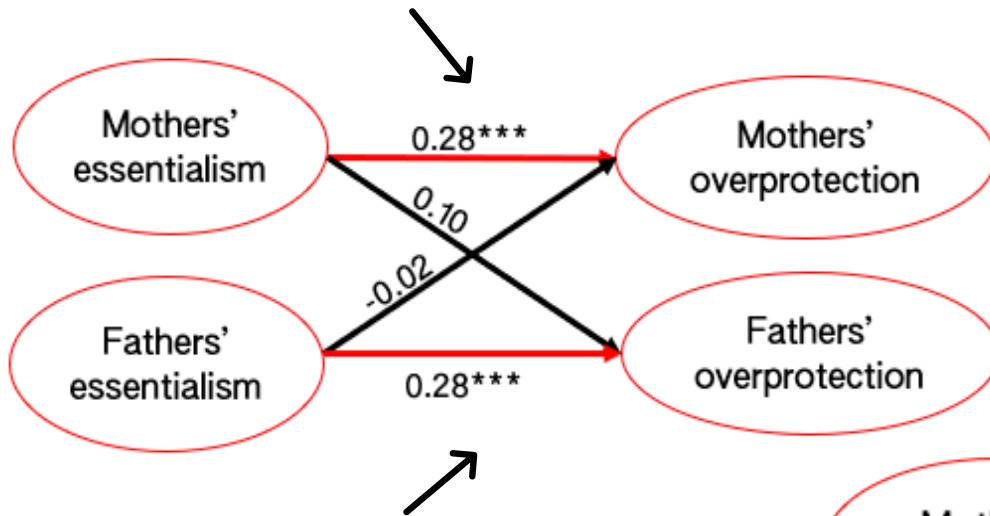
Positive Involvement



Fathers endorsing **gender essentialist beliefs** reported **less** autonomy support and responsiveness



Negative Involvement



Both **mothers** and **fathers** endorsing **gender essentialist beliefs** reported **more overprotection** and **controlling parenting**




Gender Essentialism and Mothers

○ Mothers: the “natural” caregiver? (Hays et al., 1996)

Backfire → *overly* involved in their adolescents' lives

← **mommyacademy**



450 δημοσιεύσεις
76,2 χιλ. ακόλουθοι
749 ακολουθεί

Janey | Boost Your Baby's Brain
 🇺🇸 For new & expecting moms
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9.956 δημοσιεύσεις
1,8 εκ. ακόλουθοι
3.24 ακολουθεί


Mommy Talk

📍 the_mommy_talks • 17 νέα

Ψηφιακός δημιουργός
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2.419 δημοσιεύσεις
104 χιλ. ακόλουθοι
1.925 ακολουθεί

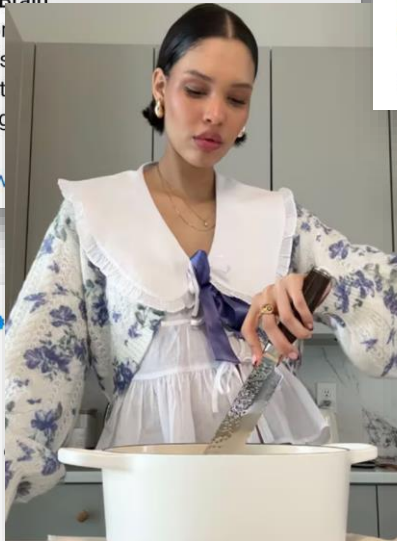
Mommy Hooding
 Let's support each other on the ride of modern motherhood

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Ακολουθή... Στείλτε μήνυ... Email +

Myths MomsDemand Enough About... Mommin' PPD



← **mommyshorts**



7.278 δημοσιεύσεις

Ilana Wiles

📍 mommyshorts

Writer, Mom, New Yorker, Owner of @themarchharenyc
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751 δημοσιεύσεις
237 χιλ. ακόλουθοι
222 ακολουθεί

Bryana Kappadakunnel she/her/hers

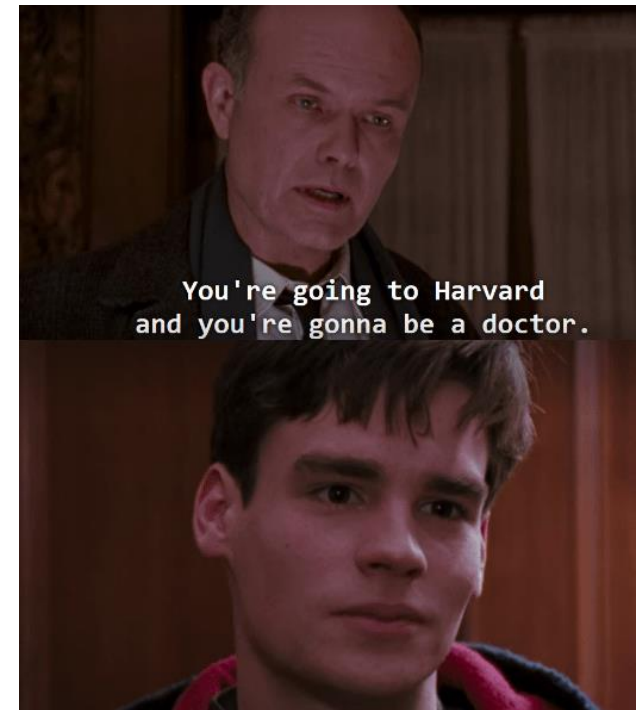
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Ψυχοθεραπευτής
 Mom of 🧒 + Founder of Conscious Mommy
 📅 Parent Yourself First: 1/28/25
 🌱 Join the Community; Transform Your Parenting



Gender Essentialism and Fathers

- “Protector” and rule setter (Silverstein & Auerbach, 1999), enforcing obedience (Summers et al., 1999).
- Traditional **masculine norms** emphasizing discipline and lack of emotional expression (Petts et al., 2018)



Study 2





A Multilevel Approach



- 11 different countries (i.e., Australia, Belgium, Croatia, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland)
- N= 6527 parents
- 2 indexes of gender inequality (GIGI 2023, EVS '17-'18)



Driving mechanism?

Lamprianidou, E.-A., Eira Nunes, C., Bacikova-Sleskova, M., Block, K., De Salvo, E., De Spiegeleer, F., Glatz, T., Liga, F., Perchec, C., Skhirtladze, N., Soenens, B., Tantaros, S., Tokić Milaković, A., van der Kaap-Deeder, J., Venard, G., Visintin, E. P., Zimmer-Gembeck, M., Zimmermann, G., & Van Petegem, S. (2024). *Parents' Gender Role Beliefs and Their Parental Overprotection and Responsiveness Across 11 Countries: Unraveling the Role of Gender Inequality*. Manuscript in preparation

Results





Take Home Messages

- **Gender essentialism** → interplay with parental involvement – importance of **quality** not only quantity!
- **Role of macro-level gender inequality** when studying parenthood → driving mechanism behind dynamics?





Thank you for your attention!



QR code preregistration!

www.safesorry.be

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Research Gate: [Elli-Anastasia Lamprianidou](#)