



# Parents' gender role beliefs and their involvement across 11 countries: Unraveling the role of gender inequality

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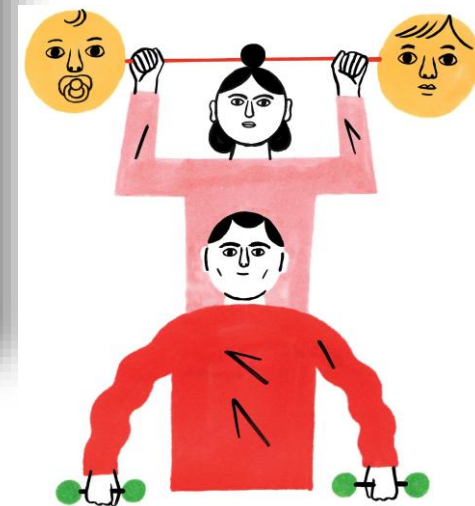
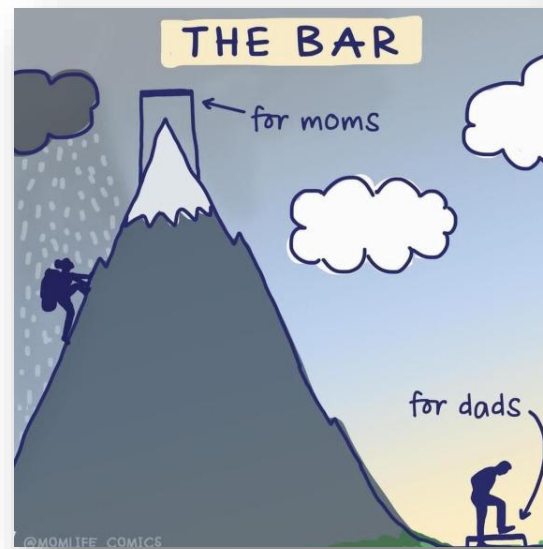
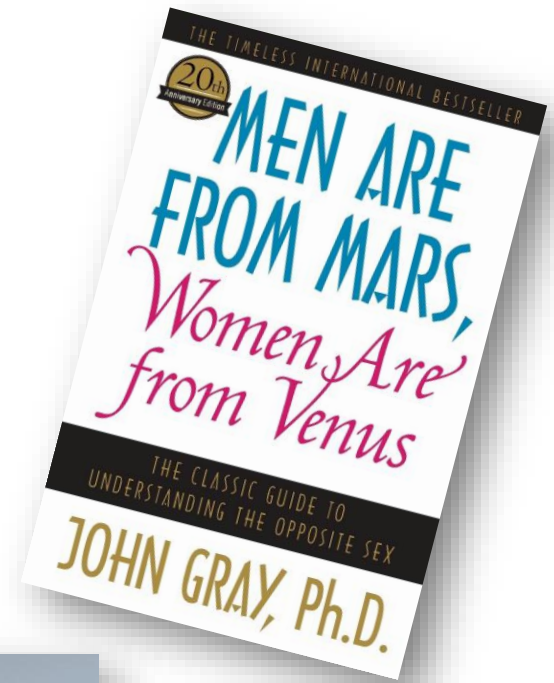
# Gender Norms and Parenthood

- **Gender essentialism**

→ The belief that men and women are “better suited” for different societal roles, including **parental roles**

→ Link with **gender inequalities** in the family

- **Quantity vs quality** of parents' involvement



# Between Positive and Negative Involvement

- **Involvement** that is **attuned / not attuned** to children's developmental stage and needs

- **Responsiveness**



- **Overprotective parenting**

# Gender Norms and Parenthood

- **Gender essentialism**

→ Important for **quality of involvement!**

→ **More negative involvement** for both mothers and fathers

- *overprotective and controlling parenting*

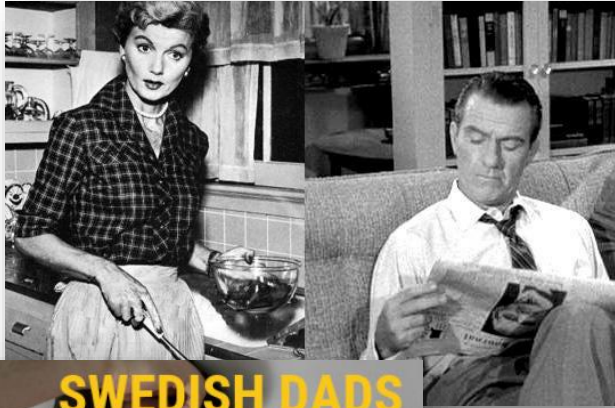
→ **Less positive involvement** for fathers

- *responsive and autonomy-supportive parenting*





# Gender Norms and Cultural Context



→ Gender stereotypes stem from distribution of women and men into **social roles**

→ More **binary** division of roles = **higher** essentialism

→ Division of social roles differs across **cultural contexts**

# Research Goals



+ Positive

- Links **essentialism** – parents' **involvement**



- Negative

- Role of **gender inequality** on the country level as **underlying mechanism**



# Method



- 11 different countries (i.e., Australia, Belgium, Croatia, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland)
- Country-level **gender inequality**
- Multilevel modeling



# Participants



5754 parents of teenagers  
( $M_{age} = 17.35$ ,  $SD = 1.10$ ),  
71.2% mothers



$M_{age}: 47.48$  ( $SD = 5.46$ )



61%



66%



85%



$M_{age}: 50.21$  ( $SD = 5.46$ )



83%



62%



85%



# Measures



- Two indexes of gender inequality

→ EVS2020, GGGI2023

- **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**

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

*I cheer up my child when they are sad.*

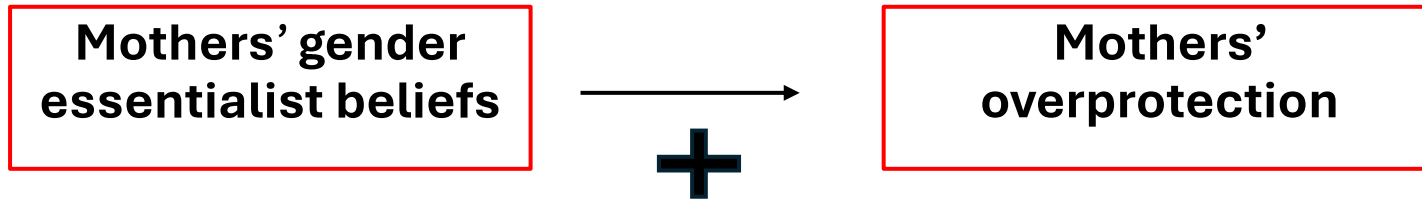
- **Negative involvement**

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

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

# Results

# Essentialism and Mothers' Involvement



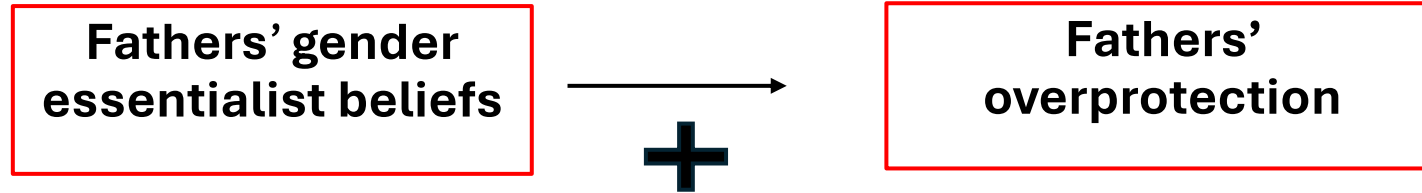
$B = 0.21, SE = 0.02, p < .001$



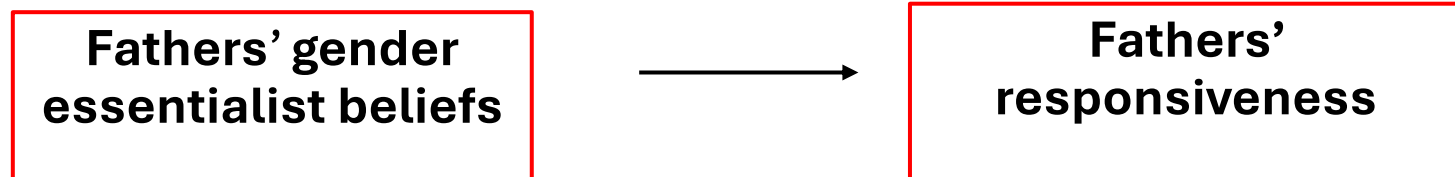
$B = -0.03, SE = 0.01, p = .018.$

**Mothers** endorsing **gender essentialist beliefs** reported **more overprotection** and **less responsiveness** across 11 countries

# Essentialism and Fathers' Involvement



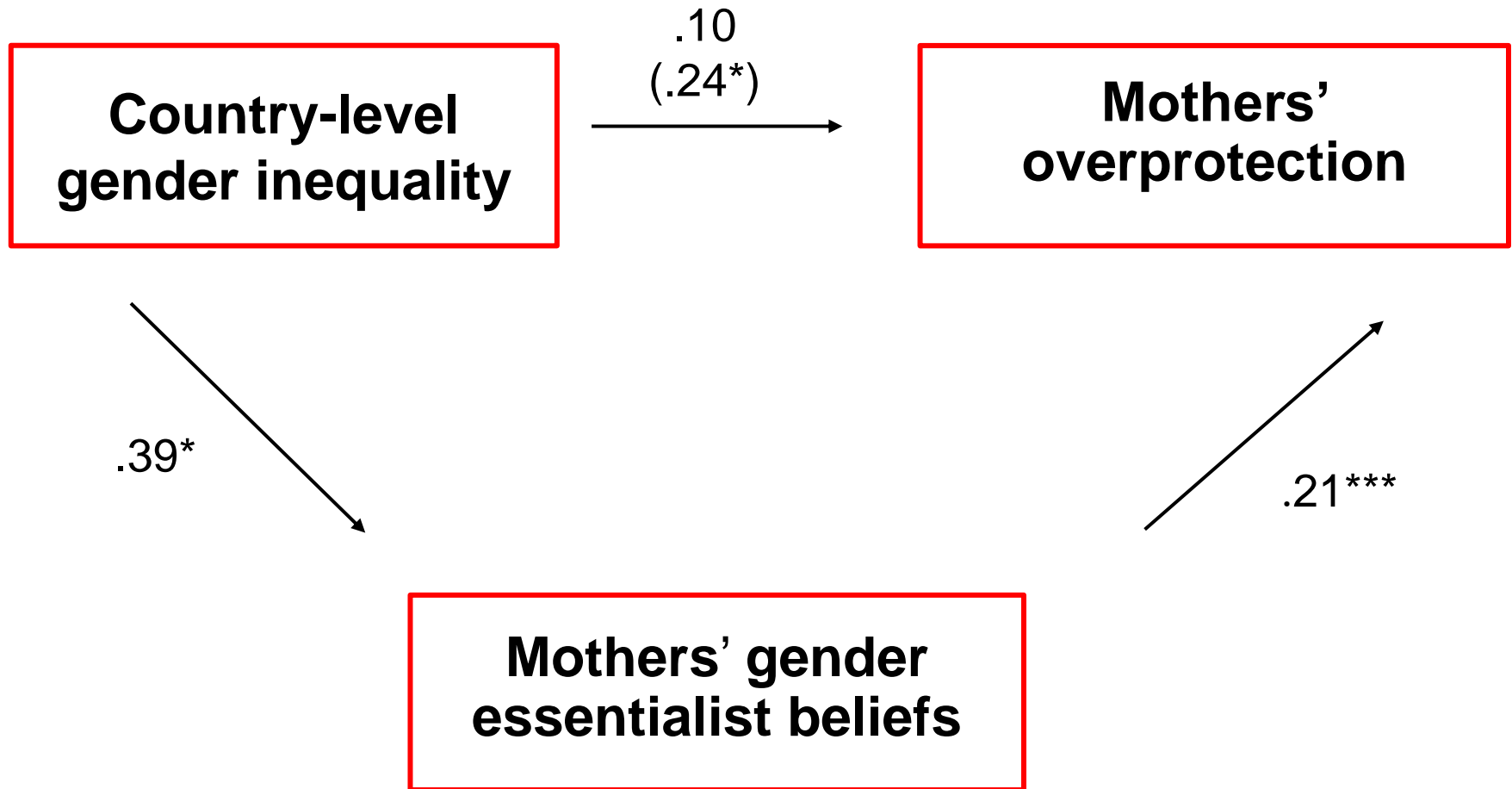
$B = 0.22, SE = 0.05, p < .001$



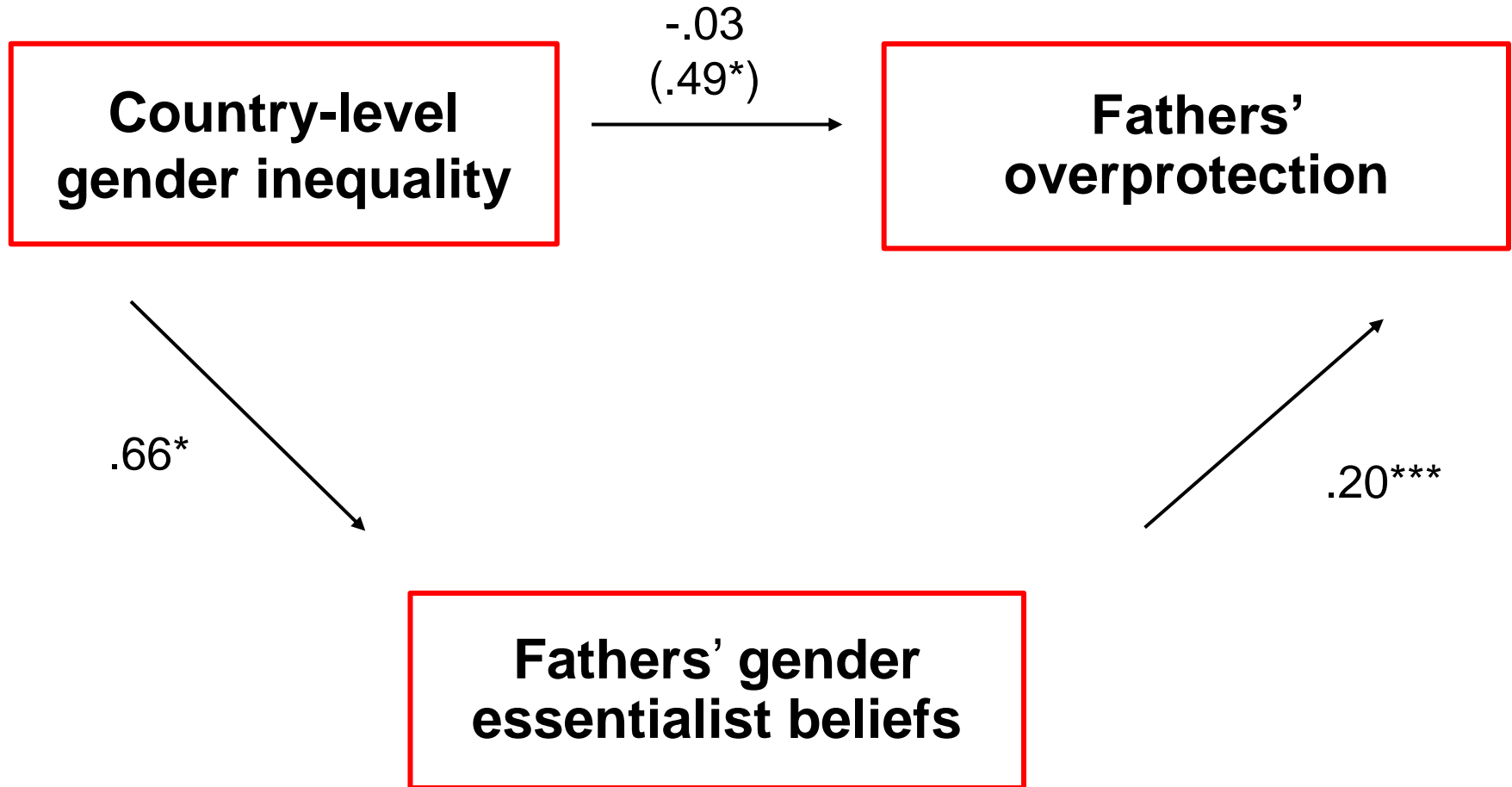
$B = -0.11, SE = 0.06, p = .067$

**Fathers** endorsing **gender essentialist beliefs** reported **more overprotection** across 11 countries / no link with their responsiveness

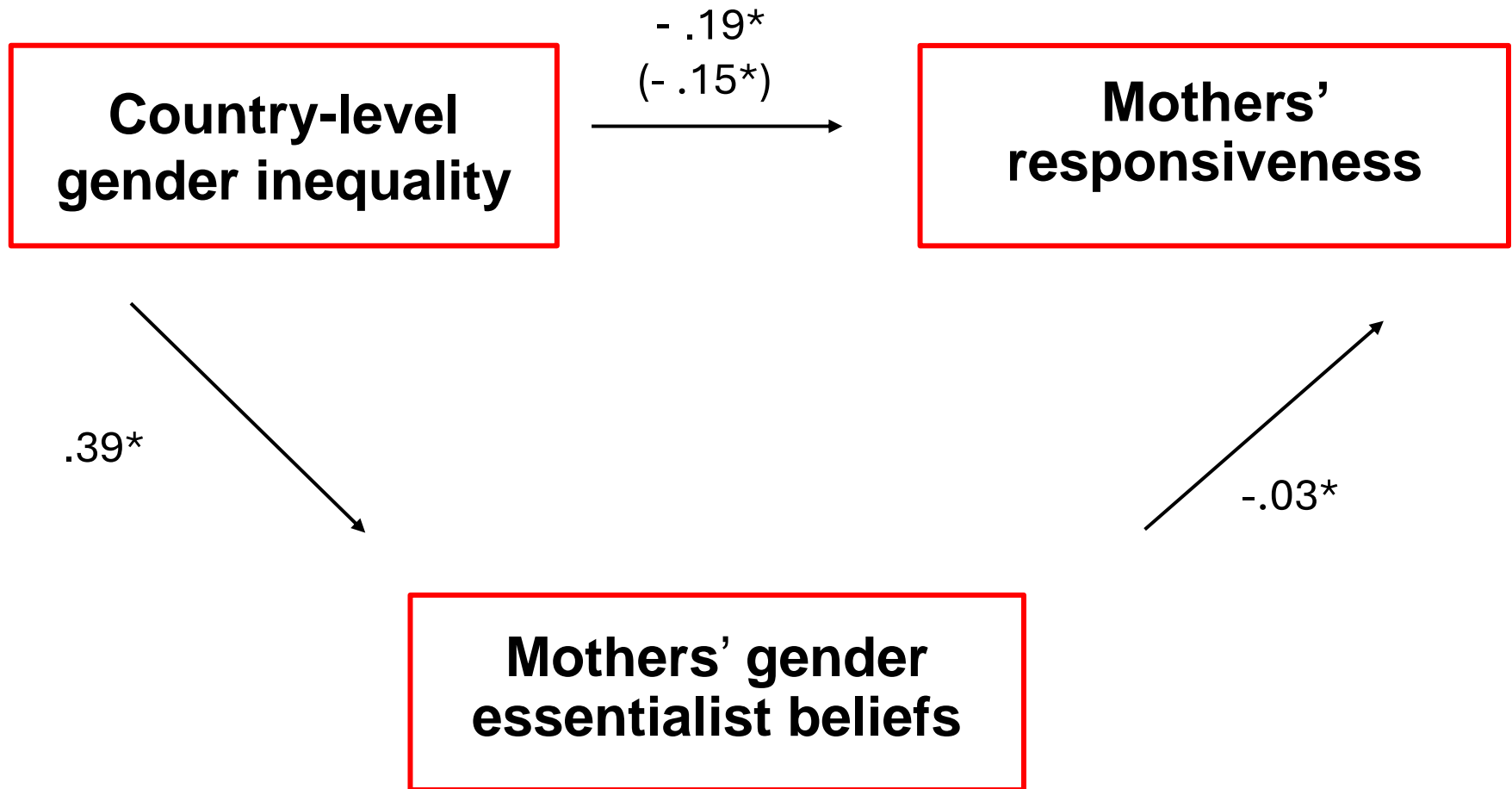
# Gender Inequality and Negative Involvement



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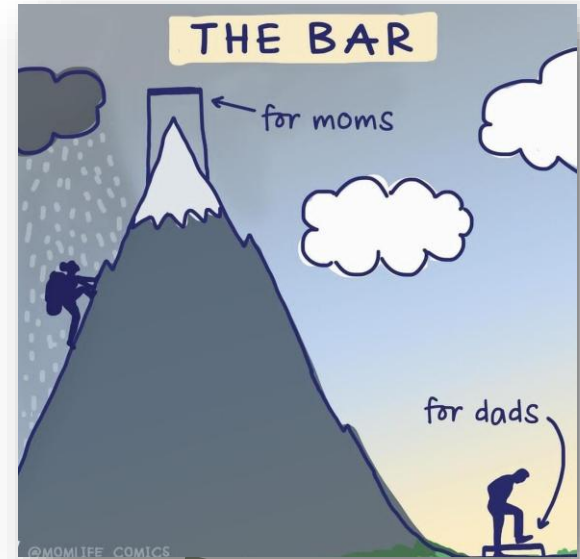


# Gender Inequality and Positive Involvement



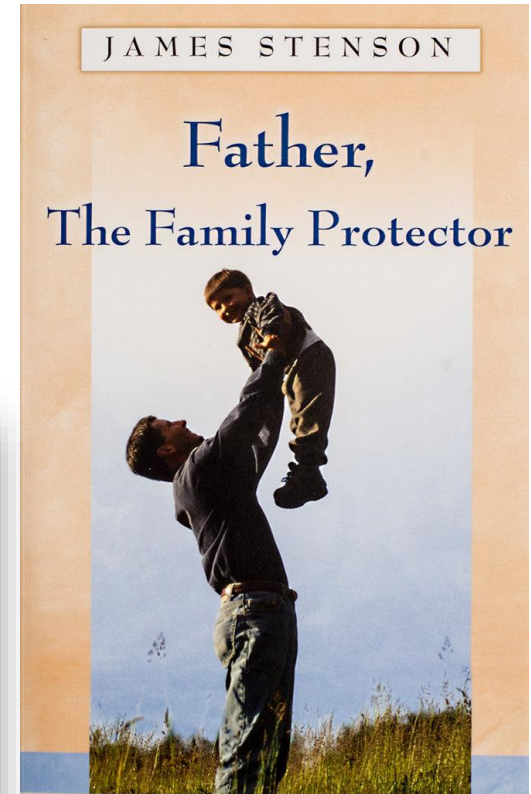
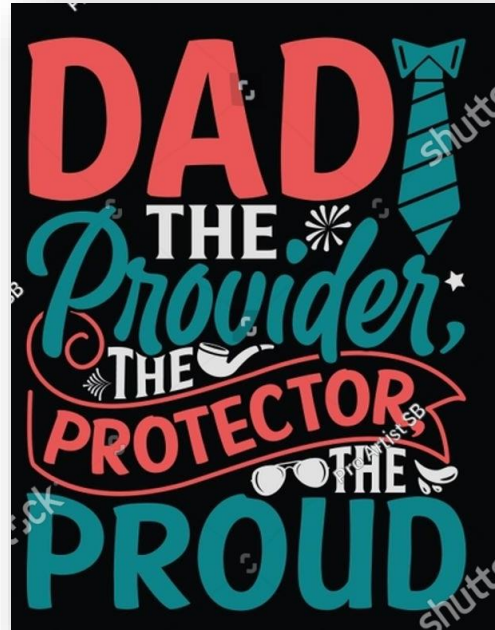
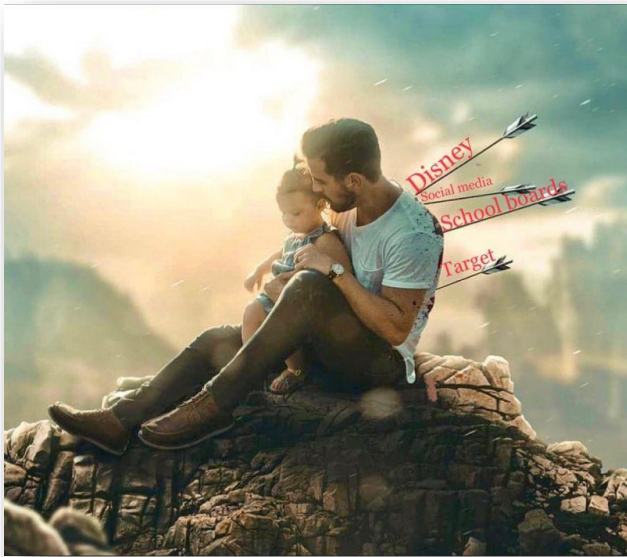
# Gender Essentialism and Mothers' Involvement

- “**Intensive mothering ideology**”  
women as “naturally” better caregivers  
**Backfire!** → more overprotection
  
- Gender essentialism linked to lower **life satisfaction/more distress** for women  
**Backfire!** → less responsiveness



# Gender Essentialism and Fathers' Involvement





- Fathers → **masculine, traditional father models** of the “family protector”



# Gender Essentialism Across Cultures

- Gender essentialist beliefs → **traditional gender roles** related to **fatherhood** and **motherhood**
- Cross-cultural support for previous findings!
- Country-level **gender inequality** matters! → **underlying mechanism**





# The Intensification of Parenthood in Adolescence: Unpacking Gender Dynamics and Sociocultural Pressures



PhD Public Defense  
Elliana Lamprianidou

**28-5-25**

**14:00, Solvay Building, S.R42.4.502**



# Thank you for your attention!



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