

OVERPROTECTIVE PARENTING DURING ADOLESCENCE: a risk or protective factor of risk-taking and sensitivity to risky peer influence?

Anaïs OSMONT

Basilie CHEVRIER

Fannie POUZOL

Bruno DAUVIER



amU
Aix Marseille Université

Centre **PSY**
Cle



anais.osmont@univ-amu.fr

basilie.chevrier@univ-amu.fr

EARA
European Association for
Research on Adolescence

Risk-taking ?

Behaviors associated with **uncertain outcomes**:

- **probable negative consequences** (physical, financial, social, emotional, ethical...)
- also lead to **some form of reward** (financial gain, thrills, satisfaction of curiosity, social reinforcement...)



High variability in adolescent risky behaviors

- Consumption of drugs, tobacco, alcohol
- Dangerous driving
- Engagement in dangerous sports, stunts
- Dangerous games, Tiktok challenges ...



➔ Public Health issue

How to explain adolescents' risky behaviors ?

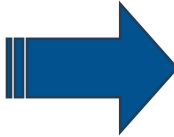


Adolescent = irrational decision-maker ?

Social context: peers influence
(Steinberg, 2008)

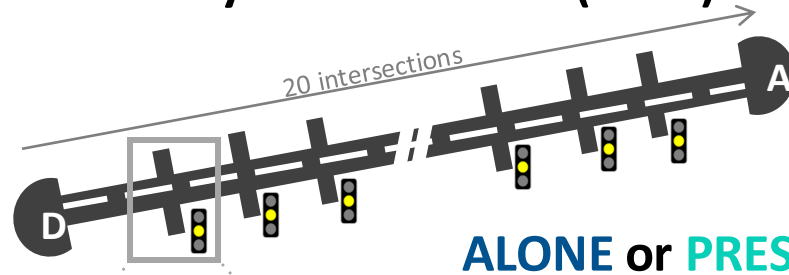


Correct evaluation of outcomes
(Millstein et al. , 2002; Osmont et al. 2017)





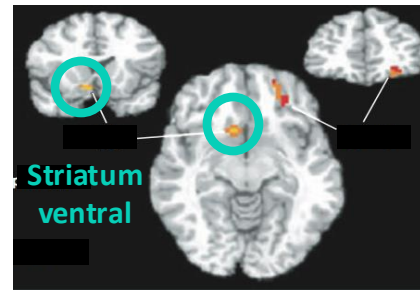
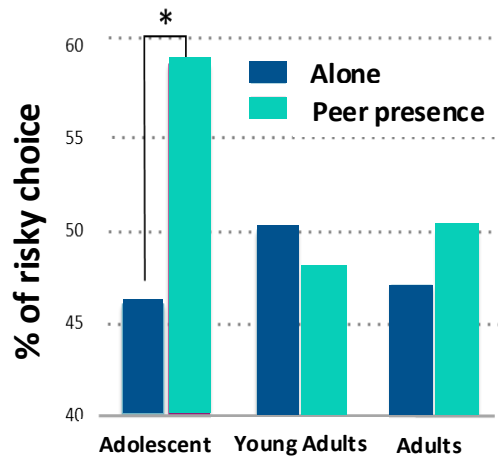
IRMf study of Chein et al. (2010)



ALONE or **PRESENCE** of 2 PEERS

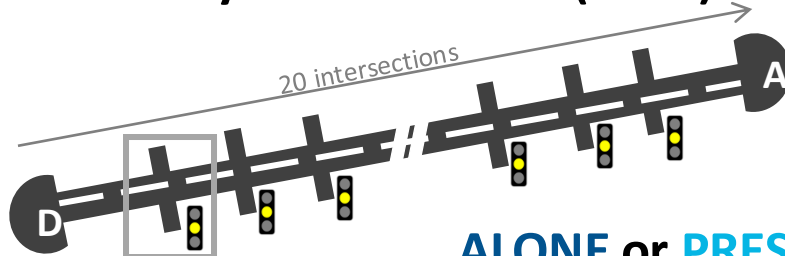


- 14 Adolescents (14-18y)
- 14 Young adults (19-22y)
- 12 Adults (22-29y)

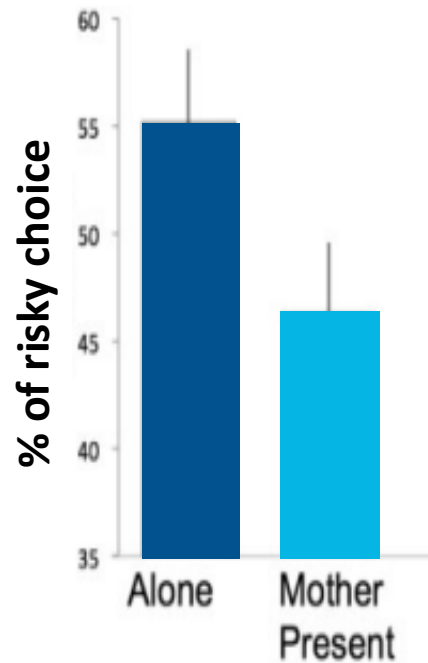


What about parental influence?

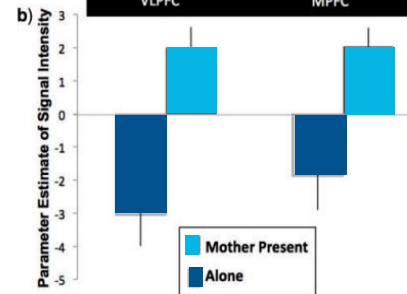
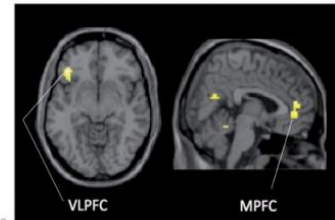
IRMf study of Telzer et al. (2015)



ALONE or PRESENCE of MOTHER



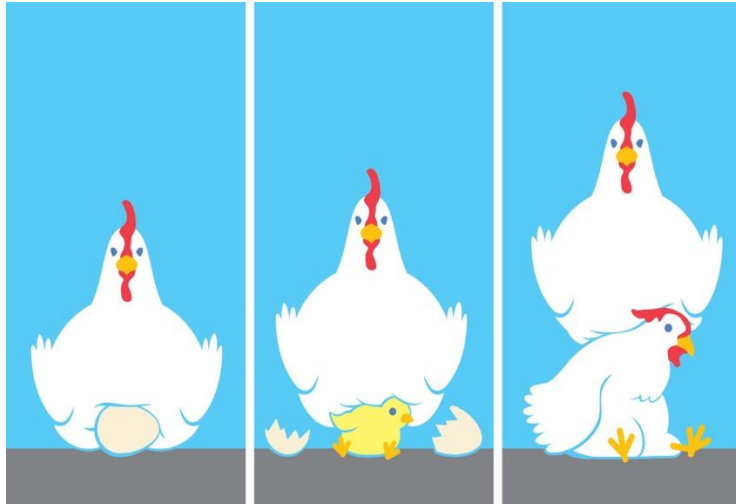
(a) Stop Decisions, Mother Present > Alone



Protective role of parental presence ?



A protective role of parents outside of their presence?



Parental overprotection = Parents' level of protection and involvement that is excessive considering the child's developmental level (Holmbeck et al., 2002)

**Anxious
overprotection**

(Chevrier et al., 2023)

Effect of parental overprotection on risk taking ?



Overprotective parenting : a **PROTECTIVE** or a **RISK** factor of risk-taking during adolescence?



- ✓ Significant parental supervision
→ reduced risk opportunities
(Borawski et al., 2003 ; Wang et al., 2016)



- ✓ Excessive parental control (de Graaf et al., 2010)
- ✓ Perceived overprotection :
→ increases externalizing behaviors
→ Reduced adaptability and autonomy
(Ju et al., 2019 ; Van Petegem et al., 2020)



PEER INFLUENCE: a mediator of the effect of parental overprotection on risk-taking?

- ✓ Overprotection → controlling peers selection and influence (Assunção et al., 2017 ; Moussa Rogers & McKinney, 2019)
- ✓ Superiority of parental influence over peer influence in situations of conflicting injunctions about risk (Kwon et al., 2021) → *depend of parent/child relationship ?*

356 adolescents from 6th grade to 12th grade
(ages 11-21; M = 15.22; SD = 2.32; 155 girls)



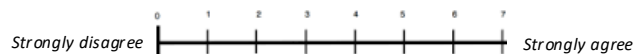
RELATIVE PEERS/
PARENTS INFLUENCE



8 scenari of contradictory
injunctions of peers and
parents

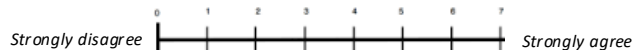
My parents think I am too young to drink alcohol. Tonight, I am at a party with my friends, and they are offering me to try alcoholic drinks. In this situation:

- I refuse because that is what my parents expect of me.



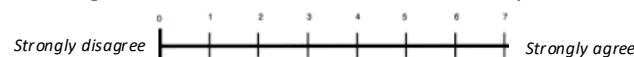
→ *Conformism to parents*

- I refuse, I think it's a bad idea from my friends and that they are doing it for the wrong reasons



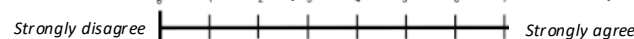
→ *Opposition to peers*

- I try, I have the right to lead my own experiences despite what my parents think.



→ *Opposition to parents*

- I try because I want to prove to my friends that I can do everything like them.



→ *Conformism to peers*

356 adolescents from 6th grade to 12th grade
(ages 11-21; M = 15.22; SD = 2.32; 155 girls)



RELATIVE PEERS/
PARENTS INFLUENCE



**8 scenari of contradictory
injunctions of peers and
parents**



RISK-TAKING



AYARTI (Moncel et al., 2024)
✓ Transgressive and social behaviors
✓ Overtaking behaviors



PERCEIVED
OVERPROTECTION



S-MOPS (Chevrier et al., 2022)
MOTHER vs FATHER
✓ Anxious overprotection

Effect of Parental overprotection on risk taking

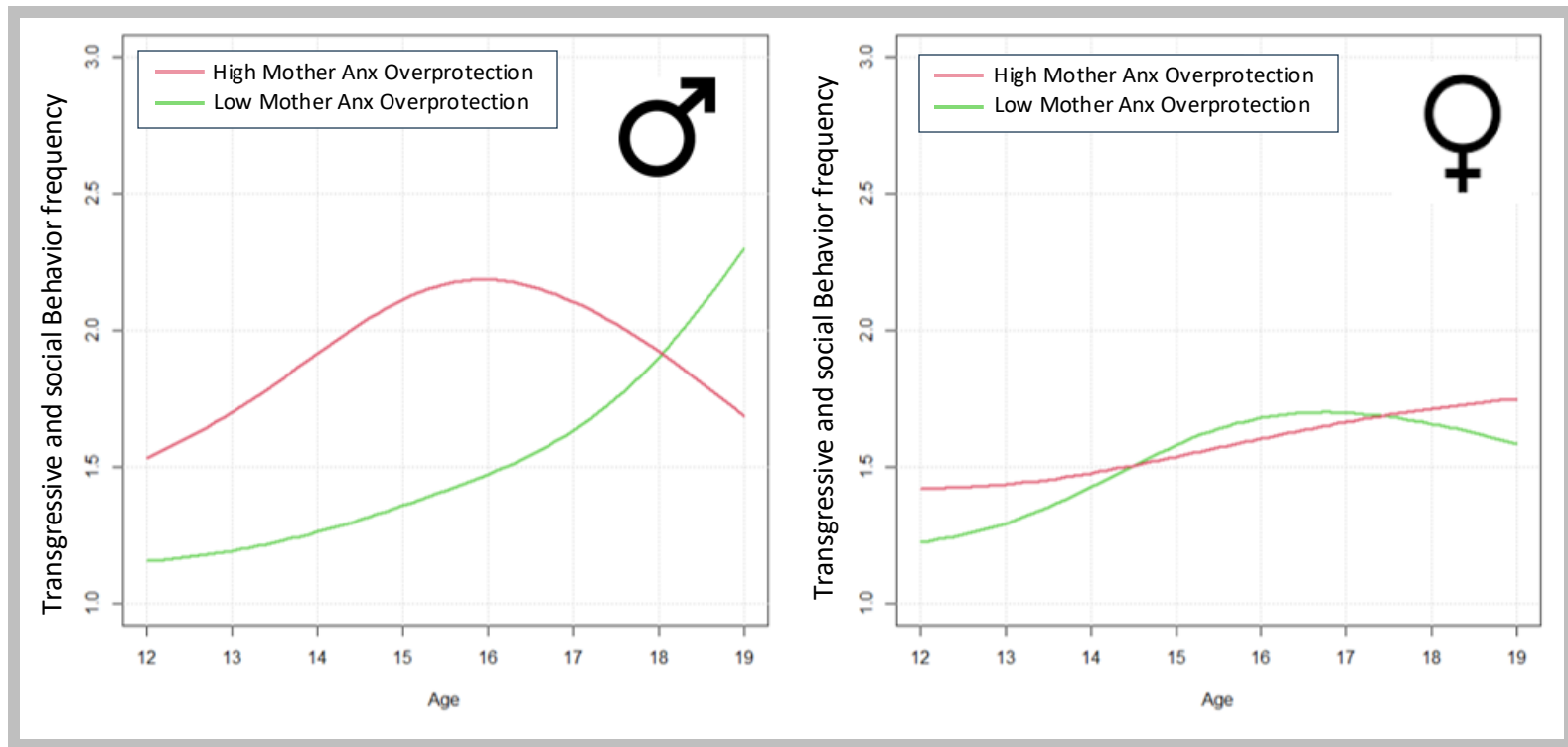
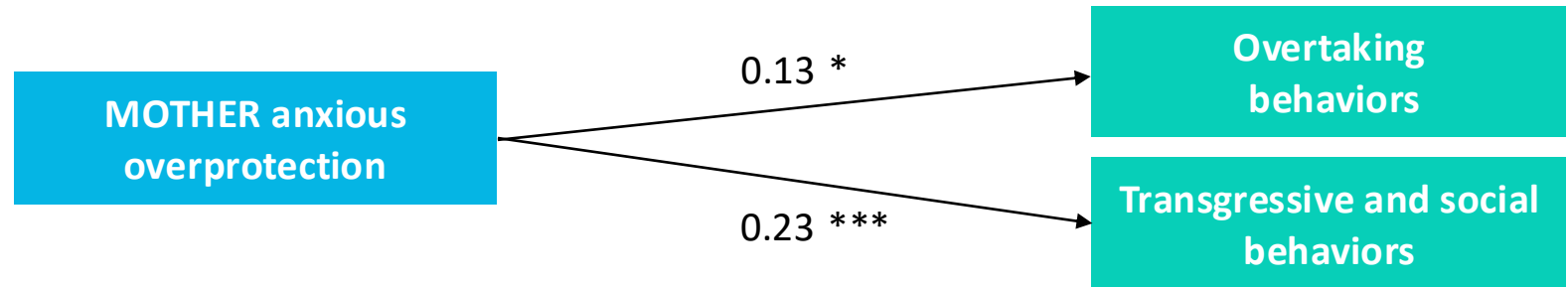
INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVE

METHOD

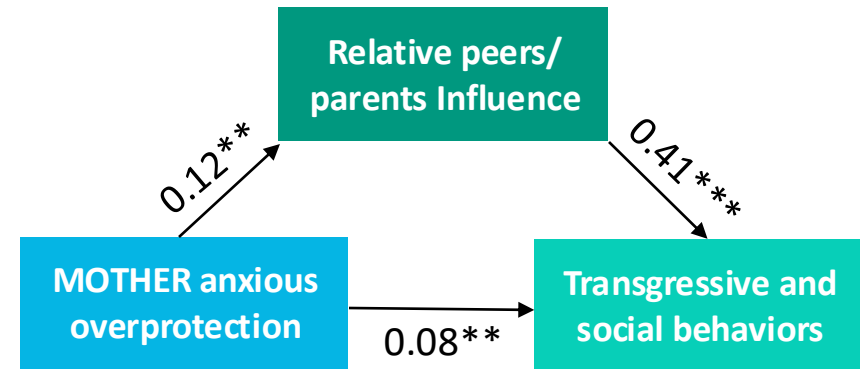
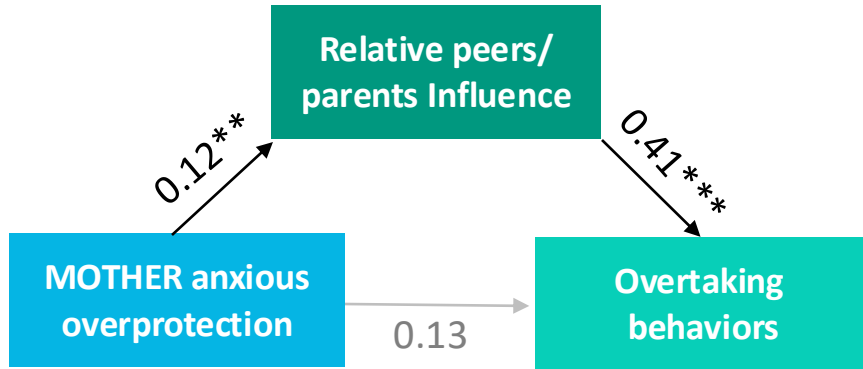
RESULTS

INFERENCE



The role of peer influence

INTRODUCTION

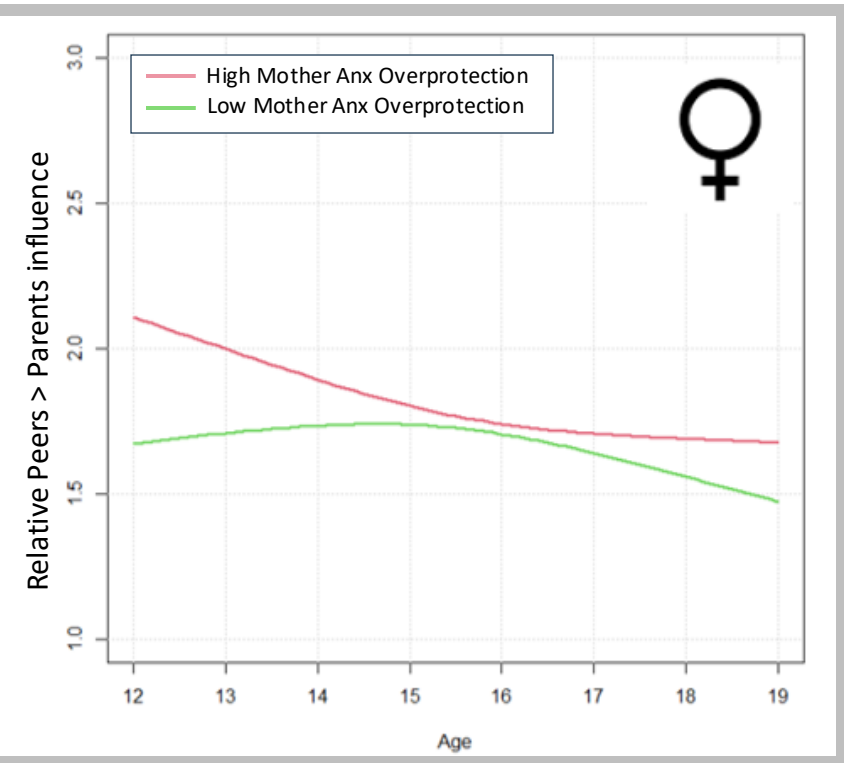
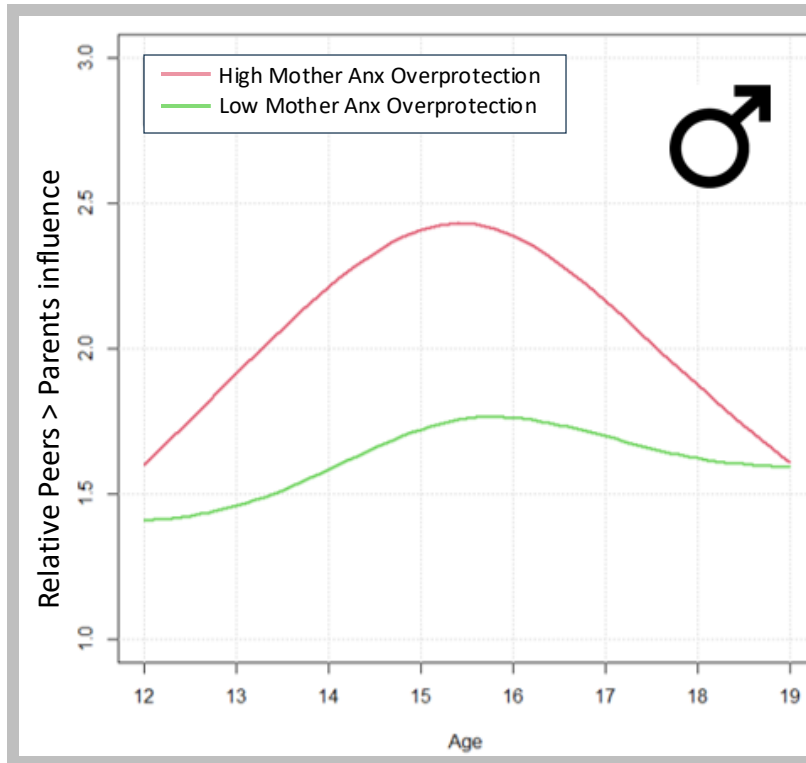


OBJECTIVE

METHOD

RESULTS

INFERENCE



Overprotective parenting during adolescence = A RISK FACTOR of risk-taking and sensitivity to risky peer influence

- ✓ Maternal Anxious overprotection → **Earlier involvement in risky transgressive and social behaviors in boys**
- ✓ Maternal Anxious overprotection → **Increases sensitivity to peer influence → Parental influence's disadvantage**



Revisiting the perspective on risk-taking: do not seek to limit opportunities (Duel et Steinberg, 2021; Telzer et al., 2022)

Risk taking = Opportunities for exploration beyond one's family environment

Learning function

Social function

Autonomy

✓ Cross-sectional study → **Longitudinal** (Qu and al., 2017)

✓ Few information about **family dynamics**



Why only maternal overprotection?

→ **Maternal Gatekeeping** (Allen et Hawkins, 1999)

✓ Adolescent perception of overprotection
→ **Dyadic approach** : importance of the perception gap between parent and child (Van Petegem et al., 2020)

Thank you for your attention



anais.osmont@univ-amu.fr

basilie.chevrier@univ-amu.fr



Anaïs Osmont



Bruno Davier



Fannie Pouzol