



Don't Your Parents Bother You? Examining the Quality of Communication among Emerging Adults with Their Parents

Julienne A. Palbusa, M.A.
Kevin F. Kaechinda, Ph.D.

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Why parental communication?

- › Parental communication during adolescence
 - › A component of optimal parenting behaviors (Barnes & Olson, 1985)
 - › Promotes healthy adjustment (Collins et al., 2000)
 - › Related to behavioral outcomes and school performance
- › What role does parental communication play during emerging adulthood?
 - › Emerging adults (EAs) living with their parents (Mitchell, 1998; 2006)
 - › Negotiating roles with parents
 - › Do EAs feel bothered?

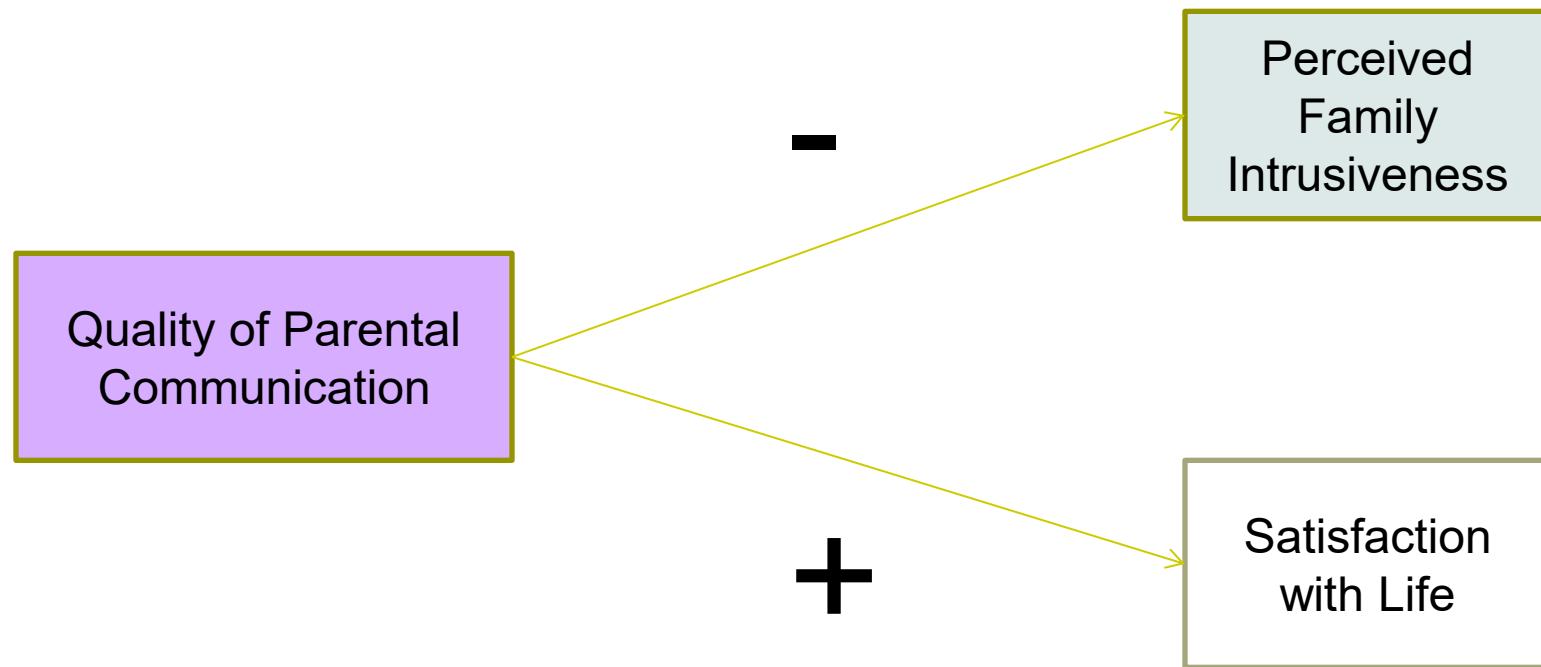
Sociocultural Approach

- Considering cultural context
 - Family structure within the household (Baca Zinn & Wells, 2000; Chao & Tseng, 2000)
 - Nuclear vs. Extended Family
 - Family expectations (Fuligni, Tseng, & Lam, 1999)
 - Come home and care for aging parents
 - The cultural context may affect parent-child communication and relationship during EA.

Present Study

- How do emerging adults' perceived quality of communication with their parents relate to their own perceptions of family intrusiveness and life satisfaction?
 - Are their differences in these relations based on generational immigrant status and racial/ethnic background?

Hypothesis



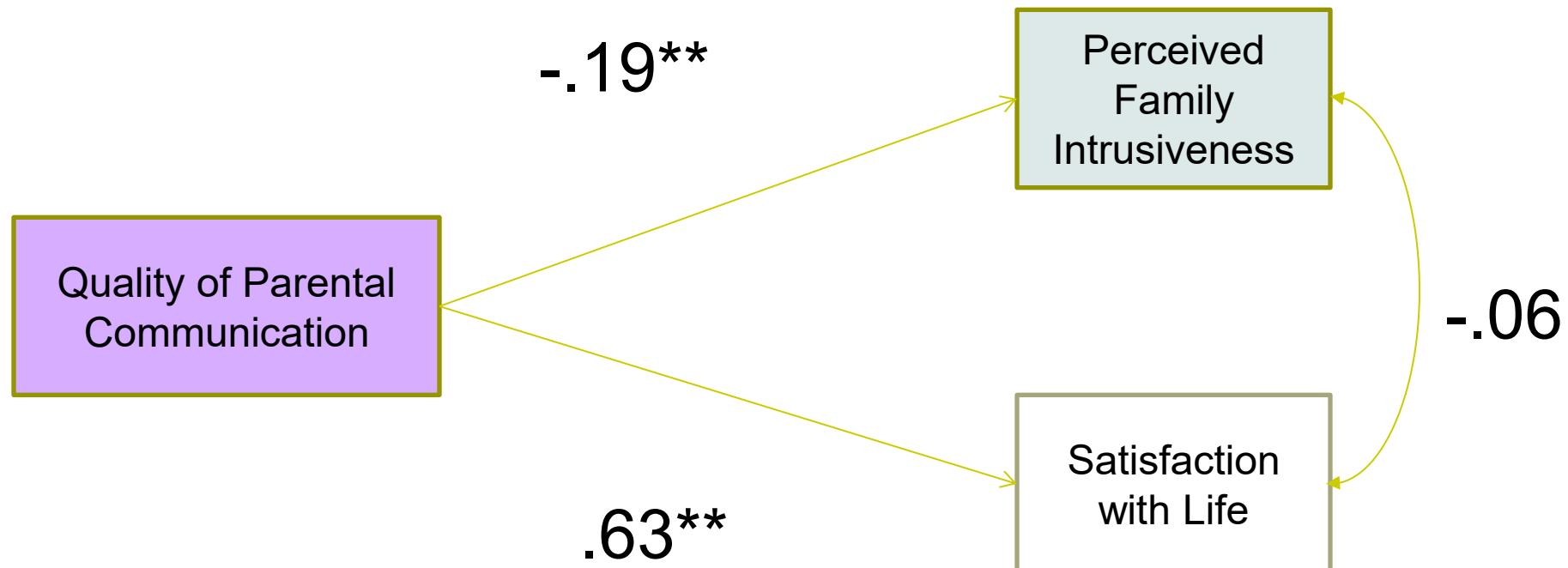
Method

- › Diversity in Pathways to Adulthood Project
 - › ($N = 397$)
- › Subsample ($N = 256$)
 - › 39% Chinese, 34% Mexican, and 28% European Americans
 - › 63% female
 - › Age _{Mean} = 19.55 years
 - › 11% first-generation, 54% second-generation, 25% third-generation

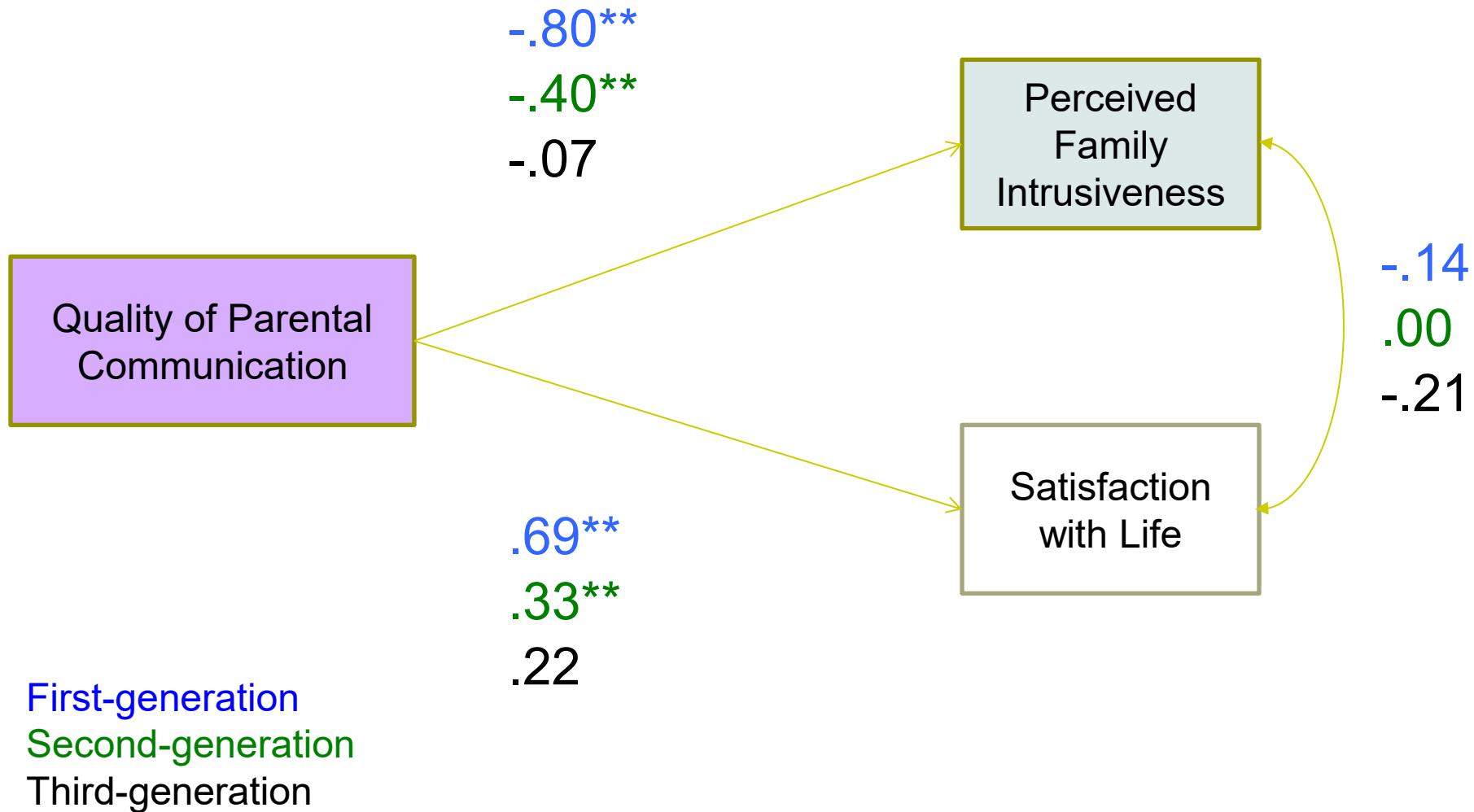
Measures

- **Perceived Quality of Communication** (5 items; Barnes & Olson, 1985; Boutakidis & Lisman, 2001)
 - 1 = *Strongly Disagree*; 5 = *Strongly Agree*
 - “I find it easy to discuss problems with my parent;” “I feel that when I try to talk with my parent, s/he misunderstands me.”
- **Family Intrusiveness** (13 items; Gavazzi, Reese, & Sabatelli, 1998)
 - 1 = *Never*; 5 = *Always*
 - “Family members criticize the way I run my life;” “Family members question my loyalty to the family”
- **Satisfaction with Life** (5-items; Diener et al., 1985)
 - 1 = *strongly disagree*; 7 = *strongly agree*
 - “The conditions of my life are excellent;” “I am satisfied with my life.”

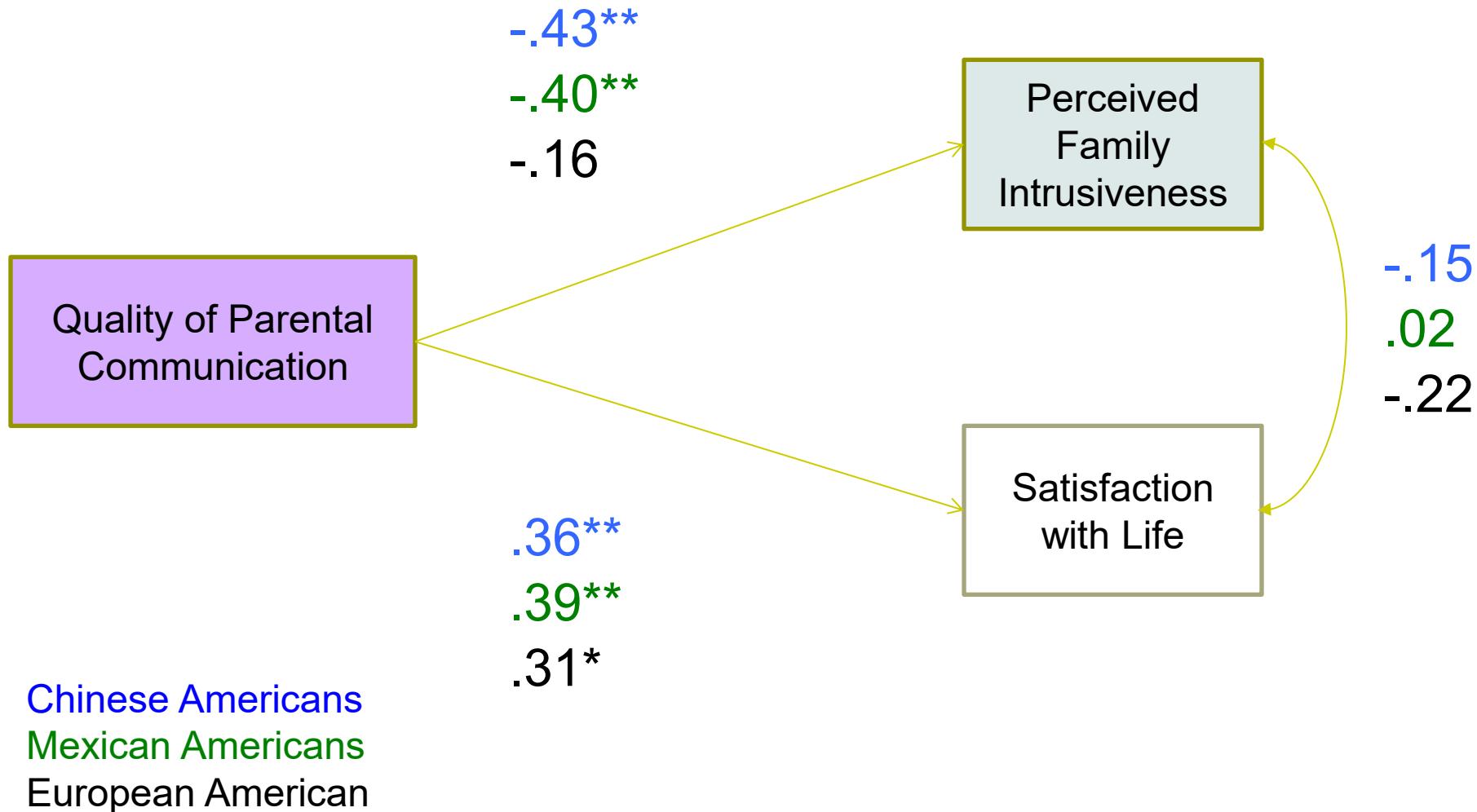
Overall Sample



Immigrant Generational Status

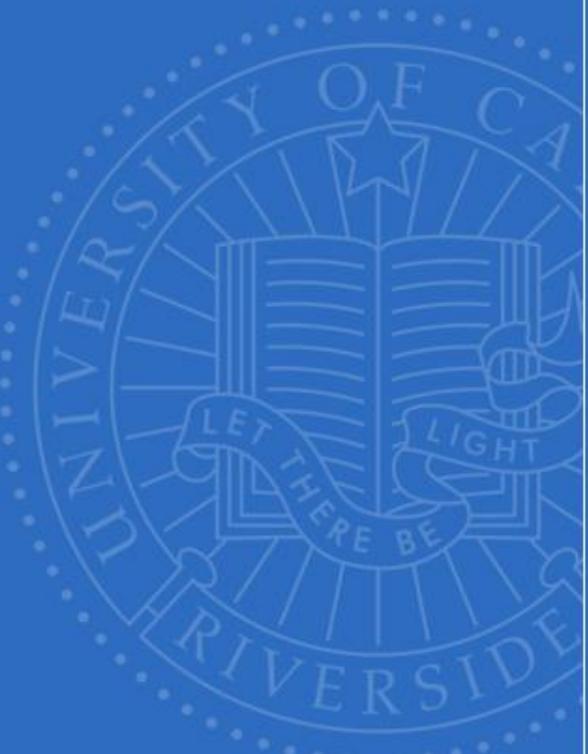


Ethnic Background



Discussion and Future Directions

- › Life-course approach to parenting (Rossi & Rossi, 1990)
- › Life satisfaction and positive perceptions of one's family may be related to high quality parental communication.
- › Relations may vary based on:
 - › Generation status
 - › Racial/ethnic background
- › Possible reasons for these differences
 - › Perceived parental sacrifice (Chao & Kaeochinda, 2010)



Thank you!

Julienne Palbusa
jp Alb001@ucr.edu

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