

The logo for the University of California, Riverside (UCR). It features the letters "UCR" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "R" is stylized with a white sunburst or starburst graphic at its top right corner.

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

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**Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood  
6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference**

A large, faint, light blue seal of the University of California, Riverside is visible in the background on the left side of the slide. The seal is circular and contains the text "UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA" at the top and "RIVERSIDE" at the bottom. In the center, there is an open book with a banner across it that reads "LET THERE BE LIGHT".

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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?

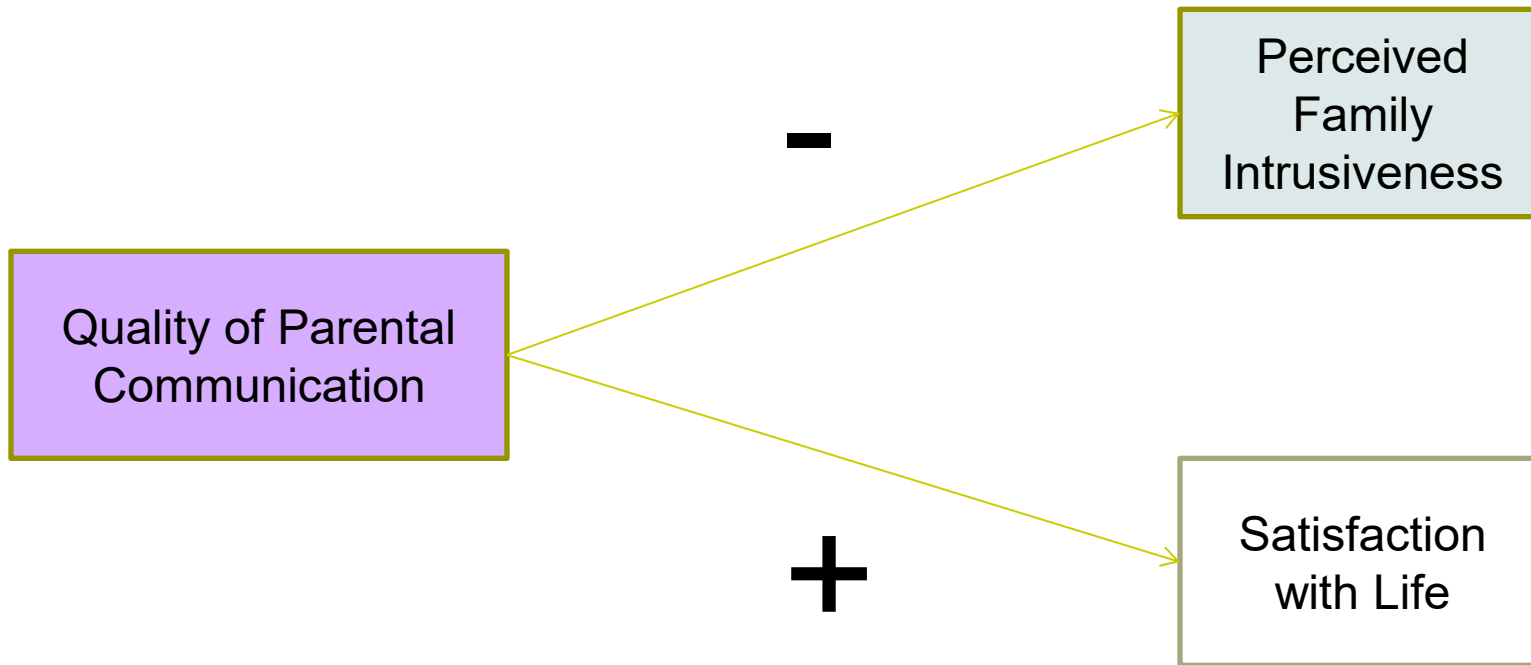
# Sociocultural Approach

- 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



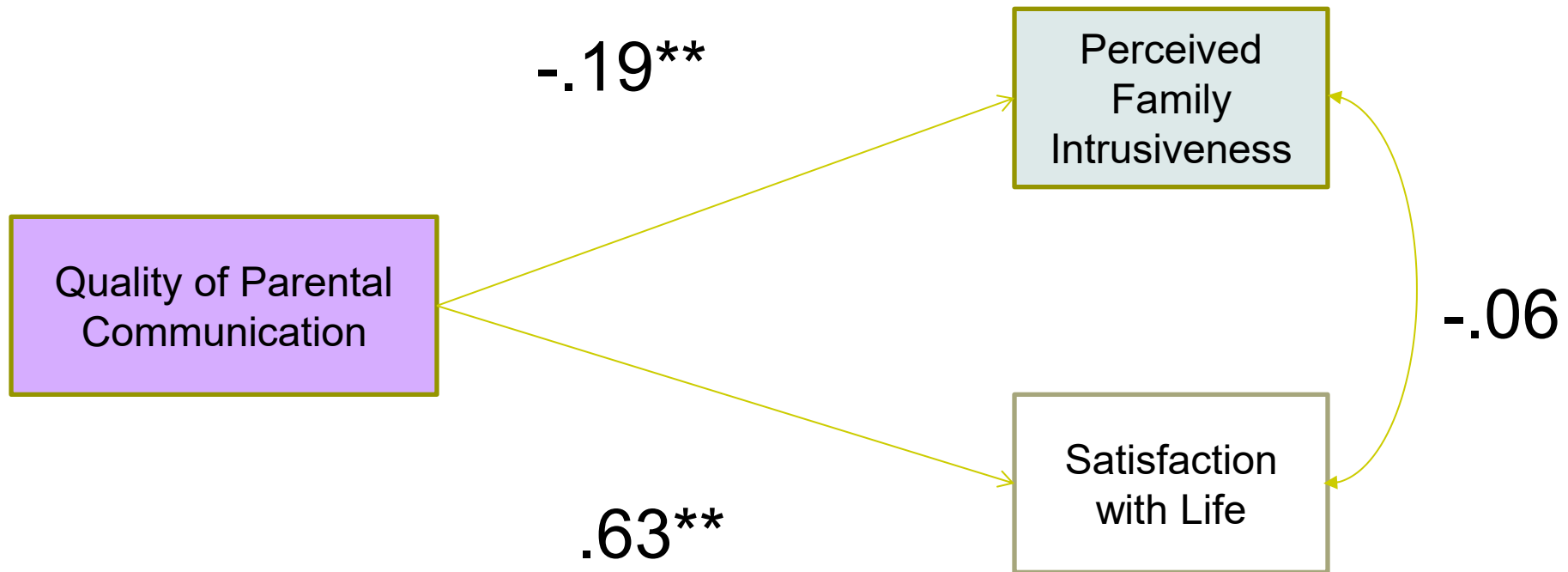
# Method

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

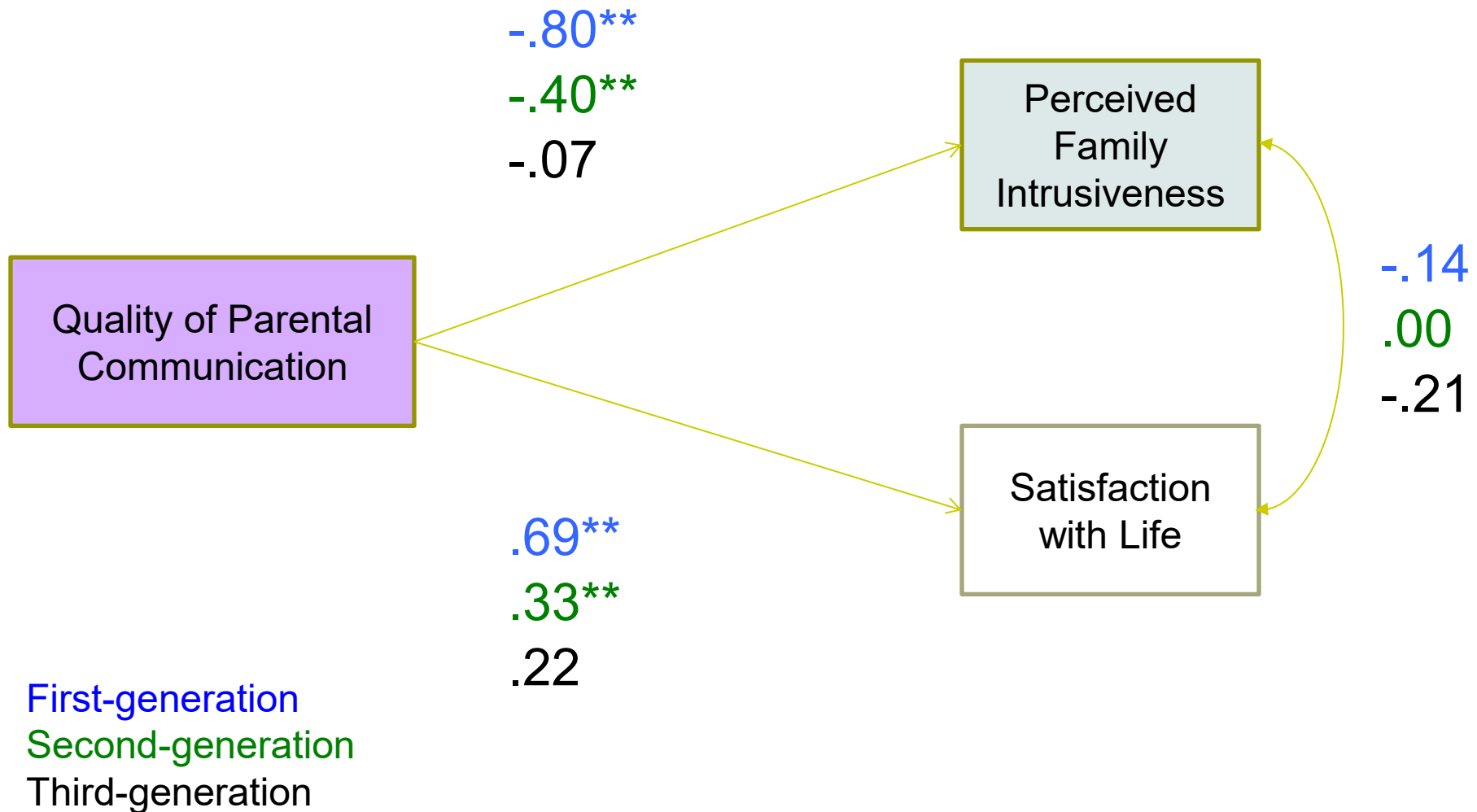
# Measures

- > **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.”

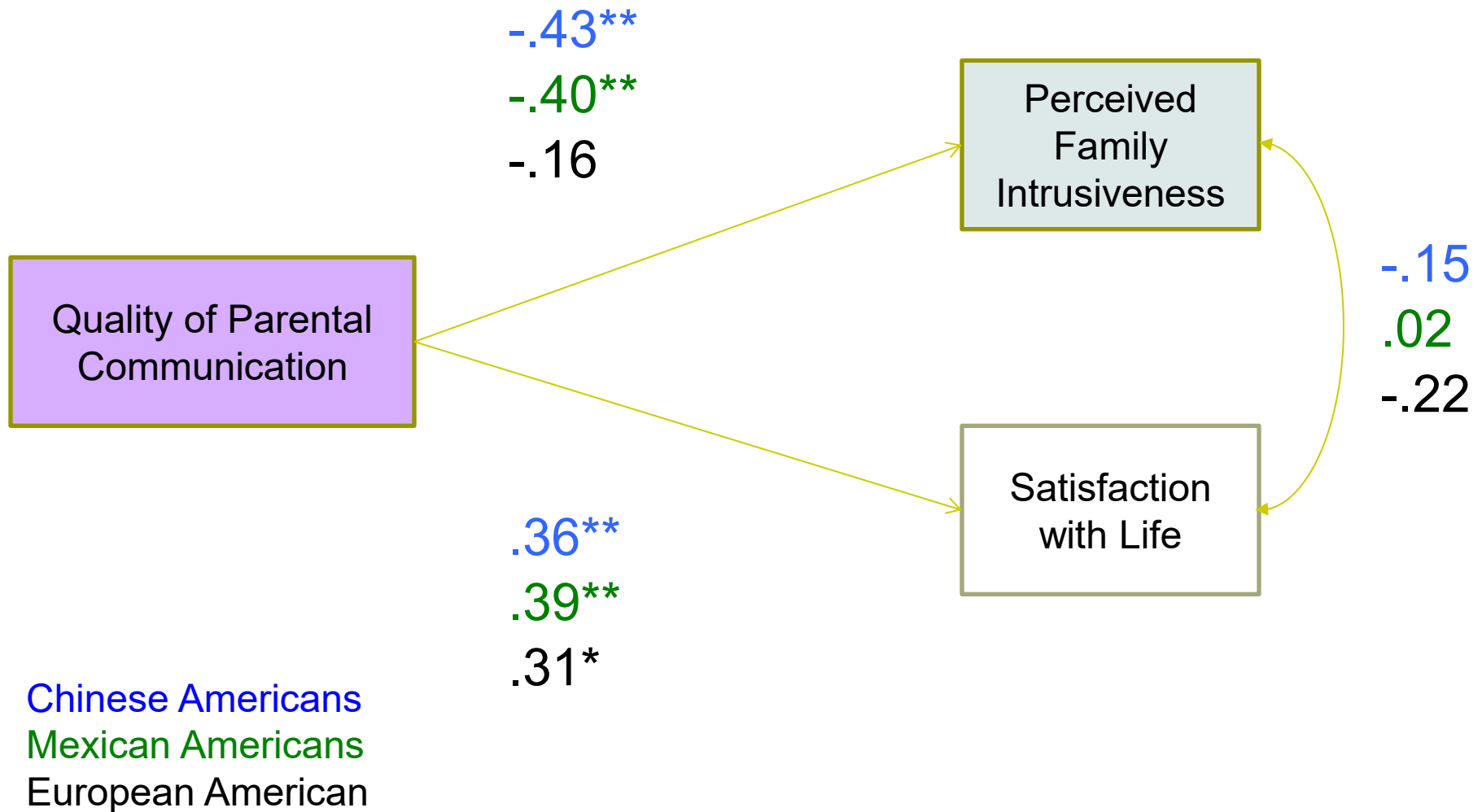
# Overall Sample



# Immigrant Generational Status



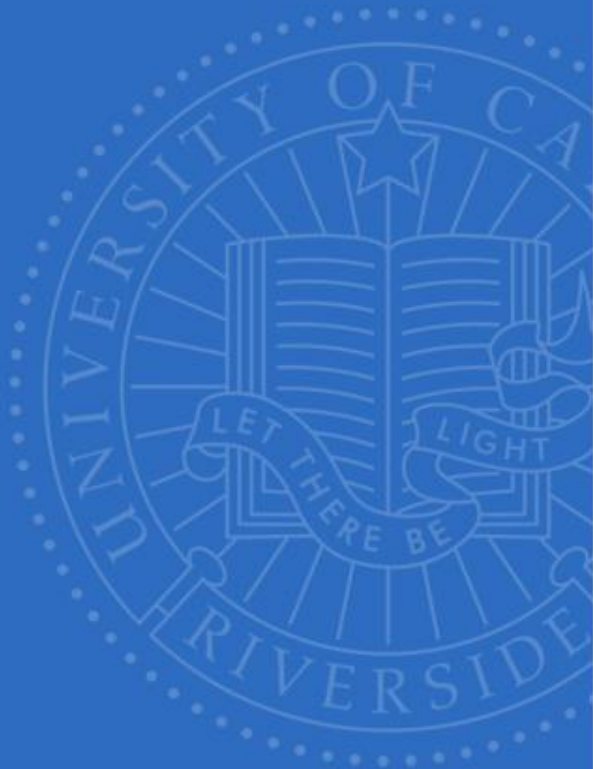
# Ethnic Background



# 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)

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## Thank you!

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