

Antecedents and Consequences of Parents' Restrictive Mediation and Communication Styles in the Domain of Gaming

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Introduction

Parents can regulate their children's gaming behavior by setting rules on gaming = **restrictive mediation**.

The way in which parents communicate about these rules, may be of importance to how their children's gaming behavior evolves (< **self-determination theory**).

They may communicate in an **autonomy-supportive** or **controlling** way.

Materials and methods

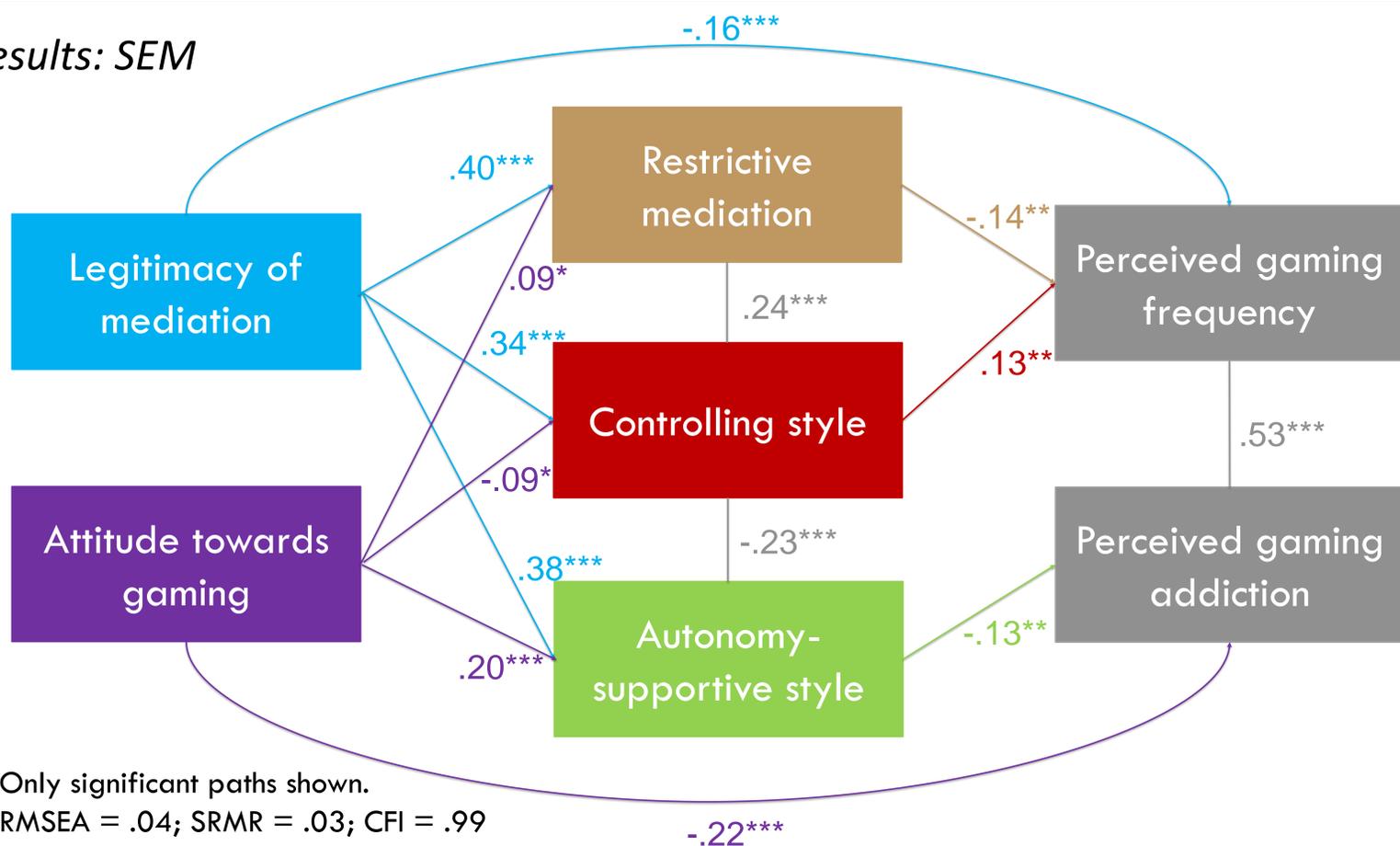
Cross-sectional survey with **N = 476** parents from teenagers.

Given **6 rules**, parents were asked to what extent **they would use these**, as well as **how legitimate** they found them to be.

Parents had to rate how likely it would be that they would react in a **given autonomy-supportive and controlling way** when applying **each rule**.

Parents' **attitude** towards gaming and the perceived **gaming frequency** and **addiction** of their children were also assessed.

Results: SEM



Parental antecedents of mediation (style)

Negative attitude = **less rules**, but when applied, it's **more** in a **controlling** than in an autonomy-supportive way.

Rules are legitimate = **more rules**, both in an autonomy-supportive and a controlling way.

Adolescent consequences of mediation (style)

Parents who set **more rules** on gaming, tend to have adolescents who **game less frequent**.

However, when it comes to **maladaptive gaming behavior**, **only autonomy-supportive communication** about these rules predicts perceived gaming addiction.

Later research?

Clarify the **direction** of these effects.

Reduce possible **reporting biases**.

More **detailed** approach to parents' style of communication.

Conduct **profile analysis** for mediation and its styles.

Acknowledgements

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Interested?

Feel free to drop me a message at lowie.bradt@ugent.be

Literature cited

[1]. Deci, E. L., & Ryan, R. M. (2012). Self-determination theory.
 [2]. van Petegem, S., de Ferrerre, E., Soenens, B., van Rooij, A. J., & van Looy, J. (2019). Parents' Degree and Style of Restrictive Mediation of Young Children's Digital Gaming: Associations with Parental Attitudes and Perceived Child Adjustment. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 1379–1391. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-019-01368-x>