

Parenting and attachment intergenerational
transmission between grandmothers, mothers,
fathers and adolescent children
in different regions of Poland

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Attachment IGT: The process

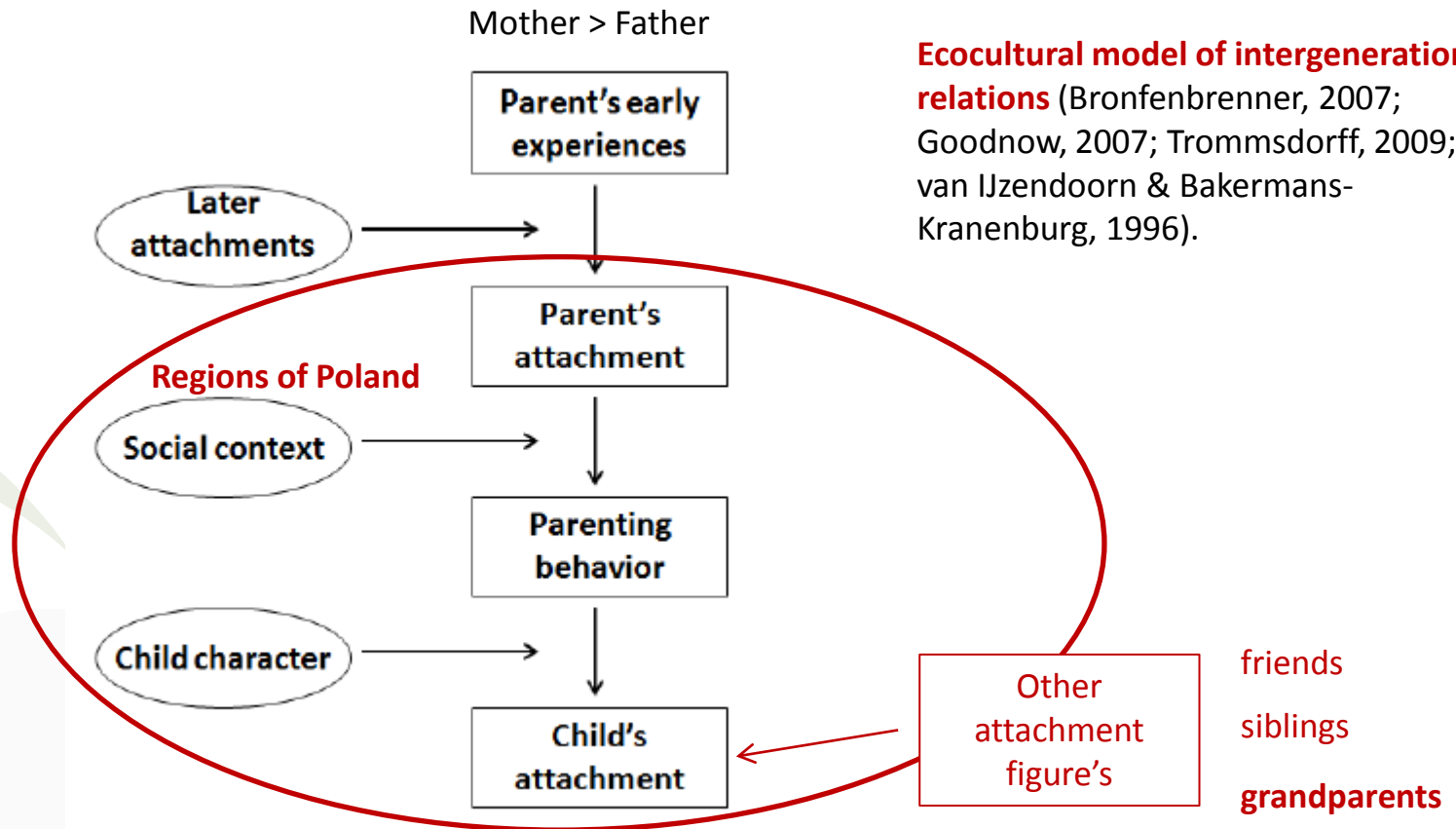


Figure 1. A contextual model of attachment intergenerational transmission proposed by Bakermans-Kranenburg and van IJzendoorn (1996, p.3).



Attachment IGT: Parenting as the „transmission belt“

The role of parenting in fostering attachment security in children:

- ❖ **Sensitivity**: acceptance (Ainsworth, 1967; Bowlby, 1973)
- ❖ **Insensitive parenting** (Berlin, 2008): Rejection (not equal to the lack of acceptance), intrusion
- ❖ **Control**: sensitive to cultural context (Sumer & Kagitcibasi, 2010)

The „transmission gap“ (van Ijzendoorn, 1995): 80% of transmission mechanisms remain unknown

The need for study mediating/moderating mechanisms!

Following research concentrated mainly on proximal context variables (e.g., contextual factors in the study of Fox, 1995) or individual characteristics (e.g., maternal reflective functioning in the study of Slade et al., 2005)

Attachment IGT: Why culturally-informed studies are needed?

- ❖ universal basis of attachment: biologically based activation of attachment system, normative across cultures
- ❖ cultural basis of attachment:
 - cross-cultural** (e.g., Albert et al., 2007; Rothbaum, 2010; Sumer and Kagitcibasi, 2010; van Ijzendoorn, 2008)
 - ✓ The meaning of **parental sensitivity** in the context of **security fostering**
 - ✓ developmental tasks of adolescence affect /do not affect attachment **relationship with parents** (generative tensions related with individuation in Western cultures, where avoidance is not the major threat for partner's security)
 - intracultural** (e.g., Cook, 2000; Grossmann et al; 1981, 1985; Rothbaum et al, 2000a; Sagi et al, 1997; Tomlinson et al., 2005)
 - ✓ SES, urbanization
 - ✓ child-care arrangements
 - ✓ health (depression, nutrition)
 - ✓ other historically based culture-characteristics

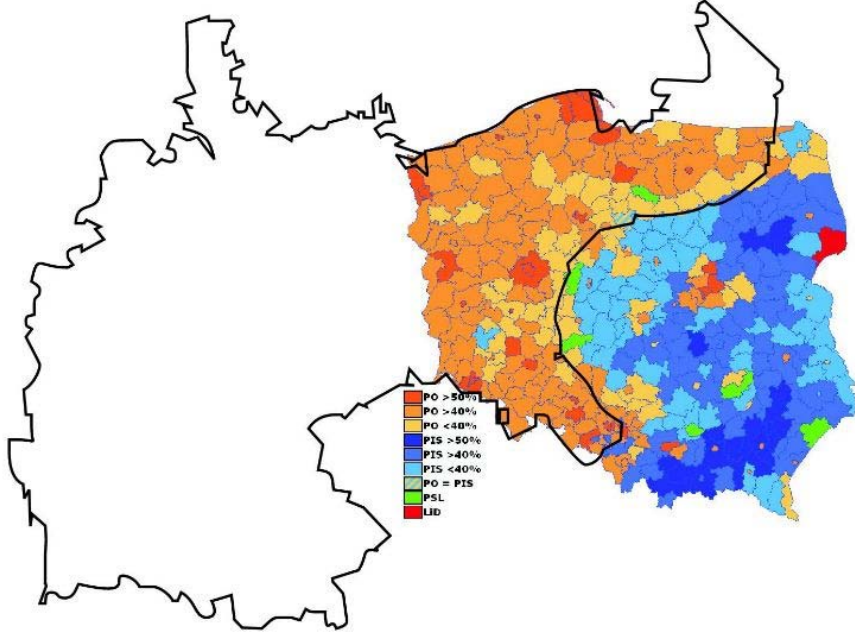
Polish historical & cultural context

The Period of Partitions (1772-1918):



1795

The **Third Partition of Poland** (1795) was the last in a series of the Partitions of Poland of the land of the Commonwealth of Poland Lithuania between **Prussia**, the **Austo-Hungarian Empire**, and the **Russian Empire** which effectively ended Polish national sovereignty until 1918



The „fourth” Partition of Poland



the red line indicates the borders of the Second Polish Republic from 1918 to 1945
pink colour indicates the present area of Poland

The 1939 division of Poland between Germany and the Soviet Union pursuant to the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact.

Polish legislative elections of 2007.

The divide between the (more free-market) PO and the (more populist) PiS almost exactly follows the old border between Imperial Germany and Imperial Russia, as it ran through Poland!

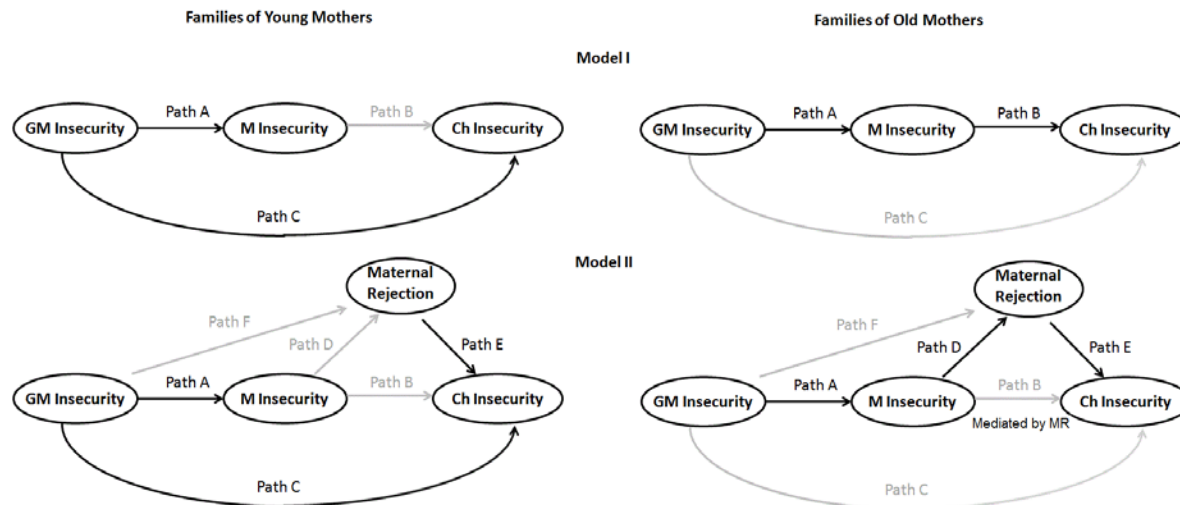
<http://bigthink.com/ideas/21401>

Whether those differences are limited exclusively to political preferences?



Attachment network (Levitt, 2005; Takahashi, 2005): Grandmothers

- Boski (2009) highlights the great importance of grandparents in Poland
- Hautamaki et al. (2010):
 - 58% of **mother-child** attachment corespondence + decrease in predictive power between the age1 and 3
 - 72% of **grandmother-grandchild** attachment corespondence + increase in predictive power between the age1 and 3
- Lubiewska (under review):



Attachment network (Levitt, 2005; Takahashi, 2005): Fathers

- some studies suggests that paternal attachment may be better predictor of later adolescent's behavior than maternal one (Doyle et al., 2009; Grossman et al., 2002)
- Important but in a different way than maternal attachment (Grossmann et al, 2002 & 2008)

Father in **traditional family**: the breadwinner, disciplining and overly strict father, often emotionally distant from his children -> **parental anxiety** not avoidance might be maladaptive (Sumer & Kagitcibasi, 2010) -> expected in East Poland

Father in more **modern family**: the caregiver, emotionally involved in the relation with children -> attachment not parenting expected to be important in West Poland





The Research question & Hypotheses



The research question:

What is the moderating effect of **country-regions** on **attachment IGT** in an extended **family network** composed of grandmothers, mothers, fathers, adolescent children with **parenting** mediating the relationship between parents and children.

The general hypothesis: The roles of grandmothers and fathers are unequal across regions of Poland.

Parenting hypothesis : The moderating effect of country-regions on **parenting mother-father congruence** was expected, where: Fs rejection level $F > M$ in the East (Region x generation effect), and M & F control levels West $>$ East (Regions' effect).

Transmission hypothesis: The role of grandmaters and fathers (parenting and attachment facets) in **relative attachment IGT** will be more prominent in more traditional East, compared with less conservative western part of Poland.

Sample

Table 1

Descriptive Statistics of the Sample in Three Regions of Poland

	<i>South-East (n = 85)</i>		<i>North-East (n = 93)</i>		<i>South-West (n = 59)</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD (range)</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD(range)</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD (range)</i>
<u>Ch's</u> age	15.26	1.51 (11-17)	14.87	1.24 (12-17)	14.85	1.58 (11-17)
<u>M's</u> age	44.28	5.09 (33-54)	41.97	4.50 (33-52)	42.88	5.66 (34-58)
<u>F's</u> age	46.15	5.44 (36-61)	43.89	4.66 (33-58)	45.36	5.51 (35-61)
<u>GM's</u> age	70.06	7.33 (54-88)	68.81	7.24 (54-84)	69.23	8.64 (55-95)
<u>M's</u> years of schooling	15.41	2.98 (6-21)	13.27	3.36 (8-26)	15.47	3.12 (9-23)
<u>F's</u> years of schooling	14.89	3.11 (7-20)	12.39	2.36 (8-19)	15.22	3.14 (10-24)
<u>GM's</u> years of schooling	10.35	4.15 (1-20)	8.88	3.06 (1-18)	10.25	2.87 (4-18)
			<i>Frequency (%)</i>			
Nuclear family: Urban	68 (80)		55 (59)		31 (52)	
Nuclear family: Rural	17 (20)		38 (41)		28 (48)	
<u>GM's</u> Urban	56 (66)		42 (45)		25 (42)	
<u>GM's</u> Rural	22 (26)		47 (51)		15 (25)	
<u>Ch's</u> gender: females	47 (55)		55 (59)		38 (64)	
<u>Ch's</u> gender: males	38 (45)		38 (41)		21 (36)	

Note. GM=grandmothers. M=mothers. Ch=adolescent children.

Procedure: interview with GM, M, F & A's self-report

Measures

Attachment:

Adult Attachment Scale (AAS) (Collins & Read; 1990) adopted to analyze generic, trait-like attachment mental representation throughout three subscales of *Close*, *Depend*, and *Anxiety*
Likert's steps: 1-"strongly disagree", 2-"slightly disagree", 3-"neither agree, nor disagree", 4-"slightly agree", and 5-"strongly agree"

Preliminary analysis of AAS (IRT analysis):

- (1) elimination of four items with low item-total correlation (from -.18 to .38),
- (2) Likert scale's step 3 "neither agree, nor disagree" found to be disturbing the respondent-researcher communication -> step 3+4 aggregated (recommendation of Fox & Jones, 1998, Lopez, 1996).

Results: Two-factor solution was supported, which corresponded to well-known dimensions of attachment avoidance and anxiety (e.g., Bartholomew & Horowitz, 1991; Brennan et al., 1998):

- 1) **AAS-Anxiety** – worry of abandonment, doubts about availability of others in times of need. *Alphas*: between .79-.87
- 2) **AAS-Avoidance** – difficulties with being close with others and proximity seeking and receiving. *Alphas*: between .75-.82

Parenting:

The Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (e.g., Rohner et al., 1980) composed of 3 commonly recognized subscales:

Acceptance – reported by parent, assess the parent as worth of confiding, interested in the child.

Alpha of .88

Rejection – reported by the adolescent child, assesses child's perception of the parent as punishing, resenting, not loved. *Alpha* of .83

Control – reported by parent, *Alpha* of .80

Likert's steps: 1-"almost never true", 2-"rarely true", 3-"sometimes true", 4-"almost always true"

Results

Parenting hypothesis: The moderating effect of country-regions on parenting mother-father congruence, where paternal rejection is expected to be higher than maternal in the East, (Region x generation) and parental control in the West (Regions' effect).

Table 3

Comparison of Attachment and Parenting Dimensions between Regions of Poland and within Families (4 x 3 and 2 x 3 ANOVAs).

	South-East (n = 85)				North-East (n = 93)				South-West (n = 59)				F-value for single effects: A: Region B: Generation C: Interaction A*B
	GM M (SD)	M M (SD)	F M (SD)	Ch M (SD)	GM M (SD)	M M (SD)	F M (SD)	Ch M (SD)	GM M (SD)	M M (SD)	F M (SD)	Ch M (SD)	
Att. Anxiety	2.33 (.77)	2.27 (.70)	2.35 (.63)	2.35 (.77)	2.35 (.68)	2.28 (.76)	2.26 (.78)	2.33 (.67)	2.55 (.86)	2.35 (.88)	2.35 (.61)	2.39 (.81)	A: 1.36 B: 1.43 C: .47
Att. Avoidance	2.23 (.68)	2.32 (.68)	2.40 (.76)	2.45 (.68)	2.25 (.72)	2.30 (.76)	2.38 (.82)	2.42 (.78)	2.33 (.72)	2.35 (.79)	2.47 (.79)	2.38 (.75)	A: .17 B: 2.91* (GM<F & GM<A) C: .22
Acceptance	-	3.68 (.32)	3.45 (.52)	-	-	3.75 (.30)	3.48 (.48)	-	-	3.62 (.39)	3.48 (.45)	-	A: .79 B: 41.8*** (M>F) C: 1.11
Control	-	2.90 (.51)	2.89 (.50)	-	-	2.84 (.46)	2.85 (.44)	-	-	2.90 (.45)	2.83 (.49)	-	A: .30 B: .62 C: .38
Rejection ¹	-	1.33 (.46)	1.44 (.62)	-	-	1.38 (.52)	1.37 (.54)	-	-	1.49 (.53)	1.39 (.56)	-	A: .35 B: .01 C: 4.13* (SE: M<F & SWM>F)

Note. GM=grandmothers. M=mothers. F=fathers. Ch=adolescent children. ¹Maternal Rejection reported by children.

+ p < .10. * p < .05. ** p < .01. *** p < .001.

Results: Preliminary analyze

Transmission hypothesis: The role of grandmaternal attachment and fathers' parenting and attachment facets in relative attachment IGT will be more prominent in more traditional East, compared with less conservative Western part of Poland.

Table 2

Correlations and Descriptive Statistics of Model Variables

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1. Ch Ax														
2. Ch Av	.55***													
3. M Ax	.15*	.05												
4. M Av	.17**	.12+	.73***											
5. F Ax	.16*	.12+	.44***	.40***										
6. F Av	.10	.12+	.37***	.37***	.66***									
7. GM Ax	.21***	.12+	.28***	.27***	.37***	.29***								
8. GM Av	.18**	.12+	.26***	.32***	.40***	.29***	.76***							
9. M Acc	-.07	-.01	-.20**	-.12+	-.19**	-.18**	-.12+	-.06						
10. M Rej	.24***	.22***	.13*	.08	.09	.18**	.15*	.10	-.18**					
11. M Ctrl	.08	.06	.06	.16**	.03	.01	-.01	.06	.06	.04				
12. F Acc	-.08	-.01	-.22***	-.11+	-.36***	-.40***	-.14*	-.16*	.27***	-.21***	.12+			
13. F Rej	.17**	.19**	.15*	.08	.12+	.19**	.16*	.18**	-.13*	.68***	.06	-.30***		
14. F Ctrl	.02	.04	.06	.17**	.01	.04	-.05	.01	.05	.04	.47***	.01	.07	
Mean	2.35	2.42	2.29	2.32	2.32	2.41	2.40	2.62	3.69	1.39	2.88	3.47	1.40	2.86
SD	.74	.74	.77	.74	.69	.79	.76	.70	.33	.51	.48	.48	.58	.48

Note. M/F/GM/Ch Av and M/F/GM/Ch Ax = maternal, adolescent children, and grandmaternal attachment avoidance/anxiety. M/F Acc = maternal/paternal acceptance. M/F Rej = maternal/paternal rejection. M/F Ctrl = maternal/paternal control.

+ $p < .10$. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Results

Table 4a

Steps 1-3 of Hierarchical Regressions for Parental Attachment, Parenting, and Grandmaternal Attachment Dimensions Predicting Child's Attachment



	Ch's attachment anxiety					Ch's attachment avoidance				
	B	B SE	β	ΔR^2	R^2	B	B SE	β	ΔR^2	R^2
Step 1: Region of Poland										
SW vs SE & NE (W-E)	-.02	.04	-.03			.03	.04	.06		
SE vs NE (S-N)	-.83	4.84	-.01			-1.75	4.93	-.02		
				.00	.00				.00	.00
Step 2: Caregivers' attachment										
M Anxiety	.01	.09	.01			-.14	.10	-.15		
M Avoidance	.17	.10	.17 ⁺			.19	.11	.18 ⁺		
F Anxiety	.12	.10	.11			.12	.11	.11		
F Avoidance	-.07	.08	-.08			.02	.09	.02		
GM Anxiety	.13	.10	.13			.03	.10	.03		
GM Avoidance	-.02	.11	-.01			.03	.12	.03		
				.06*	.06 ⁺				.04	.04
Step 3: Parenting										
M Acceptance	.08	.15	.04			.10	.16	.04		
M Control	.08	.11	.05			-.01	.12	-.01		
M Rejection	.29	.13	.20*			.25	.14	.17 ⁺		
F Acceptance	-.10	.12	-.07			.09	.13	.06		
F Control	-.10	.11	-.07			.01	.12	.01		
F Rejection	-.01	.12	-.01			.10	.13	.08		
				.05 ⁺	.11*				.05*	.09 ⁺

+ $p < .10$. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.



Results

Transmission hypothesis: The role of grandmaternal attachment and fathers' parenting and attachment facets in relative attachment IGT will be more prominent in more traditional East, compared with less conservative Western part of Poland.

Table 4b

Steps 4 of Hierarchical Regressions for Interactions of Paternal and Grandmaternal Attachments and Paternal Parenting Dimensions Predicting Child's Attachment.

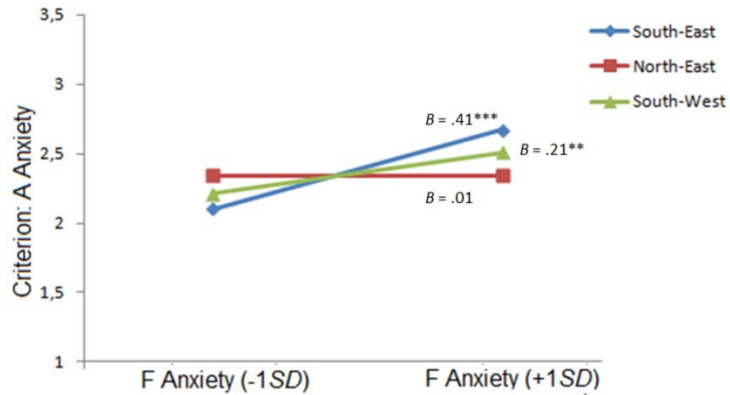
	Ch's attachment anxiety					Ch's attachment avoidance				
	B	B SE	β	ΔR^2	R^2	B	B SE	β	ΔR^2	R^2
Step 5: Interactions (GM & F)										
W-E *F Anxiety	.06	.07	.07			-.04	.08	-.05		
W-E *F Avoidance	-.13	.06	-.19*			-.02	.06	-.02		
S-N *F Anxiety	-31.70	9.18	-.30***			-1.44	10.33	-.01		
S-N *F Avoidance	8.78	8.42	.09			-4.02	8.96	-.04		
W-E *GM Anxiety	.01	.07	.01			-.01	.08	-.01		
W-E *GM Avoidance	-.07	.08	-.08			-.06	.09	-.08		
S-N *GM Anxiety	-14.35	9.76	-.14			.58	10.38	.01		
S-N *GM Avoidance	5.58	10.48	.05			-7.46	11.15	-.07		
W-E *F Acceptance	.01	.09	.01			.03	.10	.03		
S-N *F Acceptance	-20.69	10.99	-.14+			-11.77	11.69	-.08		
W-E *F Control	.03	.08	.03			-.04	.08	-.04		
S-N *F Control	2.96	10.08	.02			1.08	10.72	.01		
W-E *F Rejection	.12	.07	.13+			-.01	.07	-.01		
S-N *F Rejection	-15.04	8.78	-.10			-8.28	9.34	-.07		
				.12**	.23***				.03	.12

+ $p < .10$. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

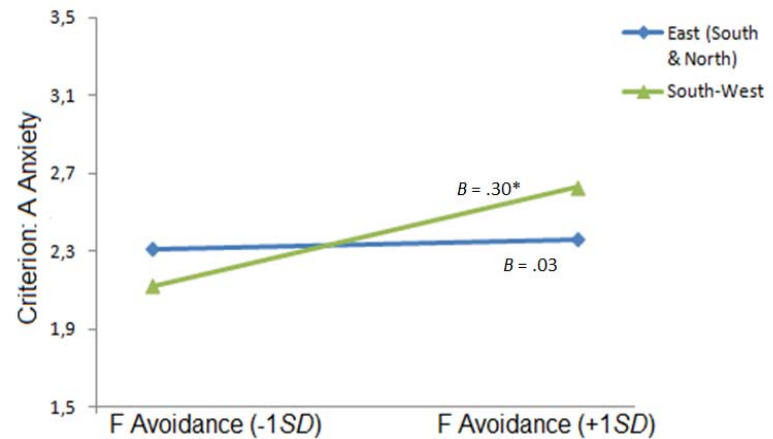


- 1) Conditional effect of fathers' acceptance on each category of the moderator $\Delta R^2 = .003$, $p < .50$, ns.
- 2) Conditional effect of fathers' rejection on each category of the moderator $\Delta R^2 = .008$, $p < .20$, ns.

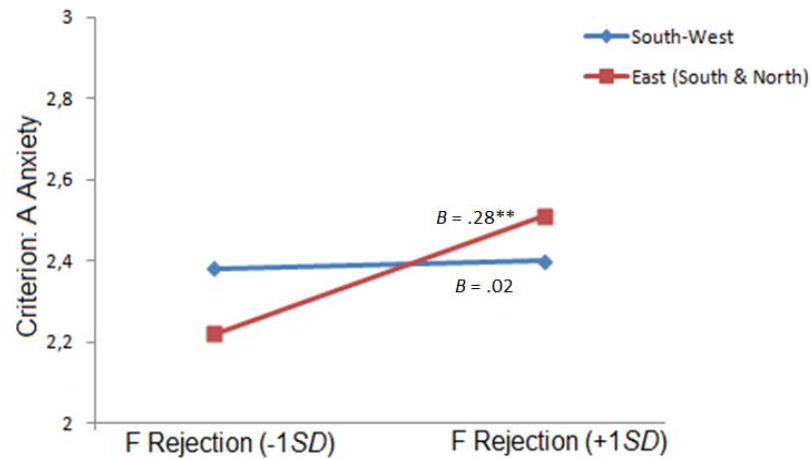
Fathers role in attachment IGT in different regions of Poland



$\Delta R^2 = .06, p < .05$



$\Delta R^2 = .03, p < .10$



$\Delta R^2 = .008, p < .20$

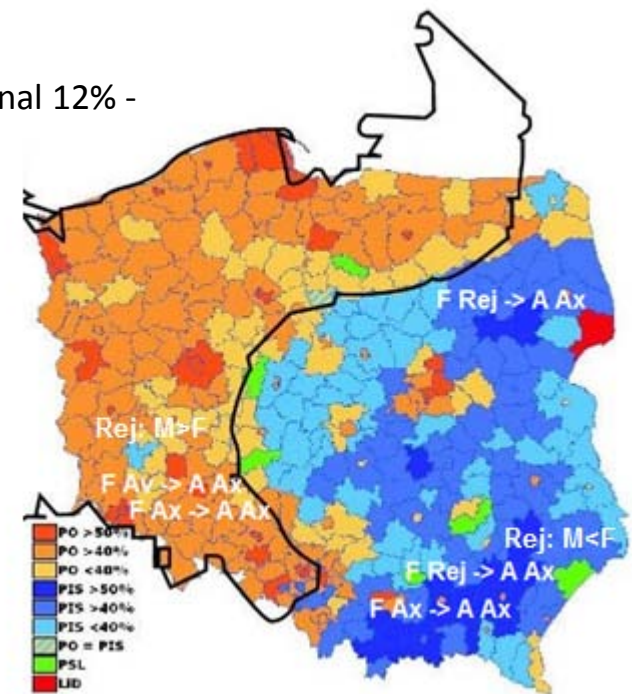
Conclusions and Discussion

- Adolescent **child attachment anxiety** predicted (not avoidance) (Cook, 2000)
- Maternal **rejection** & Attachment **avoidance** = poor predictors of teen attachment (explained 11% of child attachment anxiety variance)

Rejection not acceptance is important – support for the new area of studies on specific types of insensitive parenting behaviors rather than the absence of sensitivity (Berlin, 2008)

Maternal avoidance is maladaptive – Poland is similar to Eastern not Western cultures (Sumer & Kagitcibasi, 2010)

- Including **regions of Poland** as the moderator of IGT explained additional 12% - moderating effect related with fathers
- Shift in rejecting parent: mother in the West & father in the East
- Grandmothers** – not important in predicting grandchild attachment, however her attachment relatively strongly relates to grandchild attachment .





Thank you!

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