

# **Interparental Conflict and Individuation in Portuguese Emerging Adults: The Role of Loyalty Conflict**

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**5th Congress of the European Society on Family Relations**

**29 September – 2 October 2010**

**Milan**

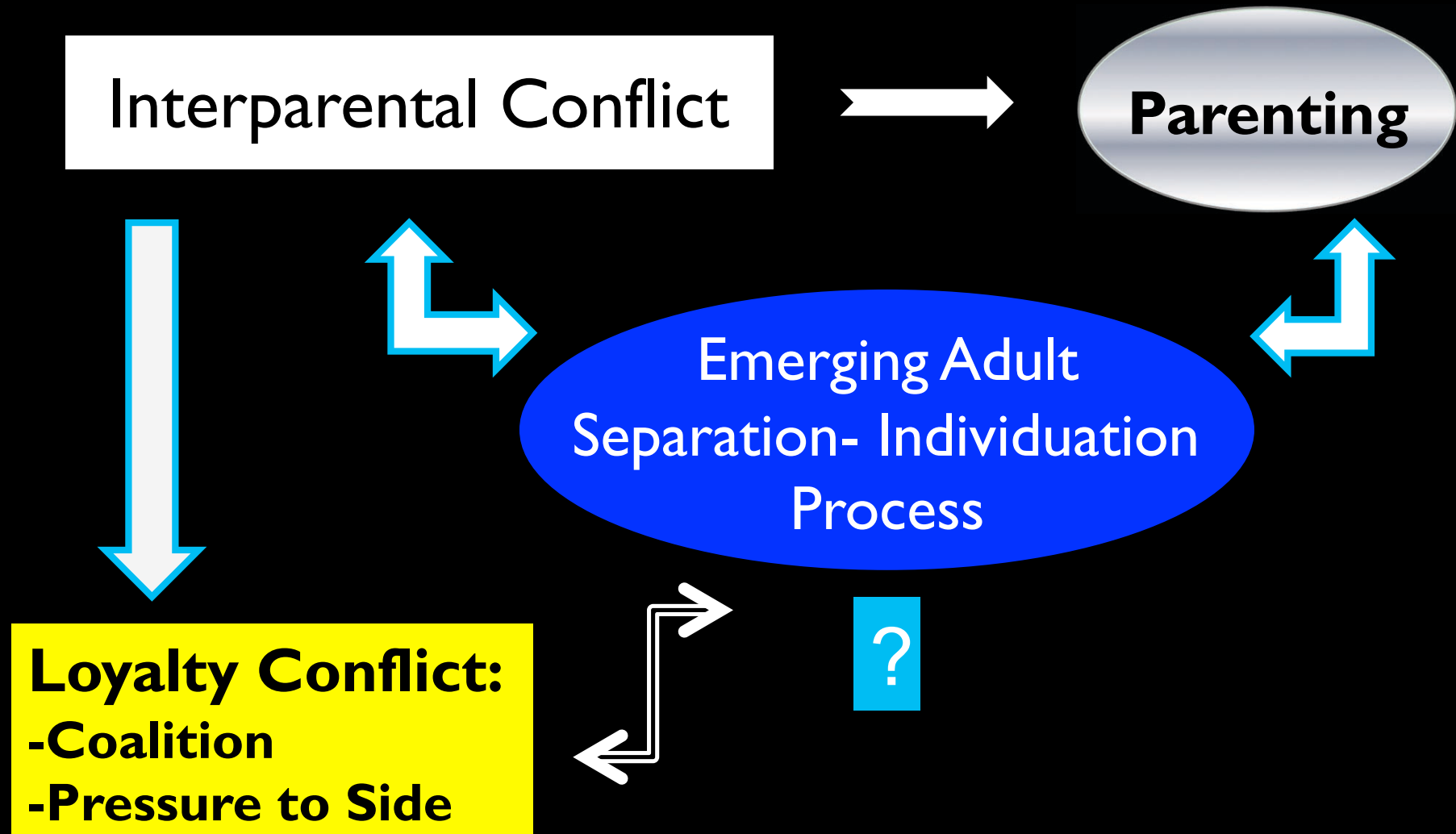
**YAGISSP**

Young Adults in Germany, Italy, Sweden, Spain and Portugal

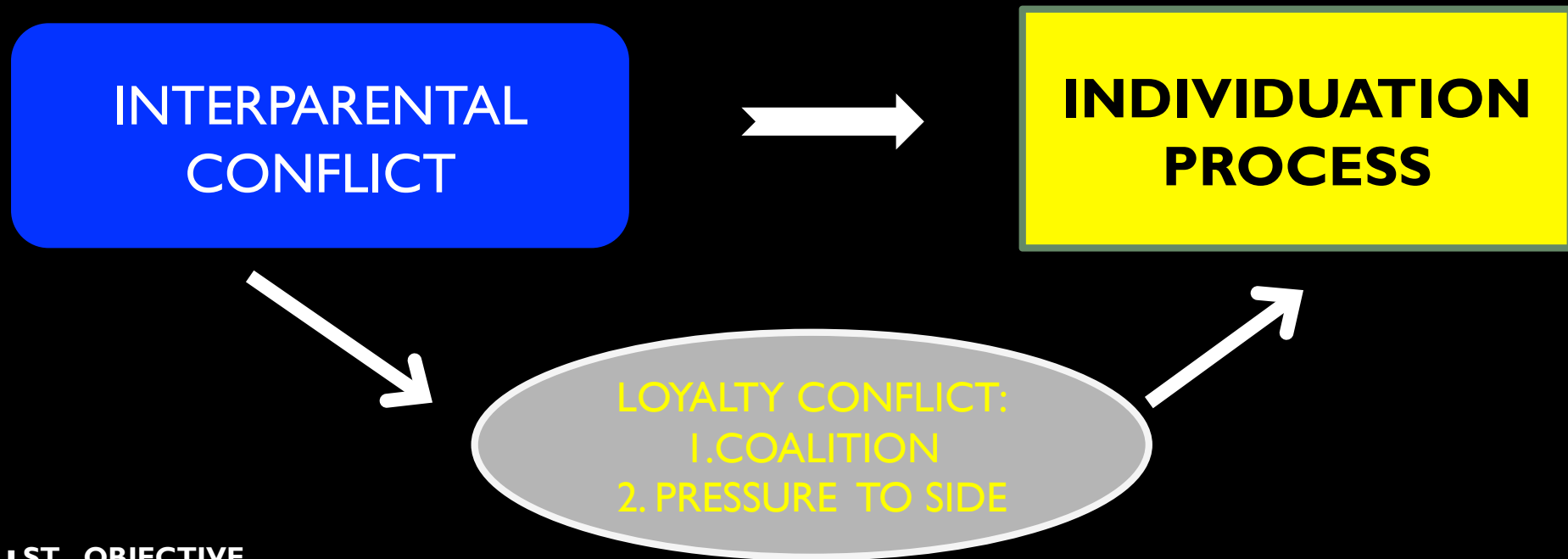
Life Design of Young Adults ages 20 to 30 in Munich, Milan,  
Gothenburg, Stockholm, Barcelona and Porto between  
Vocational Training, Job and Family



# Theoretical Approach



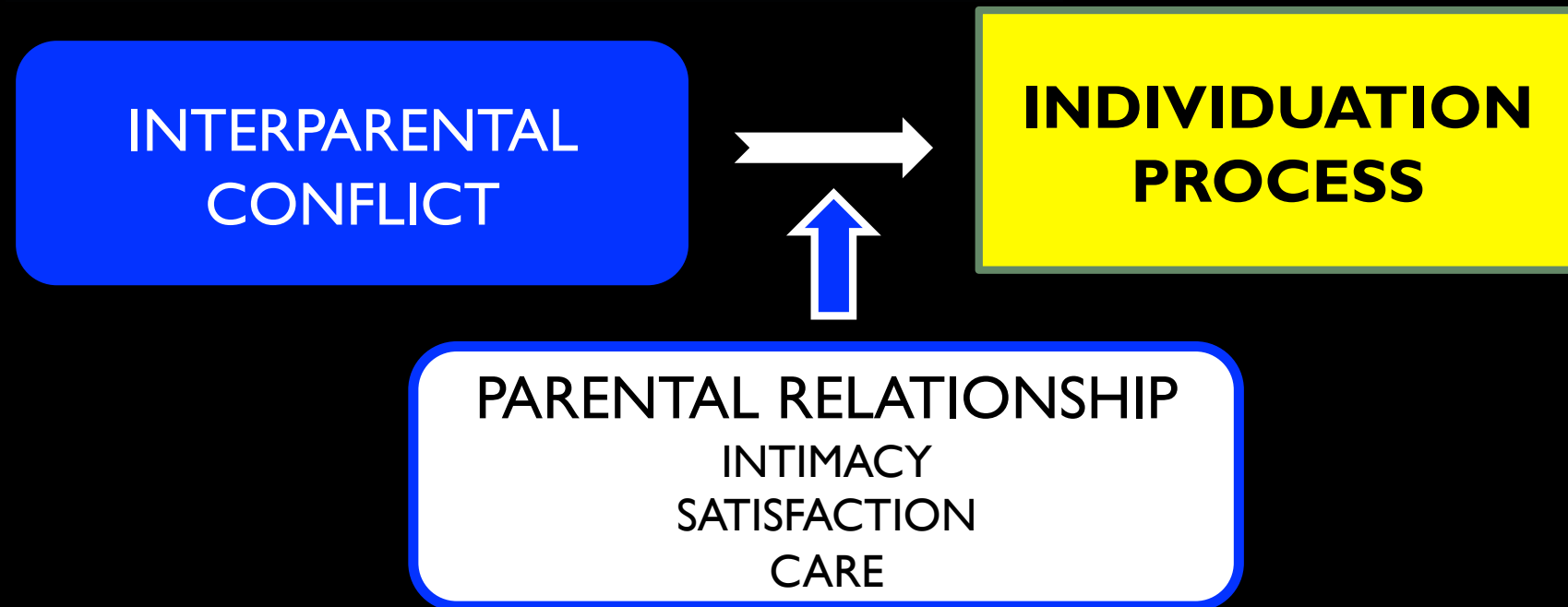
# Conceptual Model



## 1<sup>ST</sup> OBJECTIVE

- ✓ The purpose of the present study is therefore to examine whether loyalty conflicts: Coalition and Pressure to Side to one parent mediate the association between perceived interparental conflict and the individuation process of emerging adults.
- ✓ Data will be tested for both parents separately.

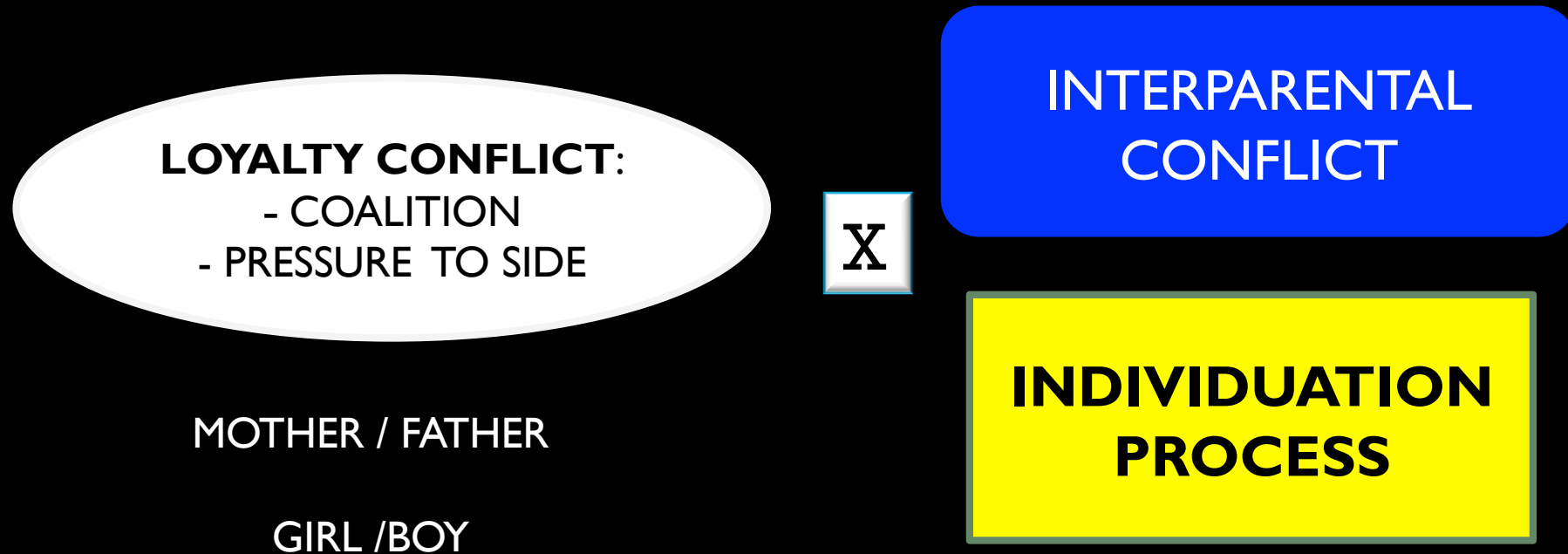
# Conceptual Model



## 2nd OBJECTIVE

- ✓ Test whether positive dimensions of the parental relationship (intimacy, satisfaction and care) may moderate the associations between perceived interparental conflict and the individuation process of emerging adults.
- ✓ Data also will be tested for both parents separately.

# Conceptual Model



## 3th OBJECTIVE

- ✓ Dyadic patterns across parental and emerging adult's gender will be inspected

# Method

## Cross-sectional study

### Participants

- ✦ 538 Emerging Adults
- ✦ Ages 18 to 30 ( $M=21.1$ ;  $SD = 2.93$ )
- Both genders:
  - 335 girls (62.3 %)
  - ♦ 203 boys (37.7 %)

- 515 single – 95.7%
- 318 – 71,4% - live with both parents
- 392 – 72,9% - attend university

# Measures

- **Children's Perception of Interparental Conflict Scale**  
(Grych, Seid & Fincham, 1992)

Frequency and Resolution dimensions     $\alpha = .70$

- **Munich Individuation Test of Adolescence (MITA)**  
(Walper, Schwarz & Jurasic 1996)

Nurturance Seeking	$\alpha = .59/ .69$ (Mother/Father)
Successful Individuation	$\alpha = .72/.84$ (Mother/Father)
Denial of Attachments Needs	$\alpha = .65/.70$ (Mother/Father)

## RELATEDNESS

MOTHER -  $\chi^2(167,55)$ ;  $p=.000$ ; CFI=.93; RMSEA=.09

FATHER -  $\chi^2(197,94)$ ;  $p=.000$ ; CFI=.92; RMSEA=.09

# Measures

## ✓ **Network Relationship Inventory (NRI)**

(Fuhrman & Buhrmester 1985)

- ✓ Intimacy  $\alpha = .89/ .86$  (Mother/Father)
- ✓ Satisfaction  $\alpha = .76/ .79$  (Mother/Father)
- ✓ Care  $\alpha = .94/ .96$  (Mother/Father)

MOTHER -  $\chi^2(1373,0)$ ;  $p=.000$ ; CFI=.91; RMSEA=.07

FATHER -  $\chi^2(1010,5)$ ;  $p=.000$ ; CFI=.94; RMSEA=.06

## ➤ **Loyalty Conflict** (Wendt, Kroll, Beckh, Gerhard & Walper 2002 )

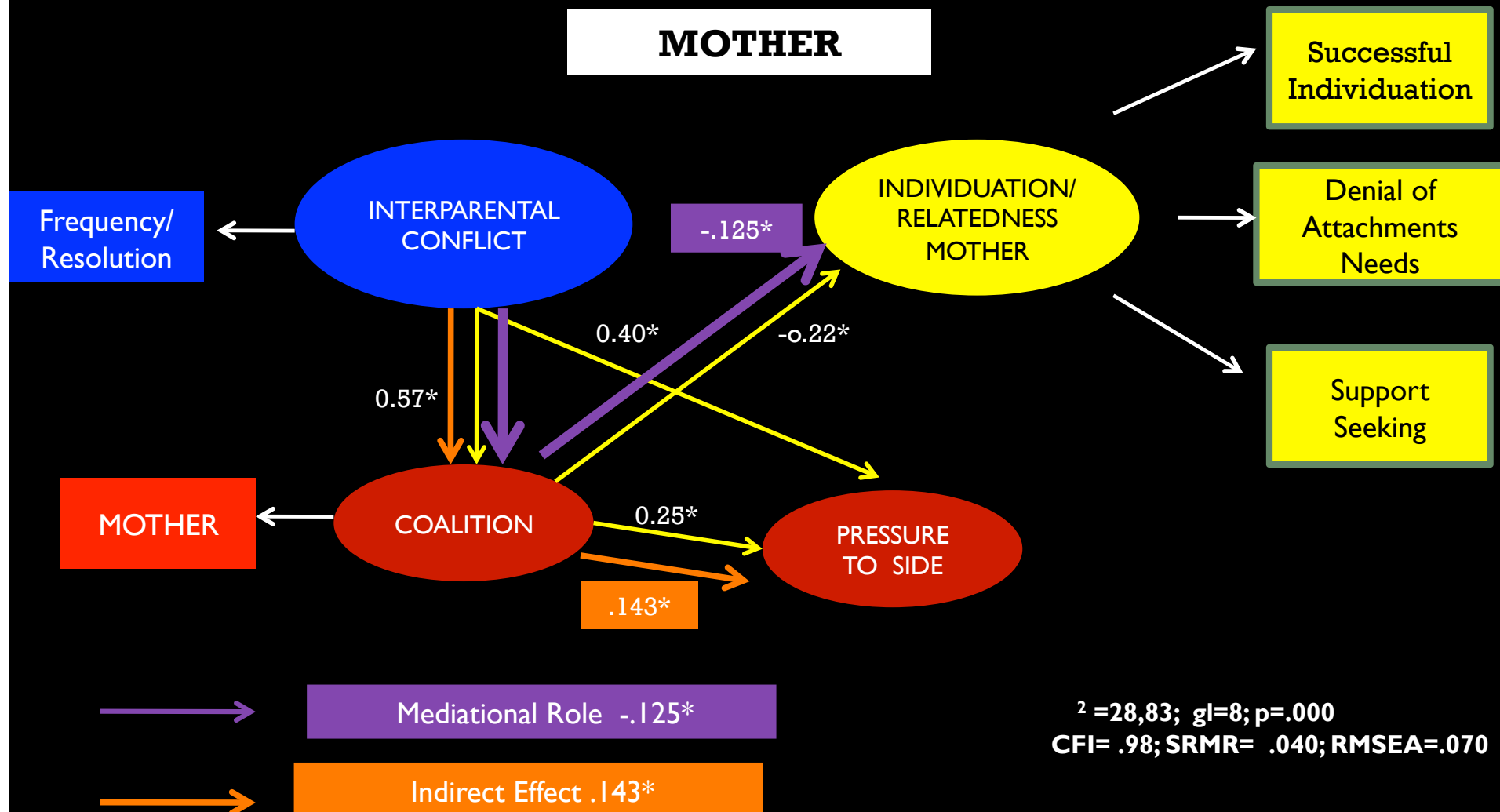
- Coalition  $\alpha = .80$
- Pressure to Side  $\alpha = .85$



# Results

## 1<sup>ST</sup> OBJECTIVE

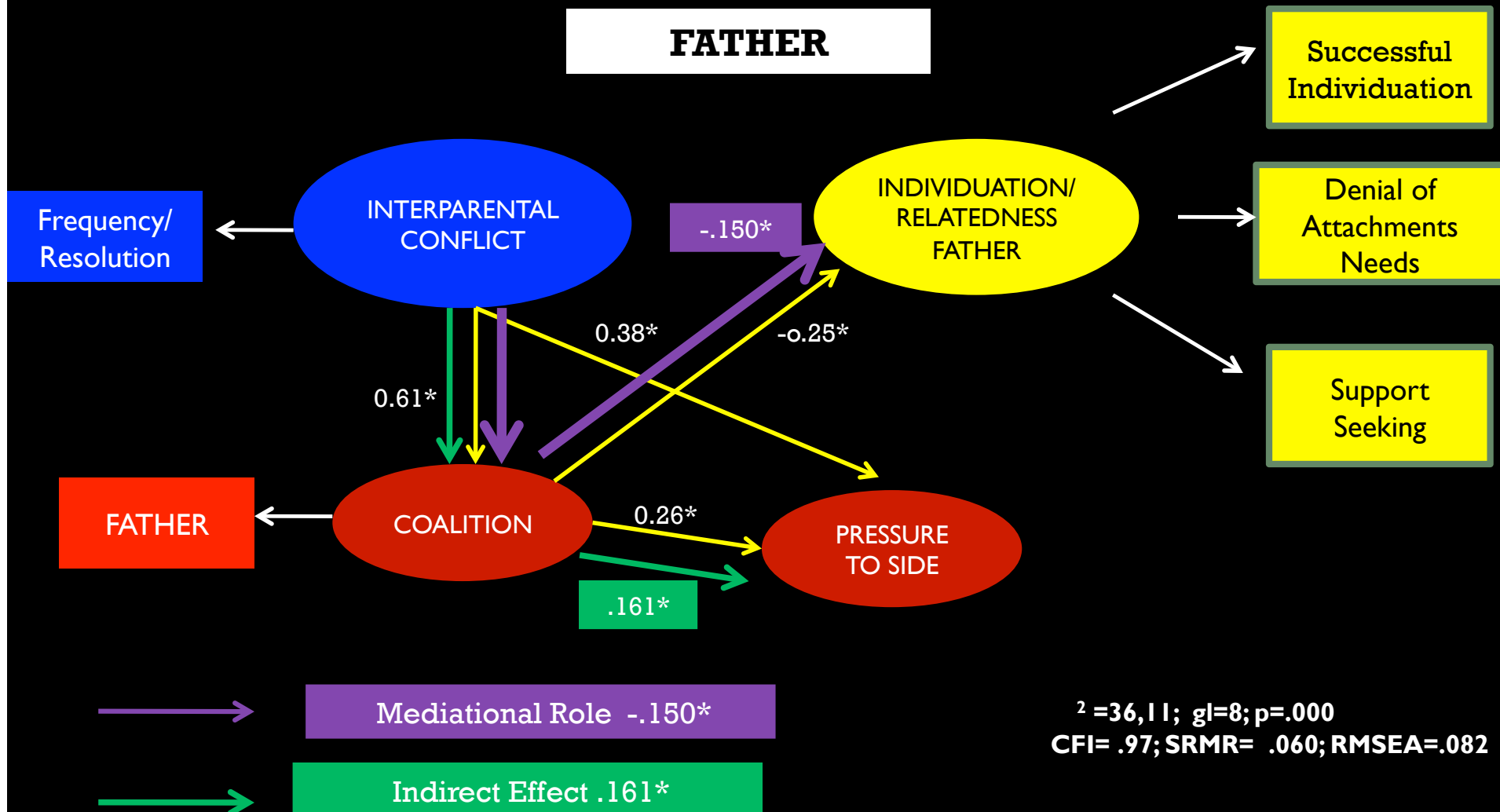
### MOTHER



# Results

## 1<sup>ST</sup> OBJECTIVE

### FATHER



# Results

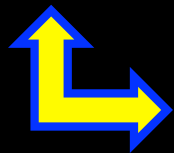
## 2<sup>nd</sup> OBJECTIVE

### MOTHER

(Interparental Conflict x Parental Relationship - Mother) x Individuation Mother ?

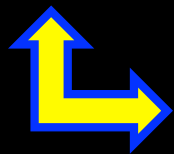
↓  
Intimacy  
Satisfaction  
Care

↓  
Successful Individuation  
Denial of Attachment Needs  
Nurturance Seeking



(Interparental Conflict x Care Mother) x **Individuation** Mother

HIGH Conflict & HIGH Care > HIGH Conflict & LOW Care



(Interparental Conflict x Care Mother) x **Denial of Attachment Needs** Mother

HIGH Conflict & LOW Care > HIGH Conflict & HIGH Care

# Results

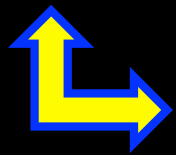
## 2<sup>nd</sup> OBJECTIVE

### FATHER

(Interparental Conflict x Parental Relationship - Father) x Individuation Father ?

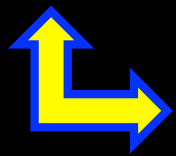
↓  
Intimacy  
Satisfaction  
Care

↓  
Successful Individuation  
Denial of Attachment Needs  
Nurturance Seeking



(Interparental Conflict x Care Father) x Denial of Attachment Needs Father

HIGH Conflict & LOW Care > HIGH Conflict & HIGH Care



(Interparental Conflict x Intimacy Father) x Denial of Attachment Needs Father

HIGH Conflict & LOW Intimacy > HIGH Conflict & HIGH Intimacy

# Results

## 3<sup>TH</sup> OBJECTIVE

MITA							
	SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUATION		DENIAL OF ATTACHMENT NEEDS		NURTURANCE SEEKING		SEX
	MOTHER	FATHER	MOTHER	FATHER	MOTHER	FATHER	
COALITION MOTHER	-.257**	-.205**	.225**	.428**	-.333**	-.289**	BOY
	-.188**	-.125*	.014	.151**	-.182**	-.056	GIRL
COALITION FATHER	-.194**	-.220**	.185**	.399**	-.283**	-.288**	BOY
	-.072	-.144**	-.008	.234**	-.093	-.117*	GIRL
PRESSURE TO SIDE	-.187**	-.174*	.225**	.197**	-.214**	-.164*	BOY
	-.055	-.066	.020	.172**	-.065	-.038	GIRL
INTERPARENTAL CONFLICT	-.290**	-.243**	.200**	.250**	-.300**	-.266**	BOY
	-.048	-.124*	-.043	.269**	-.024	-.042	GIRL

\*\* p<.001; \* p<.005

Dyadic patterns across parental and emerging adult's gender

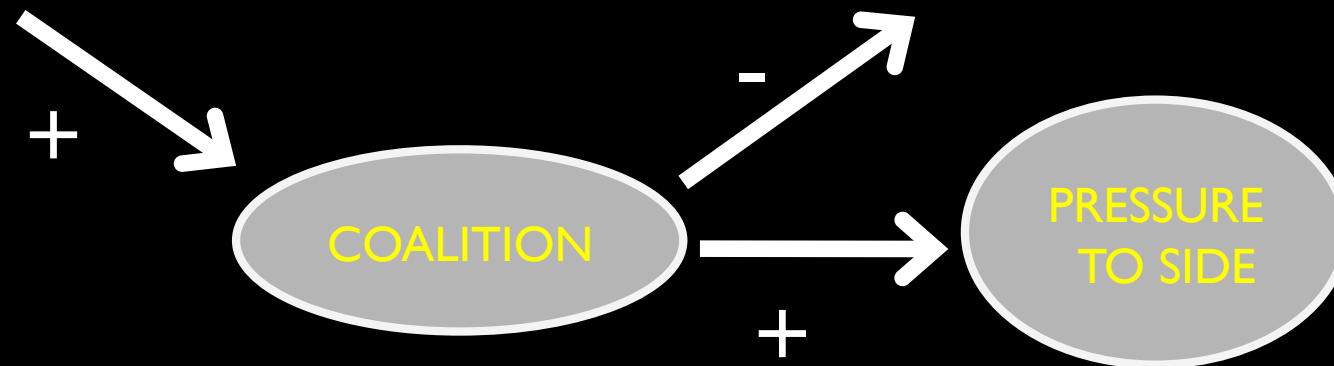
# Summary and Discussion

## 1<sup>ST</sup> OBJECTIVE

**MOTHER/FATHER**

**INTERPARENTAL CONFLICT**  
Frequency/ Resolution

**Successful Individuation**  
**Denial of Attachment needs**  
**Nurturance Seeking**



- ✓ Mediation Role of Loyalty Conflict (Coalition)
- ✓ Indirect effect of Interparental conflict on Pressure to Side

(e.g. Buchanan & Waizenhofer, 2001; Walper & Schwarz, 2001)

# Summary and Discussion

## 2<sup>nd</sup> OBJECTIVE



- ✓ **Moderate role of Parental Relationship was confirmed**
- ✓ Higher CARE by parents can be understood as a protective variable, when interparental conflict was present, avoiding feelings of rejection and retraction.
- ✓ Even in the presence of higher interparental conflict, CARE perception by mother relationship seem increase Individuation.
- ✓ Interparental Conflict was not considered necessary an interference on individuation process, if coalition was not present.
- ✓ Low intimacy to father increases interparental conflict effect on Denial of Attachment Needs

(e.g. Buhl, 2006, 2008; Walper & Schwarz, 2001)

# Summary and Discussion

## 3<sup>TH</sup> OBJECTIVE

Dyadic patterns across parental and emerging adult's gender

### COALITION MOTHER VS. FATHER

- ✓ Similar pattern on Individuation Process

### SEX ≠ IN COALITION MOTHER VS. FATHER

- ✓ Girls seem not be so affected by coalition, specially in mother relationship.
  - More openness and closer on mother's relationship?
- Boys coalition to mother and father was more associated on individuation process than girls (e.g. Noller & Callan, 1990).
- Boys less expressive? More susceptible on dealing with interparental conflicts?

### SEX ≠ IN PRESSURE TO SIDE /INTERPARENTAL CONFLICT

- ✓ Girls seem to be closer to mother, and instead of feel conflicts more than boys, deal better with them, not influencing individuation to both parents.
- Boys more influenced by Pressure to Side and Interparental conflict on individuation process (e.g. Geuzaine et al., 2000; Levpuscek, 2006 ; Mayseless & Scharf, 2009)



# Suggestions and Limitations

- ✓ Data were collected at one point in time and thus cannot provide proof of actual causal relationships.
- ✓ Data collected majority on universities, with students in general living in intact families.
- ✓ Test the dynamic of interparental conflict, loyalty and individuation process in other family configurations (e.g. Divorced).
- ✓ Measures were self-reports, therefore, susceptible to common method bias. Replicate the study with other independent sample, namely observe parents perspective.
- ✓ Test how individuation process predict quality of Parental Relationship and test bidirectional effects.
- ✓ Perform multiple comparisons groups due to better understand dyadic patterns across parental and emerging adult's gender.

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