

A CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE ON OVERPARENTING OF EMERGING ADULT CHILDREN

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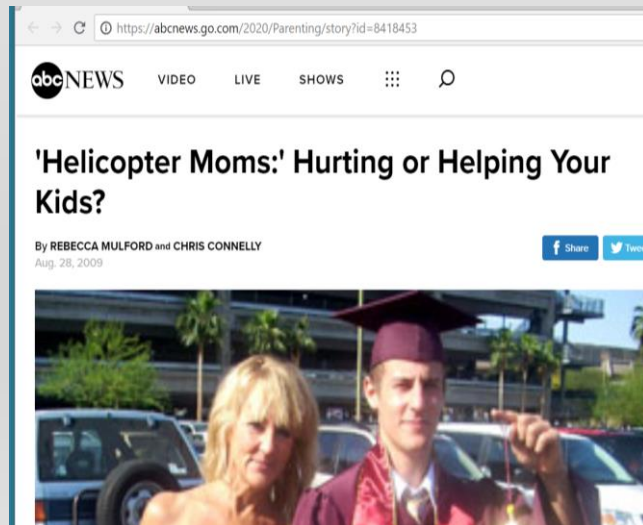
October 4, 2021

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Background of overparenting
- Review of overparenting research
- Our research
- Issues with cross-cultural research

BACKGROUND

- Definition of Overparenting
- Media attention
- Research trend
- Cultural consideration





Cui, M., Hong, P., & Jiao, C. (invited, to be published in 2023). Overparenting and Emerging adult Development: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*.

THE SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

- The last two decades: 2002-2021
- Quantitative research, in English
- Various key terms in multiple databases
- Resulted in an initial number of 461 papers
- Ended with 75 papers included in this review

THE SYSTEMATIC REVIEW (CONT.)

- Review includes:
 - theoretical framework,
 - sample characteristics,
 - study design, measurement and analysis, and
 - major findings
- Future research directions

OUR RESEARCH TEAM LEADERS

- Dr. Ming Cui and Dr. Carol Darling (U.S.)
- Dr. Hille Janhonen-Abruquah (Finland)
- Dr. Peipei Hong (China)




PUBLICATIONS BY OUR TEAM

We have published over 10 articles in peer-reviewed journals, e.g.,

- Cui, M., Darling, C., Coccia, C., Fincham, F. D., May, R. W. (2019). Indulgent parenting, helicopter parenting, and well-being of parents and emerging adults. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 28, 860-871. doi: 10.1007/s10826-018-01314-3
- Cui, M., Janhonen-Abruquah, H., Darling, C. A., Carlos Chavez, F. L., & Palojoki, P. (2019). Helicopter parenting and young adults' well-being: A comparison between US and Finland. *Cross-Cultural Research*, 53, 410-427. doi: 10.1177/1069397118802253
- Hong, P., & Cui, M. (2020). Helicopter parenting and college students' psychological maladjustment: The role of self-control and living arrangement. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 29, 338-347. doi: 10.1007/s10826-019-01541-2
- Love, H., Cui, M., Allen, J., Fincham, F. D., & May, R. W. (2020). Helicopter parenting and female university students' anxiety: Does parents' gender matter? *Families Relationships and Societies*, 9, 417-430. doi: 10.1332/204674319X15653625640669

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

- Socialization Theory (Bandura, 1977; Sears, Maccoby, & Levin, 1957)
- Self-Determination Theory (Ryan & Deci, 2000)
- Cultural ecological perspective (Garcia Coll et al., 1996)



Cui, M., Janhonen-Abruquah, H., Darling, C. A.,
Carlos Chavez, F. L., & Palojoiki, P. (2019).
Helicopter parenting and young adults' well-
being: A comparison between US and Finland.
Cross-Cultural Research, 53, 410-427. doi:
10.1177/1069397118802253

(These results were also presented at ESFR 2018)

HYPOTHESES

- H1: Helicopter parenting is associated with higher levels of anxiety and depression, emotional dysregulation, and lower levels of life satisfaction among emerging adults in both countries.
- H2: The levels of helicopter parenting are different between the U.S. and Finland, but the associations with emerging adult outcomes are similar.

SAMPLE – U.S.

- Data collection in Spring semester 2017
- Two sites
 - Florida State University (FSU)
 - Florida International University (FIU)
- Online survey
- $N = 441$

SAMPLE – FINLAND

- Data collection in Fall semester 2017
- Two sites
 - University of Helsinki (UH)
 - University of Tampere (UT)
- Online survey (translated)
- $N = 306$

SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

	U.S. <i>N</i> = 441	Finland <i>N</i> = 306
Age	18-33 20.45	18-35 22.86
Gender (Female)	89%	87%
Family Structure (2-parent)	67%	68%
Income (under \$30k/30k€)	13%	15%

MEASURES

- Helicopter Parenting (Bradley-Geist & Olson-Buchanan, 2014), 5-item, 5-point Likert scale (α 's = .89 for U.S. and .84 for Finland)
- Well-being
 - Anxiety - Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI, Beck, Epstein, Brown, & Steer, 1988, α = .88 for U.S. and .84 for Finland)
 - Depressive symptoms - CES-D (Radloff, 1977, α 's = .80 for U.S. and .87 for Finland)
 - Emotional dysregulation - DERS-18 (Victor & Klonsky, 2016, α 's = .89 for U.S. and .89 for Finland)
 - Low life satisfaction (Diener, Emmons, Larsen, & Griffin, 1985, α 's = .91 for U.S. and .88 for Finland)
- Covariates: age, gender, year in college, family structure.

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

	U.S. (M/SD)	Finland (M/SD)
Helicopter Parenting		
Child Report of Mother	10.36/4.06	8.80/4.36
Child Report of Father	9.30/4.14	7.19/3.30
Emerging Adults		
Depressive Symptoms	19.63/5.13	20.05/5.96
Anxiety Symptoms	8.70/6.19	18.06/5.45
Emotional Dysregulation	39.33/11.89	37.35/10.92
Low Life Satisfaction	24.87/6.84	25.10/6.21

MATERNAL HELICOPTER PARENTING

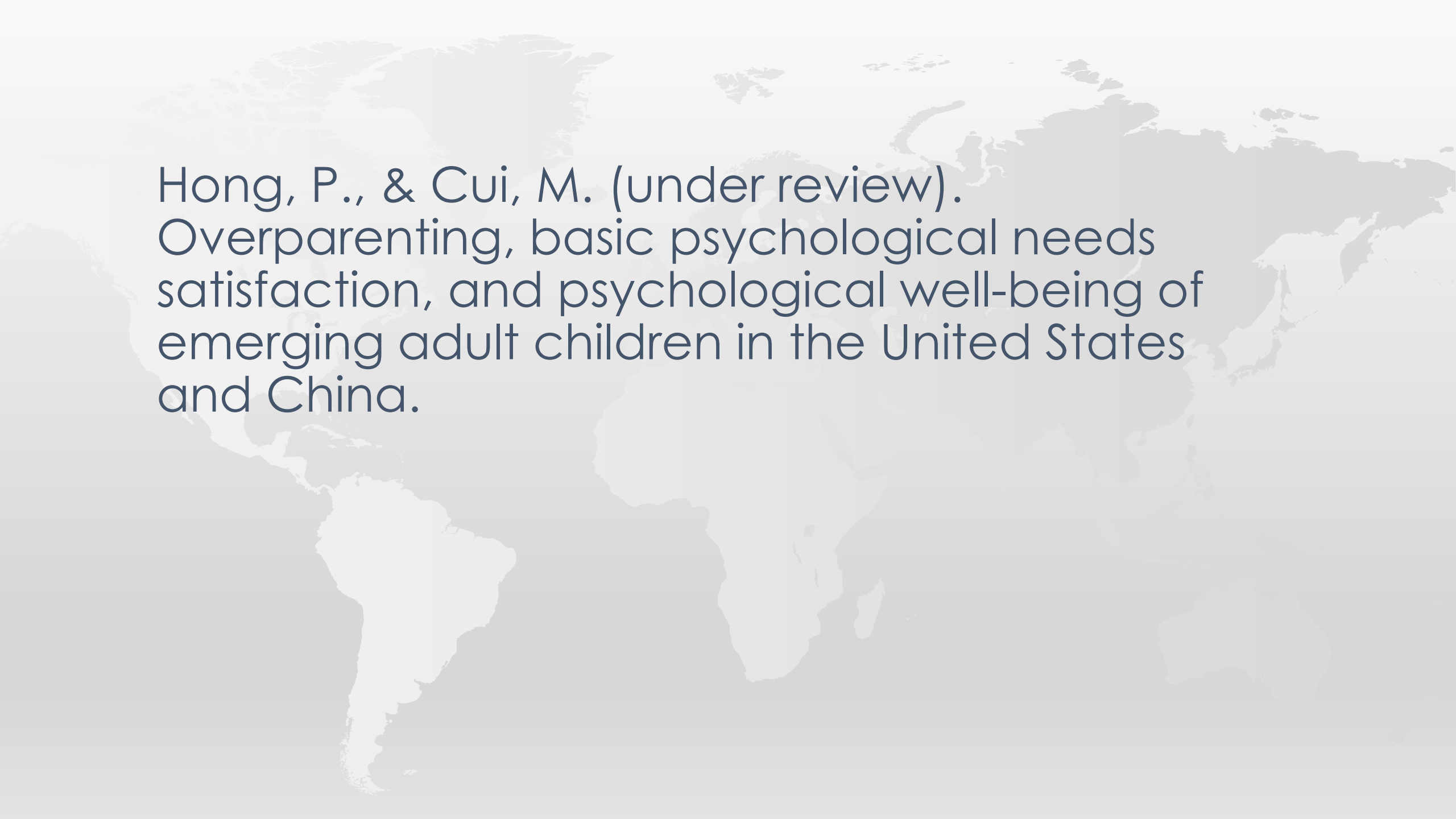
	U.S.	Finland	p value
Emerging Adult Outcomes			
Anxiety	.08	.23**	ns
Depression	.13**	.20**	ns
Emotional Dysregulation	.10*	.21**	ns
Low Life Satisfaction	.17**	.18**	ns

PATERNAL HELICOPTER PARENTING

	U.S.	Finland	p value
Emerging Adult Outcomes			
Anxiety	.14**	.09	ns
Depression	.15**	.12*	ns
Emotional Dysregulation	.16**	.04	ns
Low Life Satisfaction	.08*	.11*	ns

CONCLUSION

- Results from path models suggested that helicopter parenting was associated with emerging adults' well-being problems including symptoms of anxiety and depression, emotional dysregulation, and low life satisfaction.
- Comparisons between the U.S. and Finland samples suggested that, even though the levels of helicopter parenting among Finnish parents were lower, the effects of helicopter parenting on emerging adults' well-being problems were in general equally significant.



Hong, P., & Cui, M. (under review).
Overparenting, basic psychological needs
satisfaction, and psychological well-being of
emerging adult children in the United States
and China.

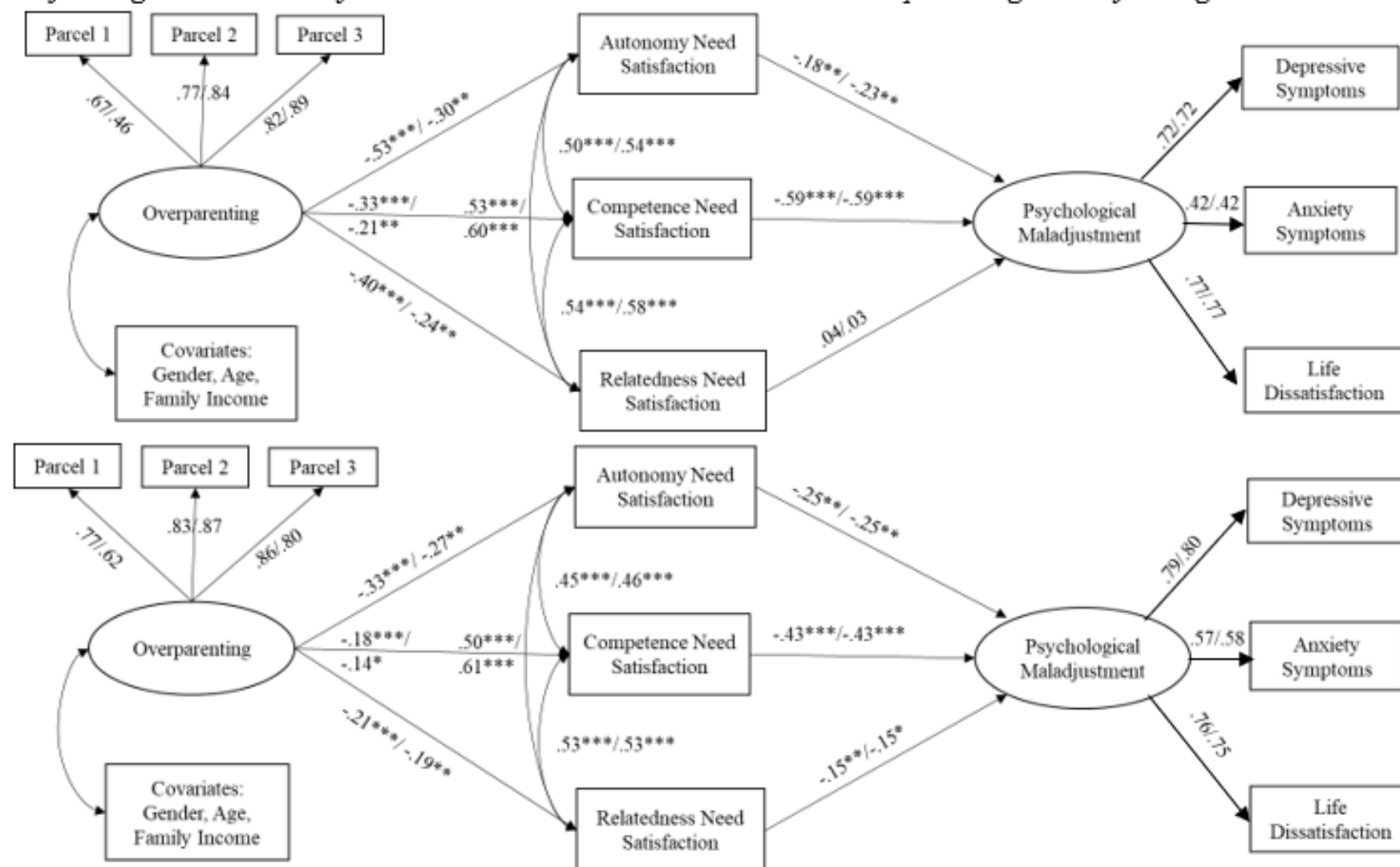
HYPOTHESES

- H1: Basic psychological needs satisfaction would mediate the association between overparenting and emerging adults' psychological maladjustment.
- H2: The cultural membership would moderate the association between overparenting and basic needs satisfaction, such that the negative associations between overparenting and basic needs satisfaction would be weaker among Chinese emerging adults than among American emerging adults.

SAMPLES AND MEASURES

- U.S.: N = 414 (M age = 20.38, 92% female)
- China: N = 612 (M age = 20.21, 69% female)
- 15-item Helicopter Parenting Instrument (HPI; Odenweller et al., 2014)
- 16-item Basic Psychological Needs Satisfaction in General Scale (BPNS; Gagné, 2003; Johnston & Finney, 2010)
- Psychological Maladjustment
 - Depression (CES-D, Radloff, 1977)
 - Anxiety (BAI, Beck et al., 1988)
 - Low life satisfaction (Diener et al., 1985)

Figure 1 Basic Psychological Needs Satisfaction Mediate the Association Between Overparenting and Psychological Problems.



Note. The standardized path coefficients for the models for the U.S. (above) and for China (below). The path coefficient for maternal model is before “/” and that for paternal model is after “/”. For a clear presentation, the direct paths from overparenting to maladjustment and the paths from covariates to study variables were not shown.

ISSUES WITH CROSS-CULTURAL RESEARCH

- Survey in cultural context
- Measurement invariance
- Cross-cultural content validity

A faint, light gray world map is centered in the background of the slide. The map shows the outlines of the continents in a minimalist style. The text "THANK YOU!" is overlaid on the left side of the map, specifically over North and South America.

THANK YOU!



DISCUSSION TIME!