



Parent-child similarity in self-reported and perceived anti-immigrant attitudes

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Literature review

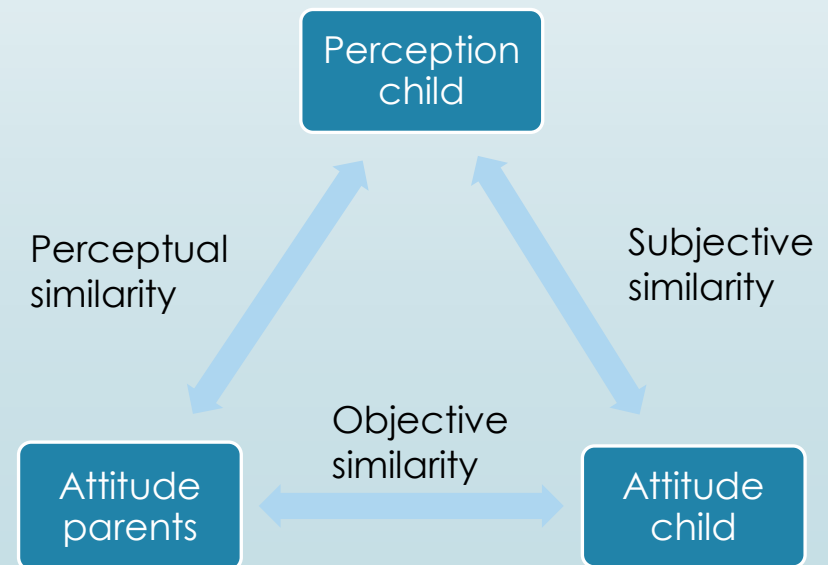
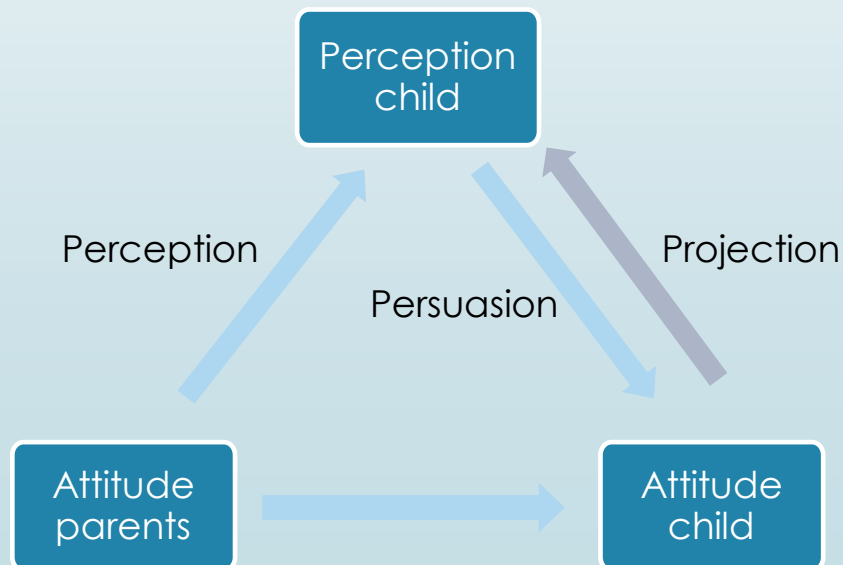
What do we (not) know?

- ✓ Anti-immigrant attitude
- ✓ Self-reported (anti-immigrant) attitude parent \longleftrightarrow^{+} Attitude child
- ✓ Perceived attitudes of parents \longrightarrow Attitude child
- ✗ Perception of parents/child $\longleftrightarrow^{?}$ Self-reported anti-immigrant attitude child/parent
- ✗ Perception of parents $\longleftrightarrow^{?}$ Perception of child

Literature review

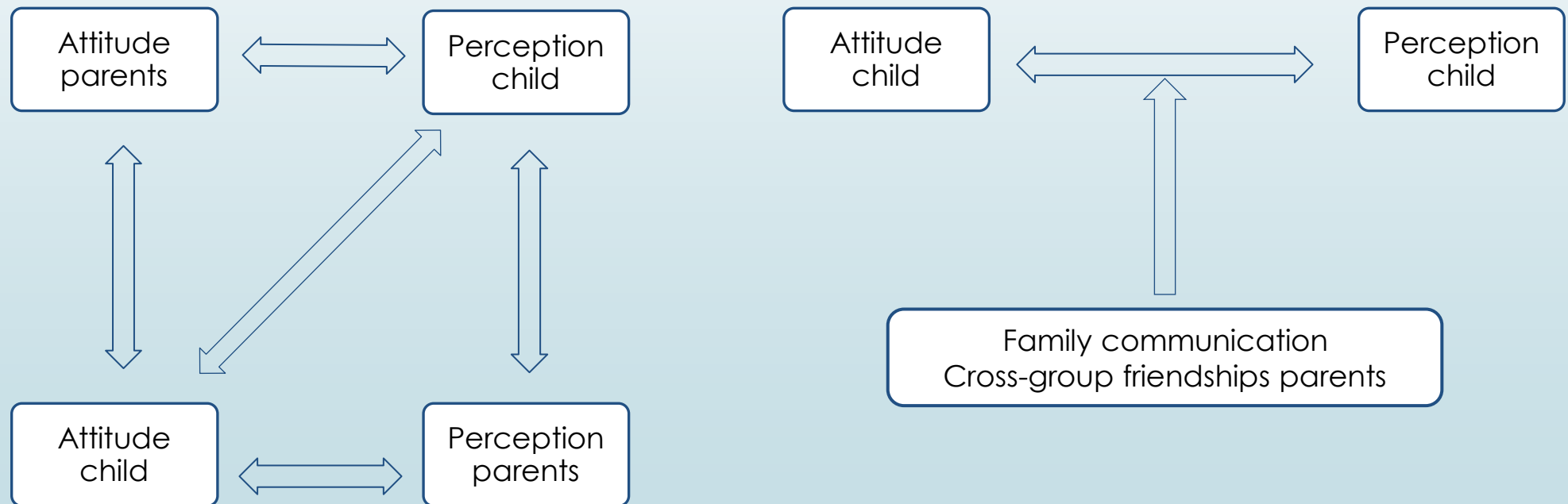
Theoretical frameworks

- Social learning theory (Bandura)
 - Observational learning
 - From whom: parents and friends
- Perceptual pathway (Westholm)



Research goals & hypotheses

- Relation self-reported & perceived anti-immigrant attitudes parent-child
- Influence family communication & cross-group friendships parents




Data

 Parent-Child Socialization Study - 2012

 Flanders, Belgium

 Who?

 15-year-olds, mother & father

 In total: 1.705 triads

 How?

 Paper-and-pencil questionnaire

 Filled out: children in school & parents at home

 Questions: general info, relationship parent/child, attitudes, perception



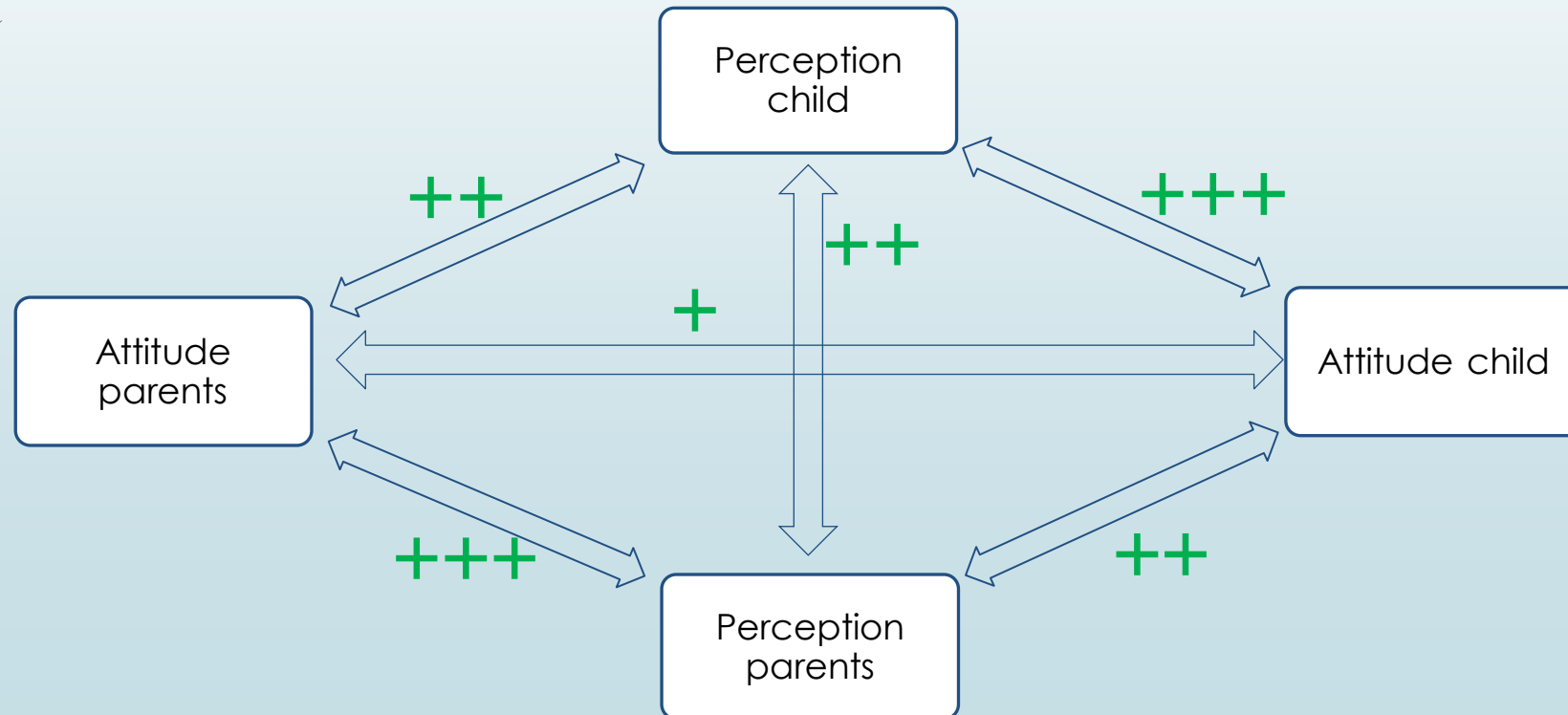
Measurement of variables

- ▶ Anti-immigrant attitudes (mean sum scales)
 - ▶ Self-reported by child, mother & father
 - ▶ Each the same 8 questions: e.g., 'In general, it is good for the Belgian economy that people from other countries come and live here.'
 - ▶ Perceived by child, mother & father
 - ▶ Each the same 3 questions: e.g., 'If a country wants to reduce tensions, it must stop immigration.'
- ▶ Cross-group friendships mother & father
 - ▶ Each 1 question: 'How many of your close friends have a different origin than yourself?'
- ▶ Family communication
 - ▶ 6 mean sum scales out of 27 questions

Findings

Similarity (perception) attitudes

- Overestimation of perceptual & subjective similarity
 - Perceived each others attitude better than they match in reality
 - Overestimation similarity between themselves & parents/child



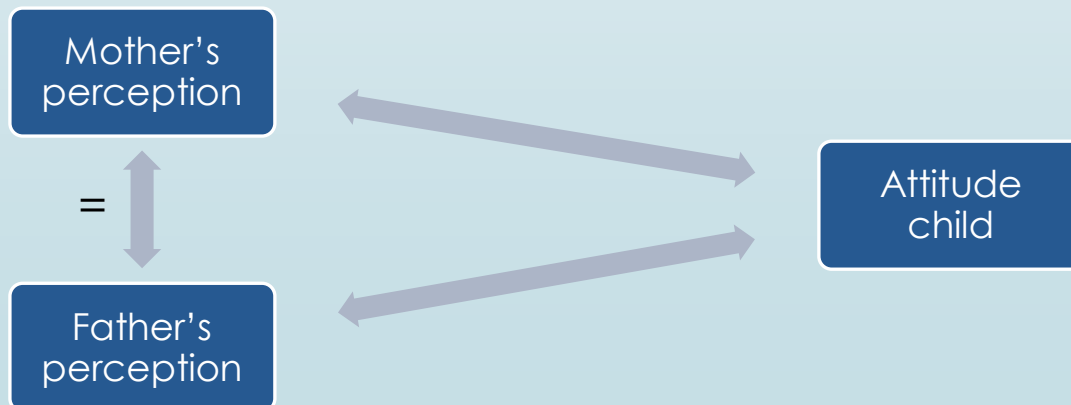
Findings

Correctness perceptions

- Perception child of mother & father



- Perception mother & father of their child



Child is not more correct about mother or father

Mother & father have same perception => equally correct

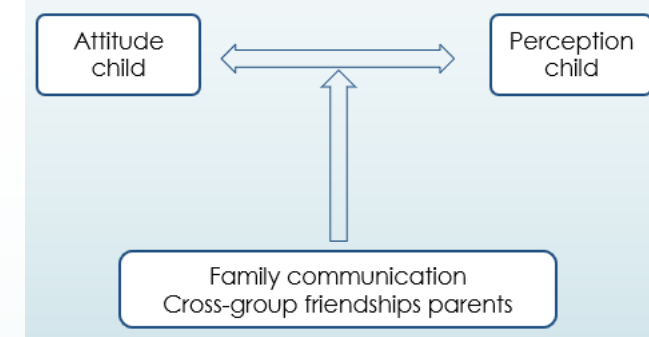
Findings

Projection

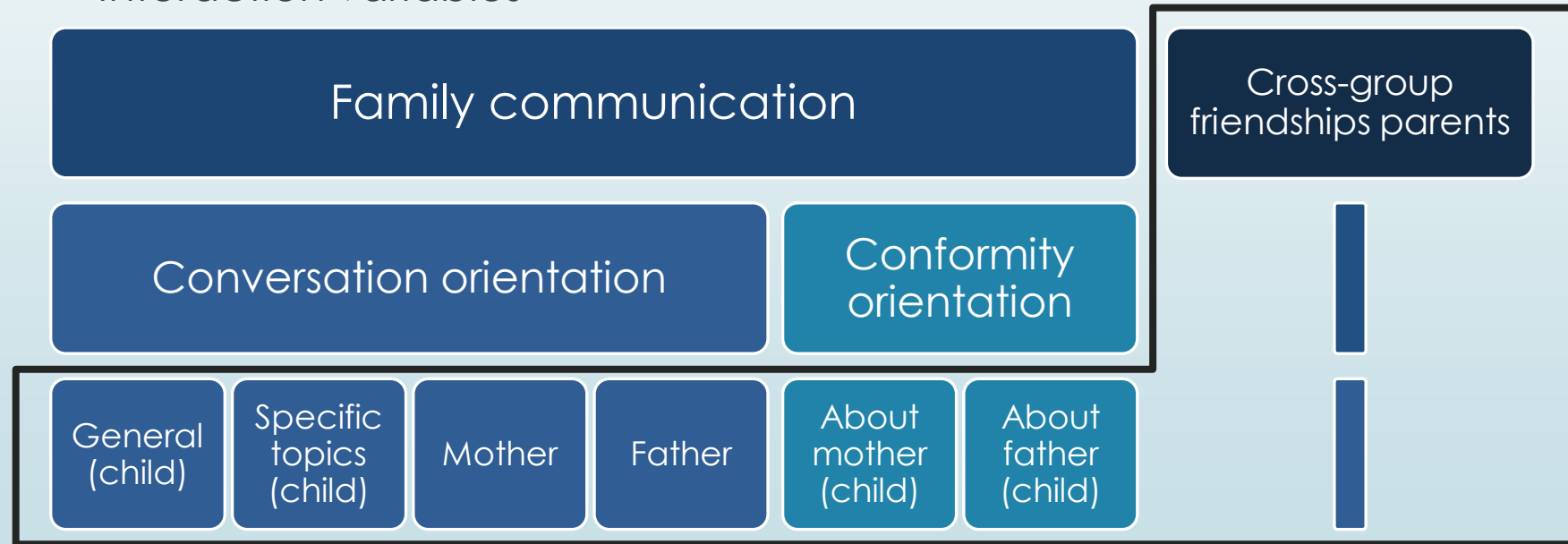
- X: Attitude child
- Y: Perception child

Persuasion

- X: Perception child
- Y: Attitude child



- Interaction variables

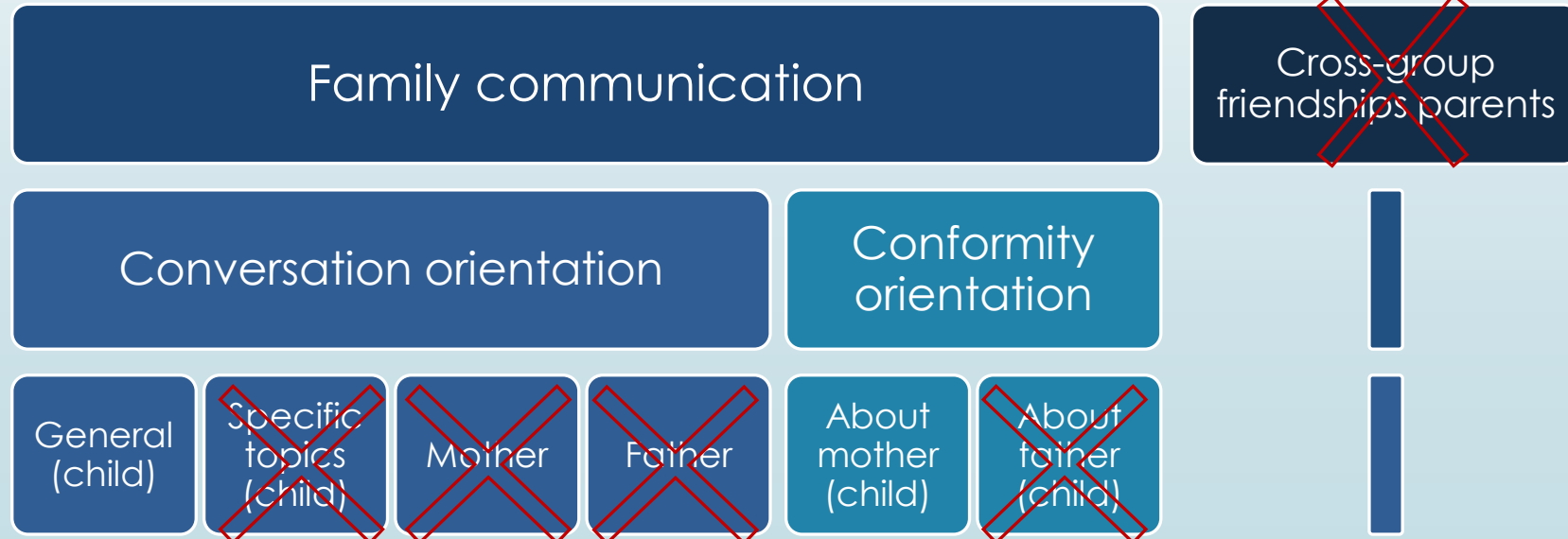
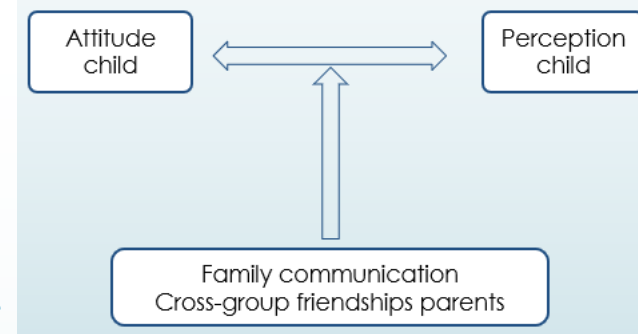


7 interactions x 2 => 14 models

Findings

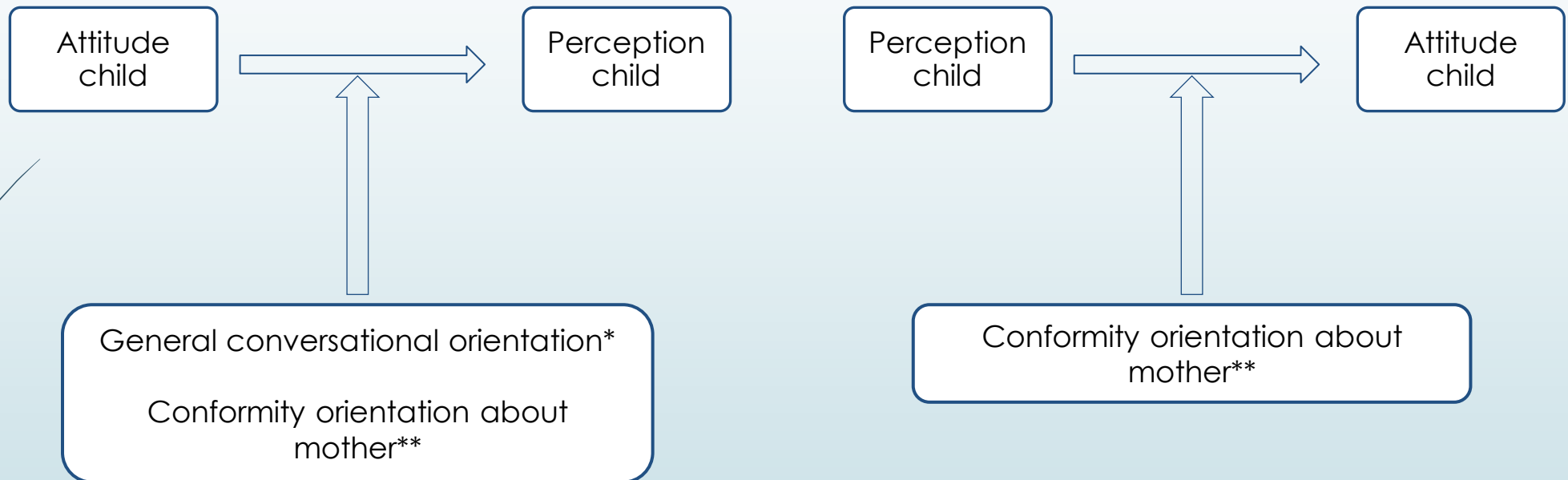
Projection & persuasion: no influence

- No significant interaction for 5 out of 7 variables
 - Conformity orientation father not significant - mother significant
 - Cross-group friendships might be more important in perception



Findings

Projection & persuasion: significant influences



*Discuss problems with parents, parents try to understand their children points of view, answer honestly & do mother or father notice when child is sad or bothered by something

**Parents encourage non-conforming behaviour and independence

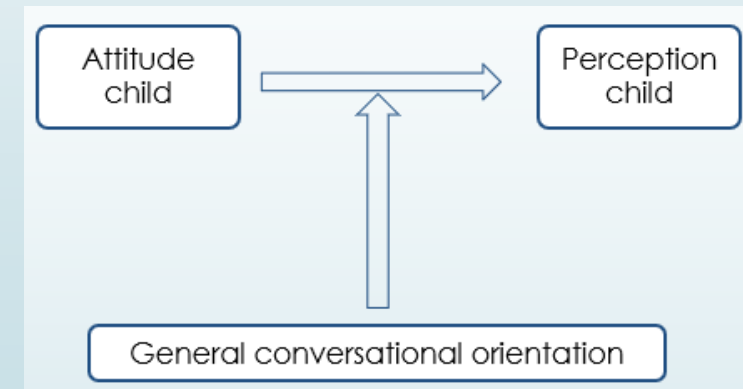
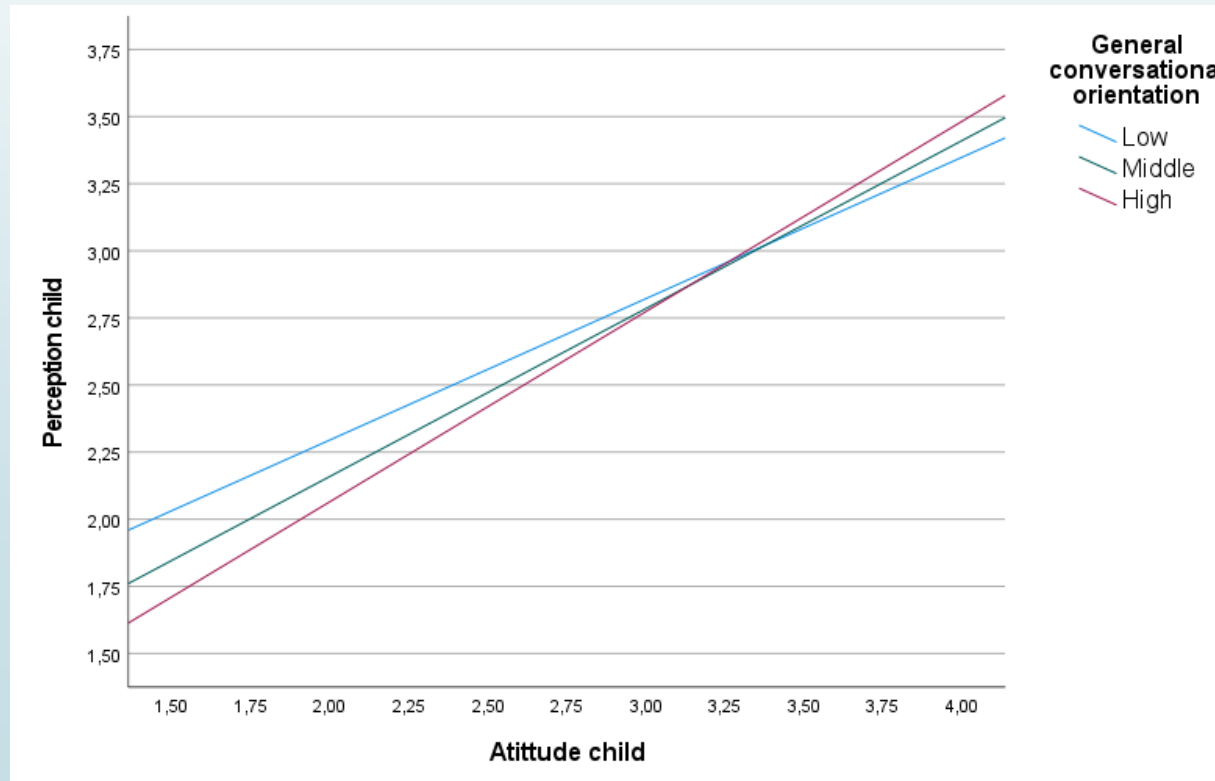
Findings

Projection & persuasion: significant influences

► Example

1: (perception of) positive attitude towards immigrants

4: (perception of) negative attitude towards immigrants





Limitations

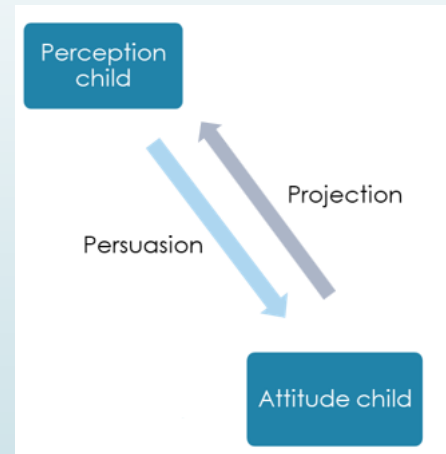
- ▶ Cross-section survey <---> panel survey
- ▶ Measurement cross-group friendships
- ▶ Sample: mothers-father-child --> no single parents
- ▶ Generalizability on Flanders, not other regions or countries



KEEP
CALM
AND
DO MORE
RESEARCH

Future

- Why overestimation of similarity by child and parents?
- Under what circumstances is effect projection or persuasion larger?



- What influences the relation between attitude of parents and perception child?
- What influences the relation between perception and attitude of child?