

Dynamics of parent-adolescent relationships: Individual processes and long-term outcomes

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It is well known that parent-adolescent relationships are important for adolescents' psychosocial functioning. Recent developments in the area of parent-adolescent relationships have shown that we need a better understanding of processes in the parent-adolescent relationship across different time scales and their interrelations. Also, we need a better understanding of the universality versus uniqueness of these processes and their outcomes across families. The contributions in this symposium will therefore focus on differences across families in the dynamic processes of parent-adolescent relationships and parenting across different time scales, ranging from day-to-day to year-to-year. Moreover, by coupling shorter-term processes with long-term outcomes, the symposium will address whether, when and for whom developmental dynamic processes shape more stable long-term outcomes.

1. Like no other? A family-specific network approach to parenting adolescents

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Introduction. Though many theories propose that parent-adolescent dynamics are heterogeneous across families, empirical evidence is lacking regarding whether subgroups of families exhibit similar functioning or if each family operates in its own idiosyncratic manner. In the current study, we explored whether the daily dynamics between adolescent affective well-being and perceived parenting were shared by subgroups or were idiosyncratic.

Methods. For 100 consecutive days, 129 adolescents ($M_{\text{age}}=13.3$, 64% female) reported on their positive and negative affect and five perceived parenting practices (i.e., warmth, autonomy support, psychological control, monitoring, and strictness). As preregistered, we conducted Subgrouping Group Iterative Multiple Model Estimation (S-GIMME), which is a data-driven method estimating idiographic (family-specific) temporal networks, including contemporaneous and lagged associations among all variables. S-GIMME could also detect whether associations were shared by the sample (group-level) or subgroups (subgroup-level) or were unique to an individual (individual-level).

Results. In almost every family, parenting practices were intertwined with the adolescent's affective well-being in everyday life. However, same- or next-day associations between adolescent affect and parenting practices were not shared by the sample nor by subsamples. Instead, associations were found at the individual level, with families having unique patterns. That is, which parenting practices were related to the adolescent's affect and how they were related was specific to the family.

Conclusions. The results stress the idiosyncratic nature of how parenting is linked to adolescents' affective well-being in everyday life, stressing that averaging across families may lead to invalid conclusions about the dynamics within individual families.

2. Day-to-day parent-adolescent negative interaction and adolescent mood: The moderating role of adolescent emotion dysregulation

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Adolescent daily mood and mood swings predict the risk of anxiety and depression. Thus, it is crucial to understand whether and how adolescent daily mood is influenced by and also influences daily interaction with both mothers and fathers. Additionally, adolescent trait characteristics may shape responses to day-to-day interactions with parents. This

preregistered study (<https://osf.io/y3emj>) aimed to examine and compare mother- versus father-adolescent daily negative interactions and adolescent daily mood. It also examined how adolescent emotion dysregulation moderates within-family day-to-day associations. Utilizing a longitudinal daily diary dataset, the study assessed mother- and father-adolescent negative interactions and adolescent affect (positive and negative) over 75 assessment days (5 consecutive weekdays at each measurement, 3 measurements per year over 5 years).

Dynamic structural equation models revealed concurrent and lagged within-family associations between higher negative interaction with parents and higher adolescent negative affect and lower positive affect. Furthermore, the concurrent, but not lagged, linkage was stronger for mother-adolescent interaction in relation to adolescent daily mood than for fathers. Finally, within-family associations between daily parent-adolescent negative interaction and adolescent daily mood were moderated by adolescent emotion dysregulation. Adolescents with high emotion dysregulation experienced worse mood on days with high negative interactions, while this effect was weaker for adolescents with low emotion dysregulation.

The findings highlight the different daily emotional processes with mothers and fathers in adolescence and the moderating role of adolescent emotion regulation. Implications for adolescent emotional well-being will be discussed.

3. *Parent-adolescent communication as a dynamic process*

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Introduction. Keeping track of adolescents' everyday activities, whereabouts and functioning and staying informed is necessary for parents to be sensitive to the child's needs and to interfere when needed (Dishion & McMahon, 1998). However, the underlying dynamic process of parent-adolescent communication is hardly understood. This contribution presents and evaluates a theoretical model for understanding parent-adolescent communication through a complexity lens (Figure 1).

Study 1. Firstly, a structured review shows that eleven studies have addressed the macro-developmental patterns within families, one study has examined meso-time processes across months, and five studies have studied daily dynamics. No studies have currently zoomed in on the real time, hour-to-hour, dynamics.

Study 2. Secondly, we conducted a preregistered Experience Sampling study among 99 Dutch adolescents (average age 15.8) who were followed for 14 days (5 to 6 semi-random times per day; $t=74$). Adolescents reported how they felt, with whom they were, what they were doing, and to whether communication with parents took place (8 items to assess parental knowledge, parental solicitation, and adolescent disclosure; Figure 2). Dynamic Structural Equation Modeling (*Mplus*) revealed that parents were more knowledgeable (than expected) when adolescent had disclosed more and when parents had asked more questions. Disclosure was higher when parents had solicited more. Such dynamics were found in most families. However, the strength of the effects also varied. For instance, solicitation predicted disclosure more strongly among adolescent with more depressive symptoms and poorer relationship quality.

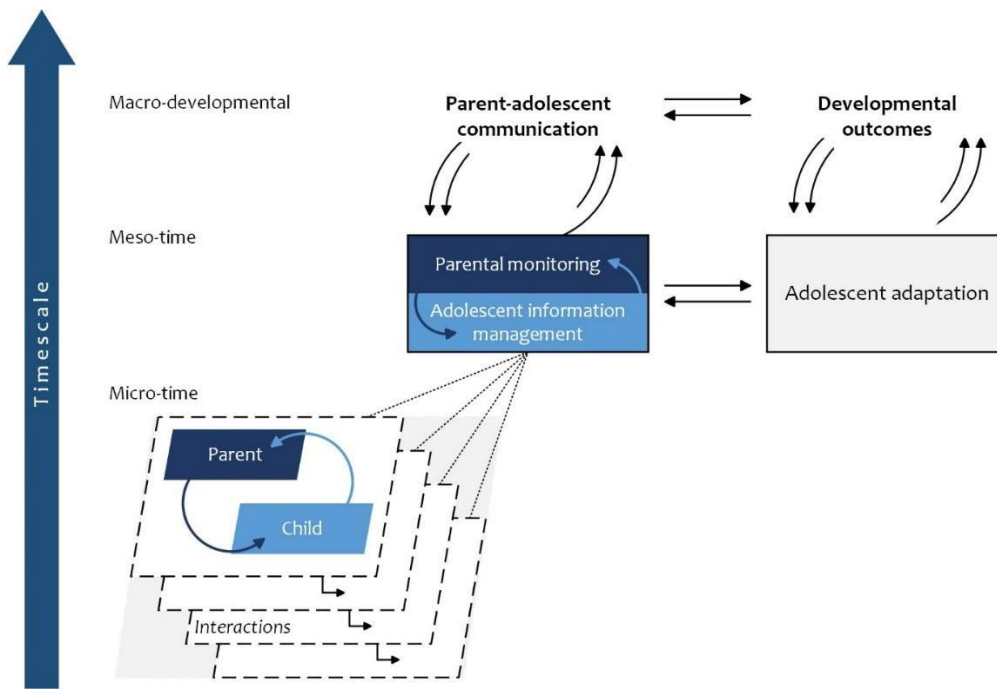


Figure 1. A within-family dynamic process model on parental monitoring and adolescent information management.

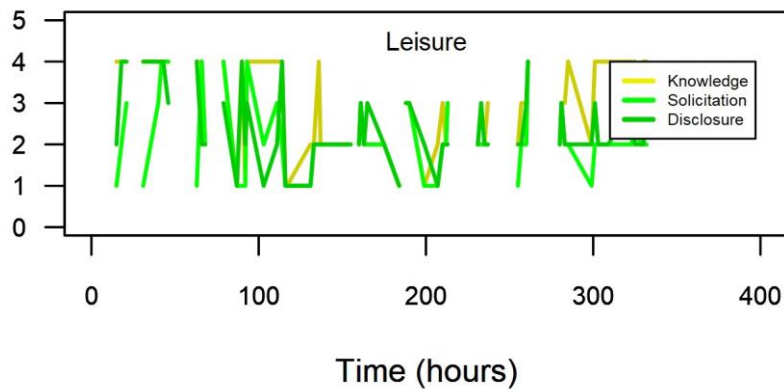


Figure 2. Real-time data of 1 participant.

4. Interplay between parental knowledge and adolescent inebriation, and their links to parent-child relationships over time

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To gain insight into the dynamic processes between parenting and adolescent behavior, this study investigates the within-person interplay between parental knowledge of adolescent whereabouts and adolescent alcohol inebriation. In

addition, we explore their longitudinal effects on the parent-child relationship over time and test the moderating effects of gender and socioeconomic status (SES) on these links.

We utilized data from 782 Swedish early- to mid-adolescents (T1 Mage = 13.01; 52% girls) who provided four waves of data (T1-T4 at ages 13, 14, 15, and 17). Adolescents reported on parental knowledge of adolescent whereabouts (T1-T4), alcohol inebriation (T1-T4), and parent-adolescent closeness (T4).

Using Random-Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Models (RI-CLPM) with parent-child closeness as a time-invariant outcome, the results showed that, while controlling for possible contemporaneous and stability effects throughout adolescence, an increase in parental knowledge was linked to less adolescent alcohol inebriation. However, alcohol inebriation only to some extent had a negative impact on parental knowledge. Fluctuations in parental knowledge were predictive of parent-child closeness over time. There was no evidence of moderation by gender and SES.

In conclusion, adolescents with parents who are more aware of their everyday lives engage in fewer instances of alcohol inebriation. This potential effect appears to be consistent throughout adolescence and may foster higher emotional closeness between parents and their adolescent children. Although more instances of inebriation in late adolescence may lead to reduced parental knowledge, this may be related to normal maturational processes.

5. Intergenerational transmission of parenting and family relationship quality: Testing romantic relationship competence pathways from adolescence through adulthood

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Introduction: This study examines a developmental cascade model linking family climate (cohesion, low conflict) and adolescent problem-solving skills in adolescence with young adult romantic relationship quality (interpersonal violence, couple problem-solving); in turn, how each explain intergenerational risk transmission in terms of the quality of the next generation childrearing environment (G2CRE).

Method: There were 395 participants (Mage = 28.3; 70% women) who provided data in Grades 6-10 (6 waves), at young adult (YA) ages 19.5, 23, and 25, and again after the transition to parenthood (child Mage = 3.96; 48% girls). Participants reported on their family climate and problem-solving skills practices as adolescents, on interpersonal violence (IPV) and couple problem solving as young adults, and G2CRE parenting (warmth, laxness, harsh discipline, abuse) and family-level functioning (cohesion, conflict, routines) spanning a developmental period of 17 years.

Results: We computed a Random Intercept Cross-Lagged Panel Model that captured within-person relations in early adolescence, but these effects were not evident in mid-late adolescence. From a developmental cascade perspective, statistically significant indirect effects emerged in which a more positive family climate in adolescence was associated with lower rates of IPV; IPV was associated with higher rates of physical abuse and with higher rates of family conflict in the next generation. Adolescent problem-solving skills were associated with greater couple problem-solving skills in YA, which in turn was associated with warmer parenting and less lax and harsh discipline in the next generation.

Conclusion: These findings illuminate pathways of intergenerational transmission of parenting and family relationship quality.