

Intergenerational Transmission of Parenting Style in a Cross-Cultural College Student Sample



Brandeis



Ziyi Guo^{1, 2}, Yen-Ling Chen³, Eric A., Youngstrom^{2,4}

¹Brandeis University, ²Korea University,

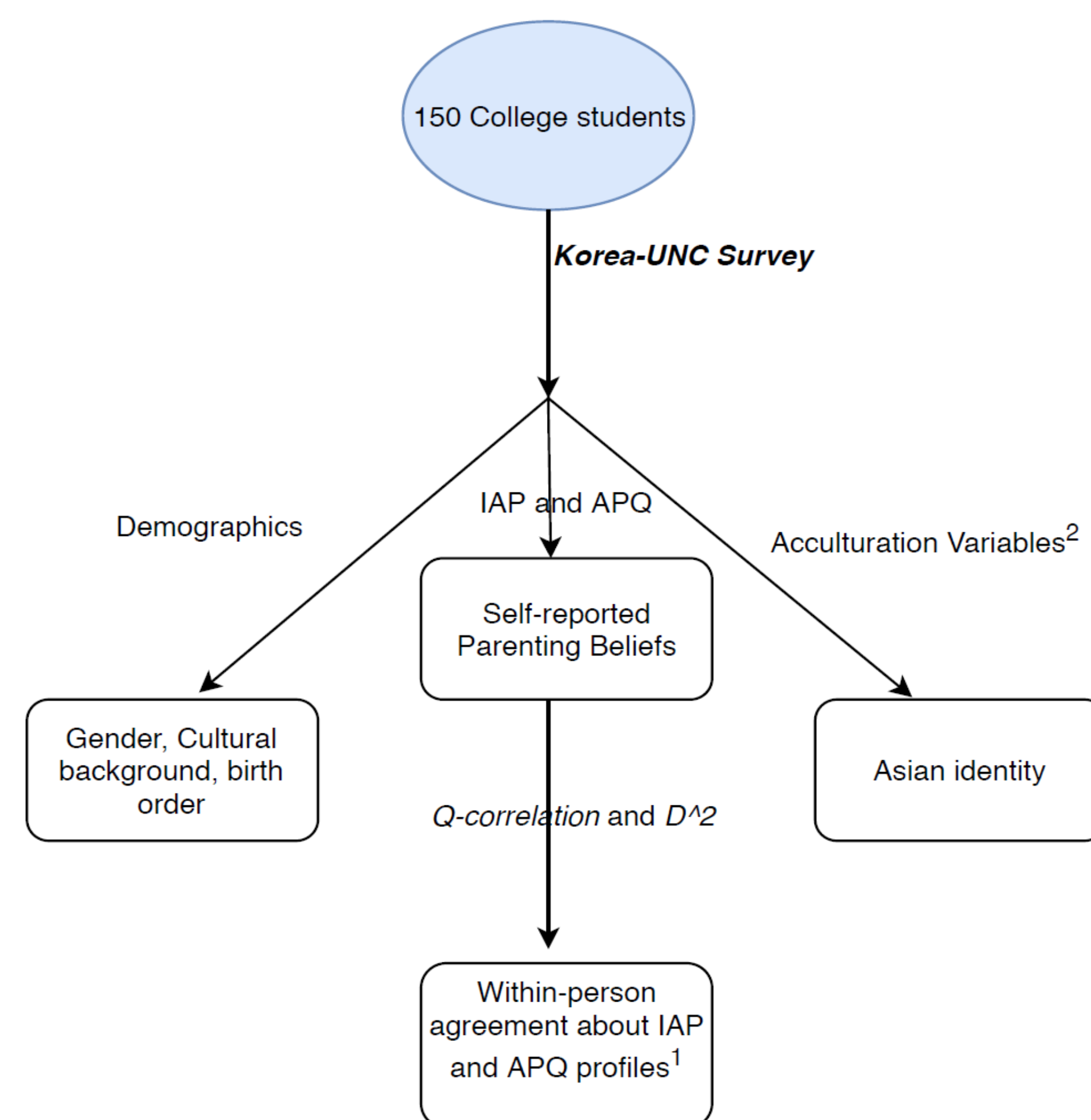
³University of Nevada, Las Vegas, ⁴University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



Introduction

Parenting quality and styles impact children's socio-emotional development (e.g., Kitamura et al., 2009, Lomanowska et al., 2017). Parenting style often shows intergenerational transmission, influencing children's expectations of future interpersonal relationships in young adulthood (Einav, 2013). However, little is known about the relationship between parent-child interaction and child's parenting belief during emerging adulthood. We examined the relationship between a retrospective report of interaction with parents during the high school senior year and the person's own parenting beliefs in young adulthood, as well as how gender, cultural background, and birth order might affect such intergenerational transmission.

Methods

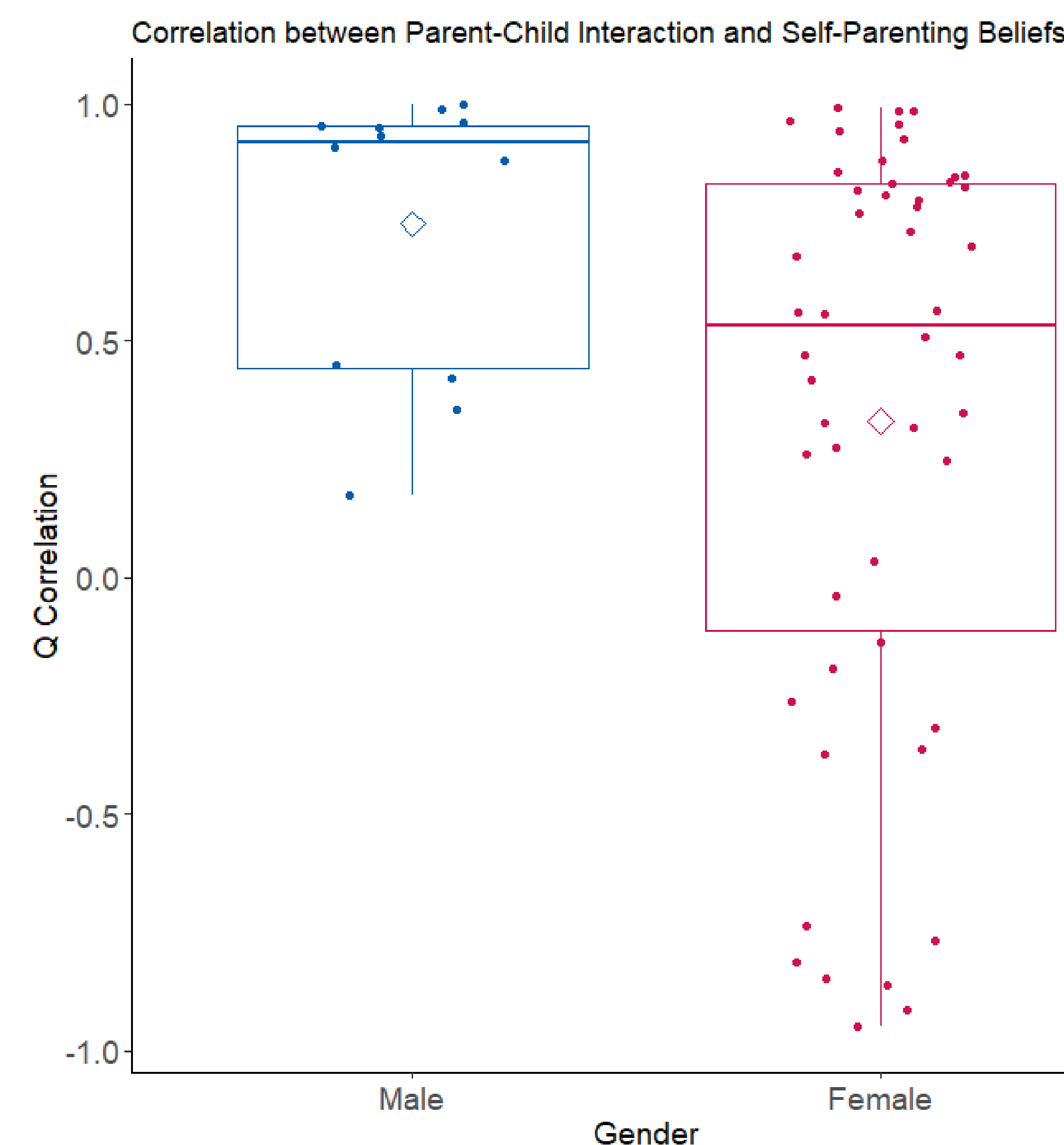


1. We paired the subscales of APQ and IAP into the following categories:
APQ corporal punishment – IAP authoritarian
APQ positive parenting – IAP authoritative
APQ mom involvement – IAP child centered
APQ dad involvement – IAP child centered
2. Acculturation variable included items about self identifying as Asian, being born in, growing up mostly in, and attending college in Asia. An Asian acculturation total score summed yes/no of these items, ranging from 0 to 4.

Results

Examples of Metrics of Agreement on Parent-child Interaction and Self Parenting Beliefs

Case	Source	Subscale pairs (APQ – IAP)				Mean	SD	Δ	q	D^2
		Corporal punishment – Authoritarian	Positive parenting – Authoritative	Mom involvement – Child centered	Dad involvement – Child centered					
001	APQ	.00	33.33	72.50	42.50	37.08	29.85	36.42	.86	.88
001	IAP	.57	.69	.70	.70	.67	.06			
002	APQ	16.67	58.33	52.50	52.50	45	19.09	44.30	-.37	.90
002	IAP	.73	.74	.67	.67	.70	.04			
003	APQ	8.33	29.17	42.50	20.00	25	14.45	24.37	.07	.94
003	IAP	.61	.73	.59	.59	.63	.07			



- The q correlations ranged from perfect agreement about score profile ($q=1.0$) through a lack of agreement ($q=0.0$) to perfect disagreement ($q=-.98$) for retrospective parent-child interaction and young adult parenting beliefs.
- Participants showed an average of moderate agreement about parent-child interaction and their own future-oriented parenting beliefs (mean $q=.40$). The D^2 ranged from .19 to 4.26.
- Women had significantly lower average q -correlations than men ($M=.35$ vs. $.60$, $p=.013$), and were significantly more likely to have a negative q -correlation ($p=.05$).
- There were no significant differences in q -correlations associated with cultural groups or birth order (all $ps >.05$), nor in D^2 (all $ps >.05$).

Conclusions

Consistent with previous studies, participants across different demographics (age, gender, schooling location, birth order, etc.) showed moderate to large agreement on our pairings of IAP and APQ subscales. This indicates that college students' interaction with parents in the senior year of high school correlates with their future parenting ideas. Surprisingly, women showed significantly less agreement between parent-child interaction style and future parenting belief than men. It could be that growing up observing or hearing about the stereotype of mothers being more involved in raising children makes females develop their individual ideas about parenting in early adulthood. Increasing higher education and career focus also are changing attitudes towards traditional gender roles. Future studies could also find out which pairing contributes the most to the distance scores.

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For more information, please contact Ziyi Guo at zgao9908@brandeis.edu