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Differences in relations between mother's distanced parenting and child's attachment in the Netherlands, Poland, and Turkey



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Introduction

Attachment theory



Attachment insecurity indicators

ATTACHMENT AVOIDANCE	ATTACHMET ANXIETY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• uncomfortable with sharing emotions• avoidance of intimacy and dependence on others• discomfort with closeness• emotional distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of trust in other people's availability in times of need• fear from being rejected



Attachment security indicators

SAFE HAVEN	SECURE BASE
Returning to the attachment figure for comfort and safety in the face of a fear or threat .	The attachment figure acts as a base of security from which the child can explore the surrounding environment.



Distance in caregiving



Caregiving behavioral system of parent corresponds to the attachment behavioral system of a child (anxiety related hyperactivation and avoidance-related deactivation; Solomon & George 2008)

Both can be promoted by overarching cultural values and socialization goals (e.g., Harkness & Super, 2006; Keller, 2018; Rothbaum et al. 2000; Solomon & George, 2008)



Parental distance undermines the security and fosters avoidant behavioral orientation in children (Koehn & Kerns, 2018)

Our project

Combination of *emic* and *etic* approach to attachment and parenting in Poland, Turkey and Netherlands (CEE-PaAtt)

Lubiewska, K. Głogowska K., Sumer, N., Aran, O., van de Vijver, A. J. R., de Raad, W.



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CEE-PaAtt
COMBINATION OF EMIC AND ETIC APPROACH
TO PARENTING AND ATTACHMENT



QUALITATIVE stage:

Focus group meetings
Interviews with 30 mothers in each country about parenting
Emic scales developed based on culture-specific analysis of interviews



QUANTITATIVE stage:

Pilot study
The main data collection



Our project – meaning of distance

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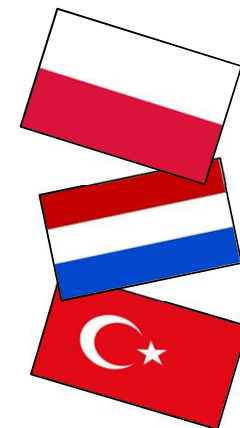
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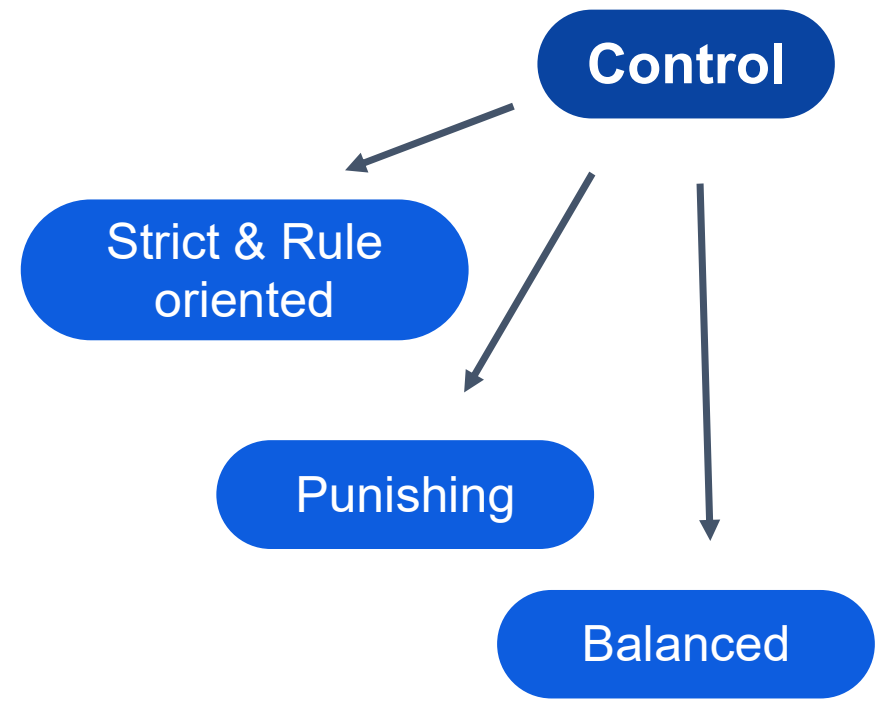
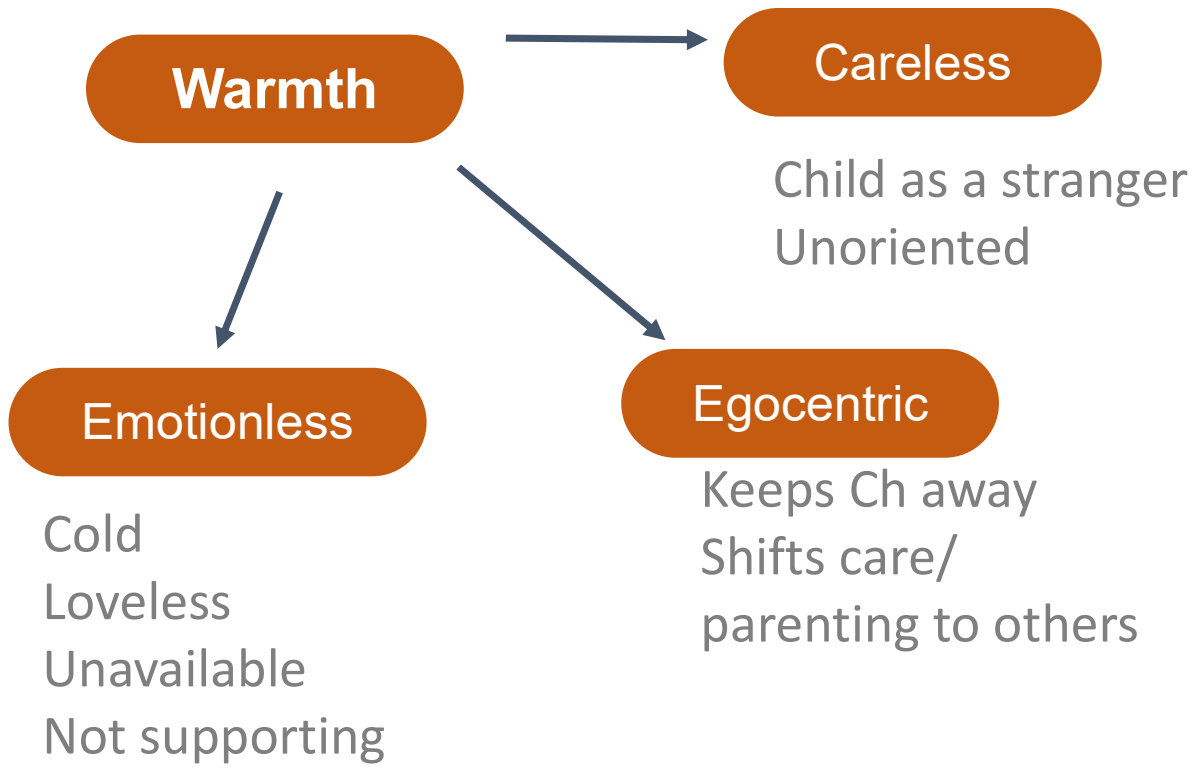
QUALITATIVE stage

Interviews questions about distanced parenting:

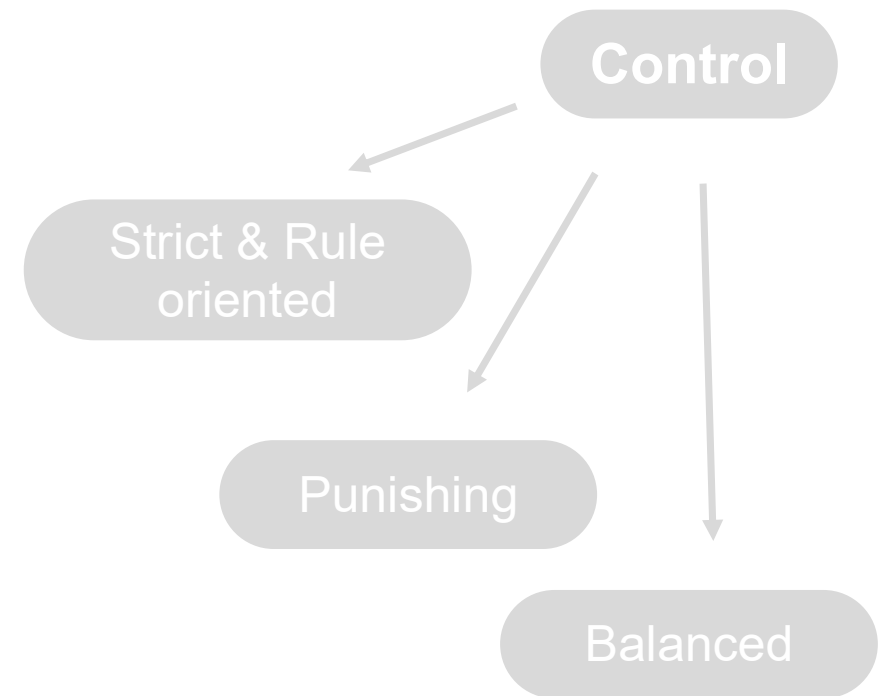
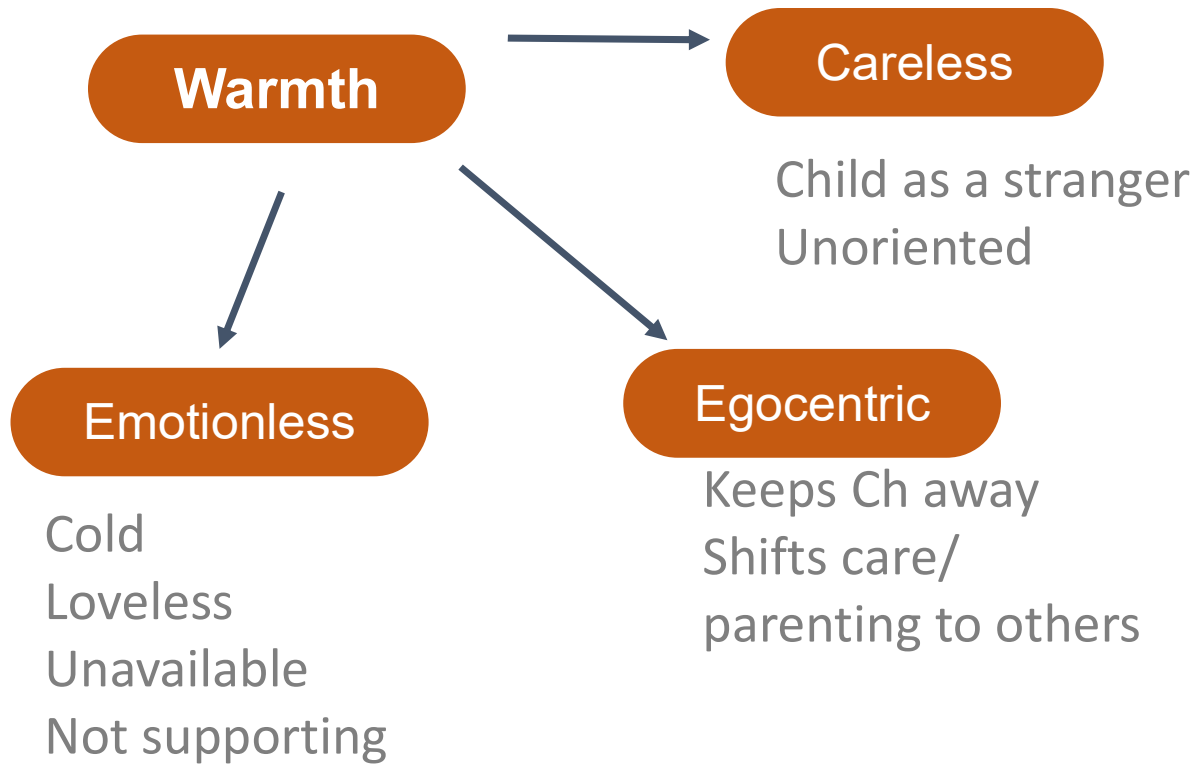
- How does an **distanced, avoidant** mother behave in relation with her child? (describe)
- How **good** in your opinion is this type of mothering? (indicate using Likert scale)



Distance - major themes in narratives

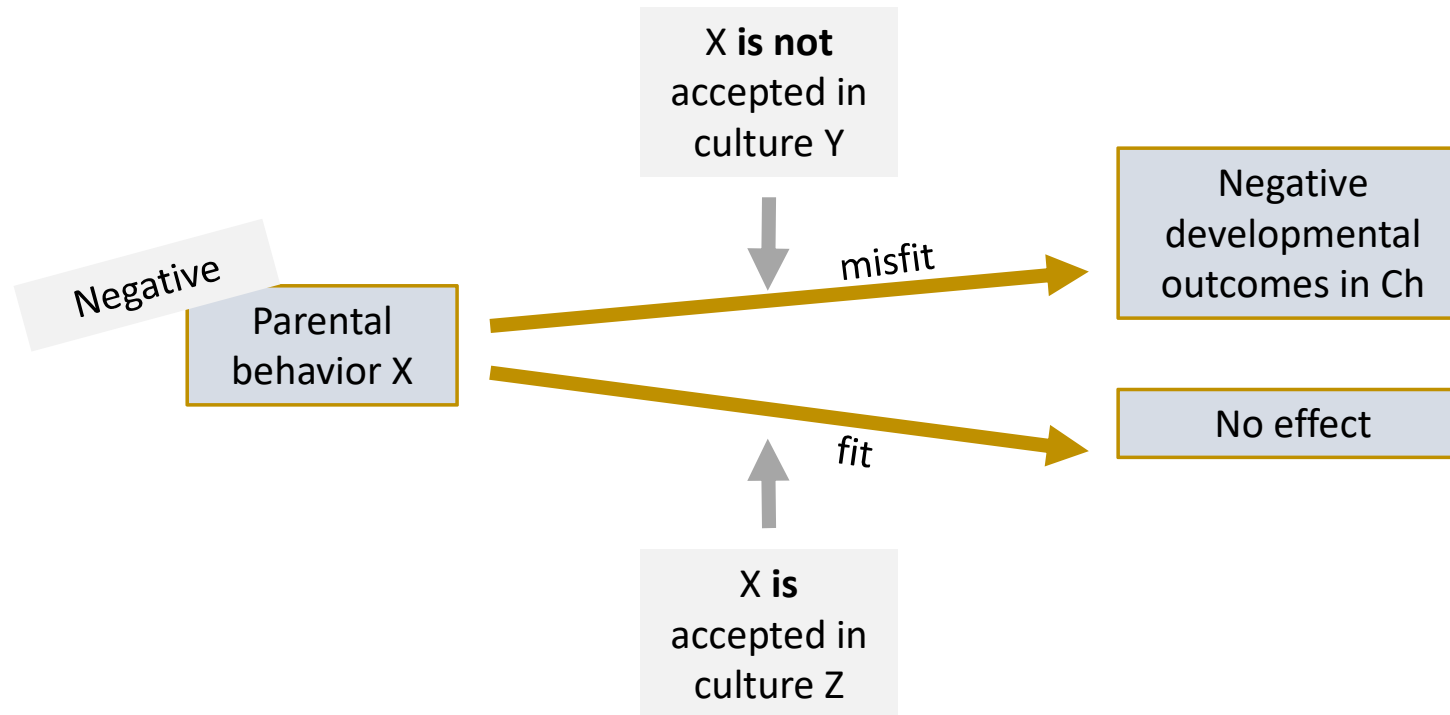


Distance - major themes in narratives



Culture-fit hypothesis

(Deater-Deckard & Dodge, 1997; Friedman et al., 2010; Ward & Chang, 1997)



What with positive parental behavior?

Aim of the study

To analyze cross-cultural differences in relations between mother's **distanced parenting** and **child's attachment**

Distance - major themes in narratives

Distance

Careless



Unoriented

Emotionless

Cold
Loveless
Unavailable
Not supporting

Egocentric

Keeps Ch away
Shifts care/
parenting to others



H1: Careless are related to child attachment security in **Polish and Turkish** cultural context

H2: Egocentric are related to child attachment security in **Turkish** cultural context

H3: Emotionless is related to child attachment security in **Polish, Dutch, and Turkish** cultural context



Method

Method: Sample & Instruments



Sample:

Mothers of children between 8-12 year of age in Poland ($n = 258$), Turkey ($n = 250$), and Netherlands ($n = 250$)

Instruments:

Child report

- Experience in Close Relationships-Revised for Children:** 19 items reminded after EFA and CFA analyses

- **Avoidance** (*alphas* from .802 to .950)
- **Anxiety** (*alphas* from .702 to .927)

Metric invariance established across cultural groups

- The Network of Relationships Inventory: Behavioral Systems Version:** 6 items

- Seeking for **Safe haven** (*alphas* from .799 to .873)
- Seeking for **Secure base** (*alphas* from .757 to .774)

Maternal report

- Emic scales: Distanced parenting**

- **Careless:** (*alphas* from .735 to .820)
- **Emotionless** (*alphas* from .830 to .900)
- **Egocentric** (*alphas* from .725 to .855)

5 steps Likert scale

Metric invariance of all scales was established across cultural groups

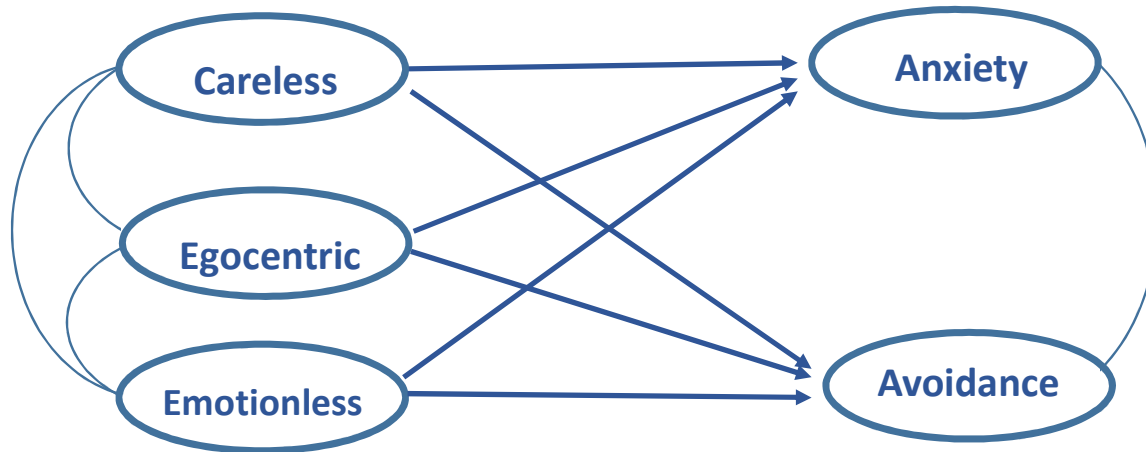
Results

- ❑ SEM structural model under the study
- ❑ SEM results and MG-SEM based moderation effects for models explaining child attachment dimensions of:
 - Avoidance and Anxiety (Model 1)
 - Safe haven and Secure base (Model 2)

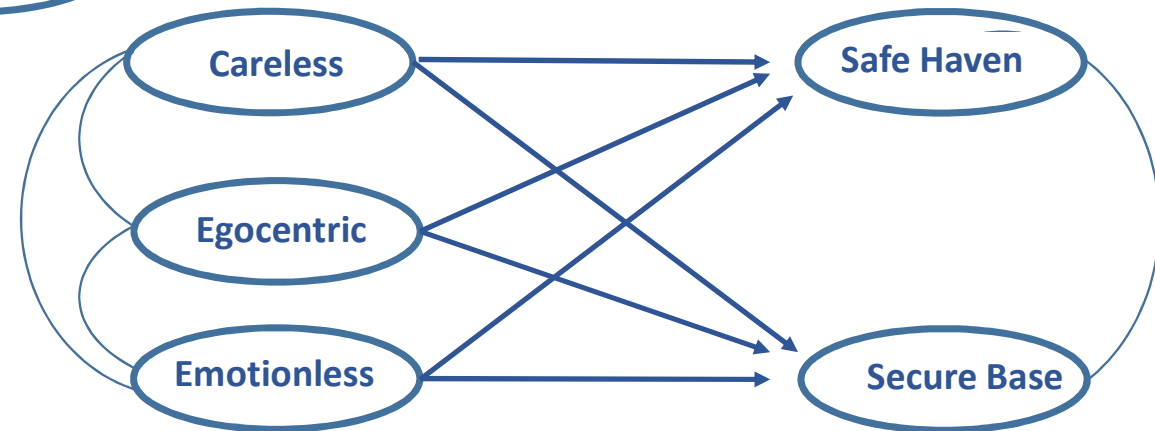
Structural SEM models under the study:



Model 1: Anxiety & Avoidance

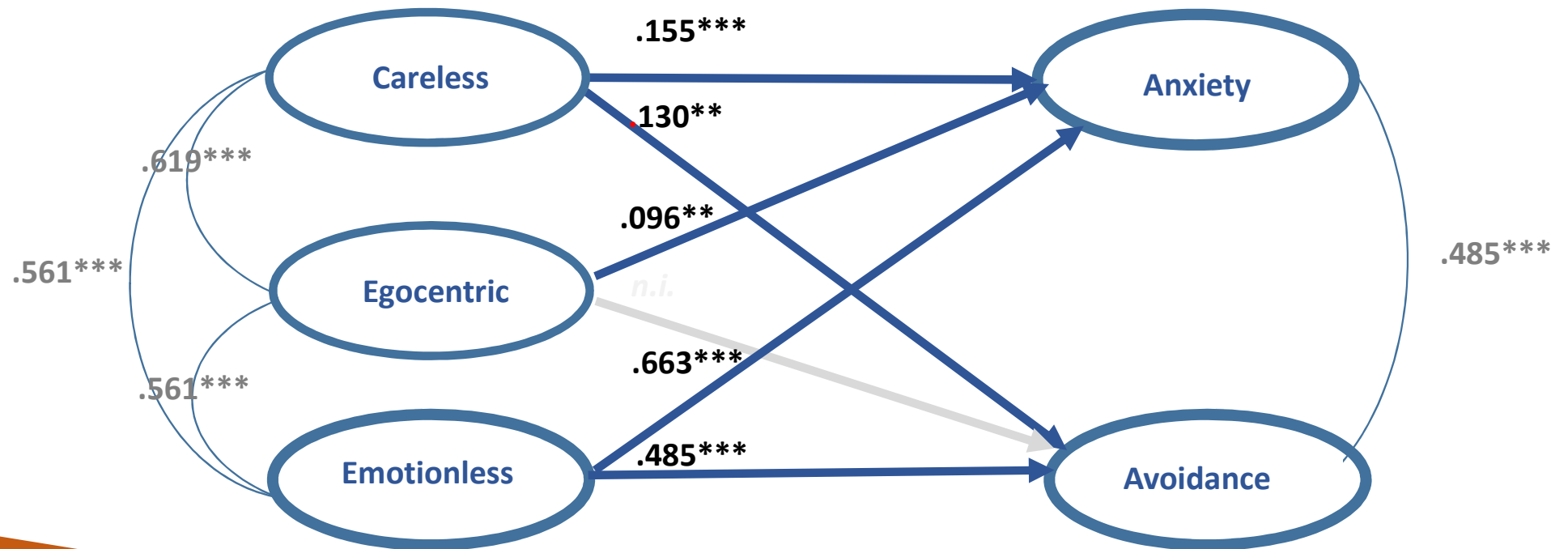


Model 2: Safe haven & Secure base



Structural paths were tested in Multigroup SEM testing moderation effects of culture

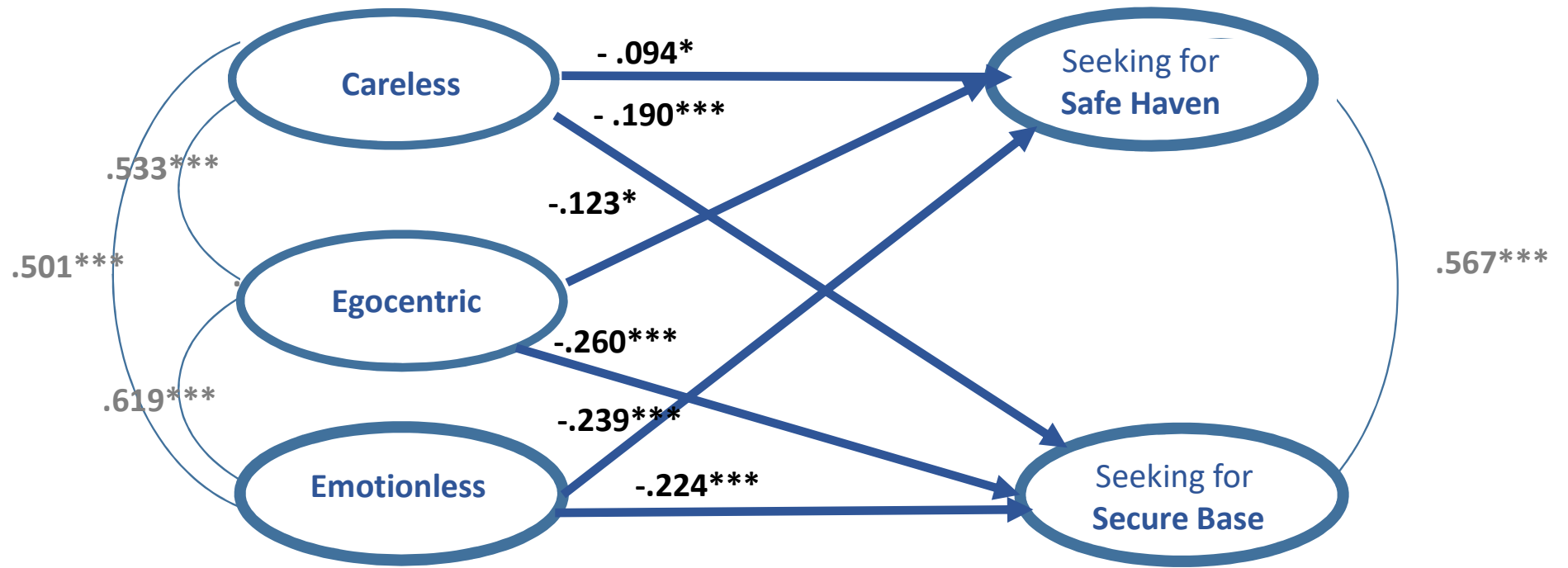
Results Model 1a: Total sample



**Support
for emotionless
hypothesis**

RMSEA=0.045; SRMR=0.024; CFI=0.990; TLI=0.985;
 $\chi^2 = 137.598$; $df = 48$

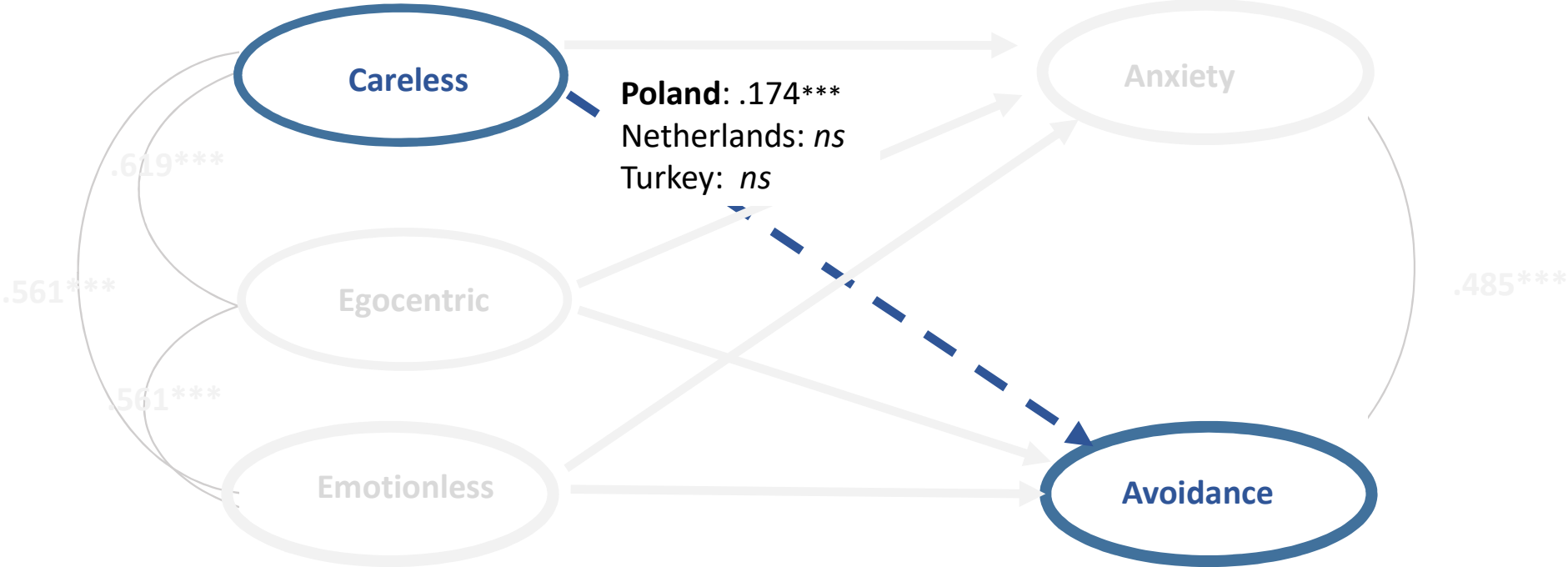
Results for Model 2a: Total sample



**Support
for emotionless
hypothesis**

RMSEA = .060; *SRMR* = .034; *CFI* = .979; *TLI* = .968
 $\chi^2 = 133.182$; *df* = 36

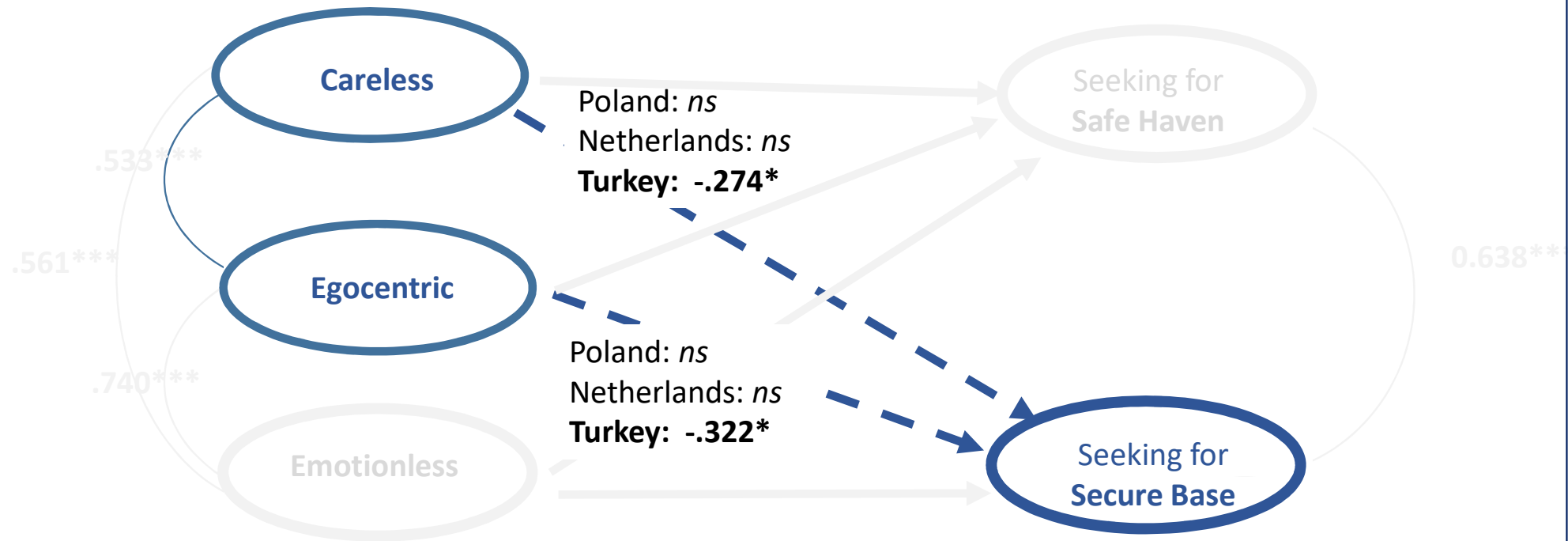
Results for Model 1b: Moderation effects



It support careless hypothesis

**RMSEA = .037; SRMR = .030; CFI = .992; TLI = .987;
 $\chi^2 = 146.148; df = 108$**

Results for Model 2b: Moderation effects



It support careless and egocentric hypothesis

**RMSEA = .037; SRMR = .030; CFI = .992; TLI = .987;
 $\chi^2 = 146.148$; *df* = 108**



Discussion

Conclusions

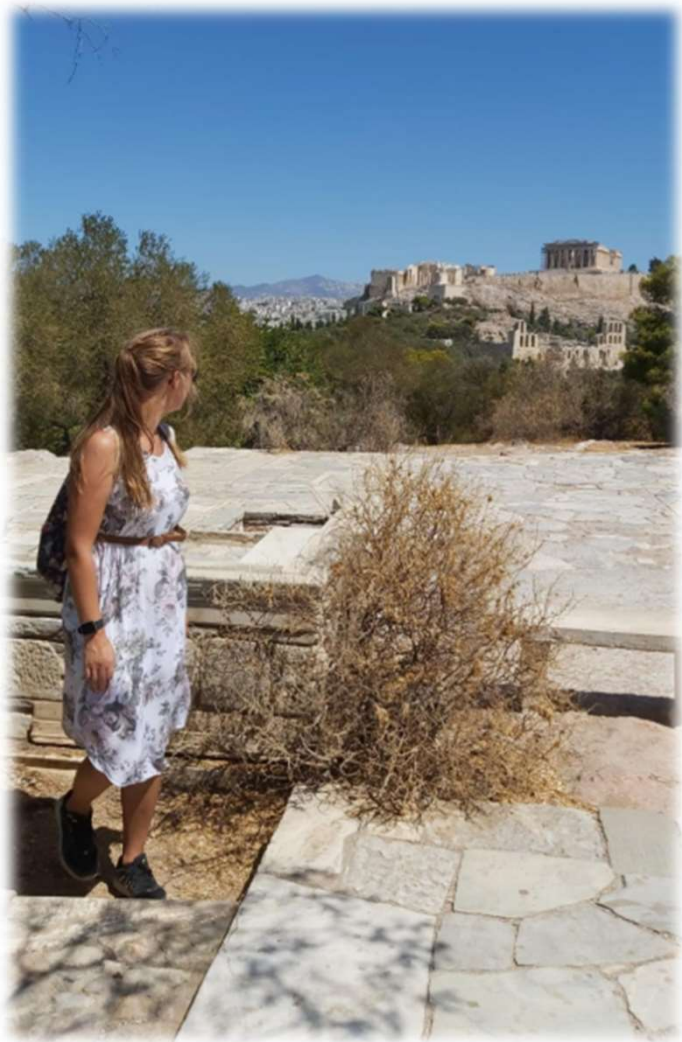


- **Mother's emotionless is the most important predictor for a child's attachment security** (more than careless and egocentric)
- **Careless** is a significant predictor for **attachment avoidance in Poland and a secure base in Turkey**
- **Egocentric** is a significant predictor only for a **secure base in Turkey**

Individualism/collectivism dimension is more important for distant parenting – child's attachment relations than **indulgent/restrain dimension**

Future directions

control



Thank you
for attention!

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