

The moderating role of social support in the association between parent-child attachment and resilience in sexually abused children

Arianne Jean-Thorn, B.Sc.
Université du Québec à Montréal

Justine Caouette, B.Sc.
Université du Québec à Montréal

Martine Hébert, Ph.D.
Université du Québec à Montréal

Context

Despite the growing scientific literature on resilience in children facing adversity, most studies have relied on scales that measure individual qualities depicting resiliency, without taking into account environmental factors, such as the parent-child attachment security or perceived social support (Obrist et al., 2010; Windle et al., 2011). According to Ungar (2013), resilience is a complex mechanism that depends on the interaction between individual qualities and environmental factors. Few studies have explored these mechanisms explaining the diversity of outcomes in sexually abused children.

Methodology

N = 113 sexually abused children
Aged 6 to 12
Recruited in specialized intervention centers in Quebec.

Child and Youth Resilience Measure (CYRM)

Kerns security scale (KSS)

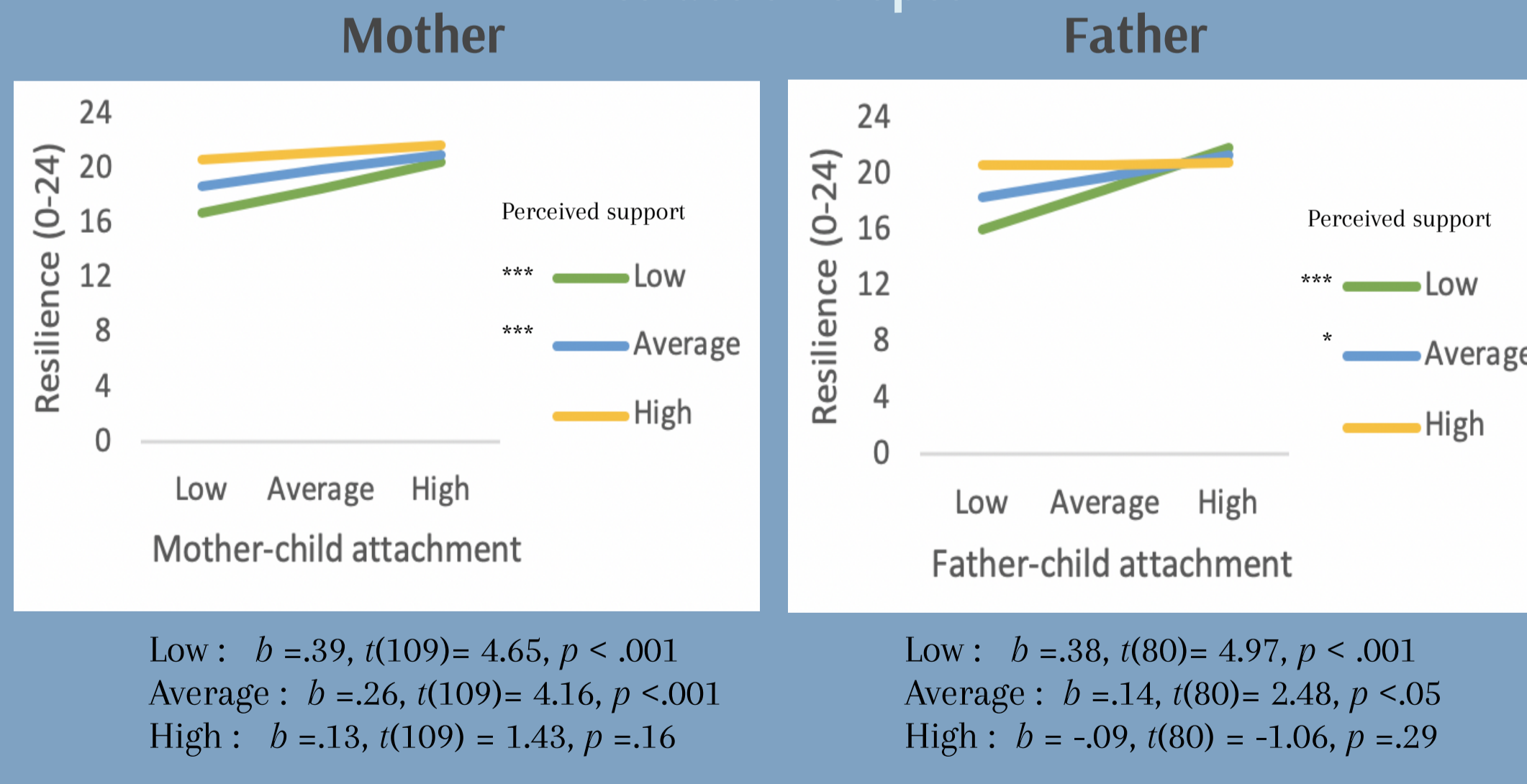
Children's Impact of Traumatic Events scale II - Social Support (CITES-II-SS)

Results

Moderation of support perceived by the child with parent-child attachment on resilience

	<i>b</i>	<i>ES</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
Mother				
Parent-child attachment	.26	.06	4.16	.000
Support perceived by the child	.70	.19	3.66	.000
Parent-child attachment X Support perceived by the child	-.07	.04	-2.10	.038
Father				
Parent-child attachment	.14	.06	2.49	.015
Support perceived by the child	.91	.22	4.07	.000
Parent-child attachment X Support perceived by the child	-.15	.04	-4.12	.000

Interaction slopes



Objective

This study aimed to investigate whether perceived social support moderates the association between parent-child attachment to each caregiver and resilience in sexually abused children.

Discussion

These findings highlight the role of environmental factors on resilience in sexually abused children. Despite the fact that parent-child attachment may be a good predictor of the level of resilience in children, children's perceived social support can moderate this association.

Contact:
Arianne Jean-Thorn, B.Sc.
ariannejeanthorn@hotmail.com