

## Parental Anxiety and Child Separation Anxiety: The Mediating Role of Overprotective Parenting

Sabine. Kraus<sup>1</sup>, Carlos. Hernández<sup>2\*</sup>, Eszter. Kovács<sup>3</sup>


<sup>1</sup> Department of Psychology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV, USA

<sup>2</sup> Department of Educational Sciences, University of Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico



<sup>3</sup> Department of Psychology, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

\* Corresponding author email address: carlos.hernandez@udg.mx

### Editor

Habib Hadianfard  
Affiliation: Professor, Department  
of Psychology, Shiraz University,  
Iran  
hadianfd@shirazu.ac.ir

### Reviewers

**Reviewer 1:** Parvaneh Mohammadkhani  
Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Rehabilitation Sciences  
and Social Health, Tehran, Iran. Email: Pa.mohammadkhani@uswr.ac.ir  
**Reviewer 2:** Mohammadreza Zarbakhsh Bahri  
Associate Professor (Department of Psychology, Tonekabon Branch, Islamic Azad  
University, Tonekabon, Iran. Email: M.Zarbakhsh@Toniau.ac.ir

### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The authors write, “Parents who struggle with anxiety tend to engage in maladaptive cognitive, behavioral, and relational patterns.” This is conceptually strong but would benefit from more specific examples (e.g., over-monitoring, withdrawal from peer activities).

The means are reported, but no interpretation thresholds are given (e.g., what constitutes “high” parental anxiety on the STAI scale). Please provide cutoffs for clarity.

The statement, “Our results also resonate with cross-cultural evidence: in Chinese samples...” would benefit from more careful discussion of potential cultural moderators that differentiate Mexico from East Asia.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

#### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “Overprotective parenting is defined as excessive regulation, control, and intrusion into children’s activities” should be accompanied by at least one classical definition or theoretical model reference (e.g., Parker et al.’s parental bonding conceptualization).

The discussion of cross-cultural findings (Turkish and Korean families) is valuable, but the introduction could be better balanced by also describing Latin American or Mexican contexts, given the study location.

The transition to “The present study addresses these gaps” is effective; however, the authors should explicitly state the research hypothesis in one sentence for clarity.

The authors write, “Homoscedasticity was supported by Levene’s test results, which were non-significant.” However, Levene’s test is used for equality of variances between groups rather than regression assumptions; please justify or clarify this choice.

The presentation of p-values (e.g., .001, .002) is inconsistent; they should either be written as  $p < .001$  when below the threshold or standardized throughout.

The authors state, “The present findings extend prior work and contribute to the growing literature on the mediational role of overprotective parenting.” This section could be strengthened by explaining how this study specifically advances understanding in a Mexican cultural context.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.