Adolescents' Values, Relationship Quality and Support Given to Parents: A German-Polish Comparison

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Aim of the Study & Overview

- Aim of the Study: Polish-German Comparison of
  - adolescents' values, family models and support to parents
  - relationships among family models and support
- Overview
  - Poland & Germany: Cultural characteristics and samples
  - Kagitcibasi's Theory of Family Change
  - Aspects of Family Models: Values, Relationship Quality, Support
  - Hypotheses
  - Method
  - Results
  - Discussion & Outlook

Cultural Characteristics & Samples

Poland

N = 281 (60% female)
Age M = 15.60, SD = 1.25

- Population = 38m
- GDP (PPP)= 13,573 $
- Total Fertility Rate = 1.3
- Hofestede's IND = 60
  Hofestede's PDI = 68

- VOC-Study Team Leader

  Dr. Katarzyna Lubiewska,
  Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz

Cultural Characteristics & Samples

Germany

N = 310 (56% female)
Age M = 15.65, SD = 1.04

- Population = 82m
- GDP (PPP)= 30,496 $
- Total Fertility Rate = 1.3
- Hofestede's IND = 67
  Hofestede's PDI = 35

- VOC-Study Principal Investigators

  Prof. Dr. Gisela Trommsdorff,
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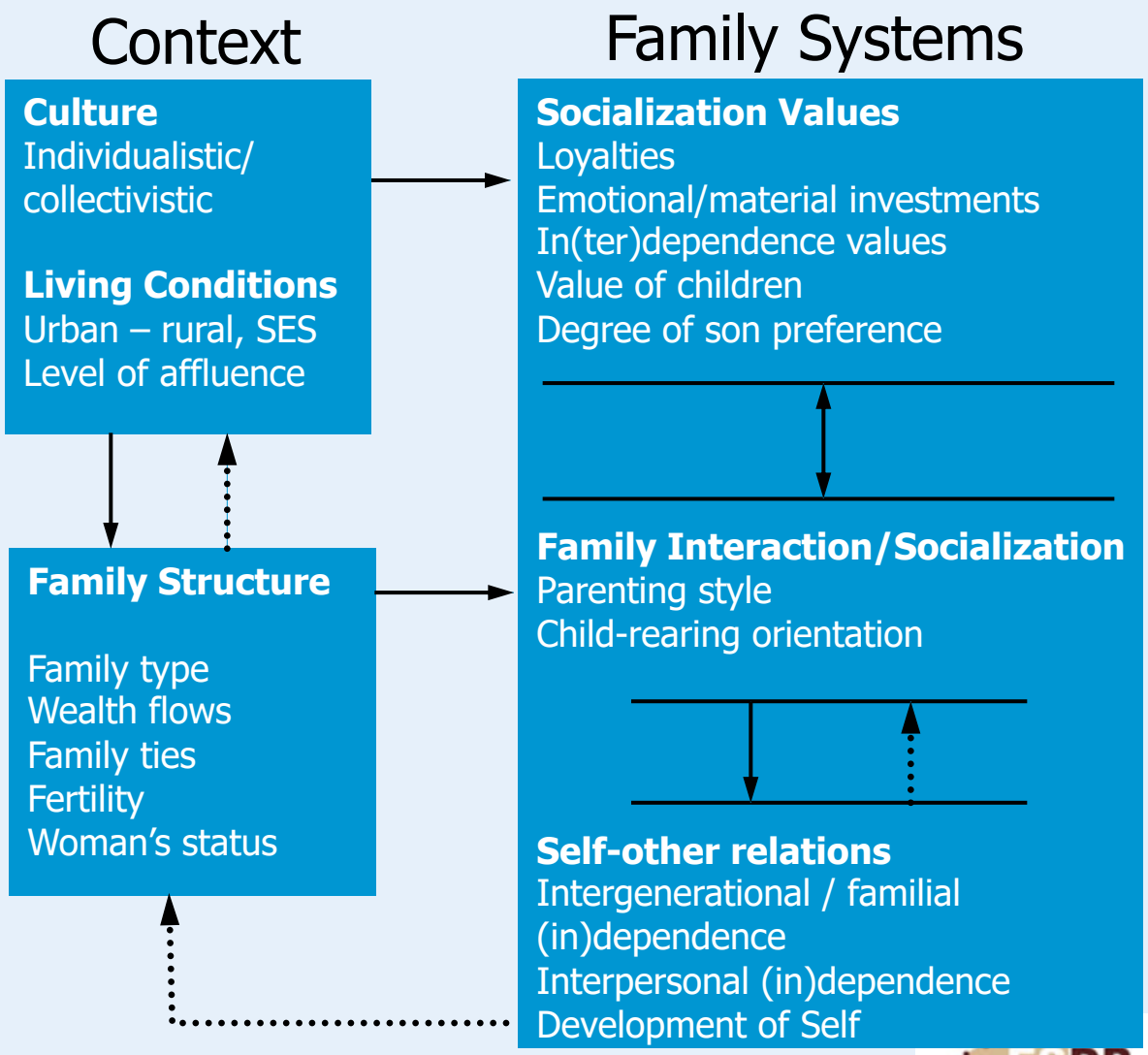
  Prof. Dr. Bernhard Nauck,
  Chemnitz University of Technology

Kagitcibasi's Theory of Family Change

General Model of Family in Context



adapted from Kagitcibasi, 2007

Three Ideal-Typical Family Models (Kagitcibasi, 2007)

- Family Model of Independence
  - Emotional and material **independence**

  → industrialized Western cultures, individualistic

- Family Model of (Total) Interdependence
  - Emotional and material **interdependence**

  → traditional agrarian cultures, collectivistic

- Family Model of Emotional Interdependence
  - Continuing emotional **interdependence**
  - Declining material **interdependence**

  → modernizing cultures with collectivistic background

Focus on German and Polish Adolescents'…

- Cultural, family, and child-related values
  - Emotional Interdependence
    - Collectivism
    - Interdependence
    - Emotional Value of Children (VOC)
    - Family (Relationship) Values
  - Material Interdependence/Hierarchies
    - Individualism (-)
    - Utilitarian/normative Value of Children (VOC)
- Relationship Quality and Support
  - Intimacy with mother, father, and grandmother
  - Readiness to support parents (instead of meeting friends)

Hypotheses & Research Questions

1. German adolescents show a more **independent** family model than Polish adolescents with regard to…
   a. cultural, family and child-related value orientations
   b. relationship quality and support with/for (grand)parents

2. **Value profiles** representing the three family models can be identified across cultures…
   a. through cluster analysis of **cultural, family & child-related values**
   b. relatively more German as compared to Polish adolescents are characterized by an **independent** value profile

Hypotheses & Research Questions (cont.)

3. Family Model Value Profiles and Relationship Quality

a. Are family models systematically related to specific relationship quality with mother, father, grandmother?

b. Do family models mediate cultural differences in relationship quality with mother, father, grandmother?

4. Family Model Value Profiles and Support for Parents

a. Are family models systematically related to adolescents‘ readiness to support parents?

b. Do family models mediate cultural differences with respect to adolescents‘ readiness to support parents?

Instruments

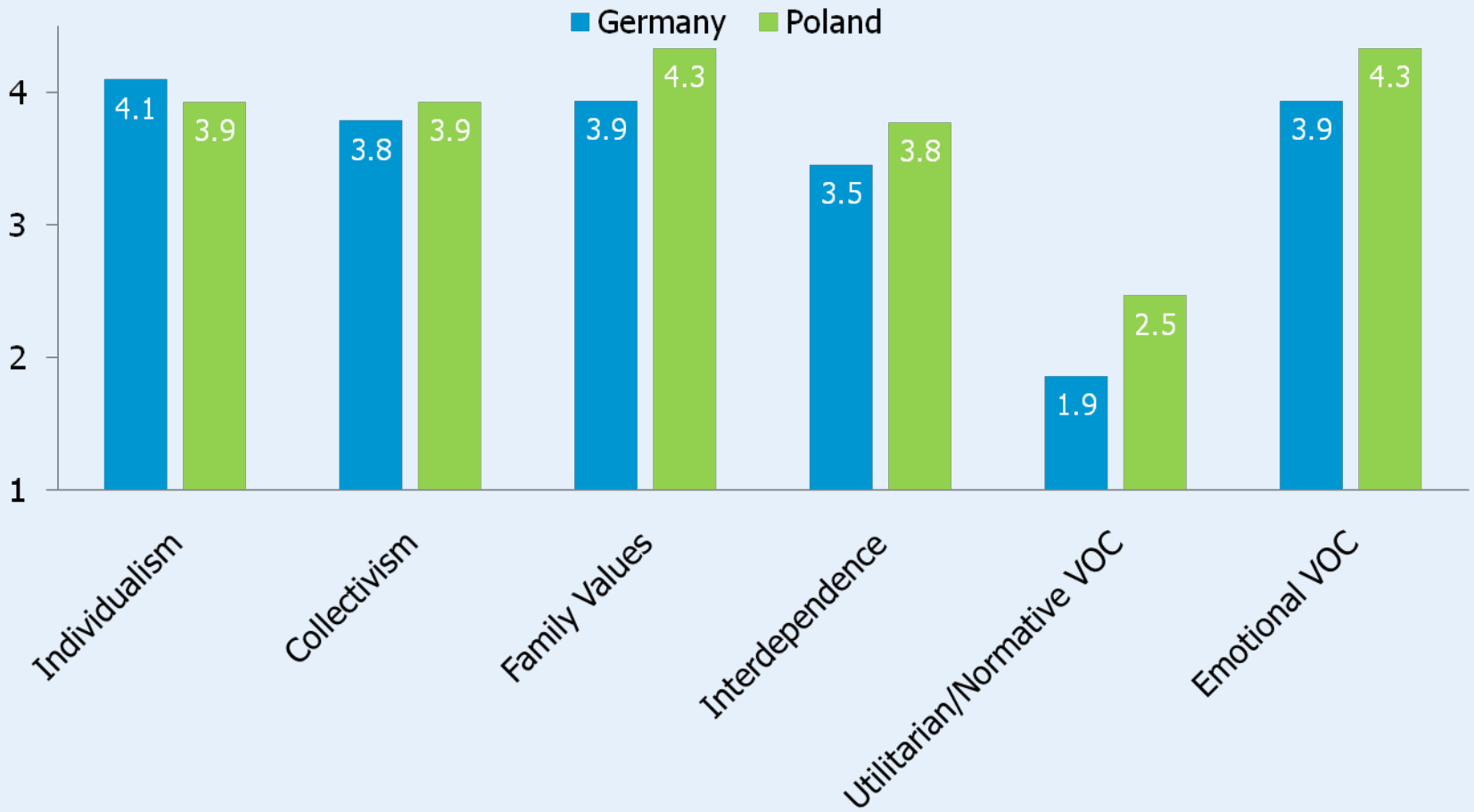
- Values and Self-Construals
  - COLINDEX (Chan, 1994)
  - Family Values (Georgas, 1991)
  - Self-Construal Scale (Singelis, 1994)
  - Value of Children (Arnold et al., 1975; Trommsdorff et al., 2002)

- Relationship Quality and Support
  - Intimacy (Furman, & Buhrmester, 1985, 1992)
  - Imagine the following situation: You and your friends have been planning to spend the day together, but now your parents want you to help them with household chores. What would you decide to do?
    ( ) 1 Spend the day helping my parents.
    ( ) 2 Spend the day with my friends (Trommsdorff et al., 2002)

Sample Items & Reliabilities

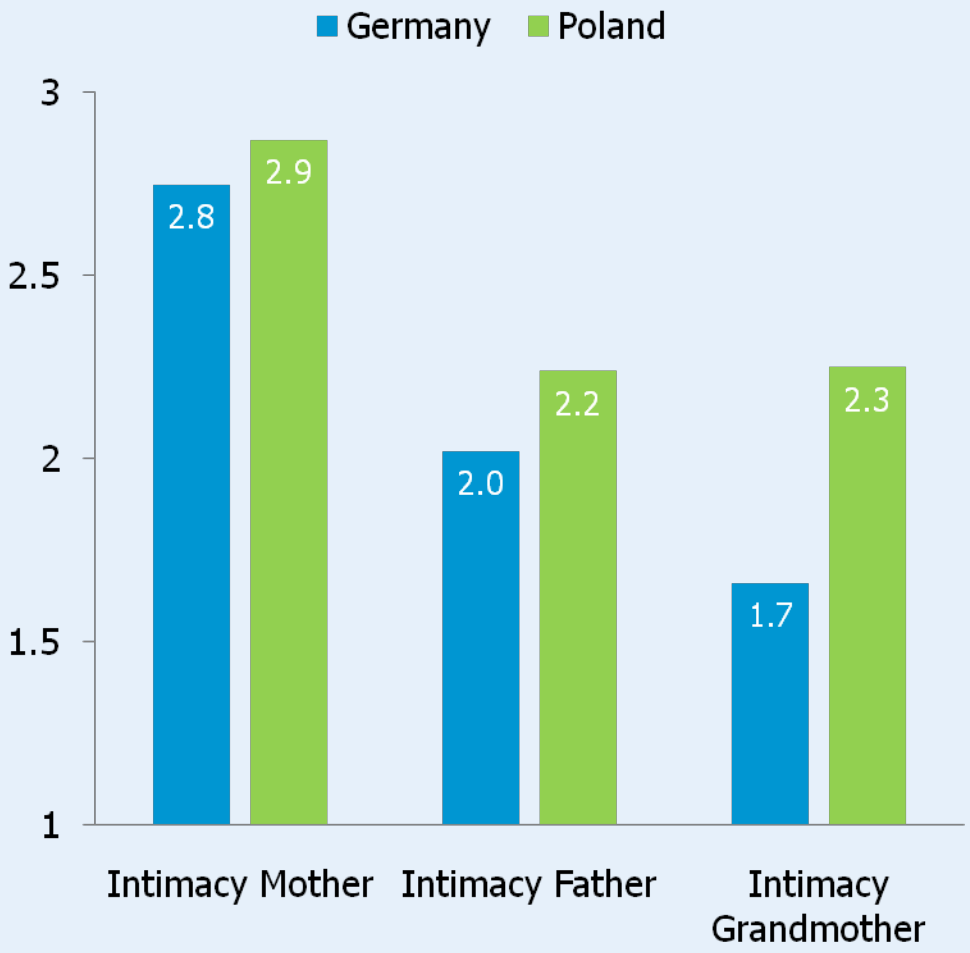
Scale	Sample Item	No. Items	α Germany	α Poland
Individualism	Freedom (of action and thought)	7	.70	.76
Collectivism	Honor of your parents and elders (showing respect)	6	.76	.77
Family Values	One should maintain good relationships with one's relatives	5	.58	.75
Interdependence	My happiness depends on the happiness of my family	5	.74	.76
Emotional VOC	Because it is a joy to have a small baby	7	.81	.79
Utilitarian/Normative VOC	To carry on the family name To have one more person to help your family economically	8	.80	.84
Intimacy Mother	How often do you tell your mother everything that is on your mind?	3	.85	.81
Intimacy Father	How often do you share your secrets and private feelings with your father?	3	.82	.81
Intimacy Grandmother	How often do you talk to your grandmother about things that you don't want others to know?	3	.87	.84

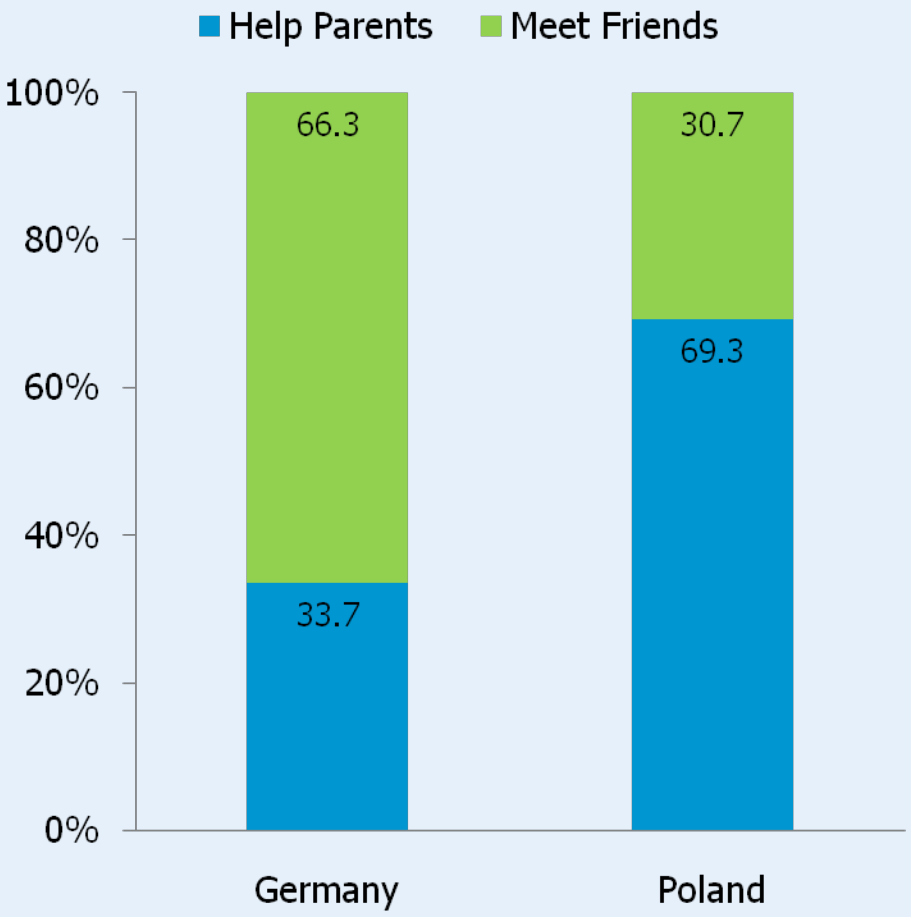
H1a: Cultural Differences in Value Orientations



$Eta^2 = .02$	$Eta^2 = .01$	**$Eta^2 = .12$**	$Eta^2 = .06$	**$Eta^2 = .16$**	$Eta^2 = .07$

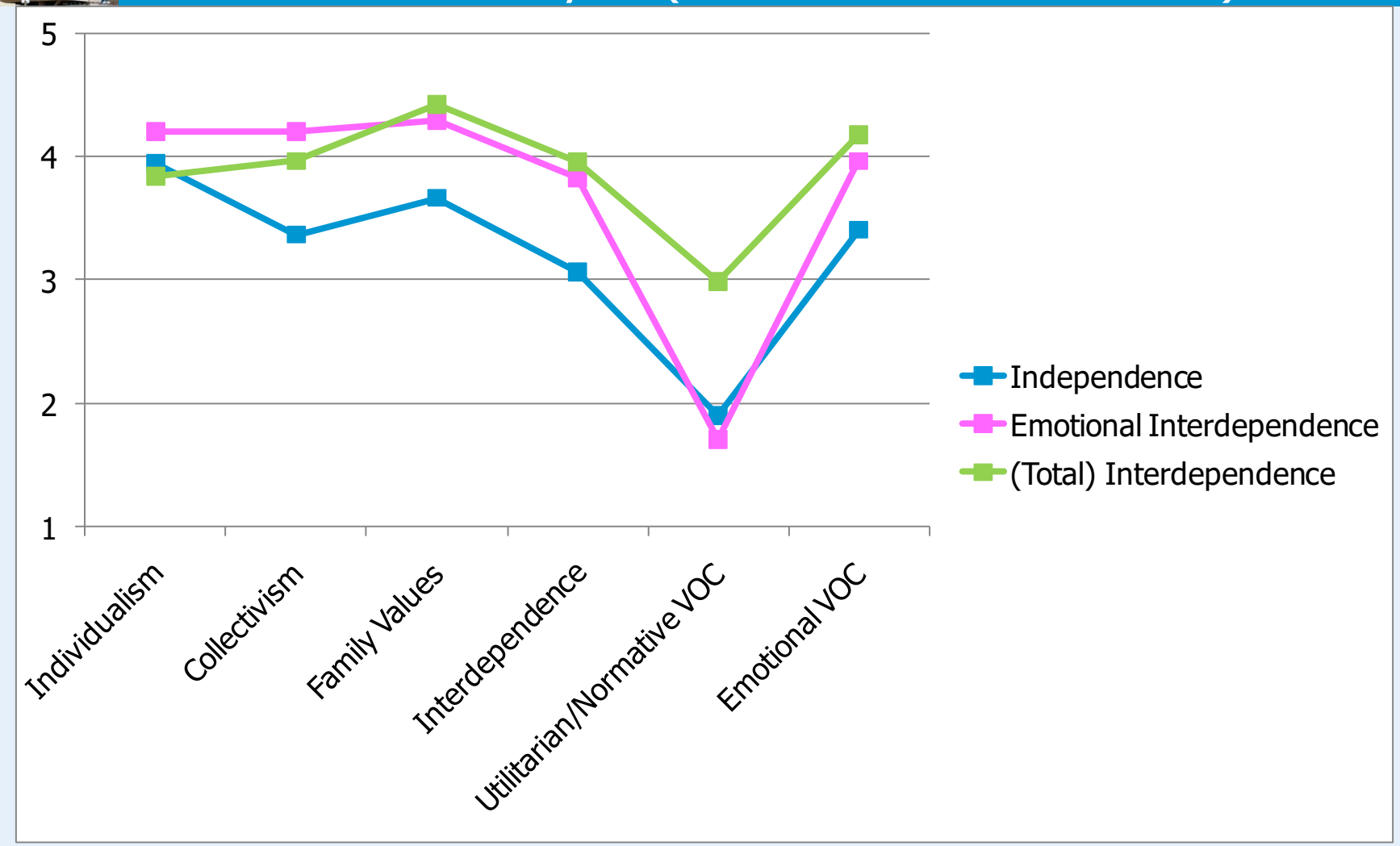
H1b: Cultural Differences in Relationship Quality & Support





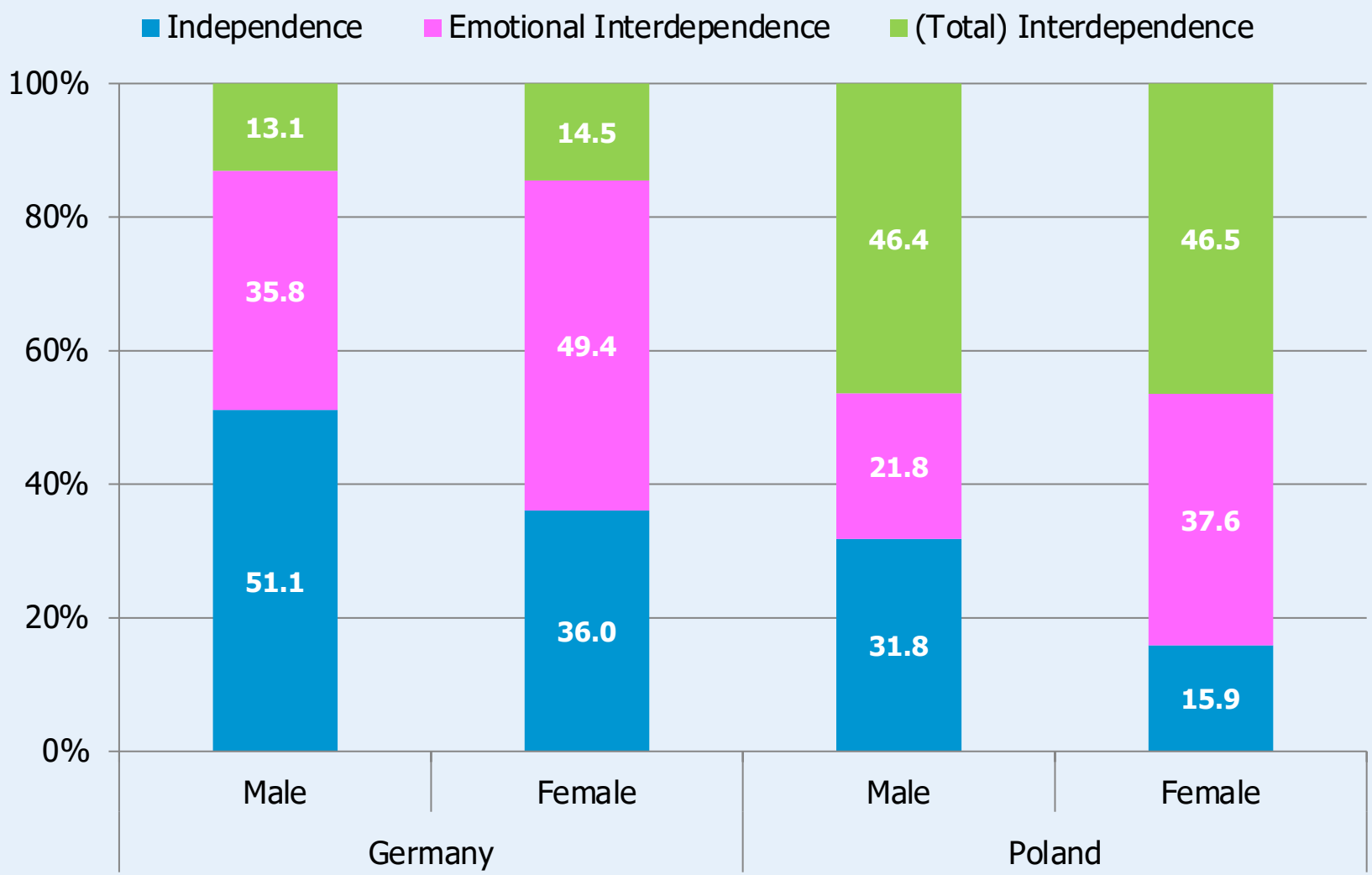
ns Eta² = .01 **Eta² = .09**

H2a: Cluster Analysis (Hierarchical → K-means)



Independence	n = 194 (32.9%)
Emotional Interdependence	n = 222 (37.7%)
(Total) Interdependence	n = 173 (29.4%)

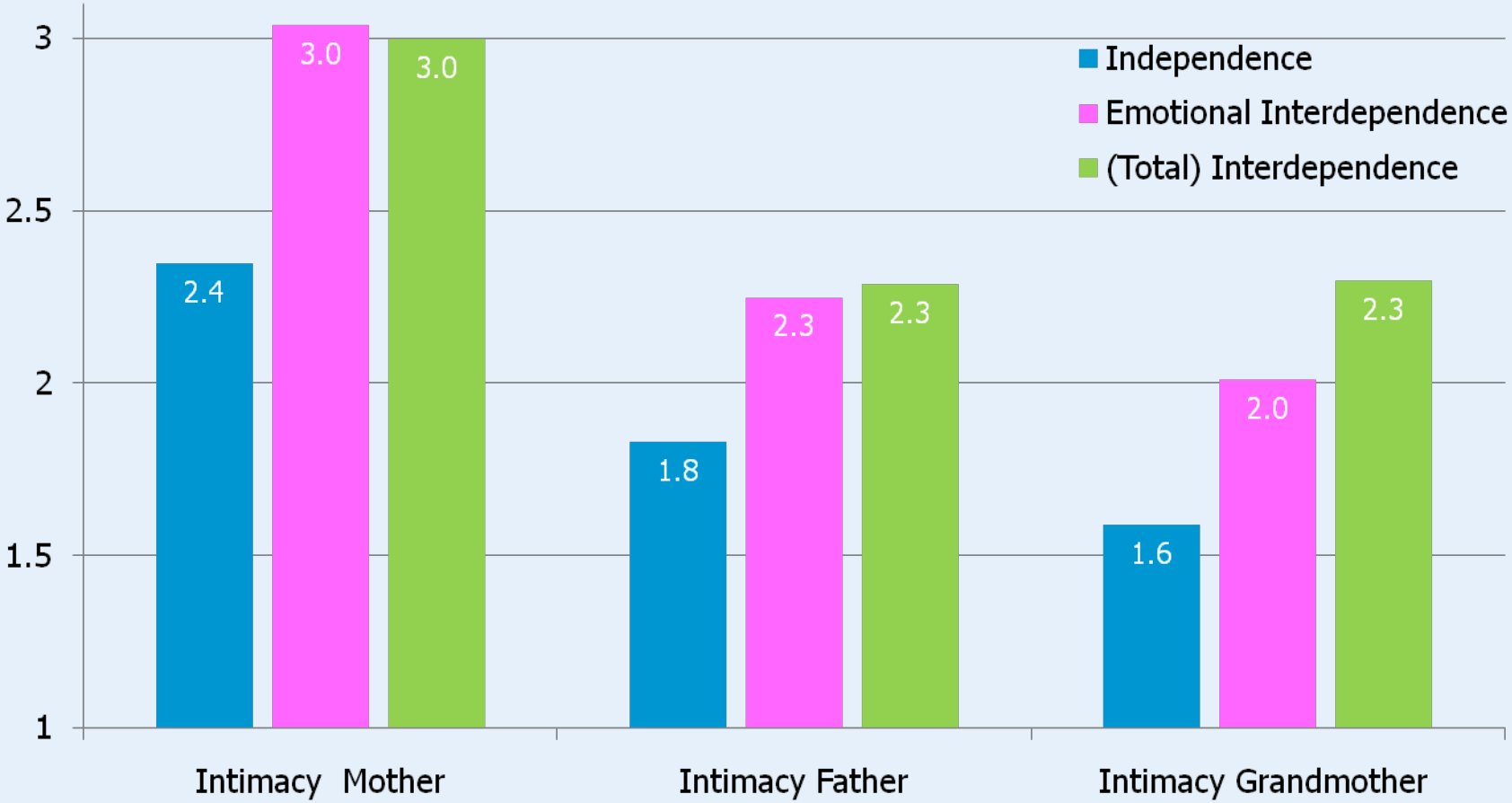
H2b: Cluster Membership Across Cultures



Culture LR*Chi-Sq* (2) = 78.91, $p < .001$; **Gender** LR *Chi-Sq* (2) = 18.70, $p < .001$; **Culture x Gender** LR *Chi-Sq* (2) = 1.77, *ns.*

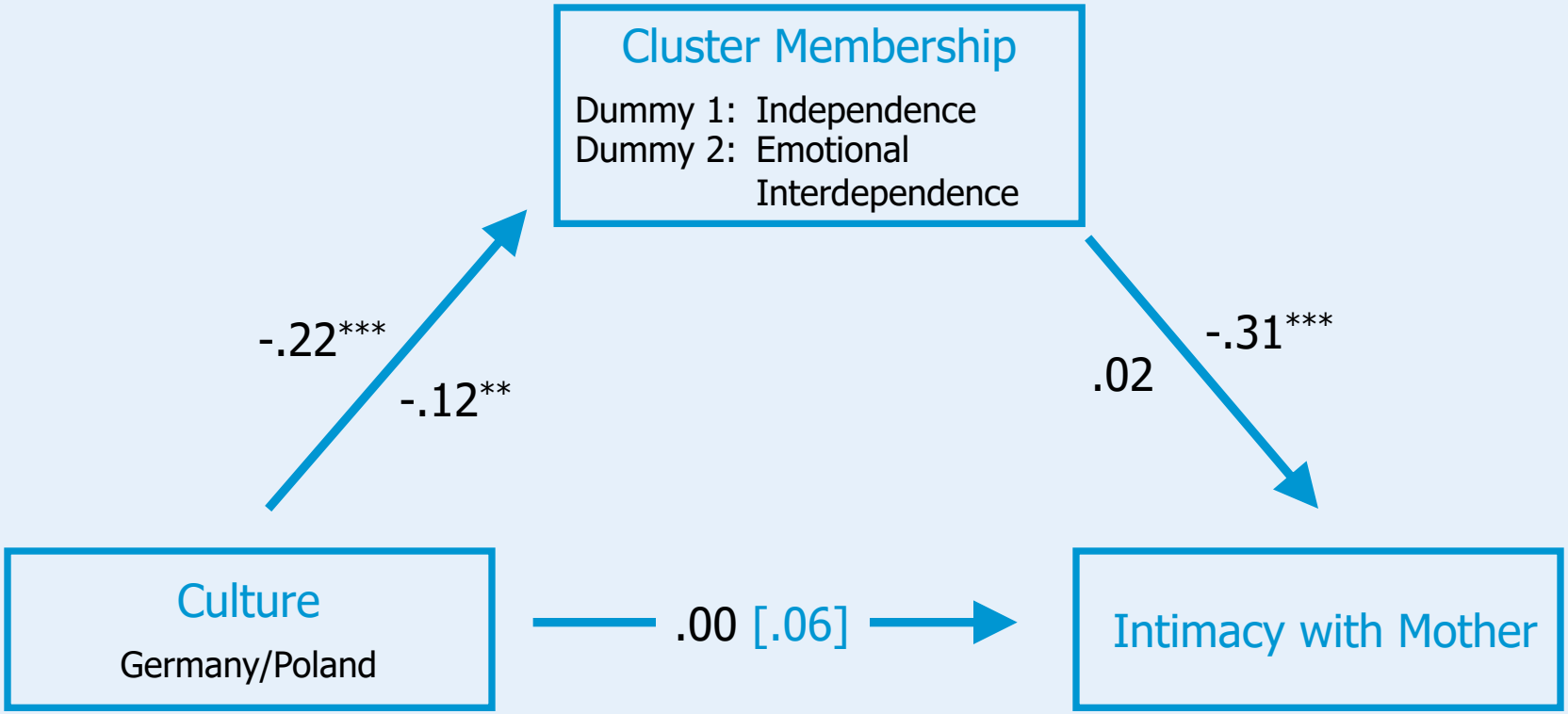
H3a: Relationship Quality by Family Models

Note: Cluster main effects valid across cultures (all Culture x Cluster interactions non-significant)



Intimacy Mother	Intimacy Father	Intimacy Grandmother
Eta² = .10	Eta² = .06	**Eta² = .09**
Scheffé: 1 < 2, 3	Scheffé: 1 < 2, 3	**Scheffé: 1 < 2 < 3**

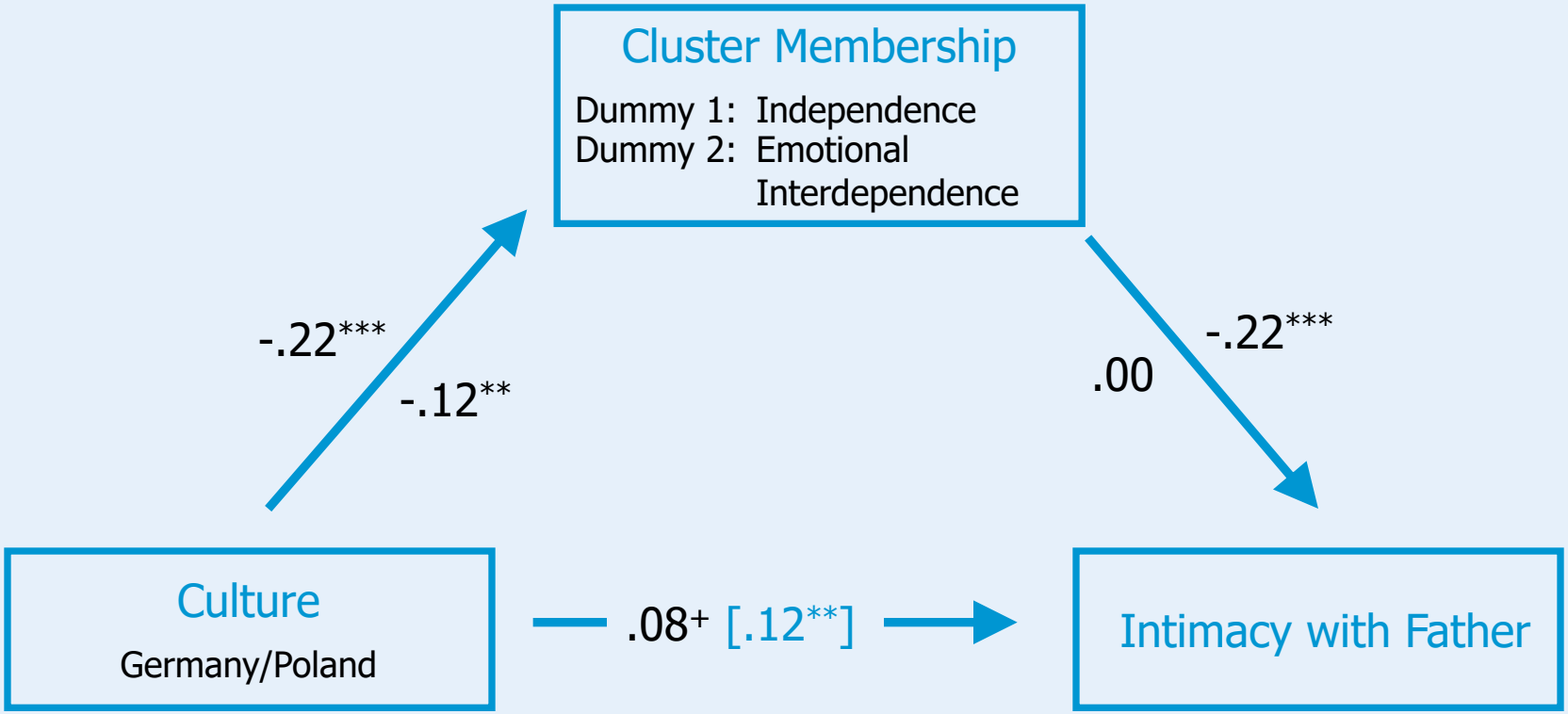
H3b: Mediation Analysis: Intimacy with Mother



Indirect Total Effect (Bootstrap): .127** - 95% CI (.044-.211)

Note. β with [without] including the mediator in the model.
$^{+}$ $p < .10$. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

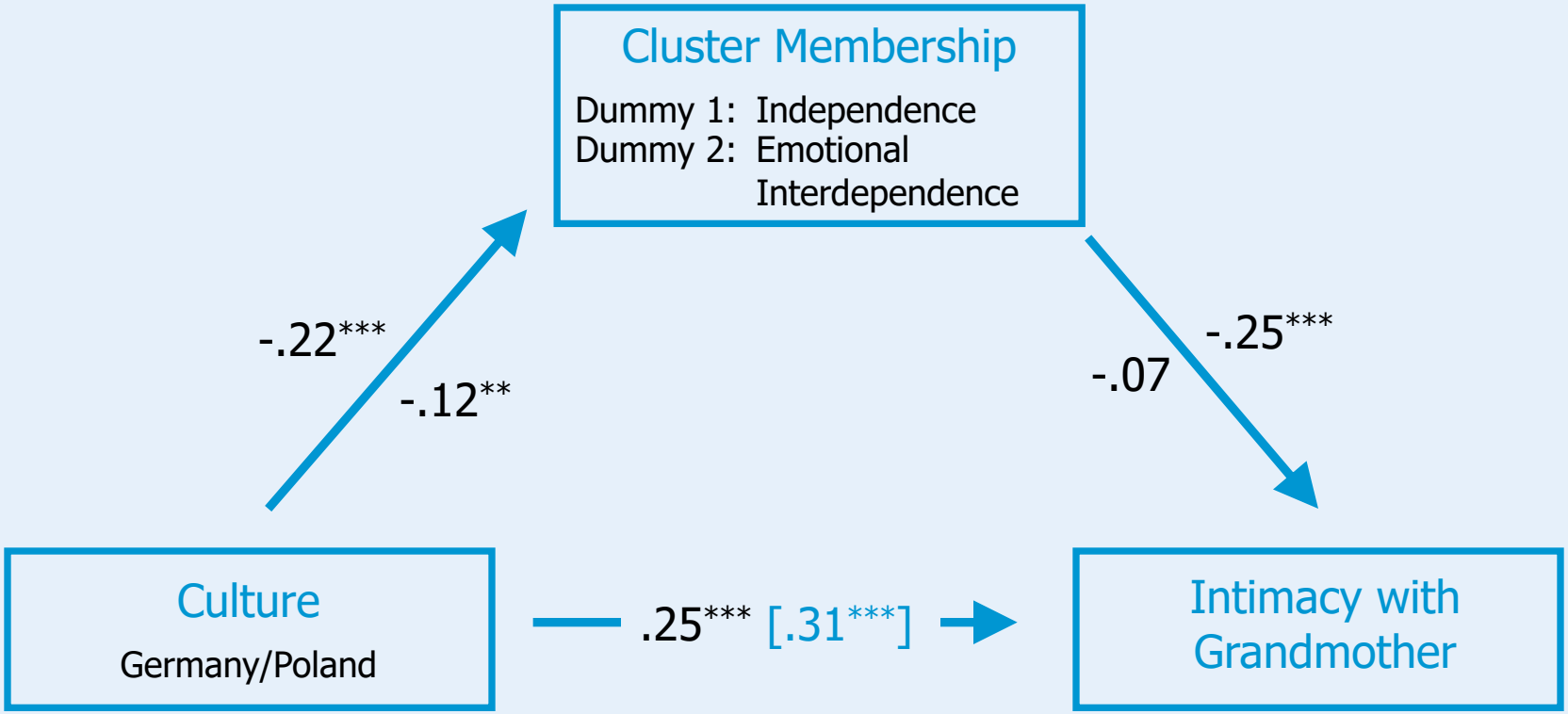
H3b: Mediation Analysis: Intimacy with Father



Indirect Total Effect (Bootstrap): .083** - 95% CI (.025-.146)

Note. β with [without] including the mediator in the model.
$^{+}$ $p < .10$. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

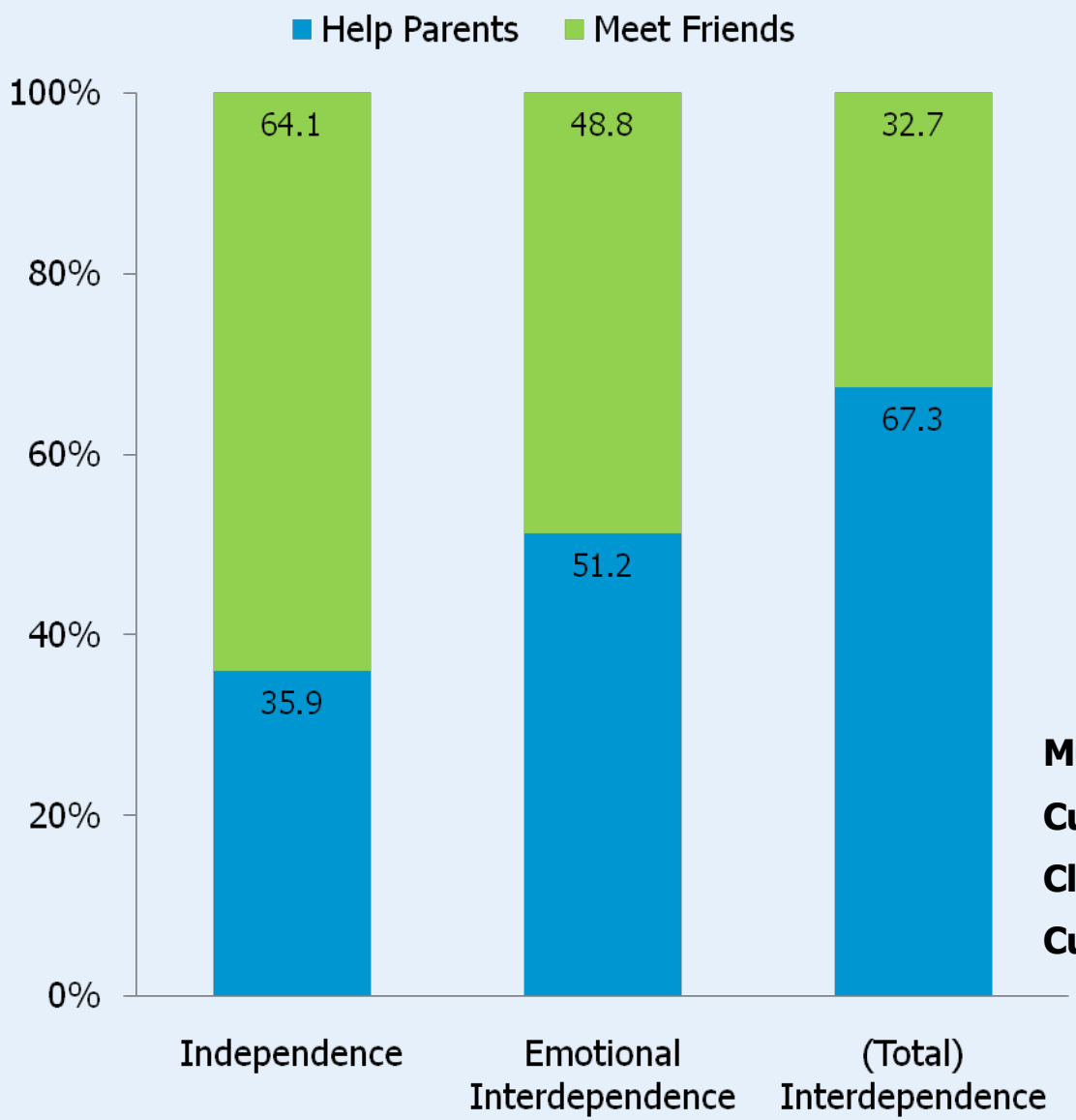
H3b: Mediation Analysis: Intimacy with Grandmother



Indirect Total Effect (Bootstrap): .122** - 95% CI (.057-.199)

Note. β with [without] including the mediator in the model.
$^{+}$ $p < .10$. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

H4a: Support for Parents by Family Models



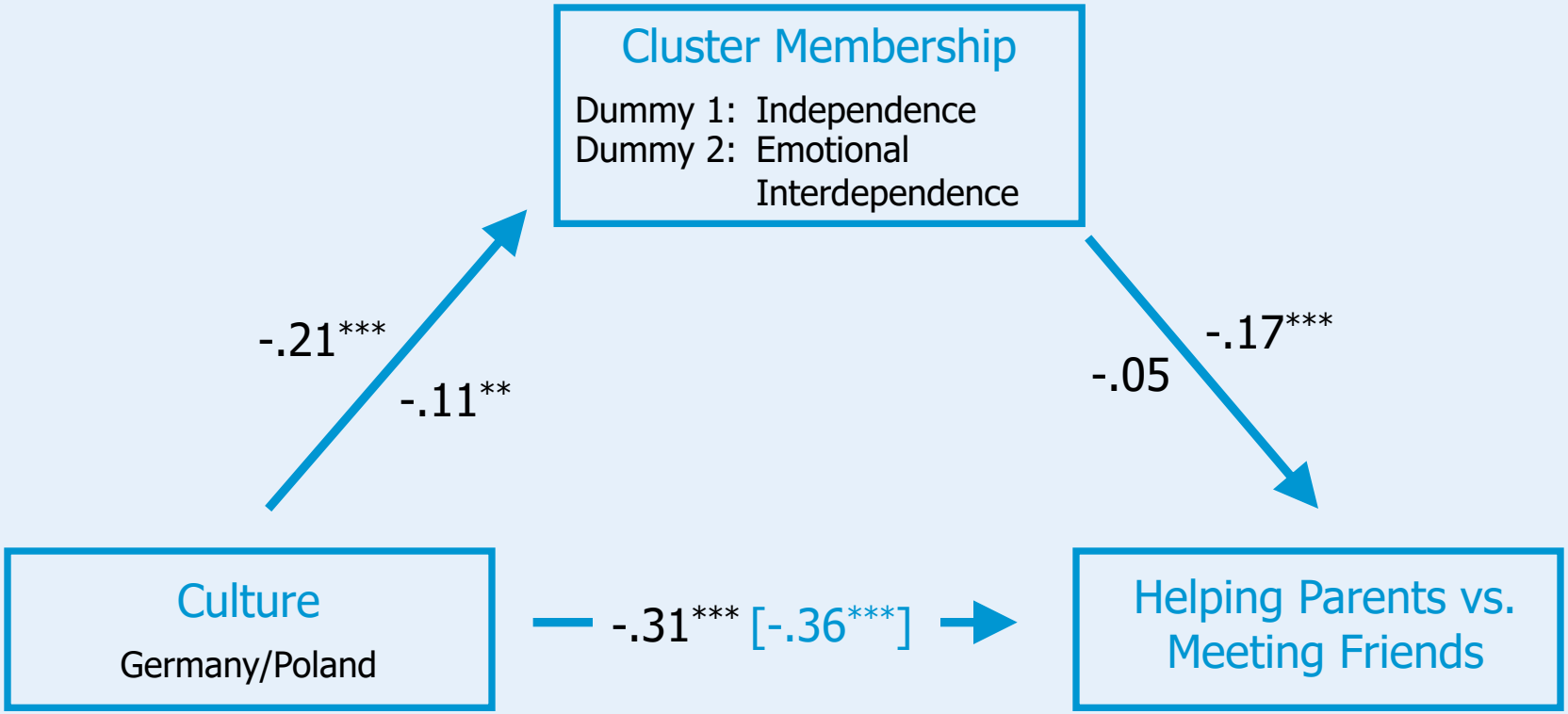
Multinomial Logistic Regression:

Culture LR *Chi-Sq* (1) = 50.64, $p < .001$

Cluster LR *Chi-Sq* (2) = 12.97, $p < .01$

Culture x Cluster LR *Chi-Sq* (2) = 1.05, *ns.*

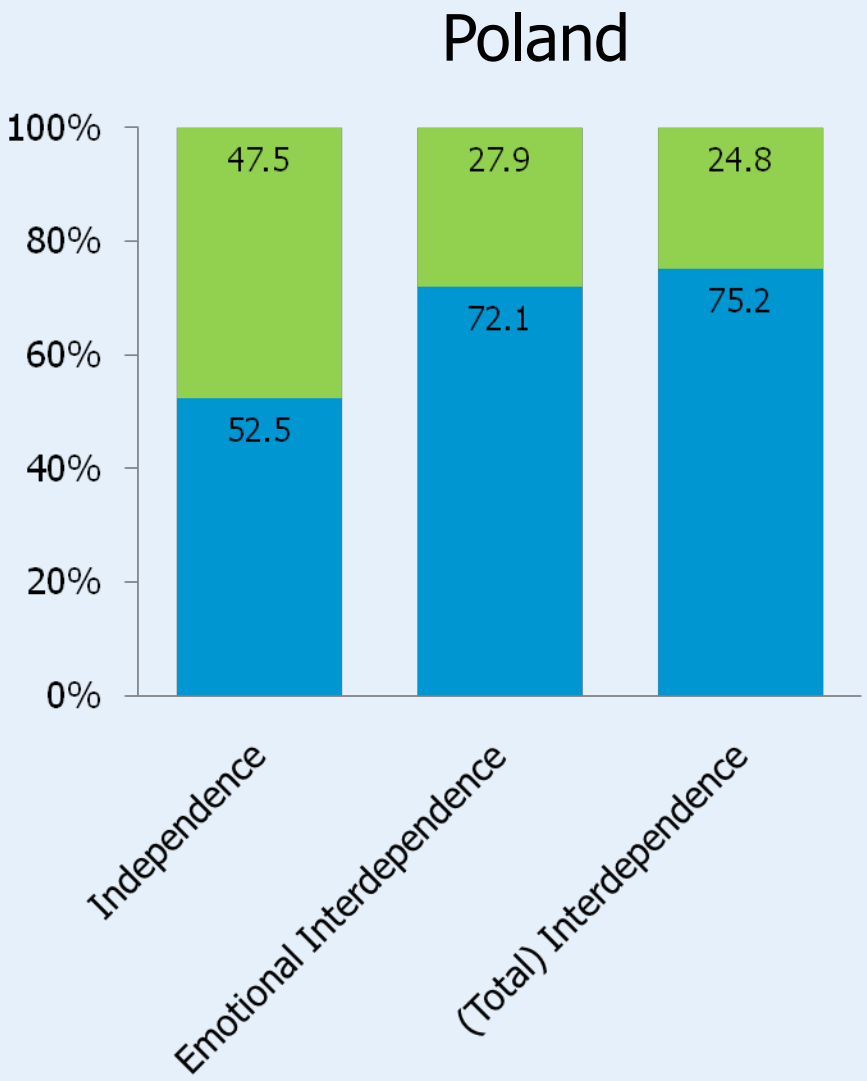
H4b: Mediation Analysis: Support for Parents

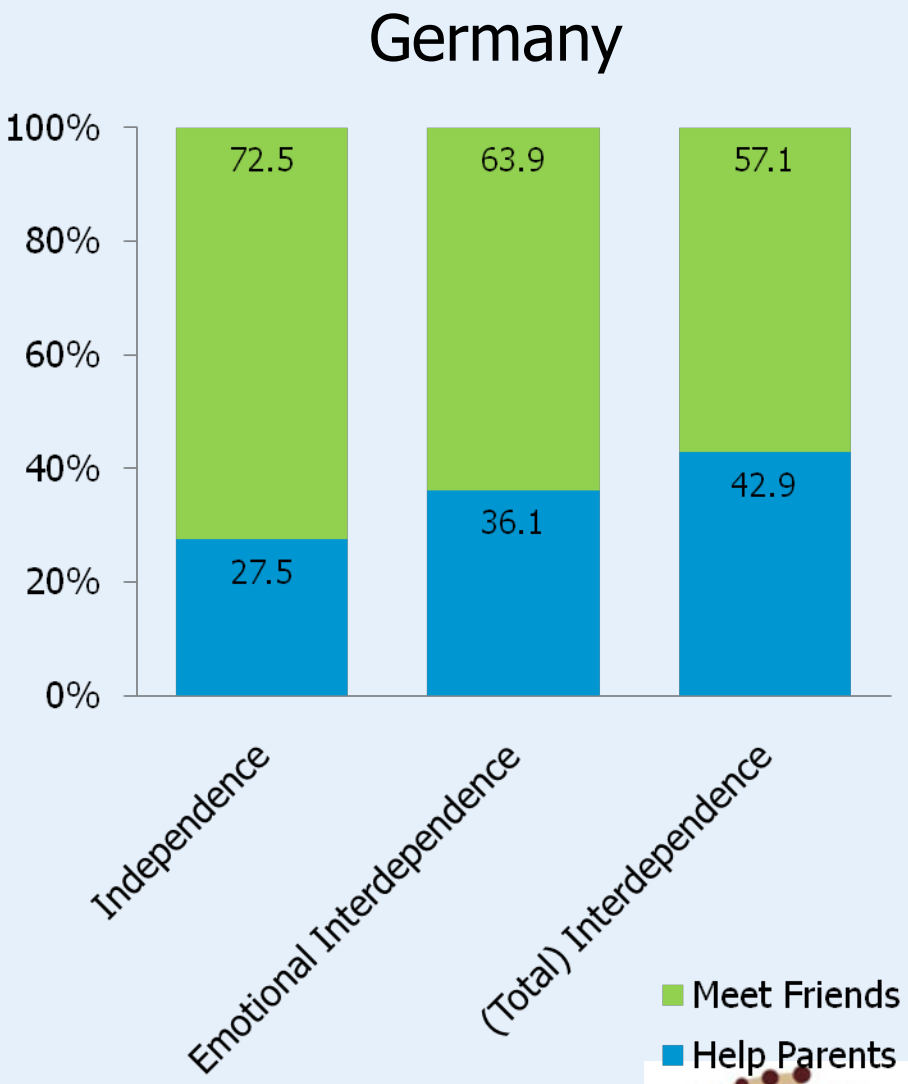


Indirect Total Effect (Bootstrap): -.043** - 95% CI (.078-.014)

Note. β with [without] including the mediator in the model.
$^{+}$ $p < .10$. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

Helping Parents vs. Meeting Friends





Summary & Discussion

- Value profiles in accordance with family model theory
  - Polish adolescents rather interdependent, but high in Individualism (Reykowski, 1994)
  - Females more emotionally interdependent
- Value Profiles and Relationship Quality/Support
  - Patterns of relationship quality in accordance with family models
  - Support related to family models, but cultural differences prevail
  - Family models mediate cultural differences in relationship quality/support
- Conclusions
  - Differentiation of three family models useful (Kagitcibasi, 2007; Mayer, 2009)
  - Limitations: only two cultures, self-report (bias?), no background variables controlled
  - Outlook: What are individual-level predictors of family model value profiles?

Thank you for your attention!