

Introduction

- ❖ **Positive P-C relationship ↔ Peer relationship**
 - e.g. Dekovic & Meeus, 1997; Fuligni & Eccles, 1993; Kerns, et al., 2000; Parke & Ladd, 1992
- ❖ **Parent-Child relationship**
 - Family systems perspective
 - The majority of studies focused on linear interactions between parent and child (i.e., dyadic relationship)
 - Few studies expanded into the triadic family relationship
- ❖ **Pattern-based triadic M-F-C relationship**
 - Cohesive family relationship
 - Alliance with one parent
 - Disengaged from both parents
 - (Buchanan & Waizenhofer, 2001)
- ❖ **The whole family relationship patterns (rather than dyadic relationship) have more important implications for child social development (including peer relationship)**
 - e.g. Sturge-Apple, Davies, & Cummings, 2010; Kerig, 1995; Buehler et al., 2009; Bell et al., 1988
- ❖ **The Present Study**
 - Using Latent-Profile Analysis (LPA) to identify different profiles of triadic family relationship patterns
 - To examine the associations between different family patterns and adolescent friendship quality

Study Goals

- Aim 1: Profiles of Triadic Family Relationship Patterns**
 - **Hypothesis:** there are four patterns of triadic family relationship—cohesive, alliance with mother, alliance with father, and disengaged.
- Aim 2: Predictors for Profiles of Triadic Family Relationship Patterns**
 - **Hypothesis:** gender, marital status, parent-child conflict, and interparental property are predictors for profiles of triadic family relationship patterns.
- Aim 3: Triadic Family Relationship Patterns → Adolescent Friendship Quality**
 - **Hypothesis:** adolescents who are in the cohesive triadic family relationship pattern would have higher relationship quality in terms of more validation and caring, less conflict and better resolution, more companionship and recreation, and more intimate exchange.

Method

Participants, Procedure, and Demographic Information

- Adolescents were recruited from a local high school
- Approximately 75% of those invited participated
- Surveys were administered during a 90-minute class period

N	326
Female	60.4% Female, 39.6% Male
Age M (SD)	16.32 (1.17)
Ethnicity	Caucasian 56.7%, Latino 19.6%, African American 12.3%, Asian/Pac. Islander 4.3%, Native American 1.8%, Biracial 2.1%, Other 3.1%.

Measures

Variables	Measures	α	Variables	Measures	α
M-Y trust	IPPA	.92	M-Y Conflict	CTS-PC	.92
M-Y communication	IPPA	.90	F-Y Conflict	CTS-PC	.90
M-Y alienation	IPPA	.84	Interparental Property	CPIC	.94
F-Y trust	IPPA	.91	Validation and Caring	FQQ	.89
F-Y communication	IPPA	.90	Conflict and Resolution	FQQ	.68
F-Y alienation	IPPA	.84	Companionship and Recreation	FQQ	.64

Results

Table 1. Parameter Estimates for Five-Profile Latent Profile Model of Triadic Family Relationship Patterns

Factor	Overall Item Means	Profile				
		1 Disengaged	2 Ambivalent	3 Alliance with Father	4 Alliance with Mother	5 Cohesive
Latent Profile Membership Proportion		23.0% N=73	36.0% N=114	10.4% N=33	8.5% N=27	22.1% N=70
Within profile item means						
M-trust	3.698	2.885	3.896	2.015	4.524	4.646
M-communication	3.345	2.424	3.445	2.035	4.149	4.380
M-alienation	2.627	3.405	2.584	3.665	2.067	1.707
F-trust	3.414	2.240	3.650	4.087	2.250	4.497
F-communication	2.855	1.740	2.967	3.539	1.927	3.987
F-alienation	2.793	3.648	2.766	2.415	3.262	1.948

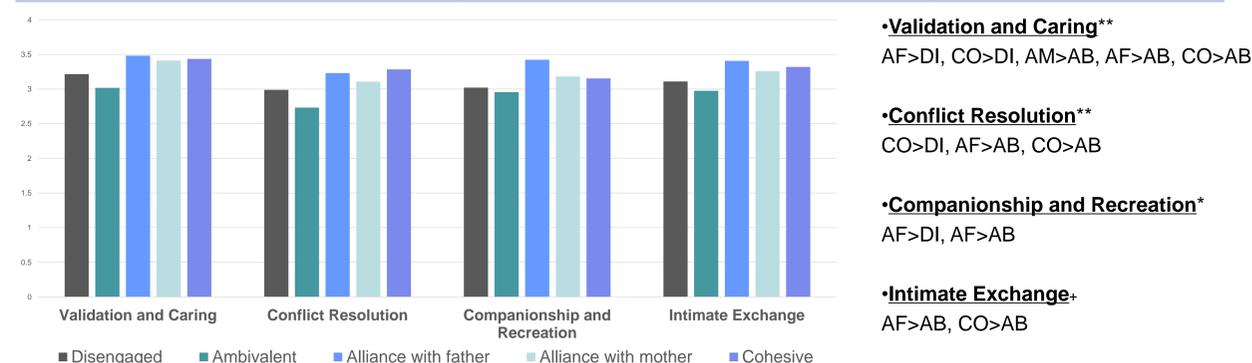
Note. Bolded within profile item means are the scores that higher than the overall item means. "M" represents mother, "F" represents father.

Table 2. Predictors for Profiles of Different Family Relationship Patterns

Predictors	Profile 1 Disengaged		Profile 2 Ambivalent		Profile 3 Alliance with Father		Profile 4 Alliance with Mother	
	Par.	p-value	Par.	p-value	Par.	p-value	Par.	p-value
Gender	-.58	ns	.06	ns	-1.12	ns	-.20	ns
Divorced	-.01	ns	-.23	ns	.90	ns	1.36*	.038
M-Y Conflict	.67*	.055	.69*	.031	1.17**	.000	-.58	ns
F-Y Conflict	.95**	.005	.06	ns	-.02	ns	.66	ns
IPC Property	2.22**	.003	.90	ns	1.98*	.041	1.66*	.036

Note. **p < .01, *p < .05, *p < .06. Parameterization using Profile 5 (cohesive) as the reference group. M = Mother, F = Father, Y = Youth, IPC = Interparental Conflict.

Figure 1. Profiles Comparisons on Each Dimension of Friendship Quality



Note. **DI:** disengaged; **AB:** ambivalent; **AF:** alliance with father; **AM:** alliance with mother; **CO:** cohesive.

Discussion

❖ Five-Profile Triadic Family Relationship Patterns

- **Disengaged:** an alienation relationship from both parents
- **Ambivalent:** a close relationship with both parents but alienation from both parents
- **Alliance with father:** a close relationship with father and alienation from mother
- **Alliance with mother:** a close relationship with mother and alienation from father
- **Cohesive:** a close relationship with both parents

❖ Predictors for Profiles of Triadic Family Relationship Patterns

- **High interparental conflict and youth conflict with both parents predicted higher chance to be in disengaged profile**
 - Family conflict → disengagement
- **Youth conflict with mother predicted higher chance to be in ambivalent profile**
 - Youths generally built strong bonding and connection with their mothers (Collins, 1991; Youniss & Ketterlinus, 1987). If they have high conflict with their mothers at the same time, it is quite possible to foster their sense of ambivalence.
- **Divorce and high interparental conflict predicted higher chance to be in the alliance with mother profile**
 - In most cases, youths lived with their mothers after divorce
 - Mother is more likely to be on the weak side when interparental conflict happens
- **Youth conflict with mother and high interparental conflict predicted higher chance to be in alliance with father profile**
 - In the high conflict family, youths are more likely to ally with father if youths have conflict with their mothers
 - Different from the formation of alliance with mother

❖ Triadic Family Relationship Patterns → Adolescent Friendship Quality

- **Validation and Caring:** alliance with at least one parent > disengaged or ambivalent
 - Closeness with at least one parent is important for youth to develop the interpersonal skills of validation and caring
- **Conflict and Resolution:** cohesive & alliance with father > disengaged or ambivalent
 - Youths who were disengaged or felt ambivalent in family has less motivation to engage in family conflict or help with conflict resolution, which diminish the opportunities for youth to observationally learn and practice conflict resolution that they can use in other interpersonal relationships (e.g., friendship)
- **Companionship and Recreation:** alliance with father > disengaged or ambivalent
 - Highlight the function of closeness with father on involvement and activities with peers
- **Intimate Exchange:** cohesive & alliance with father > ambivalent
 - Feeling ambivalent to intimate family members is harmful for youths to purely trust and be willing to share with others in their interpersonal relationship outside of family

❖ Limitation and Future Direction

1. Cross-sectional design → Longitudinal data
2. Only youth-report → Multi-informant assessments
3. A sample of 326 college students → A larger more representative sample
4. Only late adolescence → Expand to other developmental stages