


Children's compulsive internet use, hyperactivity, parental rules and inconsistent parenting

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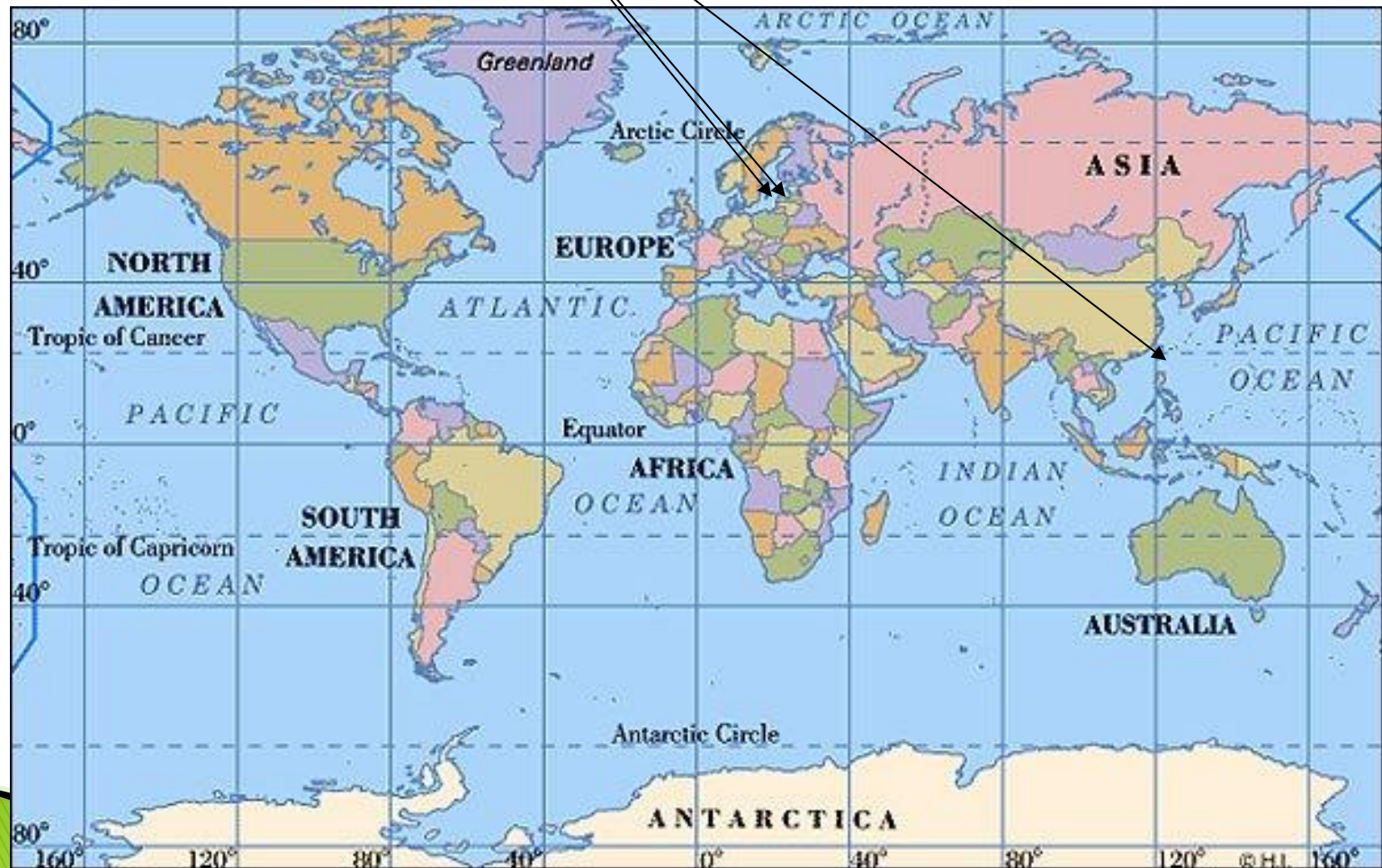
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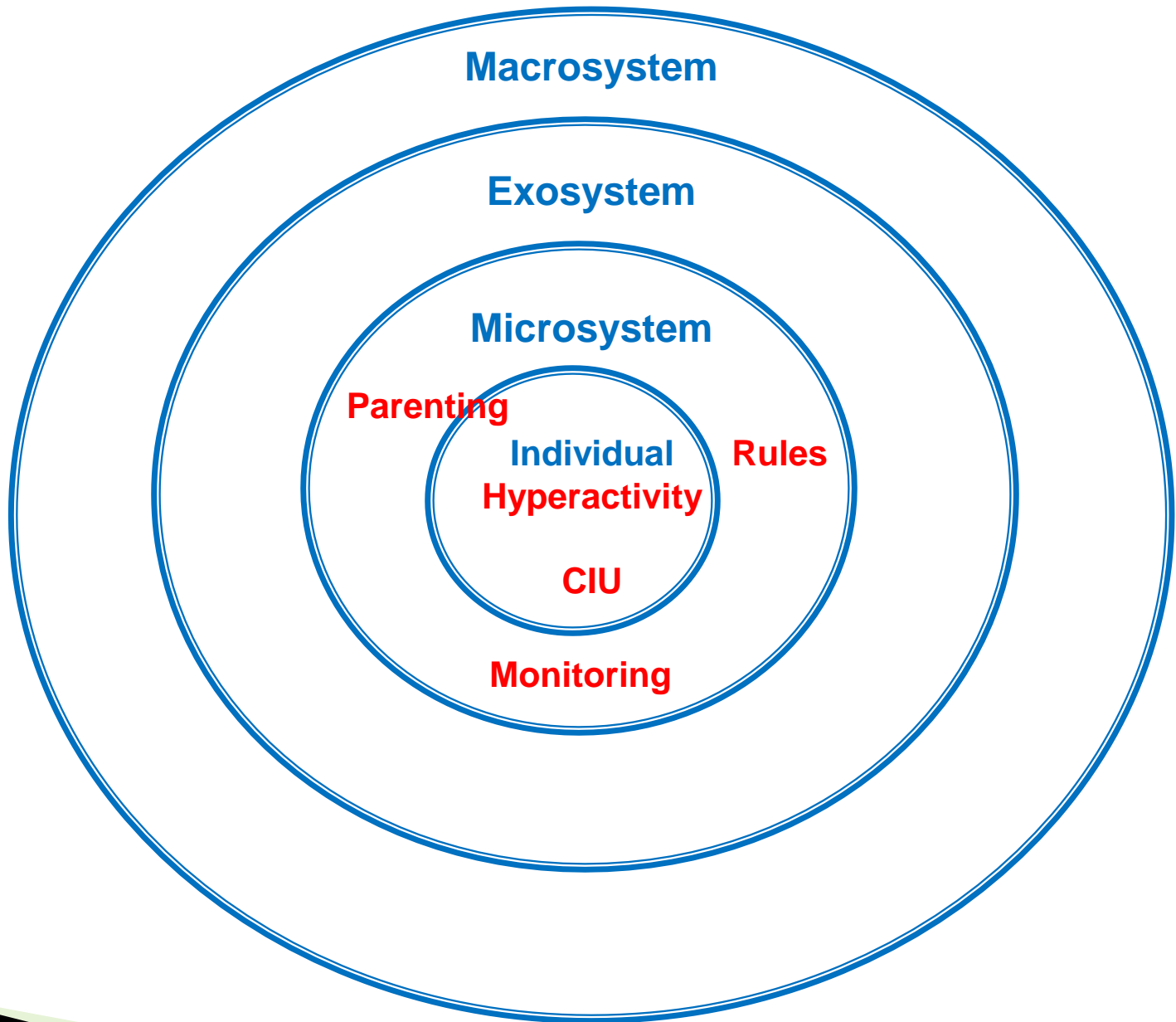
19th European Conference on Developmental Psychology, Athens, Greece

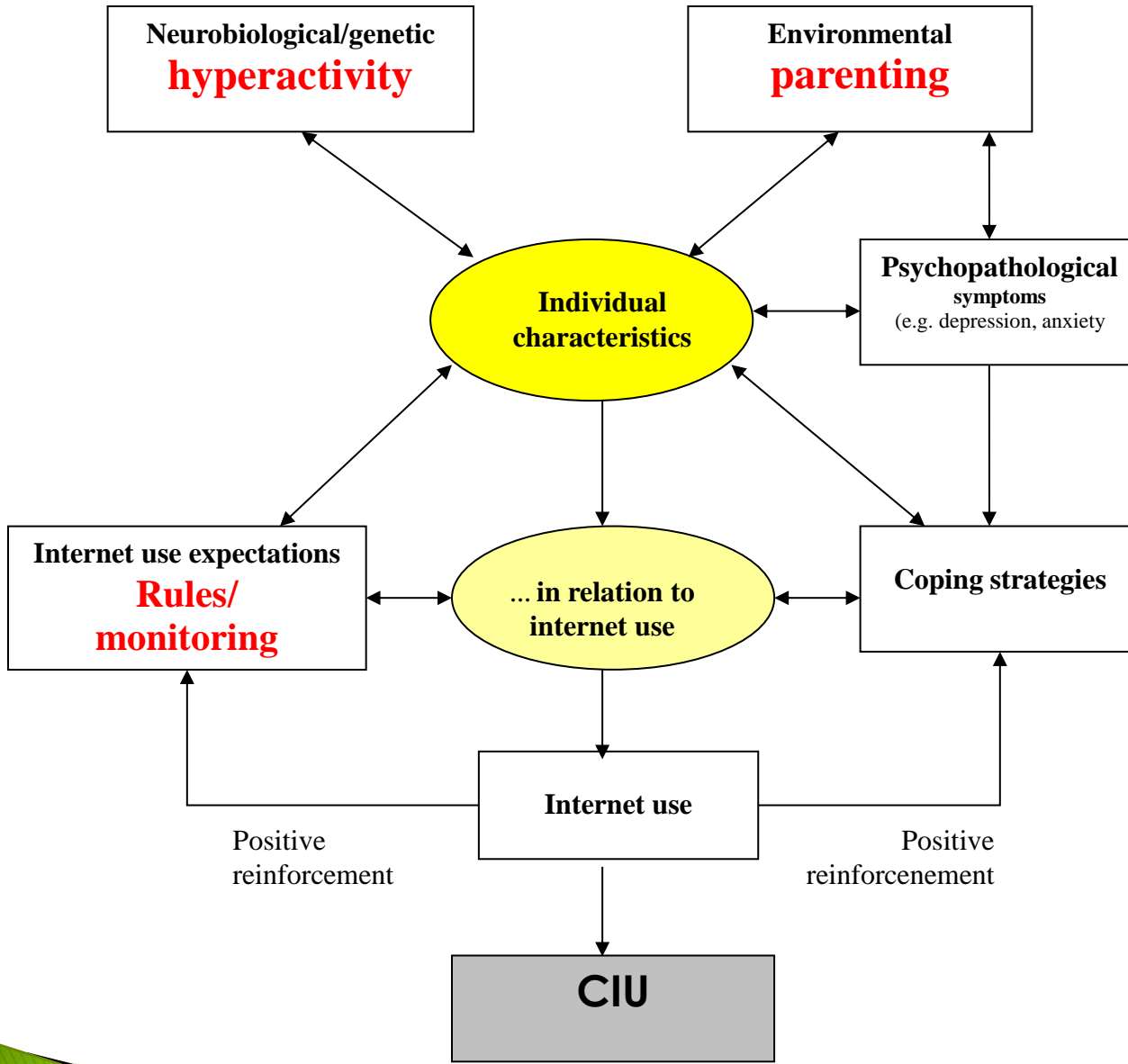
Compulsive internet use (CIU)

- ▶ Inability to exert control over internet use
 - ▶ Negative consequences for daily life
 - ▶ Preoccupation – thinking about using
 - ▶ Withdrawal – irritation when not using
 - ▶ Tolerance – need for greater time on internet
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Latvia in relation to Lithuania and Taiwan








Adapted from

Interaction of Person–
Affect–Cognition–
Execution
(I–PACE) model
(Brand, Young
et al.,
2016)

Hyperactivity in relation to CIU

- ▶ **Hyperactivity** – heightened activity, impulsivity, attentional difficulty
- ▶ adolescents with CIU have more severe symptoms of ADHD
(review by Wang et al., 2017)
- ▶ «easily bored» -- colorful, dynamic stimuli on internet
- ▶ «aversion delayed rewards» – immediate response
- ▶ «impaired inhibition» – difficulty in controlling internet use
- ▶ bidirectional effects – CIU effects changes in prefrontal cortex – impaired cognitive control and reductions in decision making
 - (Brand, Young et al., 2016)


Parenting strategies in relation to CIU

- ▶ **positive, protective parenting** – lower likelihood of CIU (Chen et al, 2015)
 - ▶ **good communication with parents** -- protective factor (van den Eijden et al., 2010)
 - ▶ **insecure attachment** -- increased CIU (Schimmenti et al., 2014)
 - ▶ **inconsistent discipline** – contributes to mental health problems (Balan et al., 2017)
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Parental rules/ monitoring in relation to CIU

- ▶ **parental monitoring** of internet use – the quality of communication about internet use decreased the risk of developing CIU (van den Eijden et al., 2010)
- ▶ parental monitoring – negatively associated with CIU – mediated by deviant peer relationships (Ding et al., 2017)
- ▶ monitoring of internet use and rules associated
 $r = .15^*$
(Khurana et al., 2015)

Research questions

- ▶ 1. To what extent does child hyperactivity, parenting practices, parental rules and monitoring of internet use predict CIU?
 - ▶ 2. Is there a mediational effect of parenting practices between hyperactivity and CIU?
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Methods – research participants & procedure

250 second and third grade children, 8 – 9 years old (M= 8,6 years),
(54% girls, 46% boys)

– one of the child's parents

Children completed printed questionnaires during homeroom periods at school; children carried home questionnaires for parents, and children returned the completed questionnaires in a sealed envelope back to the school. Written permission received from parents for the child's and parents' participation. Voluntary and confidentiality.

Measures – reported by parent

- ▶ **Hyperactivity** – Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ; Goodman, 1997) – hyperactivity scale (alpha, this sample .78)
- ▶ **Parenting practices** – Alabama Parenting Questionnaire (APQ; Frick, 1991; Shelton, Frick, & Wooton, 1996) – inconsistent parenting
- ▶ – Block's Child Rearing Practices Report (CRPR; Block, 1981) – emotional warmth, punishment orientation (alphas .53, .87, .67)

Measures – reported by parent

- ▶ **Compulsive Internet Use Scale** (Meerkerk et al., 2009)
(alpha .90)
- ▶ **Rules** – «Are there any rules established in your family to restrict the child's use of electronic screen devices (e.g. TV, smartphones, tablets)?»
- ▶ **Monitoring of internet use** – 5 items – e.g. «Stand nearby when the child uses the internet»; «Talk to the child about what he/she does on the internet» (alpha .77)
- ▶ **RESULTS** – correlation of parental Rules regarding child internet use and parent monitoring of internet use, $r = .18^{**}$

Main Results – hyperactivity

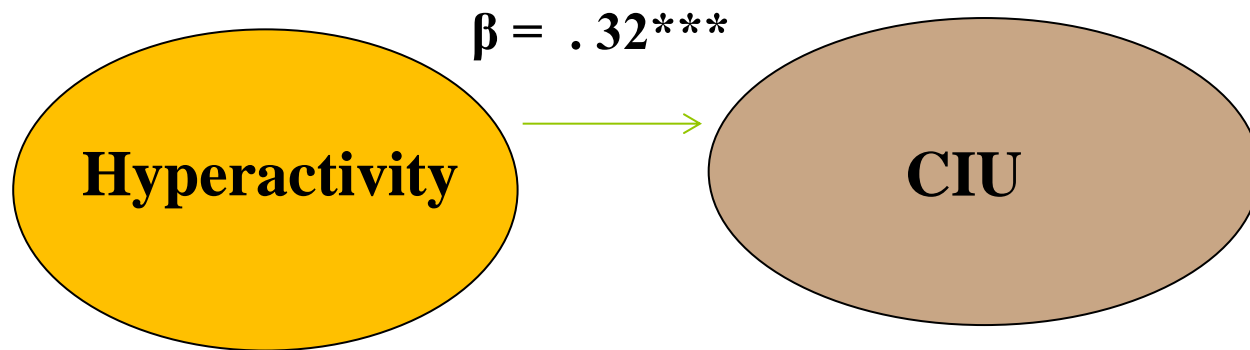


Figure 1. Regression analysis, predicting CIU, controlling for gender, *** $p < .001$, (n= 250)

Main Results – parenting practices

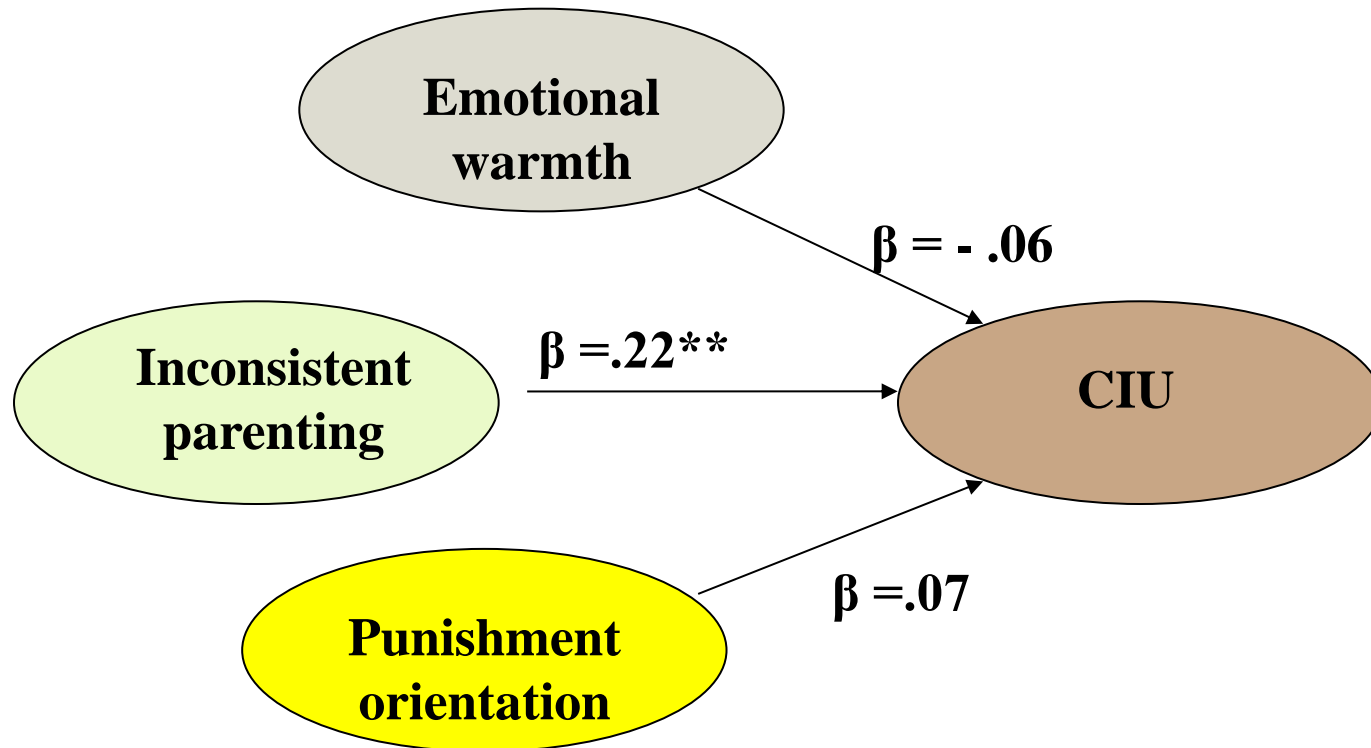


Figure 2. Regression analysis, predicting CIU, controlling for gender and hyperactivity, ** $p < .01$, (n= 250)

Main Results

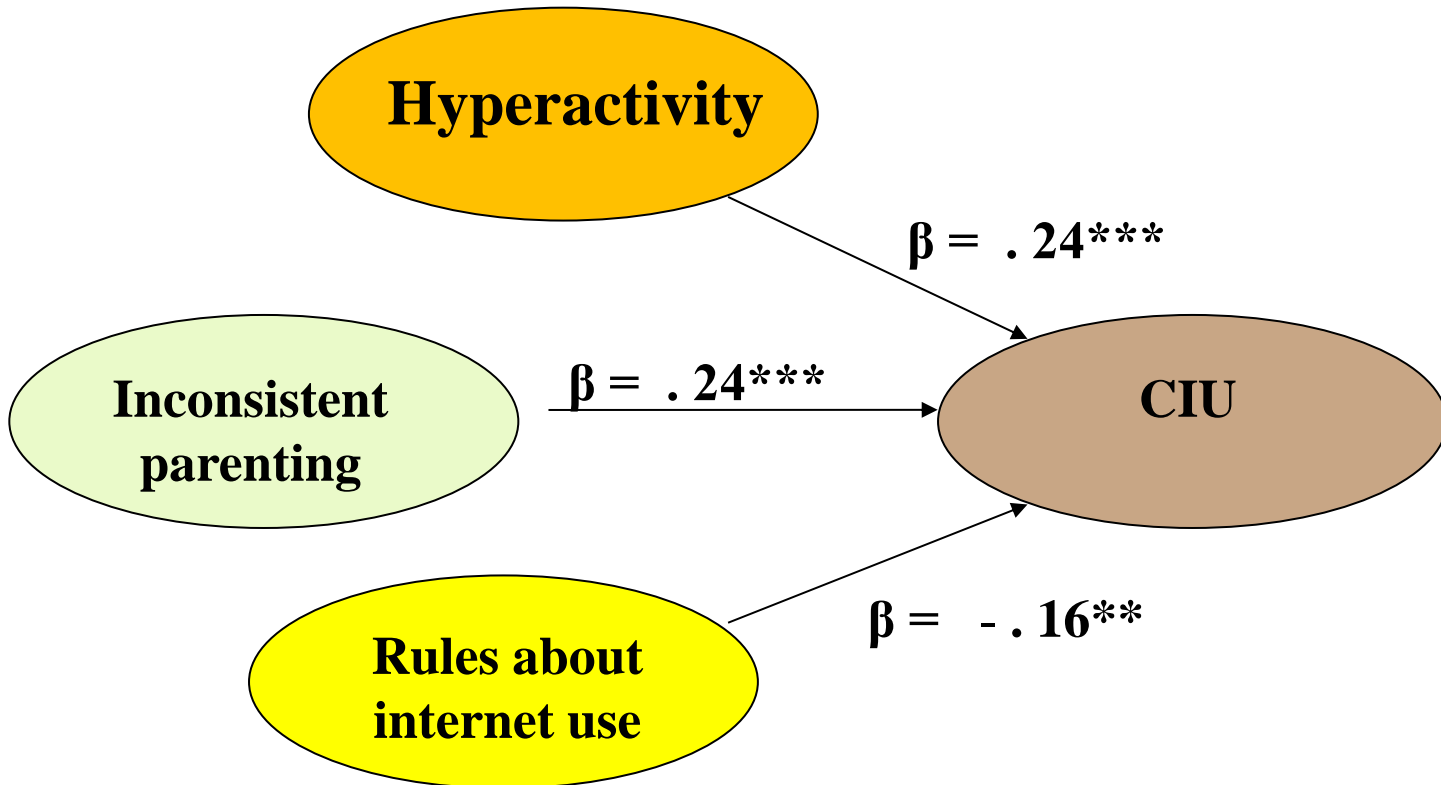


Figure 3. Regression analysis, predicting CIU, controlling for gender *** $p < .001$, (n= 250)

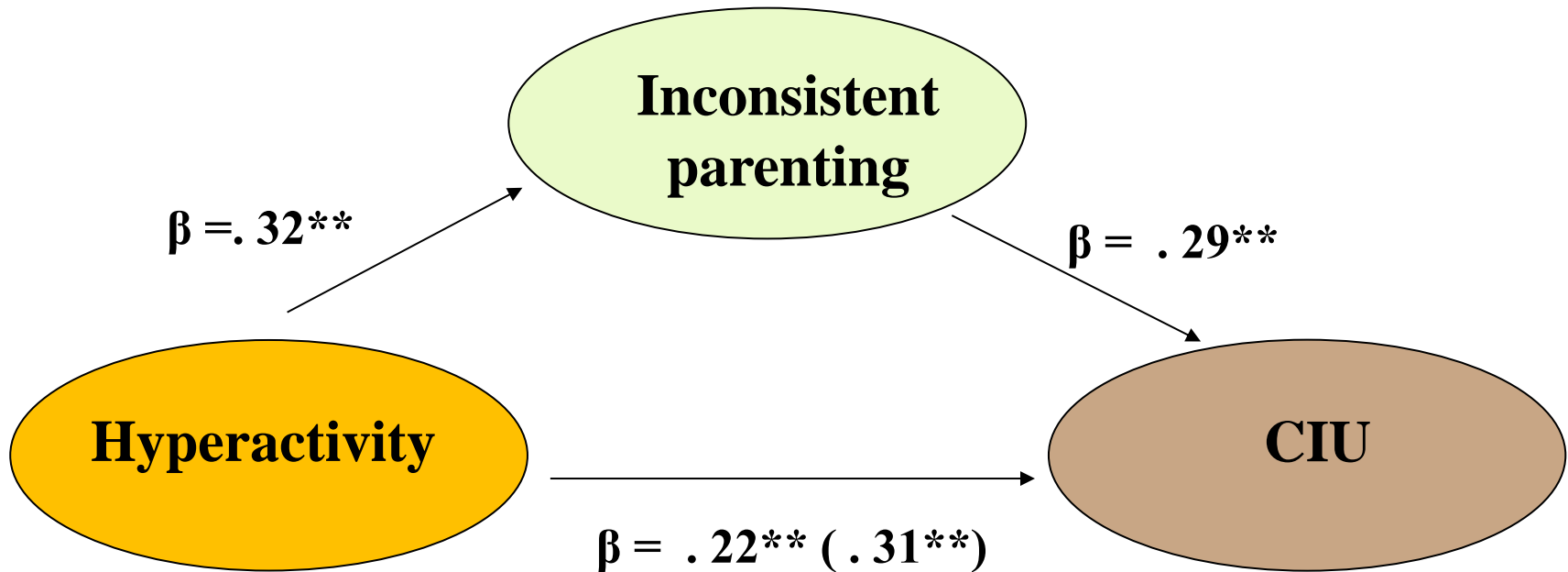
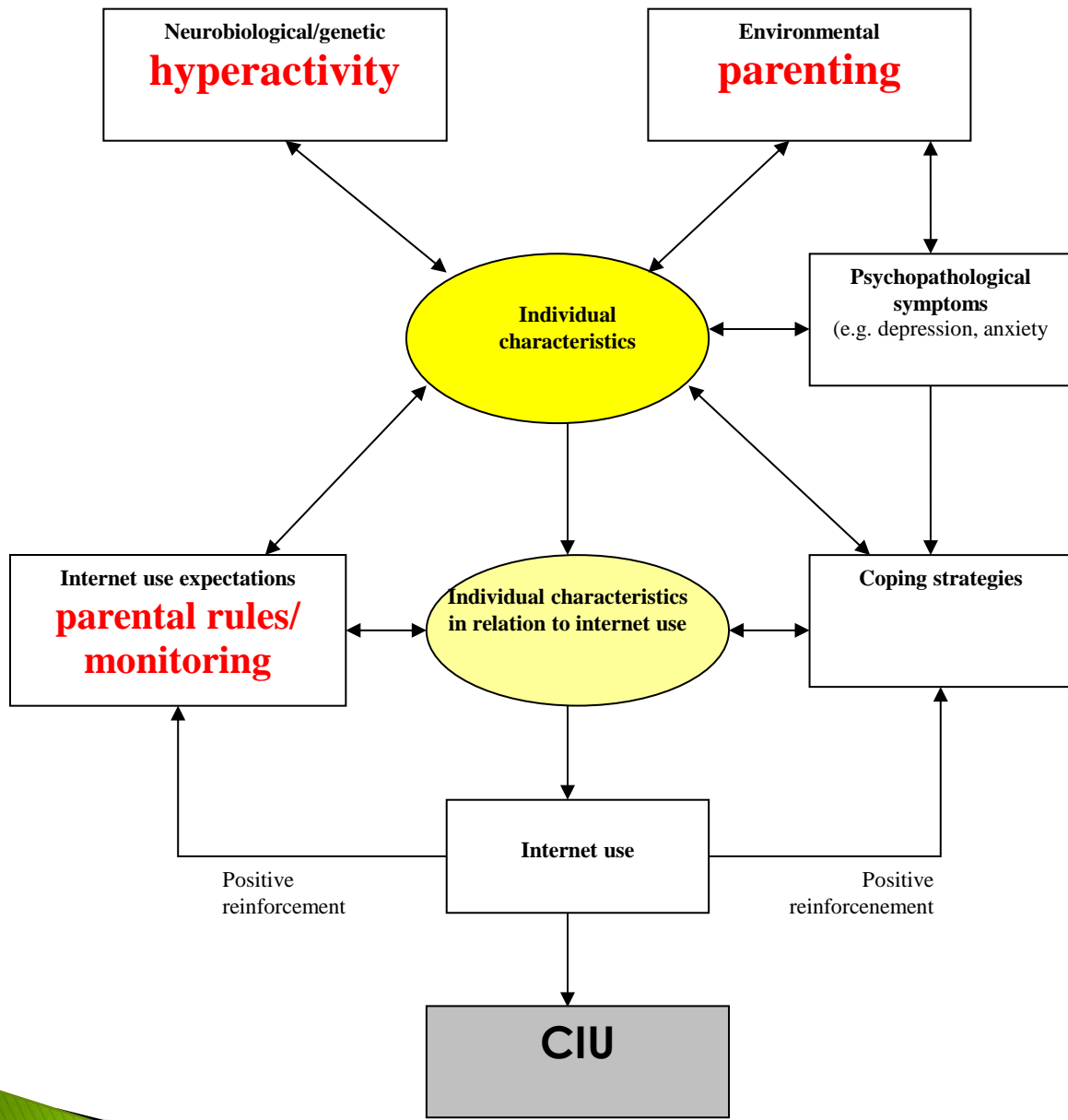



Figure 4. Inconsistent parenting with partial mediation effect between hyperactivity and CIU, controlling for gender , *** $p < .01$, (n= 250)




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Practical implications

- ▶ If child has ADHD symptoms should pay special attention to internet use and symptoms of CIU
 - ▶ If child has CIU symptoms should assess for ADHD
 - ▶ Inconsistent parenting – parent psychoeducational training in regard to need for consistent parenting practices
 - ▶ Benefits of parental rules and internet monitoring
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Limitations

- ▶ At present cross-sectional, cannot infer causality – need for longitudinal study
 - ▶ Social-desirability in parental report
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▶ *Thank you for your attention!*

- ▶ *Supported by* **TAIWAN – LATVIA – LITHUANIA**
- ▶ **COOPERATION PROJECT**