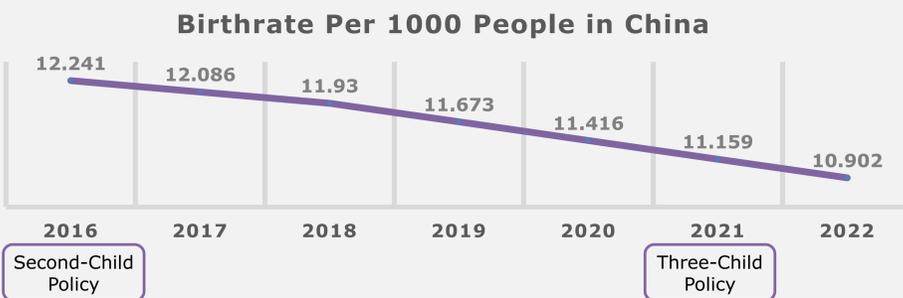


Background

- Declining birth rate causing demographic crisis^[1]
 - Population aging
 - Labor shortage
- Limitations of previous research:
 - 1) Medical models focused on fertility^[2]
 - 2) Assessed only socio-economic factors^[3]
 - 3) Ignores psychological factors

Population Crisis in China

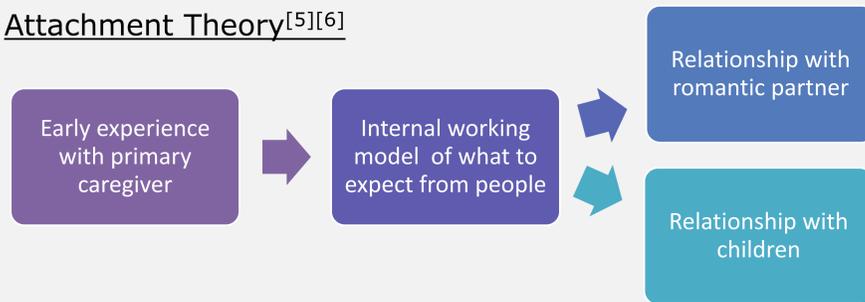


Psychological Contributions to Parenthood

Life History Theory^[4]

- Harsh caregiving environment impacts reproduction strategy
 - Timing
 - Frequency
- Gender differences in reproduction/investment
 - Female: greater investment in offspring
 - Male: investment in parenting v.s. mating

Attachment Theory^{[5][6]}



Present Study

- 1) Develop a measure of the psychological factors underlying entering parenthood (Prospective Parenthood Questionnaire, PPQ)
- 2) Assess potential gender differences in the underlying factors of the PPQ
- 3) Explore the developmental antecedents of the PPQ

Methods

Sample & Procedure

- | Study 1 | Study 2 |
|---|--|
| 301 Participants (71% Female) | 318 Participants (79% Female) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married or in a relationship No children M_{age} = 27.1, SD_{age} = 2.4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Married or in a relationship One child (Age: 1 – 6 yrs) M_{age} = 31.0, SD_{age} = 2.8 |
- Participants were recruited on social media and asked to fill in online questionnaires.

Measures

Prospective Parenthood Questionnaire (PPQ)

- | | |
|--|--|
| Anticipation/Excitement
• E.g., “I am excited about the changes that come with a baby” | Confidence in Parenting
• E.g., “I believe I know what my child wants” |
| External Pressure
• E.g., “I feel pressure from my family to have children” | Parenting Preparedness
• E.g., “I/We have a plan for postpartum care” |

Study 1	Study 2
Relationship Satisfaction (RAS; $\alpha = .88$; 5-point Scale)	Perceived Social Support (MSPSS; $\alpha = .95$; 7-point Scale)
Early Childhood Unpredictability (QUIC; $\alpha = .85$; yes/no Scale)	Parenting Stress (PSI-SF; $\alpha = .95$; 5-point Scale)
Retrospective Report of Parenting (s-EMBU; $\alpha = .84$; 4-point Scale)	Parenting Self-Efficacy (PSOC; $\alpha = .76$; 6-point Scale)
	Psychopathology (DASS; $\alpha = .95$; 4-point Scale)
	Attachment Orientation (ECR; $\alpha = .88$; 7-point Scale)

Results (Study 1)

Exploratory Factor Analysis of PPQ

PPQ Domains	α	Predictors
Anticipation/Excitement M(SD) _{Female} = 2.98(1.14)* M(SD) _{Male} = 3.47(1.18)*	.95	Female: Relationship satisfaction (r = .18) Parental Unpredictability (r = -.16) Parental Overprotection (r = -.14)
		Male: Physical environment unpredictability (r = -.22)
External Pressure M(SD) _{Female} = 2.73(1.08) M(SD) _{Male} = 2.83(1.04)	.78	Male: Relationship satisfaction (r = -.31) Parental Rejection (r = .26)
Confidence in Parenting M(SD) _{Female} = 3.53(1.03)* M(SD) _{Male} = 3.92(1.07)*	.93	Female: Relationship satisfaction (r = .24) Parental Overprotection (r = -.16)
		Male: Physical environment unpredictability (r = -.25)
Parenting Preparedness M(SD) _{Female} = 3.43(1.07) M(SD) _{Male} = 3.54(1.10)	.81	Female: Relationship satisfaction (r = .21)
		Male: Physical environment unpredictability (r = -.24)

* Indicates significant gender differences at $p < 0.05$

Results (Study 2)

Confirmatory Factor Analysis of PPQ

	Female		Male	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Anticipation/Excitement ($\alpha = .93$)	3.19*	1.08	3.68*	1.13
External Pressure ($\alpha = .83$)	2.65*	1.17	3.01*	1.15
Confidence in Parenting ($\alpha = .89$)	4.22	0.77	4.43	0.77
Parenting Preparedness ($\alpha = .71$)	3.83	0.95	3.96	0.90

Model Fit

Model	χ^2	df	χ^2 diff	CFI	RMEA
Single Factor	7226.28	465			
Four Factor	1975.24	428	5251.04	0.77	0.11

Bivariate Correlation Analysis^[a]

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. PPQ_Anticipation/Excitement		.63	.35	.74	-.31	.04	.13	.27	.03	.12	-.09
2. PPQ_External Pressure		.41	-.08	.43	-.07	-.26	-.18	.04	.41	.22	.06
3. PPQ_Confidence in Parenting		.37	-.04	.61	-.25	.46	.25	.31	-.30	-.20	-.32
4. PPQ_Parenting Preparedness		.64	.24	.53	-.27	.35	.16	.35	-.06	.07	-.24
5. Parenting Stress		-.20	.07	-.34	-.14	-.52	-.11	-.28	.10	.16	.19
6. Parenting Self-Efficacy		.09	-.19	.53	.12	-.49	.17	.35	-.26	-.21	-.40
7. Relationship Satisfaction		.21	-.07	.35	.32	-.35	.27	.52	-.57	-.27	-.32
8. Perceived Social Support		.12	-.14	.40	.32	-.31	.37	.59	-.44	-.22	-.48
9. Attachment Avoidance		-.08	.26	-.20	-.26	.24	-.24	-.62	-.48	.32	.32
10. Attachment Anxiety		-.09	.08	-.28	-.10	.31	-.43	-.29	-.21	.20	.47
11. Psychopathology		-.12	.11	-.27	-.11	.40	-.47	-.33	-.31	.38	.55

[a] Note: male: above diagonal; female: below diagonal. $p < 0.05$ indicated in bold font.

Conclusions

- Results supported the factor structure of PPQ
- Psychological factors contribute to prospective parenthood
- Different factors contribute to prospective parenthood for male and female, and for prospective 1st time and 2nd time mothers
- Implications for future studies of the power of PPQ in predicting decision-making around reproduction/parenthood

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