

Maternal Sensitivity and Preschoolers' Attachment Security in a Peruvian Mother-child dyads

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To explore the relationship between mother's sensitive behavior and child security status.

In attachment theory this relation is known as sensitivity hypothesis. Despite it is a core hypothesis, its validity in non western contexts has been questioned.

METHOD

Participants

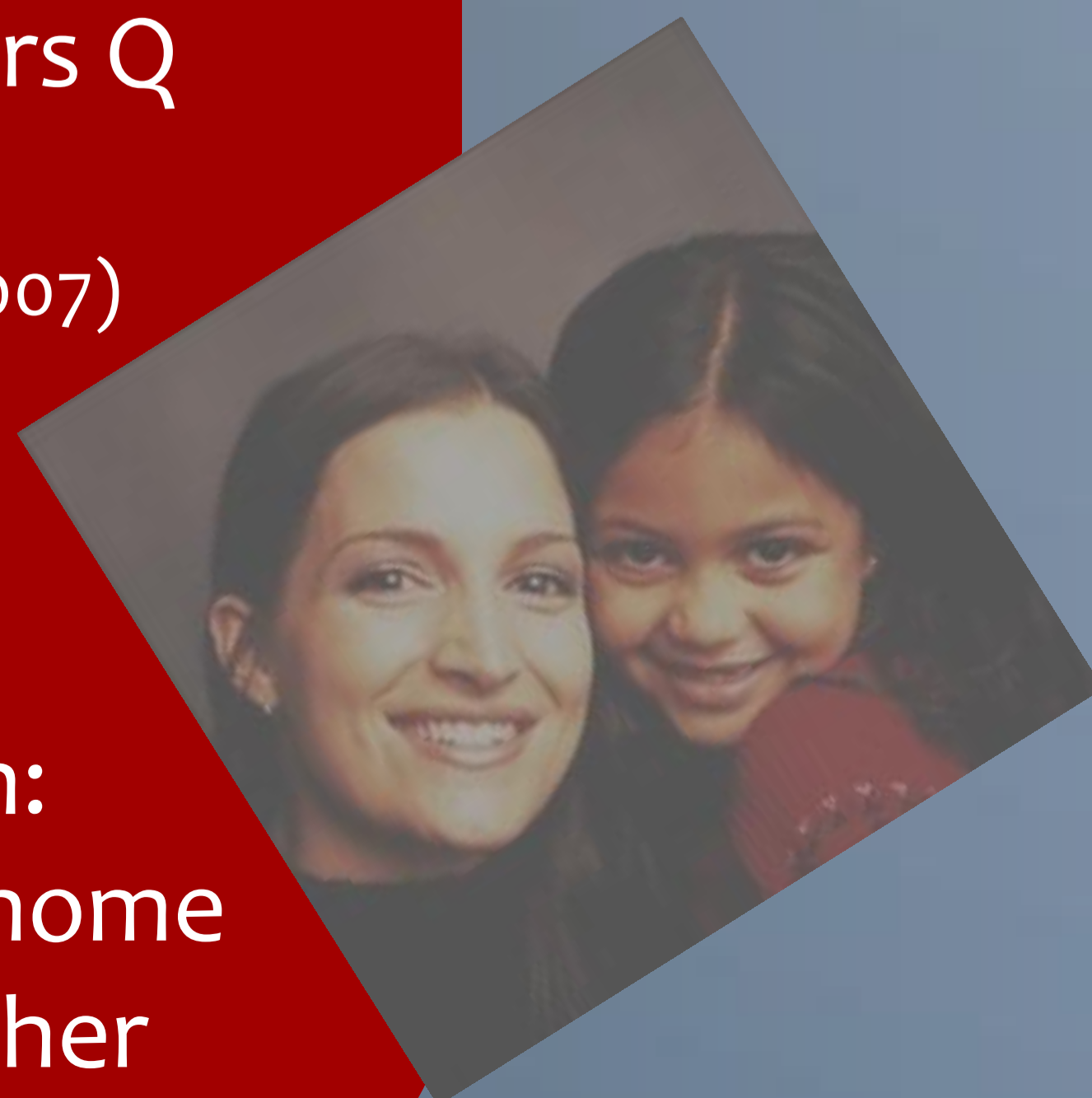
- 30 mother – child dyads
- 17 boys and 13 girls from 3 to 5 years old
- Mothers are from 25 to 45 years old
- They attained at least high school education
- Middle socioeconomic status
- 30% were born in Lima, 27% were migrants' first generation and 43% were migrants' second generation

Measures

- Attachment Q Set 3.0 version - AQS (Waters, 1995)
Inter-rater reliability: .76
- Maternal Behavior for Preschoolers Q Sort - MBPQS (Posada, Kaloustain, Richmond & Moreno, 2007)
Inter-rater reliability: .74

Procedures

- Two observations of one hour each:
- Free mother-child interaction at home
- A story reading task and free mother child interaction at playground.



Correlation between child attachment and maternal sensitivity

$$r_{att-sen} = .63, p < .01, r_2 = .40$$

Intercorrelations between AQS and MBPQS's scales

SCALE	SIM	PCM	IOA	PM	CHI	SBS	SUP	LS
SIM	(.93)							
PCM	.49**	(.66)						
IOA	.20	-.13	(.89)					
PM	.59**	.65***	.17	(.90)				
CHI	.47**	.30	.18	.64***	(.95)			
SBS	.53**	.29	.14	.59**	.94***	(.94)		
SUP	.59**	.26	.15	.74***	.74***	.71***	(.84)	
LS	.33	.13	.00	.34	.53**	.55**	.38*	(.61)

AQS

SIM: Smooth interactions with mothers
PCM: Physical contact with mother
IOA: Interaction with other adults
PM: Proximity to mother

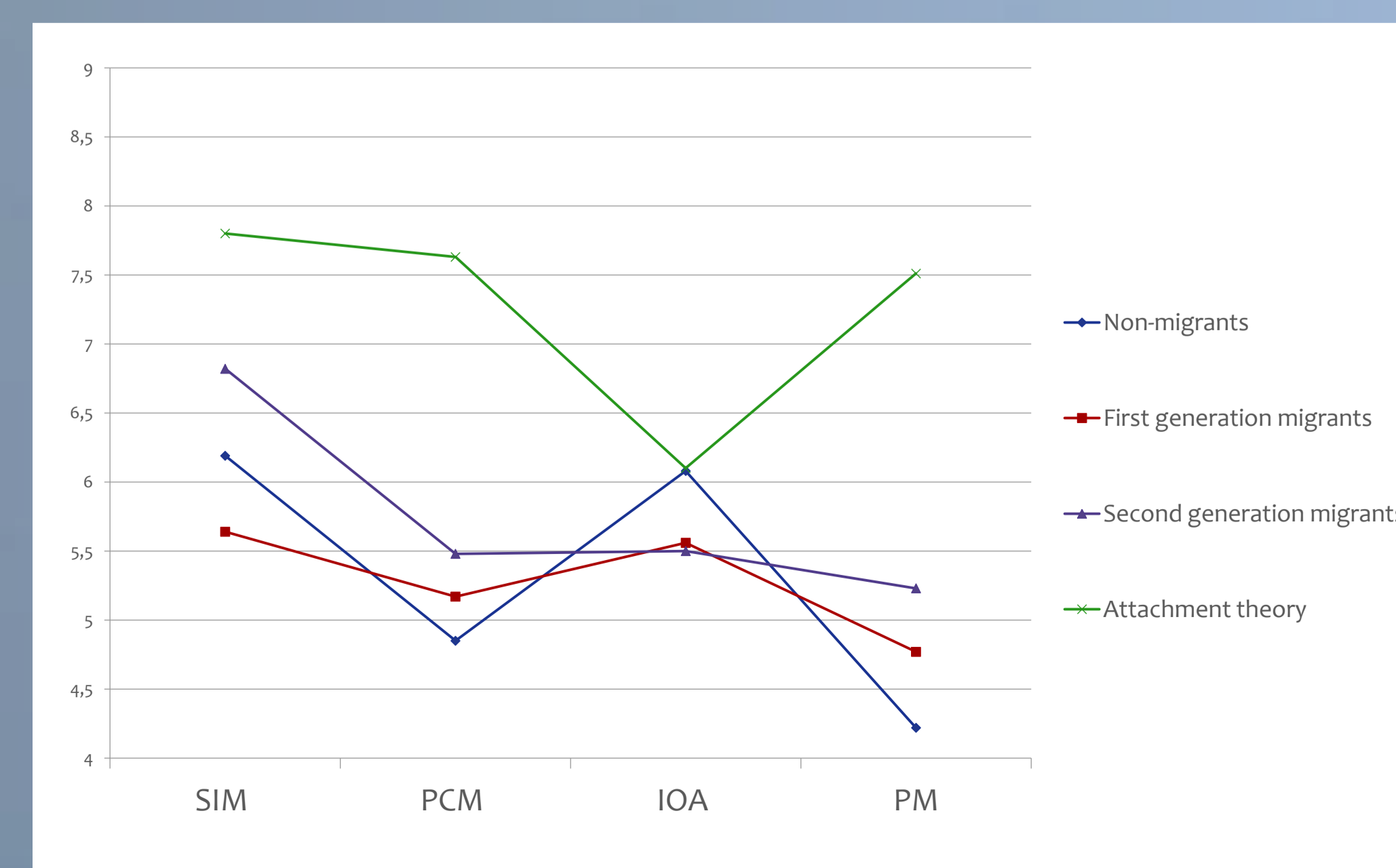
MBPQS

CHI: Contribution harmonious interaction
SBS: Secure-base support
SUP: Supervision
LS: Limit setting

Child attachment and sensitivity by mother's migratory status

Child attachment

$M_{All} = .29$
 $M_{Non-migrants} = .25$
 $M_{Mig. 2th gen.} = .15$
 $M_{Mig. 1th gen.} = .35$
 $F(2,27) = 2.79, p = .08, 1-b = 0.08$



Maternal sensitivity

$Mdn_{All} = .30$
 $Mdn_{Non-migrants} = .36$
 $Mdn_{Mig. 2th gen.} = .15$
 $Mdn_{Mig. 1th gen.} = .45$
 $X^2 = 4.09, p = .13, 1-b = 0.99$

