

OBJECTIVE

To test mediating role of child attachment representations in the association between child attachment security and father's sensitive behavior

INTRODUCTION

Sensitivity hypothesis holds that quality of care is related to children attachment (van IJzendoorn & Sagi, 2008). Further, this specific interactions are internalized in integrated *internal working models* that are constructed since infancy with several attachment figures (Bowlby, 1969).

There is little evidence about paternal care, but sensitivity seems to contribute to father-child relationship (Lucassen et al., 2011), and to future outcomes in children (Bretherton, 2010). Initial findings from Peruvian context are presented.

METHOD

Participants

- 18 father – child dyads
- 10 girls and 8 boys from 3 to 5 years old
- Fathers age: $M = 35.28$, $SD = 7.90$
- They attained at least high school education
- Middle socioeconomic status

Measures

- Attachment Q Set 3.0 version – AQS (Waters, 1995)

Inter-rater reliability: .81

- Maternal Behavior for Preschoolers Q Sort – MBPQS (Posada, Kaloustain, Richmond & Moreno, 2007)

Inter-rater reliability: .90

- Attachment Story Completion Task – ASCT (Bretherton, Ridgeway & Cassidy, 1990)

Inter-rater reliability: .80; $\alpha = .79$

Procedures

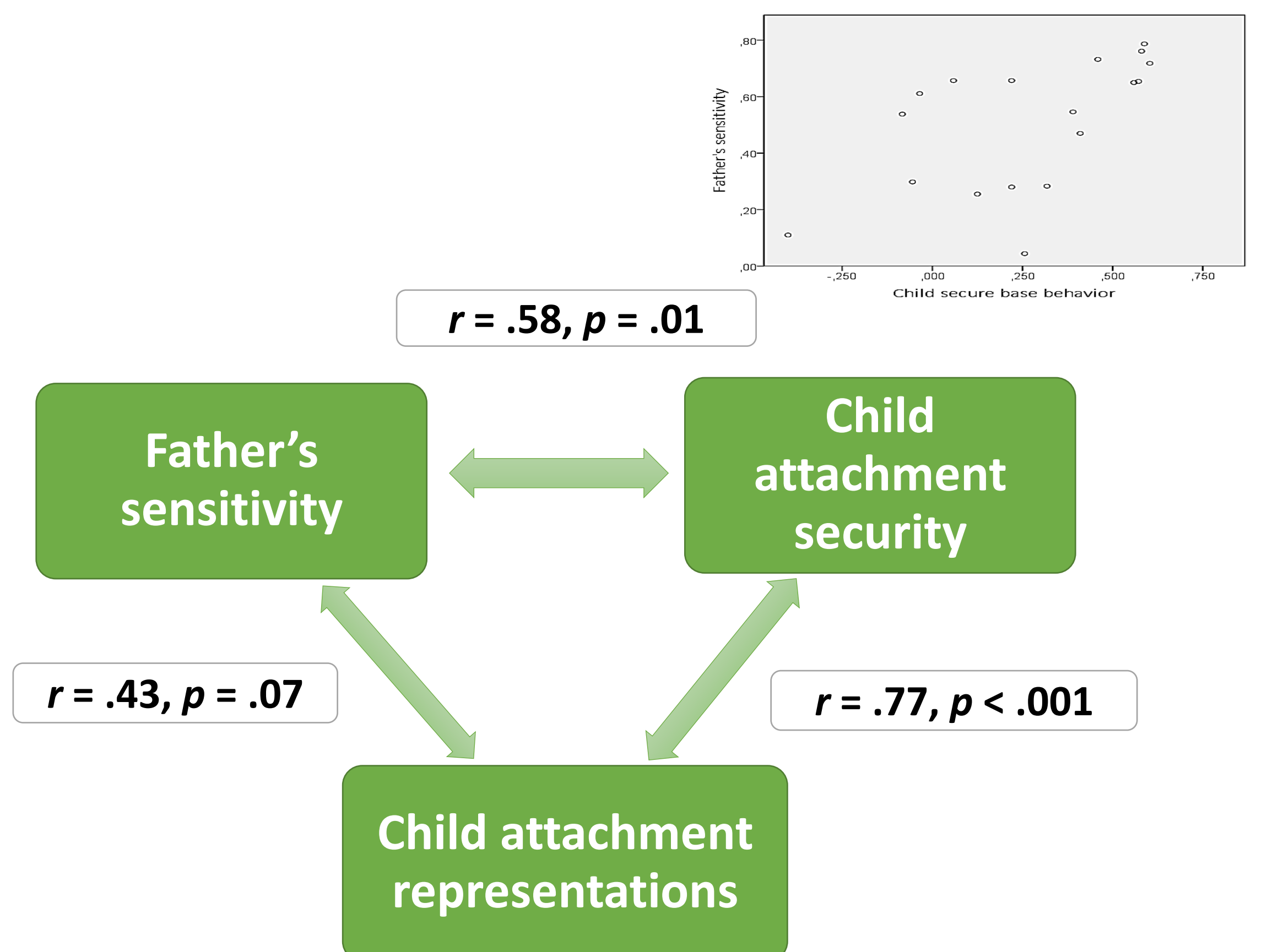
- One observation of one hour: Free father-child interaction at home were observed to assess father sensitivity and child secure base behavior
- Children completed a set of attachment related stories in their homes. Narratives were videotaped.

RESULTS

Descriptive statistics for father sensitivity, child attachment security and attachment representations

	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>
Father's sensitivity	.50	.23	.04	.79
Child attachment security	.27	.29	-.40	.60
Child attachment representations	1.77	.60	1.00	2.67

Relation between father's sensitivity and child attachment security



Mediating role of child attachment representations

Semi partial correlation between father's sensitivity and child attachment security

$$r = .28, r^2 = .077 \rightarrow 7.7\%$$

DISCUSSION

- Fathers showed adequate levels of sensitivity and children adequate attachment security (De Wolff & van IJzendoorn, 1997; Nóbrega, 2012)
- Father's sensitivity and child attachment security are related (Lucassen et al., 2011)
- Child attachment security and their attachment representations are related (Bowlby, 1969)
- At this age, children internalized attachment representations seems to have an active role in present interactions with their father (Marvin & Britner, 2008).