Motivations for agreement with parental values:  
A key for understanding intergenerational transmission of values

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INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF VALUES

WHAT?
(Selective)

HOW SIMILAR?
(Quantitative)

WHY?
(Motivated)

Controlled (or extrinsic) vs. Autonomous (or intrinsic) Motivations

Controlled Motivations
Motivations to agree with parental values out of external or internal pressure (e.g., Because I don’t want my parents to scold me; Because otherwise I would feel bad about myself).

Autonomous Motivations
Motivations to agree with parental values because they are inherently worthy and personally important (e.g., I think my parents’ values are moral; My parents’ values seem right to me).

Barni, Donato, Rosnati, & Danioni (2017); Grusec & Goodnow (1994); Schönpflug & Bilz (2009); Schönpflug & Yan (2012); Trommsdorff (2009).
ACROSS FAMILY GENERATIONS

THE STUDY’S QUESTIONS

1. Why do children accept their parents’ values?

2. Are their motivations related to parents’ socialization values (WHAT) and to the degree of parent-adolescent value similarity (HOW SIMILAR)?
PARTICIPANTS AND PROCEDURE

- 325 Italian families (North of Italy), composed of father ($M_{age}$: 48.3, $SD$: 5.57), mother ($M_{age}$: 44.9, $SD$: 4.66), and one adolescent child (60% Female; $M_{age}$: 15.2, $SD$: 1.17), for a total of 975 participants;

- Participants, recruited with the collaboration of 15 high-schools, were asked to complete a self-report questionnaire.

MEASURES

| MOTIVATIONS | Motivations for Agreement with Parental Values (Knafo & Assor, 2007). 12 items, from 1 (completely false) to 7 (completely true). E.g., «Because I don’t want to disappoint my parents»; «Because my parents’ values match my natural tendencies». Cronbach’s $\alpha$: from .73 (adolescents’ controlled mot. for agreement with maternal values) to .84 (mothers’ autonomous mot. for agreement with paternal values). |
| SOCIALIZATION VALUES | Portrait Values Questionnaire (Schwartz et al., 2003). 21 items, from 1 (I would want my child to respond “not like me at all”) to 6 (I would want my child to respond “very much like me”). E.g., «Thinking up new ideas and being creative is important to him/her. He/She likes to do things in his/her own original way». Cronbach’s $\alpha$: from .73 (fathers’ conservation values) to .83 (mothers’ self-enhancement values). |
| PARENT-CHILD VALUE SIMILARITY | Dyadic-correlations between each parent’s and his/her adolescent child’s responses to the Portrait Values Questionnaire used to measure personal values. $r$: from -1 (total opposition) to +1 (perfect similarity). |
1. Motivations to accept parental values

**Autonomous motivations > Controlled motivations**

FA's controlled motivations | FA's autonomous motivations | MO's controlled motivations | MO's autonomous motivations | AD's controlled motivations | AD's autonomous motivations
---|---|---|---|---|---
3.77 | 3.78 | 3.8 | 3.78 | 4.55 | 4.58
5.07 | 5.11 | 5.07 | 5.16 | 5.26 | 5.26

FA: father; MO: mother; AD: adolescent

Repeated measures ANOVAs. **p<.01

1. Motivations to accept parental values

Mot. to accept paternal values = Mot. to accept maternal values

FA's controlled motivations | FA's autonomous motivations | MO's controlled motivations | MO's autonomous motivations | AD's controlled motivations | AD's autonomous motivations
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FA: father; MO: mother; AD: adolescent

Repeated measures ANOVAs.
1. Motivations to accept parental values

Adolescents’ controlled motivations > Parents’ controlled motivations

FA’s controlled motivations | FA’s autonomous motivations | MO’s controlled motivations | MO’s autonomous motivations | AD’s controlled motivations | AD’s autonomous motivations
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Paternal values | Maternal values

FA: father; MO: mother; AD: adolescent

Repeated measures ANOVAs, **p<.01

2. Parents’ motivations-socialization values

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<tr>
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FA: father; MO: mother

Pearson correlation coefficients, **p<.01, *p<.05
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### 2. Motivations-parent child value similarity

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FA: father; MO: mother; AD: adolescents

Pearson correlation coefficients, **p<.01, *p<.05.
Dyadic correlations: Fisher-Z transformed.
1. DISCUSSION

- «My parents’ values have value to me» (The DOUBLE VALUE)

- Adolescents were more extrinsically motivated than parents: An age (or cohort) effect?

2. DISCUSSION

CONTROLLED MOTIVATIONS  AUTONOMOUS MOTIVATIONS

Socialization values Parent-child value similarity

Self-enhancement  Self-transcendence Conservation
TAKE HOME MESSAGE

THE MORE AUTONOMY, THE MORE CONTINUITY

Thank you
Merci
Grazie

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THE FILTER MODEL

How strong the child feels the parents’ influence to be (i.e., acceptance of parental influence)

Adolescents’ motivations to accept parental values (Boys vs. Girls)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOTIVATIONS</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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BOYS’ CONTROLLED MOT. TO ACCEPT PATERNAL VALUES > GIRLS

* MANOVA, *p<.05
### Correlations

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<th>conservatorismo corretto madre (socialization values)</th>
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<td>Correlation: 1.00</td>
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<td>.098</td>
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<td>Significance (2-tailed): 0</td>
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<td>.106</td>
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<td>df: 269</td>
<td>269</td>
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<td>motivazioni autonome accettazione valori padre da parte madre</td>
<td>Correlation: .155</td>
<td>1.000</td>
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**Personal focus**

Regulating how one expresses personal interests & characteristics

**Self-Enhancement**
- Achievement
- Power

**Openness to Change**
- Hedonism
- Stimulation
- Self-Direction

**Conservation**
- Security
- Conformity
- Tradition

**Self-Transcendence**
- Universalism
- Benevolence

*Schwartz (2012)*