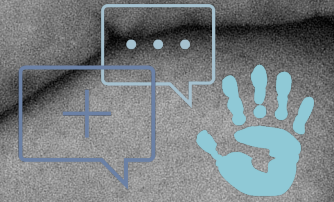




**INTERNATIONAL  
ATTACHMENT  
CONFERENCE 2024  
ROUEN, FRANCE**



Parental mentalizing profiles : When distinct  
patterns of verbal and nonverbal parental  
mentalizing profiles are associated with different  
effects on infant attachment

Presenting by  
Karine Gagné, Ph.D., ps.éd., assistant professor  
School of Psychoeducation  
Université de Montréal

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# Collaborators



Prof Elizabeth Meins, Ph.D.  
Department of Psychology  
University of York  
United Kingdom



Prof Annie Bernier, Ph.D.  
Department of Psychology  
Université de Montréal  
Canada



Prof George M. Tarabulsky, Ph.D.  
School of Psychology  
Université Laval  
Canada



Prof Pier-Olivier Caron, Ph.D.  
Department of Human  
Sciences, Arts and  
Communication  
Université TÉLUQ  
Canada



Dr Dana Shai, Ph.D.  
The Academic College of  
Tel Aviv-Yaffo  
School of Behavioral  
Sciences  
Israel



Prof Jean-Pascal Lemelin, Ph.D.  
Department of Psychoeducation  
Université de Sherbrooke  
Canada



Neta Rein, master student  
The Academic College of  
Tel Aviv-Yaffo  
School of Behavioral  
Sciences  
Israel



Parental mentalizing profiles  
based on verbal and nonverbal

# Parental mentalizing profiles : Verbal and nonverbal



## Parental mentalizing

Parents' ability to **explicitly (verbal)** and **implicitly (nonverbal)** interpret their child's behaviors according to their emotions, thoughts, needs, and perceptions (mental states)

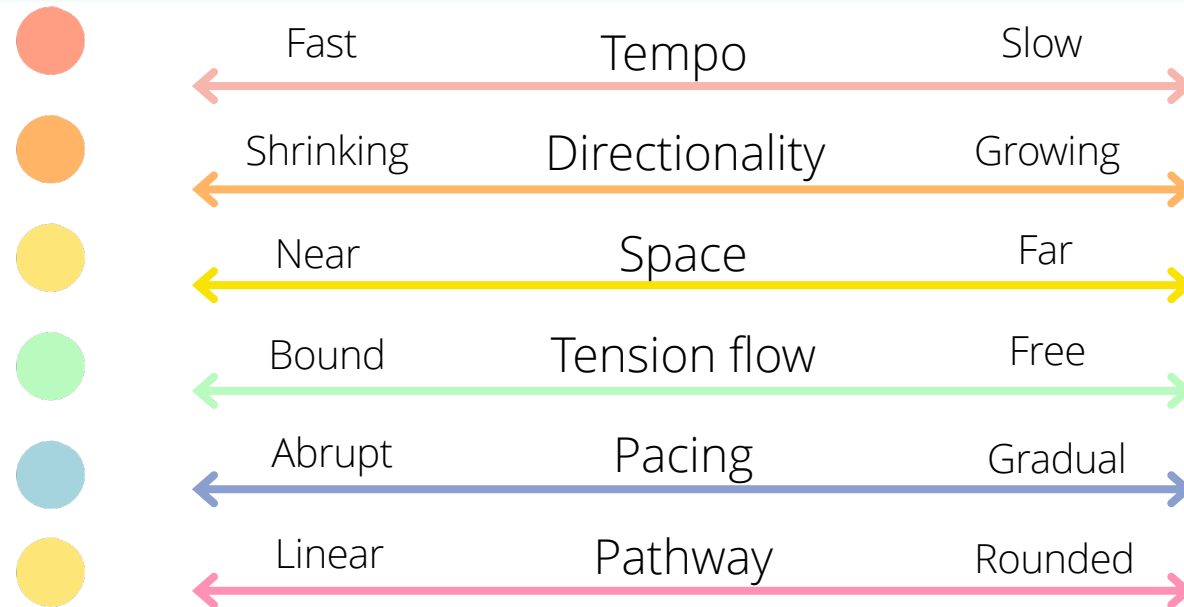


# Parental mentalizing profiles : Nonverbal



PEM focuses on how the parent adapt kinesthetically to their child's mental states by paying attention to :

## 1 Quality of movements



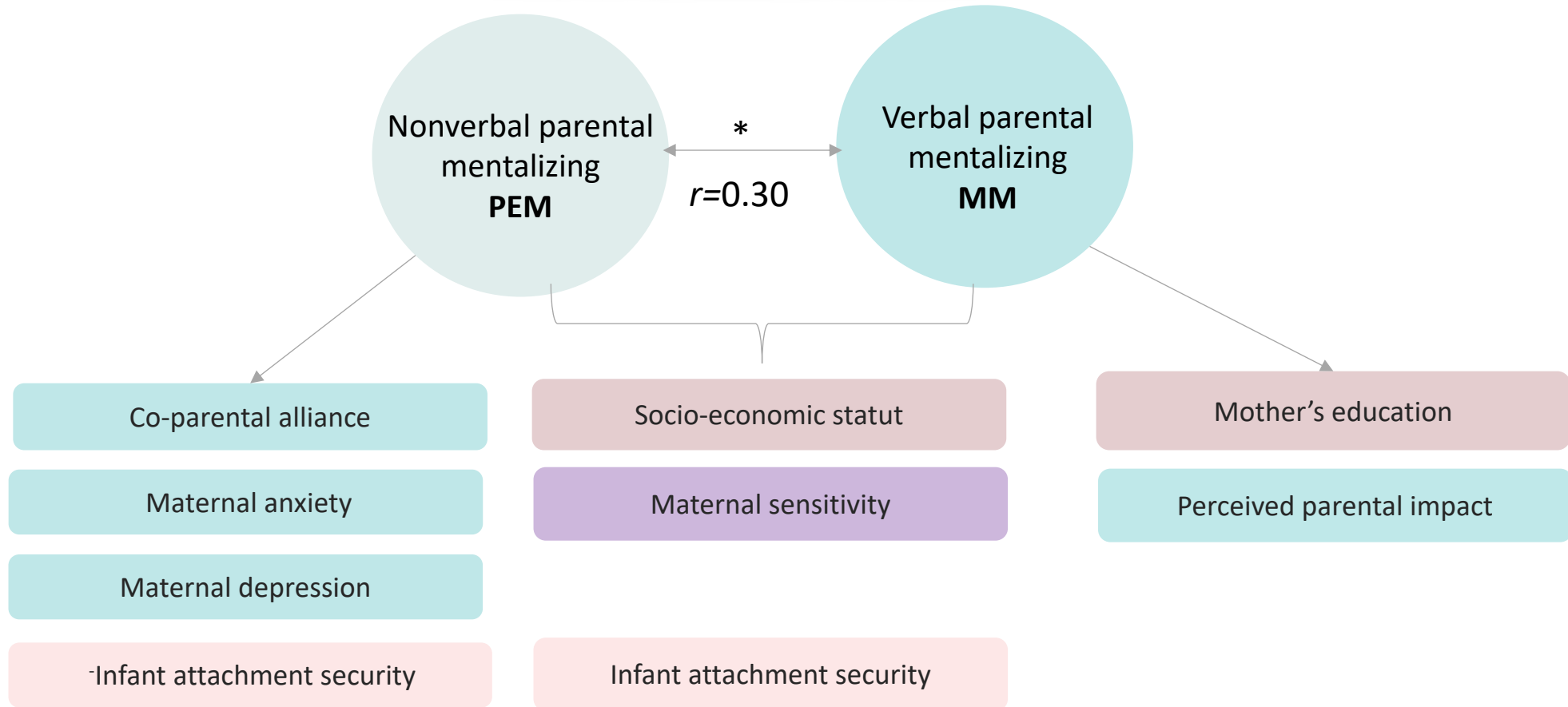
PEM refers to the parents' nonverbal capacity to understand the child's mental state and adjust their own movements accordingly

## 2 Parental capacity to repair failures in nonverbal communication occurring in parent-infant interactions

# Parental mentalizing profiles : Verbal and nonverbal



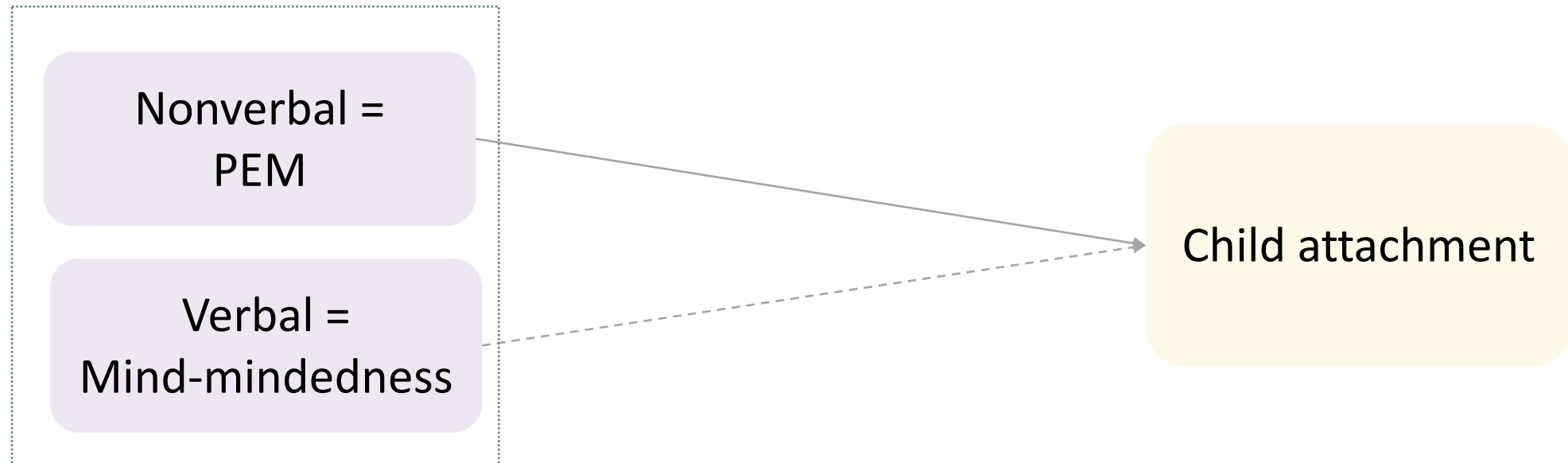
Unique and complementary roles



# Parental mentalizing profiles : Verbal and nonverbal



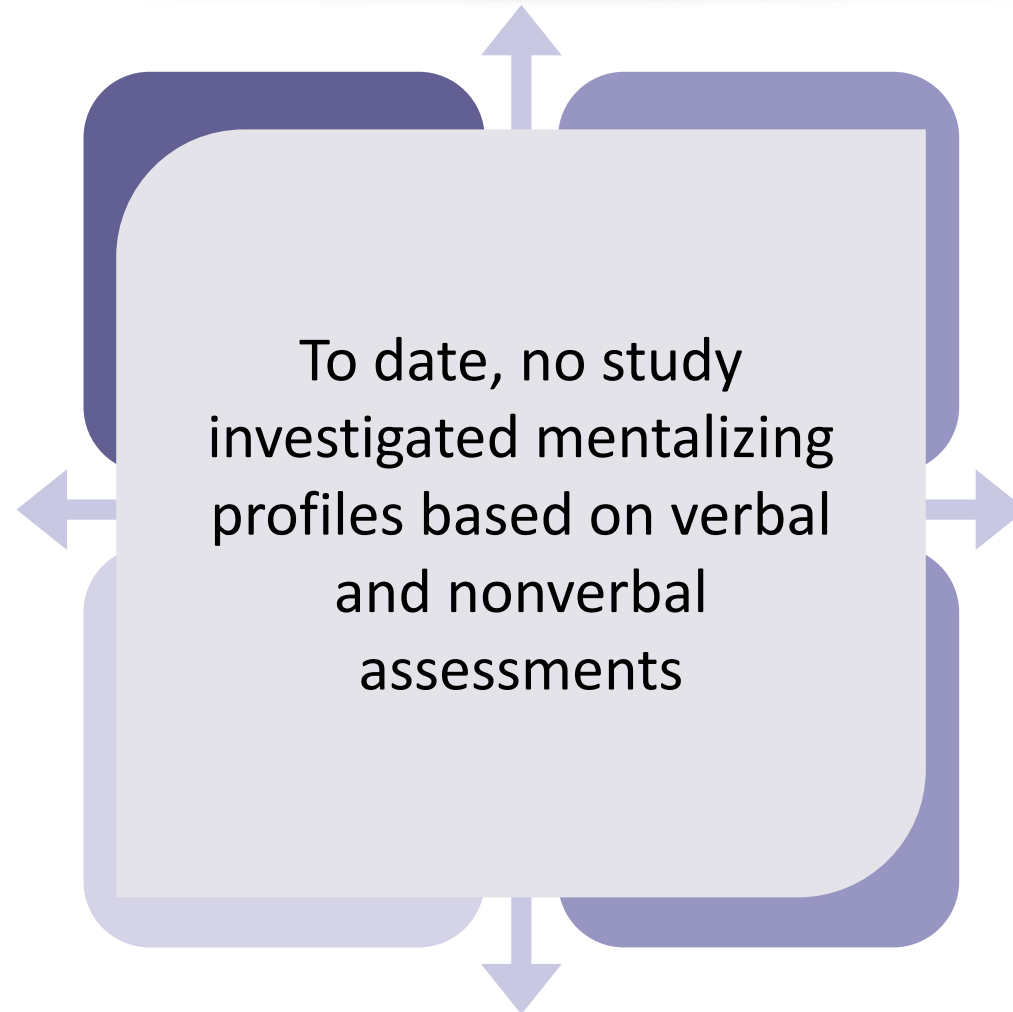
## Parental mentalizing



Raises the idea that they might have different parental mentalizing profiles based on verbal and nonverbal

# Parental mentalizing profiles : Verbal and nonverbal

Mind-mindedness and parental embodied mentalizing



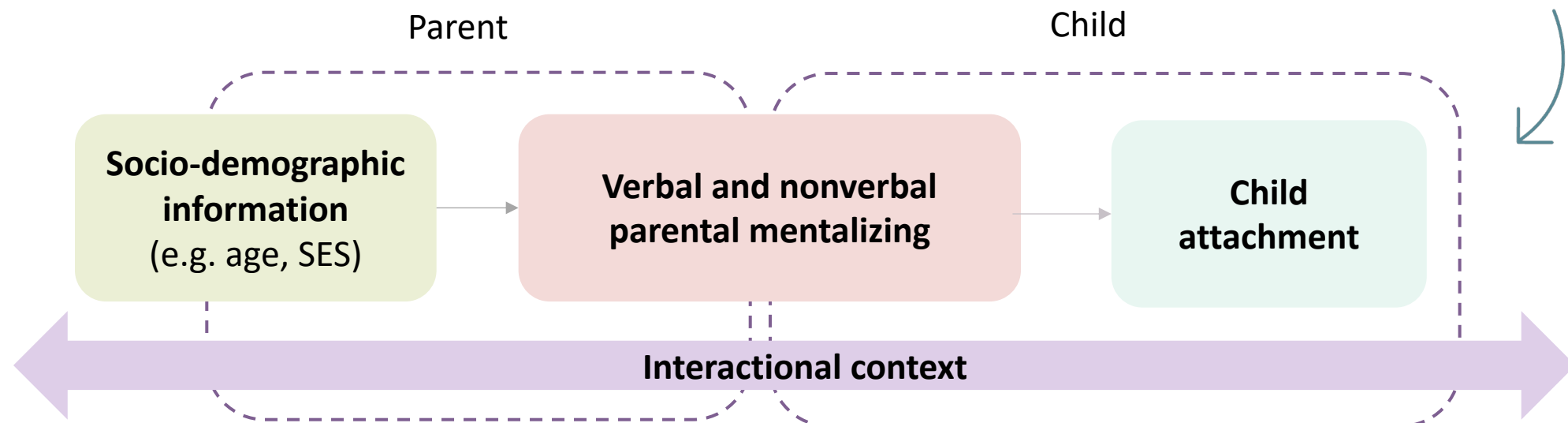




# Parental mentalizing profiles : Verbal and nonverbal

## Parental mentalizing profiles and child attachment

How these parental mentalizing profiles relate to the interactional context between parent and child, parental characteristics, and subsequent child attachment?



# Study context: Methods



Interactional context

**Exploration**



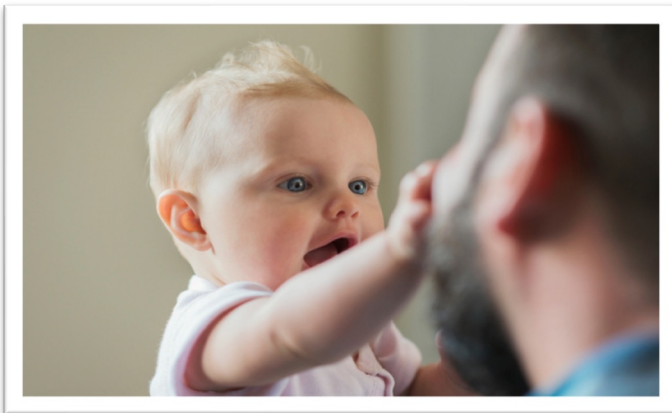
**Holding**



**Transition**



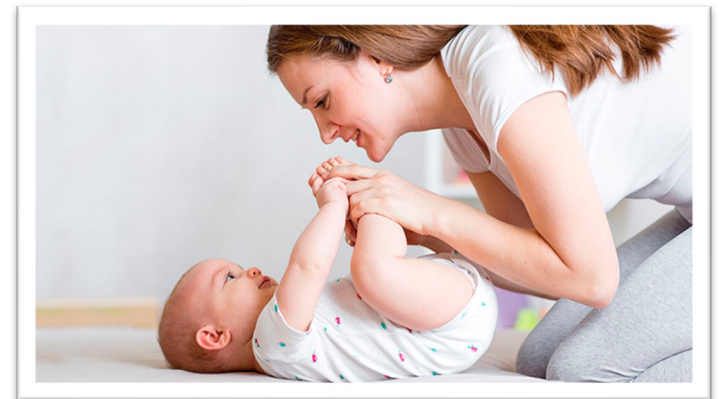
**Investigation**

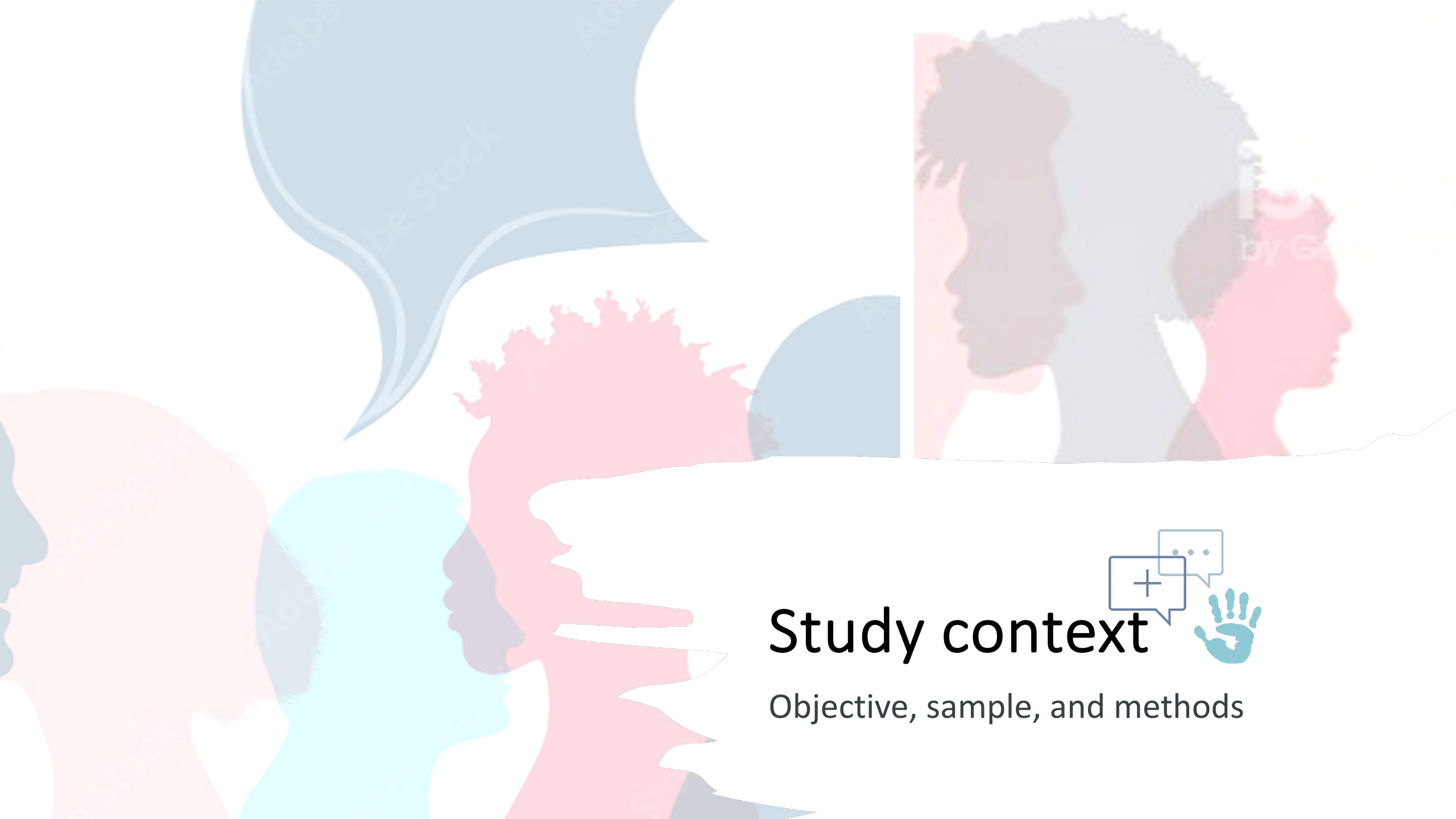


**Stimulation**



**Manipulation**





# Study context



Objective, sample, and methods

# Study context : Objectives



## Objectives

1. Identify parental mentalizing profiles based on verbal and nonverbal by using a person-centered approach;
2. Examine association between parental mentalizing profiles and infant attachment;
3. Examine personal factors and parent-child interactional contexts



# Study context : Sample



## Meins

205 mother-infant dyads  
United Kingdom

56.31% in the upper  
middle class

Mother's age : 28.90 years

Infant sex: 52.68% girls

## Tarabulsy/Gagné

107 mother-infant dyads  
Canada

Psychosocial risk

Mother's age : 21.66 years

Infant sex : 46.6% girls

## Shai

100 mother-infant dyads  
Israel

65.65% in the upper  
middle class

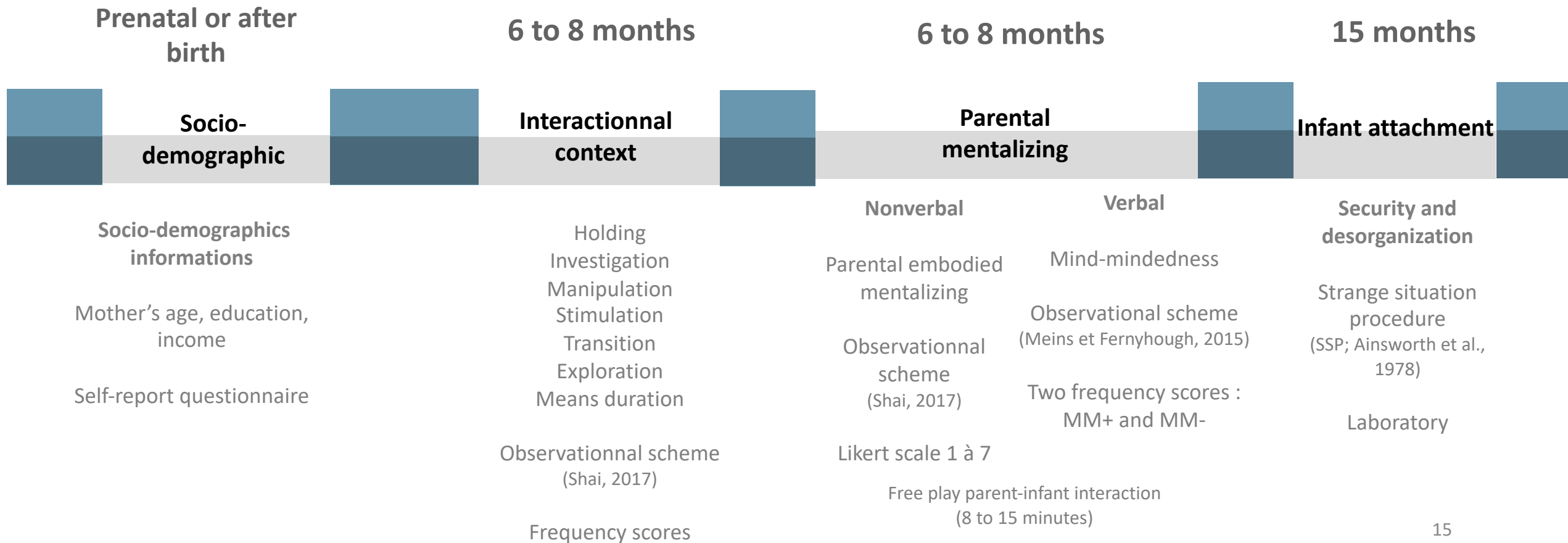
Mother's age : 30.82 years

Infant sex : 47% girls

**Combinaison of 3 databases (n=412)**



# Study context: Methods





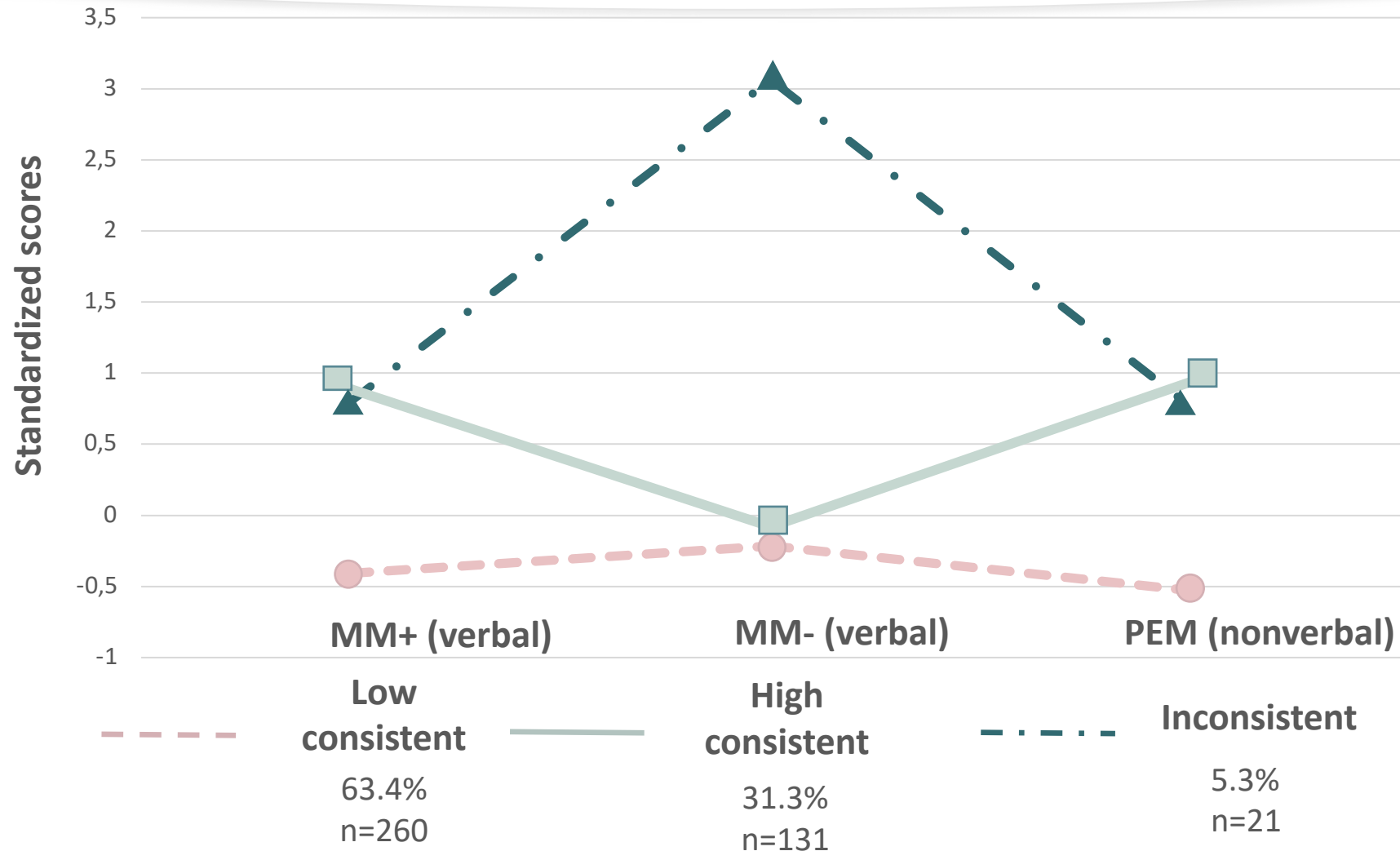
Results



# Parental mentalizing profiles

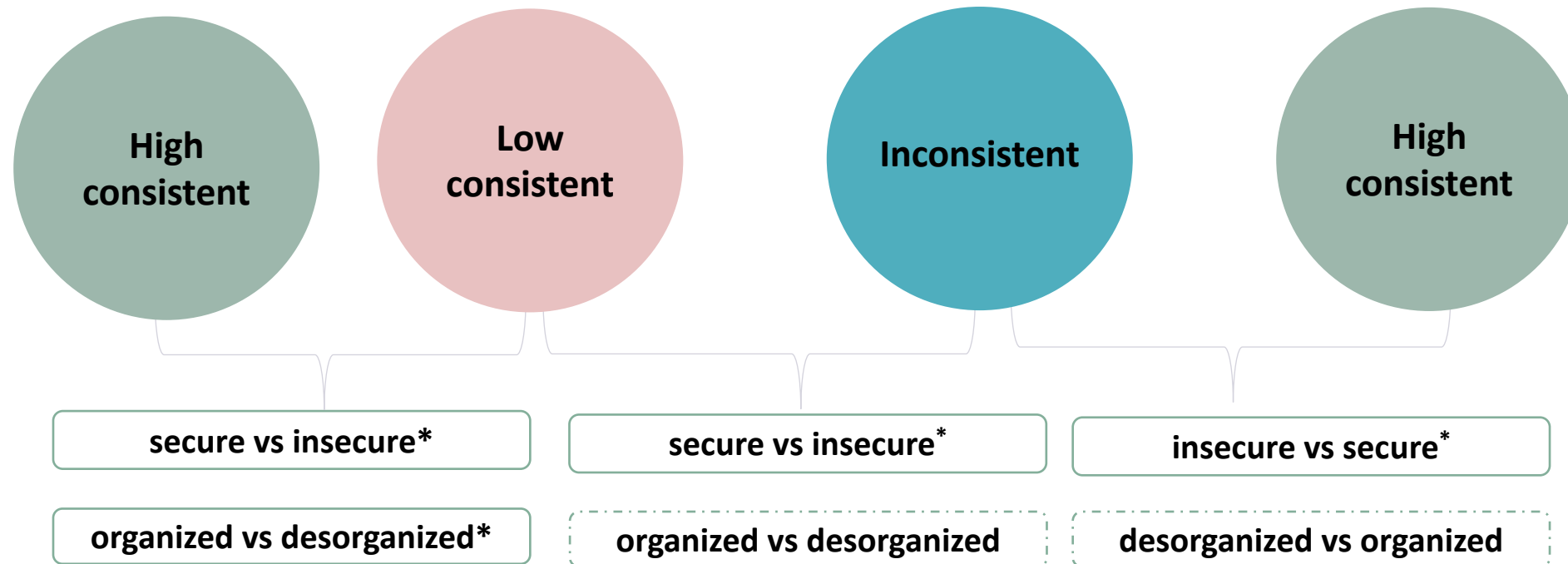


## Verbal and nonverbal mentalizing profiles





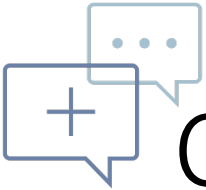
# Associations between parental mentalizing profiles and infant attachment



# Associations between 3-profiles and parent characteristics and interactional context



	Low vs High		Inconsistent vs High		Low vs Inconsistent	
	$\chi^2$		$\chi^2$		$\chi^2$	
Mother's age	↓	++	NS		NS	
Infant sex	no significant		+ boys			+ boys
SES	Low	High	NS		NS	
<b>Interactional context</b>						
Holding	↓	++	NS		↓	++
Investigation	↓	++	NS		NS	
Manipulation	++	↓	NS		++	↓
Stimulation	++	↓	NS		NS	
Transition	++	↓	NS		++	↓
Exploration	↓	++	↓	+/-	↓	++
Means duration	↓	++	↓	++	NS	



# Conclusion and futures directions



# Conclusion and futures directions



**High  
consistent**



More involved in  
exploration/playfull

Allowed space for their child to  
investigate

Used their own body as a  
supportive environment for the  
infant's



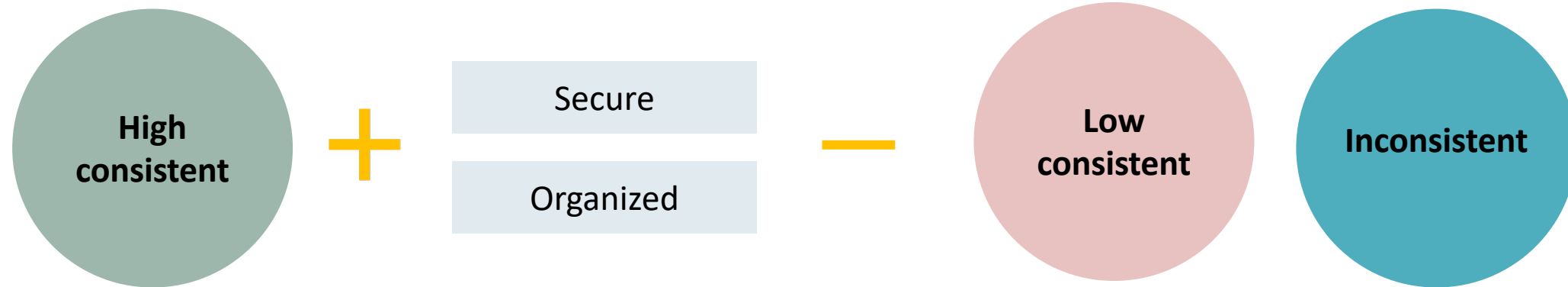
**Low  
consistent**

**Inconsistent**

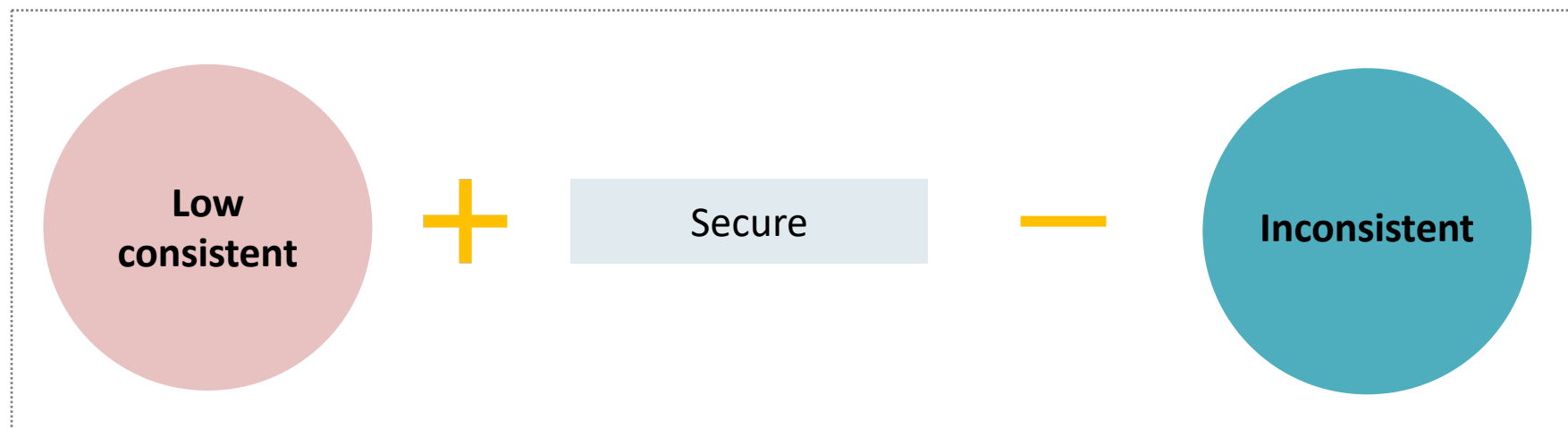


# Conclusion and futures directions

Consistent with previous studies...



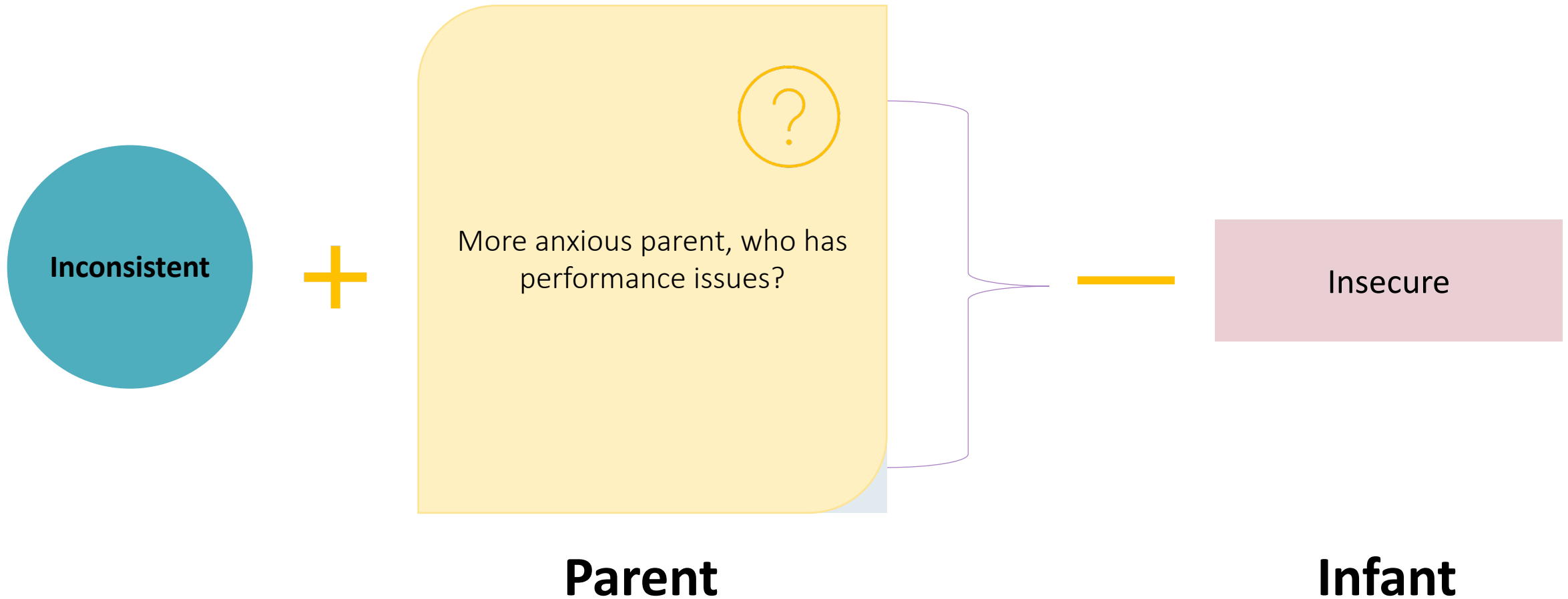
Interesting results....



Parent consistency and predictability?



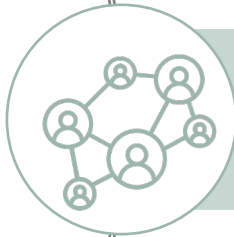
# Conclusion and futures directions



# Conclusion and futures directions



Allow an **initial classification** of different parental verbal and nonverbal mentalizing patterns



Empirically supports **distinct parental mentalizing profiles** and their associations with infant attachment and parental characteristics



Highlights the importance of considering **both verbal and nonverbal aspects** as well as their **complementarity** regarding the infant attachment



Thank you 

[karine.gagne.6@umontreal.ca](mailto:karine.gagne.6@umontreal.ca)