

Shared Positive Emotion and Child-Father Attachment in Two Small-Scale Societies

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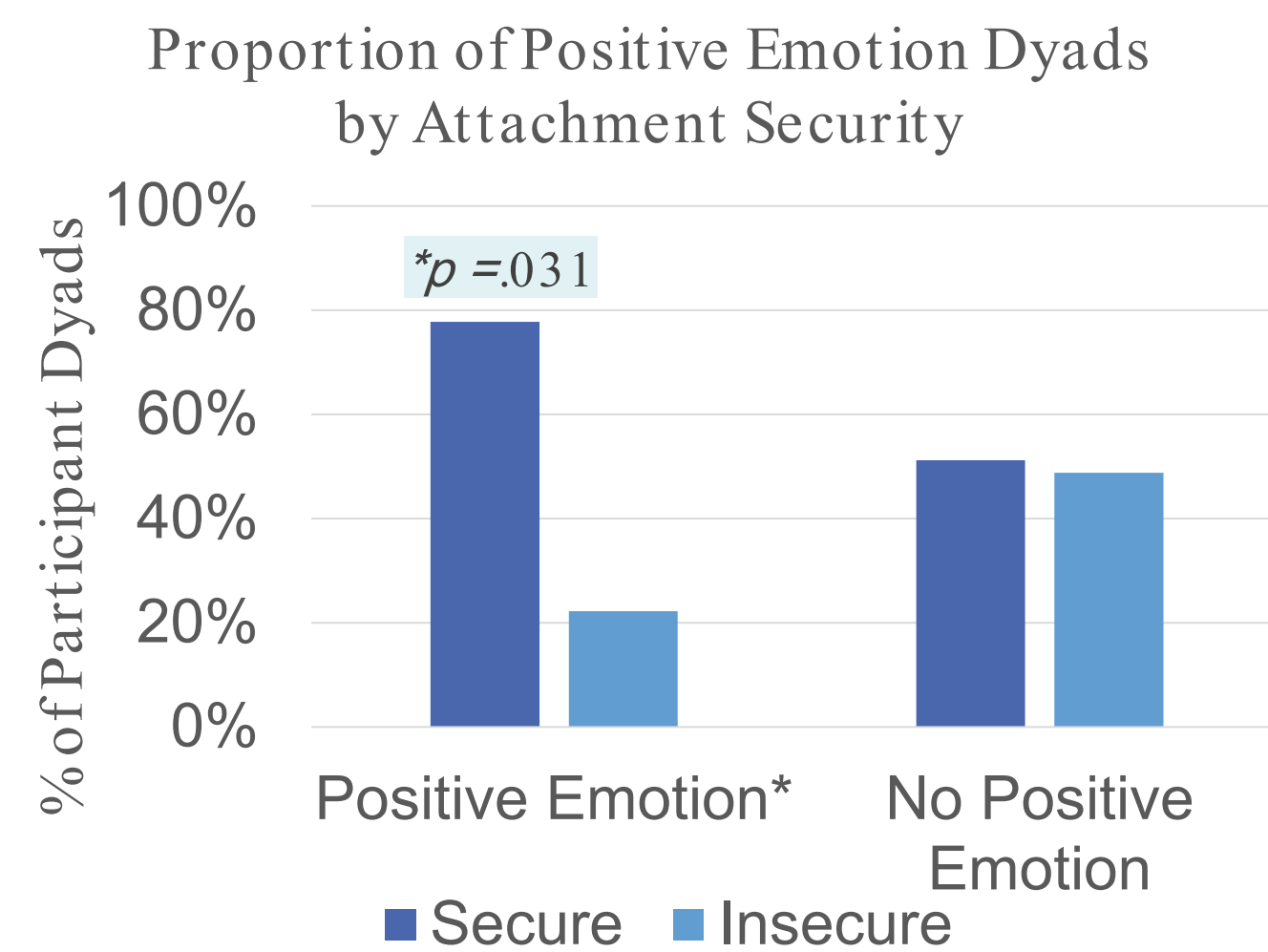
BACKGROUND

- Secure attachment requires caregiver responsiveness and sensitivity¹
- Western fathers are more likely to use playtime to show sensitivity towards children²
- Significant correlation between father-child play and secure child-father attachment³
- H1: quality of play is associated with child-father attachment security

METHODS

- n=92 father-child dyads from small-scale societies in Vanuatu and Bolivia (63 Tannese 23 Tsimane)
- Adapted separation reunion procedure (child-father attachment)
- Categorical measures of shared positive emotion and interactivity during free-play
- Exact Binomial Test (shared positive emotion x attachment)

RESULTS

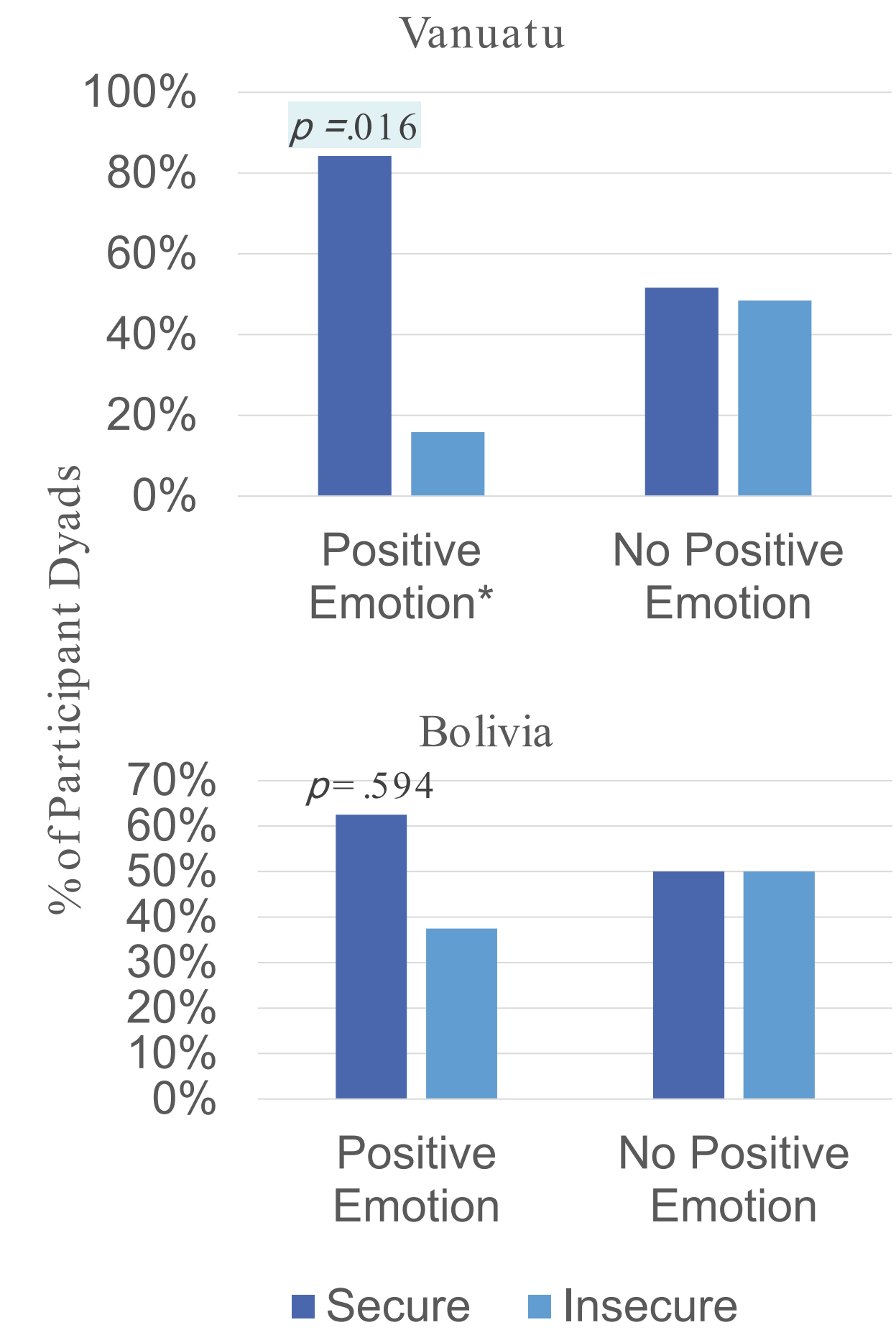


DISCUSSION

- Dyadic measures of play quality may be effective when assessing paternal attachment
- Furthers understanding of paternal attachment in non-Western cultures

Shared positive emotion expressed during father-child play is associated with secure child-father attachment. This link cuts across non-Western cultural norms for paternal caregiving.

FURTHER ANALYSES



- Significant findings in Vanuatu, not Bolivia
- No significant differences in child gender

LIMITATIONS

- Discrepancy in sample size by society
- 5-minute free-play sessions
- Unfamiliar environment used for observation
- Multiple-caregiver contexts more common in non-Western populations⁴

REFERENCES

1. Ainsworth, M. D., Blehar, M., Waters, E., & Wall, S. (1978). Patterns of attachment.
2. Bureau, J.F., Martin, J., Yurkowski, K., Schmiedel, S., Quan, J., Moss, E., ... Pallanca, D. (2017). Correlates of child-father and child-mother attachment in the preschool years. *Attachment & Human Development*, 19, 130-150.
3. Broesch, T., von Rueden, C., Yurkowski, K., Quinn, H., Alami, S., Helen, D. E., ... Bureau, J.-F. (submitted). Fatherhood and father-child attachment in two small-scale societies.
4. Mesman, J., Minter, T., & Angnged, A. (2016). Received sensitivity: Adapting Ainsworth's scale to capture sensitivity in a multiple-caregiver context. *Attachment & Human Development*, 18(2), 101-114.