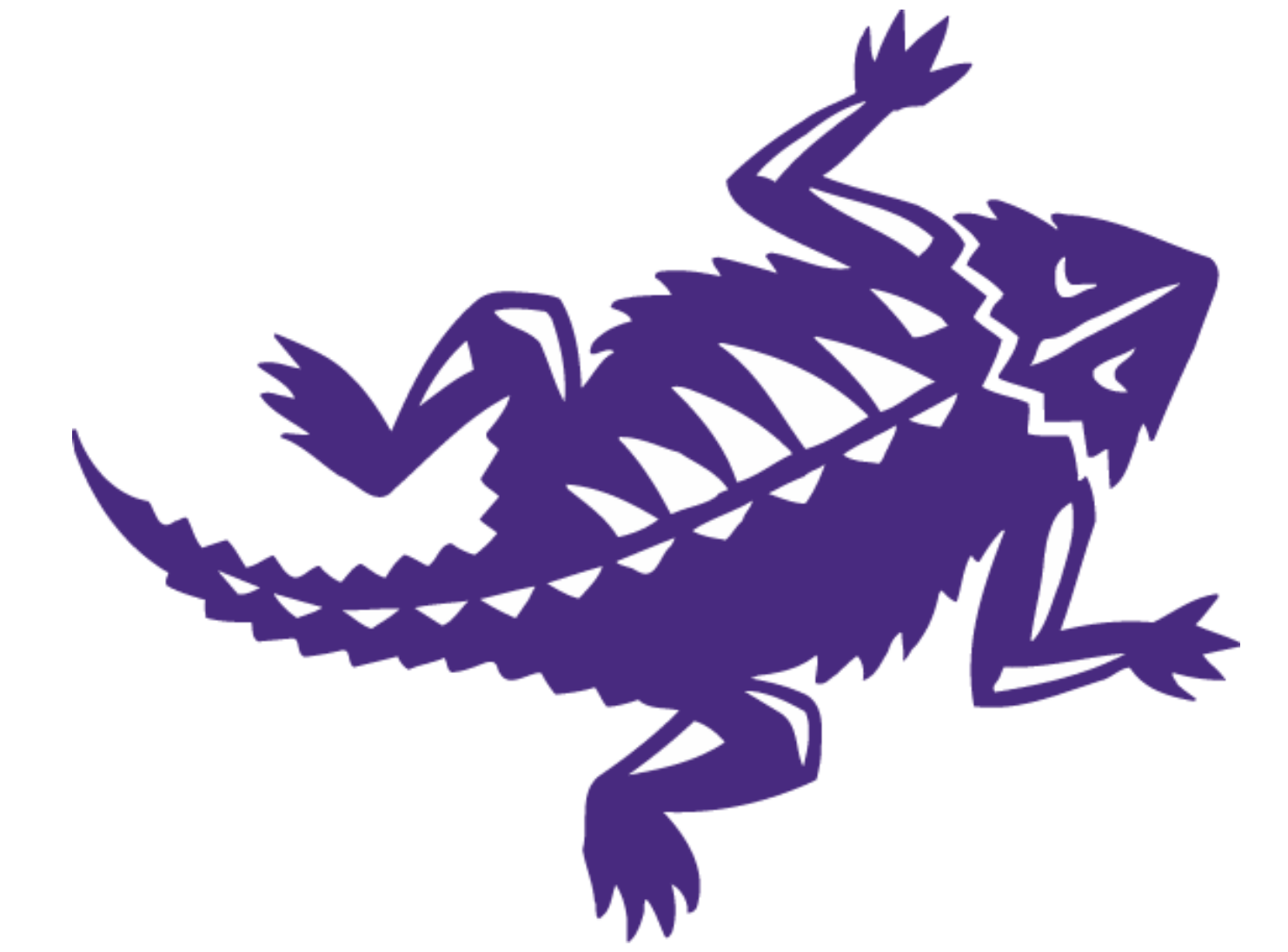




Predicting Student Psychological Entitlement: Comparing Helicopter Parenting and Parental Control

Julianne Hymel¹, Deborah Rafferty¹, Naomi Ekas¹, Chrystyna Kouros²

Texas Christian University¹ & Southern Methodist University²



Introduction

Some may believe that helicopter parenting and controlling parenting behaviors are the same, but parental control as a parenting style is distinct and separate from helicopter parenting (LeMoynes & Buchanan, 2011). Helicopter parenting is a widely known parenting style that is characterized by the tendency for parents to be over-involved in the lives of their children in attempts to shield children from experiencing pain, discomfort, or failure (Padilla-Walker & Nelson, 2012). Helicopter parenting behaviors have been linked to concerning child outcomes, including lowered student academic motivation and achievement (Schiffirin & Liss, 2017), decreased psychological well-being (LeMoynes & Buchanan, 2011), and increased feelings of depression and anxiety (Set, 2020). Parental control, alternatively, is characterized by complete control of the child's life while expecting compliance with parent demands without exception. Child outcomes as a result of parental control also differ such that these children tend to have greater academic achievement (Watabe & Hibbard, 2014).

The goal of the current study was to further explore how parents' helicopter parenting and controlling parenting behaviors differ in predicting their students' psychological entitlement. It was hypothesized that both helicopter parenting and controlling parenting behaviors would predict higher student psychological entitlement with helicopter parenting predicting a greater increase.

Method

Six hundred sixty-five undergraduate psychology students at two private universities were recruited through SONA. Participants answered a series of online questionnaires about their relationship with their parent, their parent's personality traits, and their helicopter parenting and controlling parenting behaviors. Additionally, participants answered questions about their own personality traits, academic achievement, and overall well-being.

Measures:

- Bifactor Model of Helicopter Parenting (Leubbe et al., 2018) measured parents' helicopter parenting behaviors
- Behavioral Control Items (Kerr & Stattin, 2000) assessed parents' controlling behaviors
- Psychological Entitlement Scale (Campbell et al., 2004) evaluated participants' own beliefs of being more deserving than their peers

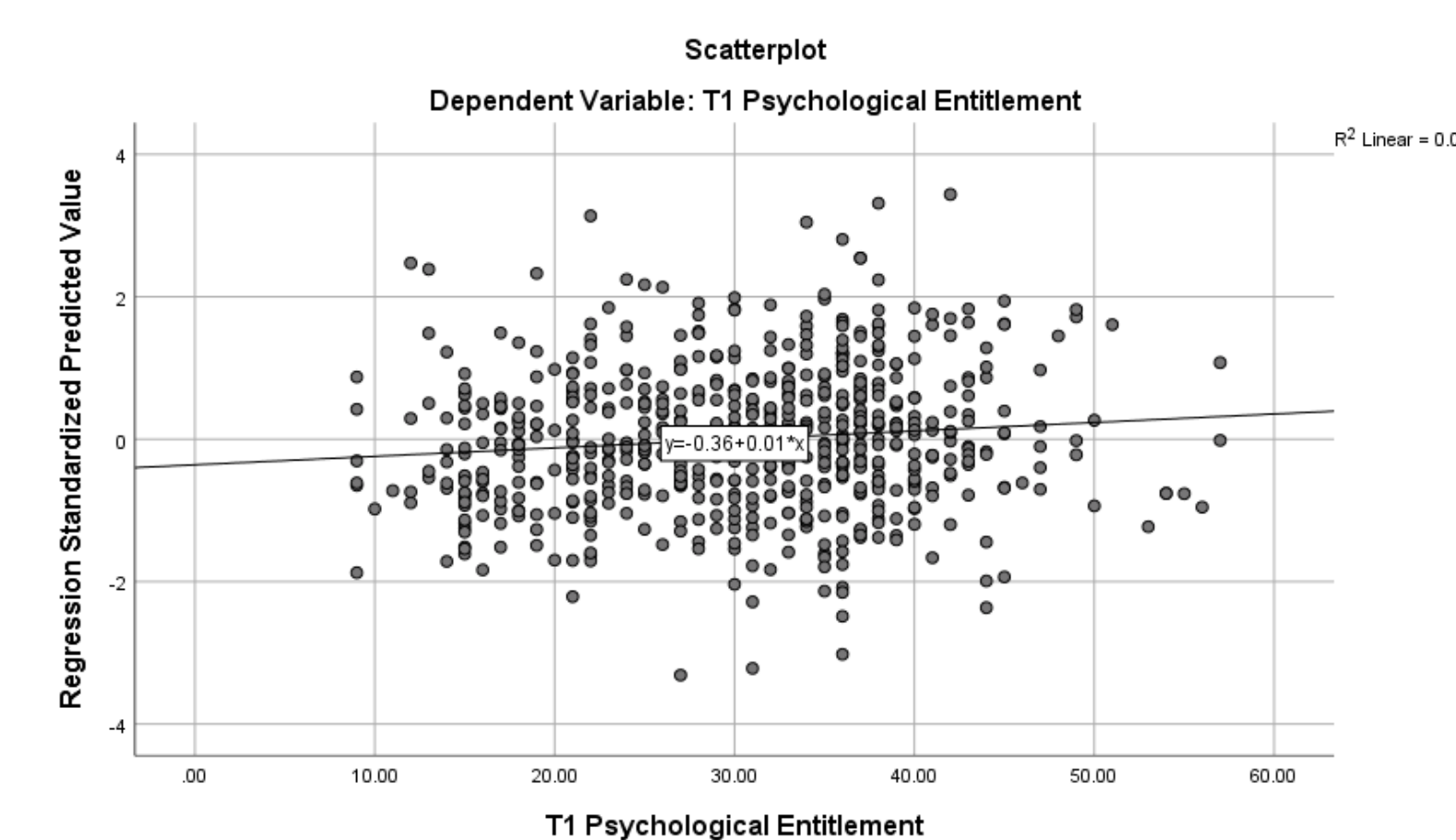
Results

- A simultaneous multiple regression was performed to explore the association between parents' helicopter parenting and parental control scores on their students' psychological entitlement scores.
- There were marginally to highly significant associations between both helicopter parenting and parental control measures with student psychological entitlement. (See Table 1 for inferential statistics.)

Table 1
Inferential Statistics for Helicopter Parenting and Parental Control as Predictors of Student Psychological Entitlement

	<i>b</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>R</i> ²
Helicopter Parenting	1.54	.57	2.70	.007	.01
Parental Control	-.10	.05	1.97	.052	.01

- Helicopter parenting behaviors predicted a significant increase in student psychological entitlement, $p = .01$. As helicopter parenting behaviors increased so did students' feelings of psychological entitlement.
- There was also a marginally significant association between parental control behaviors and student psychological entitlement, $p = .052$, where increases in parents' controlling behaviors predicted a decrease in students' psychological entitlement.



- This graph shows the relationship between helicopter parenting and parental control and predictors of the outcome, student psychological entitlement.
- Another variable, student gender, was entered into the model to assess whether student gender had an impact on psychological entitlement. The results showed that there was no significant association between student gender and psychological entitlement, $p = .646$.
- Overall, the results suggested that utilizing helicopter parenting techniques are related to more entitled students, whereas parental control strategies produce less entitled students.

Discussion

- Helicopter parenting and parental control are two distinct styles of parenting that result in differing effects on student psychological entitlement.
- One hypothesis was supported. Helicopter parenting behaviors did predict a greater increase in psychological entitlement compared to controlling parenting behaviors.
- The other hypothesis, however, was refuted. The results did not support claim that both parenting styles would predict increases in psychological entitlement as parental control predicted a moderately significant decrease in student entitlement.
- Future research should examine whether these results replicate among more racially diverse and younger samples.
- Having a richer understanding of the parental contributors to the development of child psychological entitlement over the span of childhood and adolescence will aid professionals in identifying and changing problematic parental behaviors to decrease these outcomes.

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