

To Feel Trusted:  
Correlates of adolescents beliefs  
that they are trusted by parents  
in two cultural contexts

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This presentation can be downloaded from <http://inside.bard.edu/academic/specialproj/darling/lab/ead.htm>

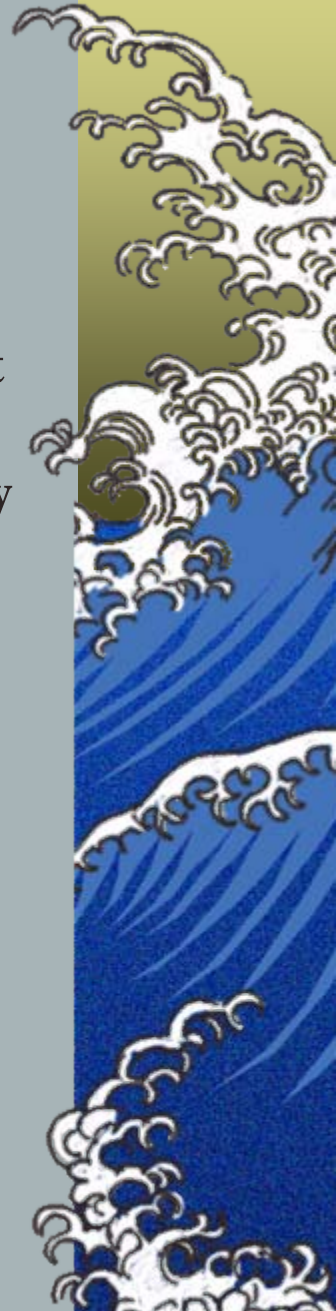
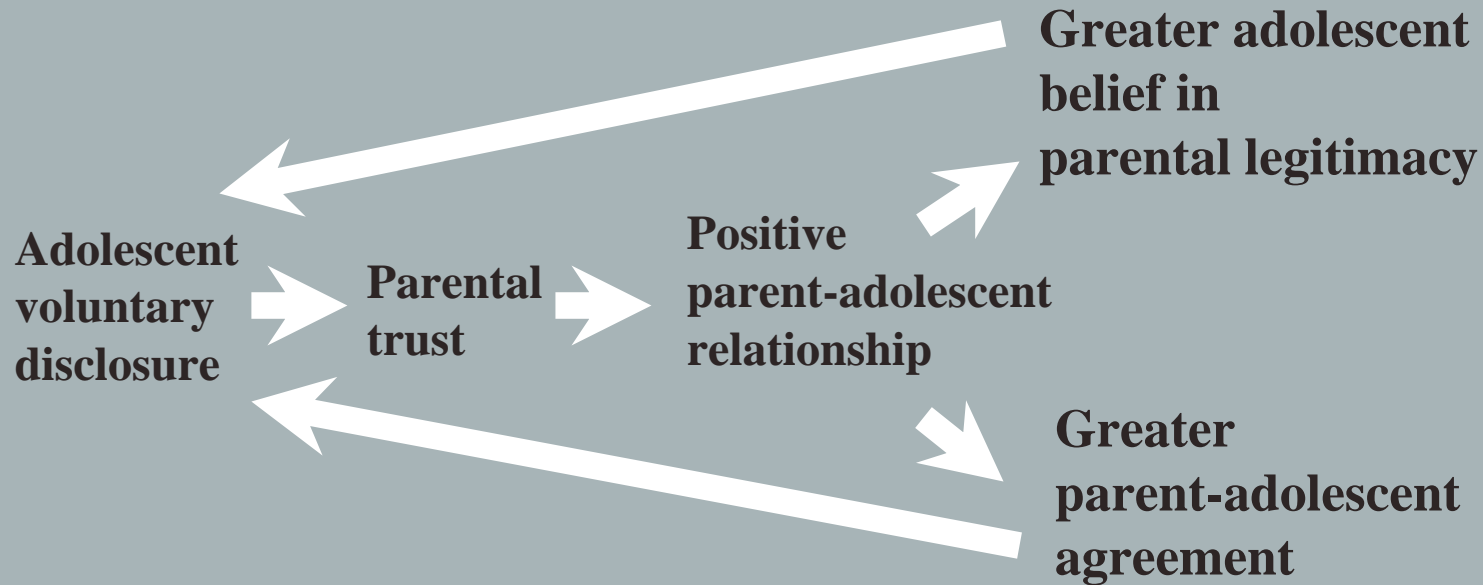


# Trust in the context of parental monitoring and strategic disclosure

- ▶ “Parental monitoring” is a key element of effective parenting and an important predictor of positive adolescent development
- ▶ Stattin & Kerr (2000): parental *knowledge* is primarily the product of adolescent disclosure rather than parent efforts to monitor
- ▶ Voluntary disclosure by adolescents results in greater parental trust, which facilitates more positive parent-adolescent relationships (Kerr, Stattin and Trost, 1999)

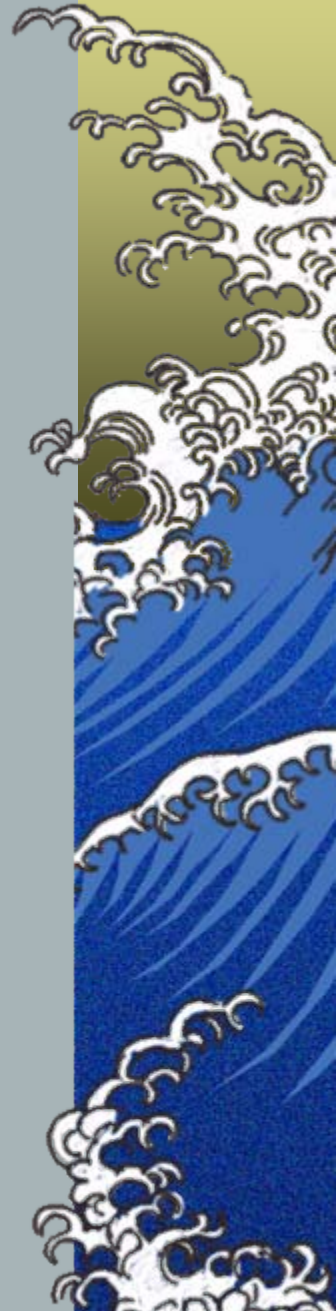


# Predictors of Trust and Disclosure



# What is Trust?

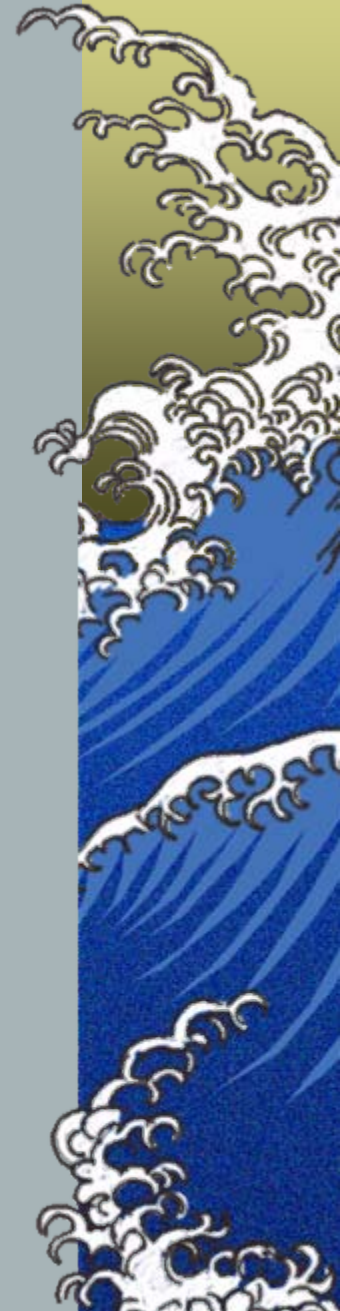
- ▶ reliability entailing the fulfilment of word or promise (Rotter, 1980)
- ▶ emotional trust entailing the reliance on others to refrain from causing emotional harm (Johnson-George & Swap, 1982; Rotenberg, 1986)
- ▶ honesty entailing telling the truth (Giffin, 1967).





# What is trust in the context of adolescents' belief that they are *trusted by parents*:

- ▶ reliability entailing the fulfilment of word or promise (Rotter, 1980)
  - ▶ They trust me to follow rules when they're not around
  - ▶ They trust me to act the way they want when they're not around
- ▶ emotional trust entailing the reliance on others to refrain from causing emotional harm (Johnson-George & Swap, 1982; Rotenberg, 1986)
  - ▶ They trust me to use good judgment
  - ▶ They trust me not to do anything really dumb
- ▶ honesty entailing telling the truth (Giffin, 1967).
  - ▶ They trust me to tell them the truth



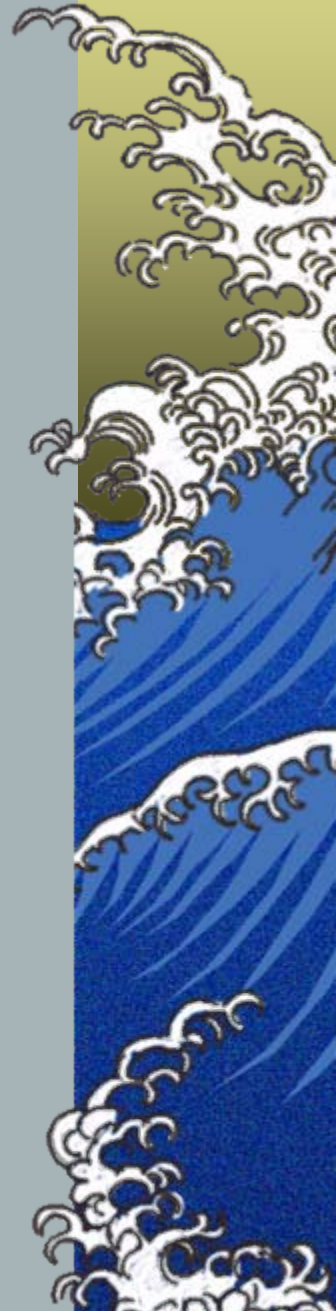
# What predicts adolescents' belief that they are trusted?

- ▶ Parents have granted behavioral autonomy
  - ▶ Relatively few rules
  - ▶ Low parental monitoring
- ▶ They are *trustworthy*
  - ▶ Agreement with parents' standards
  - ▶ Obedience to parental rules
  - ▶ Voluntary disclosure of disagreement
  - ▶ Don't lie
  - ▶ Parental knowledge



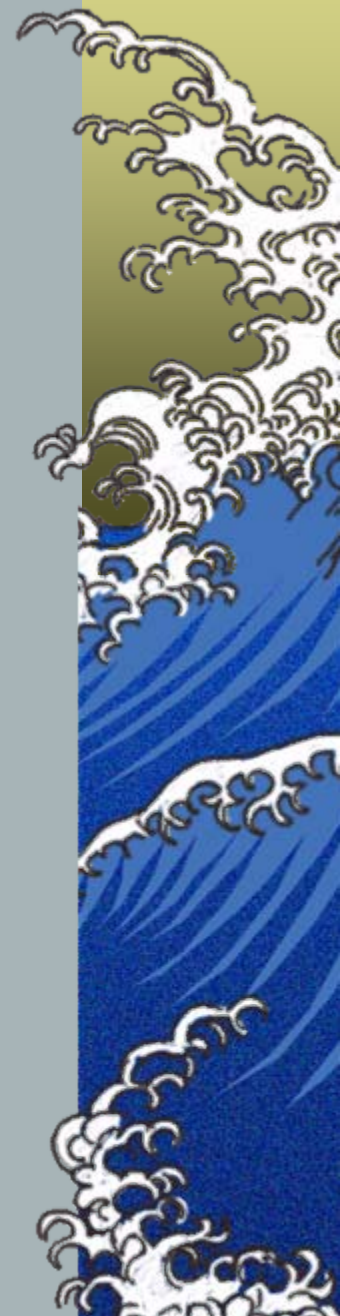
# Method: Sample

- ▶ Chile and the United States differ in the emphasis placed on familialism, parental obedience, and parental control
- ▶ Youth recruited from both public and private schools in major cities (Santiago and Miami)
  - ▶ Similar levels of urbanicity
  - ▶ Common Spanish heritage
    - ▶ 384 Chilean youths (13-19)
    - ▶ 204 US youths (15-20)



# Method: Protocol

- ▶ Self-report surveys group administered in school settings
- ▶ Surveys were administered in Spanish (Santiago), and both Spanish and English (Miami), with Spanish instruments translated idiomatically for both contexts



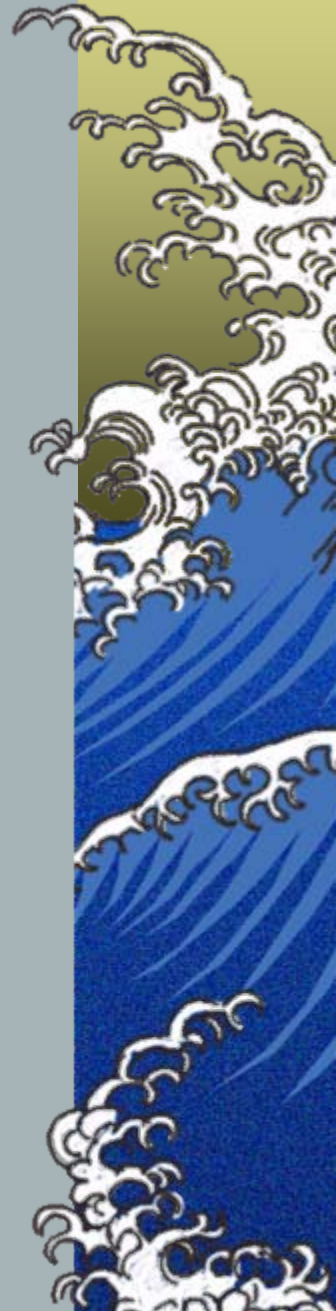


# Method: Measures

TRUST (rated 1-5)

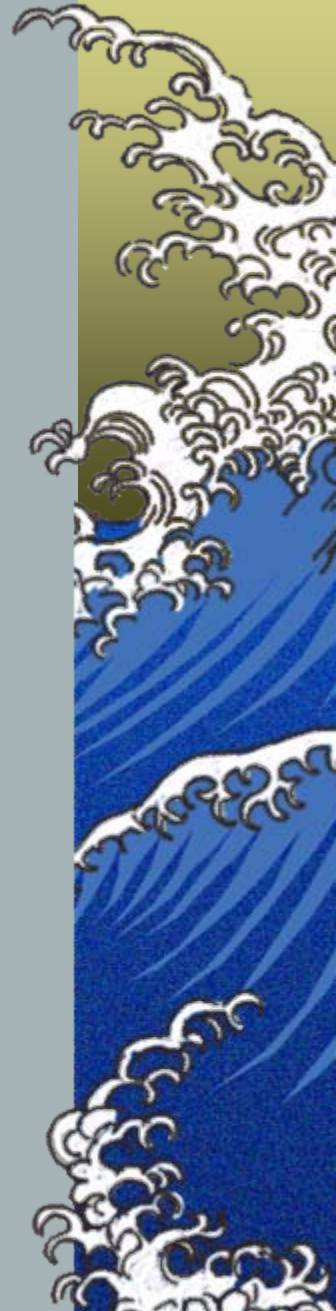
How much does this parent TRUST YOU  
to . . .

- ▶ Use good judgment
- ▶ Not do anything really dumb
- ▶ Follow rules when they're not around
- ▶ Act the way they want when they're not around
- ▶ Tell them the truth



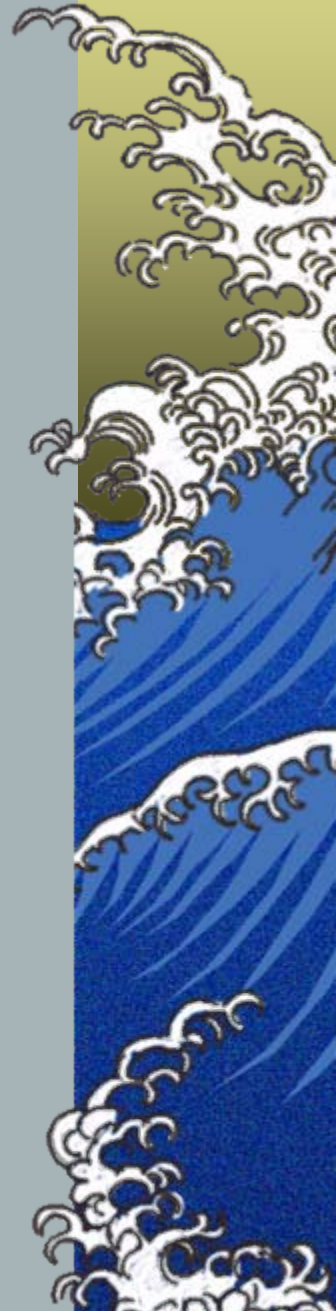
# Method: Measures

- ▶ Demographic information:
  - ▶ Country
  - ▶ Age (recoded 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 17-18, 19-20)
- ▶ Parental monitoring
  - ▶ How much does your mother/father TRY TO KNOW
    - ▶ Who your friends are
    - ▶ Where you go at night
    - ▶ How you spend your money
    - ▶ What you do with your free time
    - ▶ Where you are most afternoons after school
    - ▶ How well you're doing in school



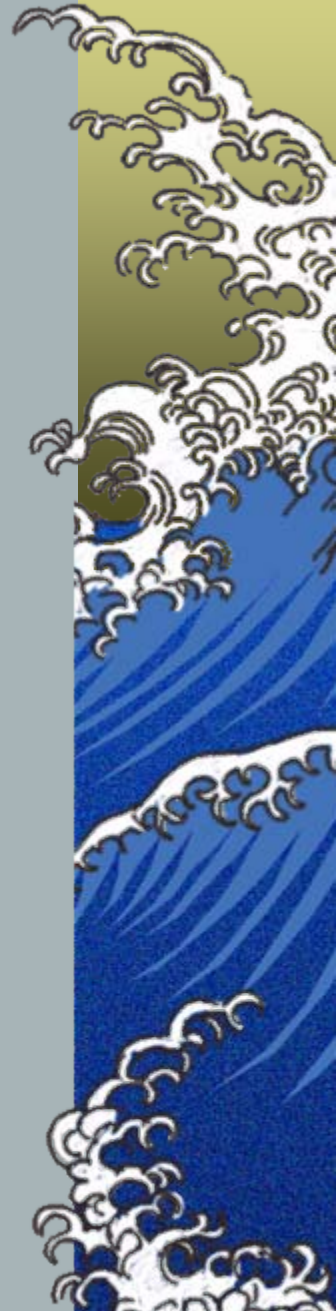
# Method: Measures

- ▶ Strategic Disclosure Questionnaire
  - ▶ Adolescents answered 9 questions about each of 20 issues
  - ▶ Issues were chosen to reflect areas which past research and focus groups in each country suggest parents commonly try to control:
    - ▶ Examples:
      - ▶ How you dress
      - ▶ How well you do in school
      - ▶ How much time you spend on the telephone
      - ▶ Drinking
      - ▶ Where you go with your friends

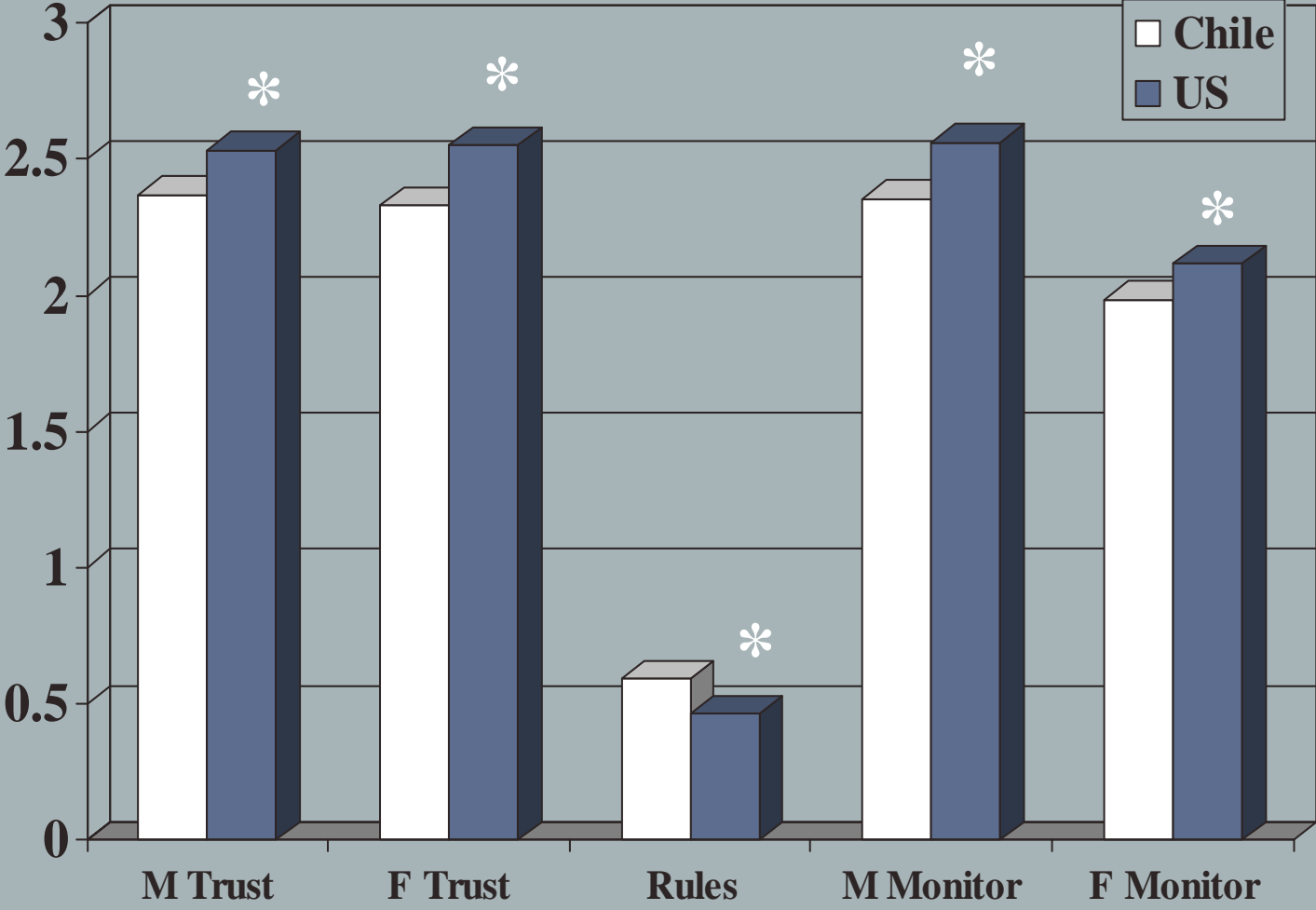


# Mean Score Across Items Calculated For . . .

- ▶ Rules: Are there rules about this issue? (Y/N)
- ▶ Knowledge: How much do your parents KNOW about this part of your life? (1-3)
- ▶ Agree: How much do you AGREE with your parents about this? (1-5)
- ▶ Obedience: How often do you OBEY your parents about this? (1-4)
- ▶ Lie: What do you do when you disagree?
  - ▶ Tell All/Avoid/Tell Part/Lie (count)

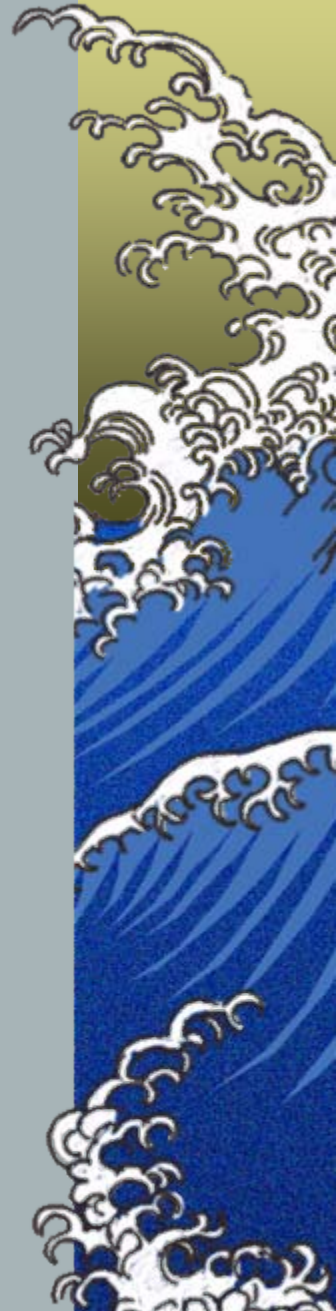
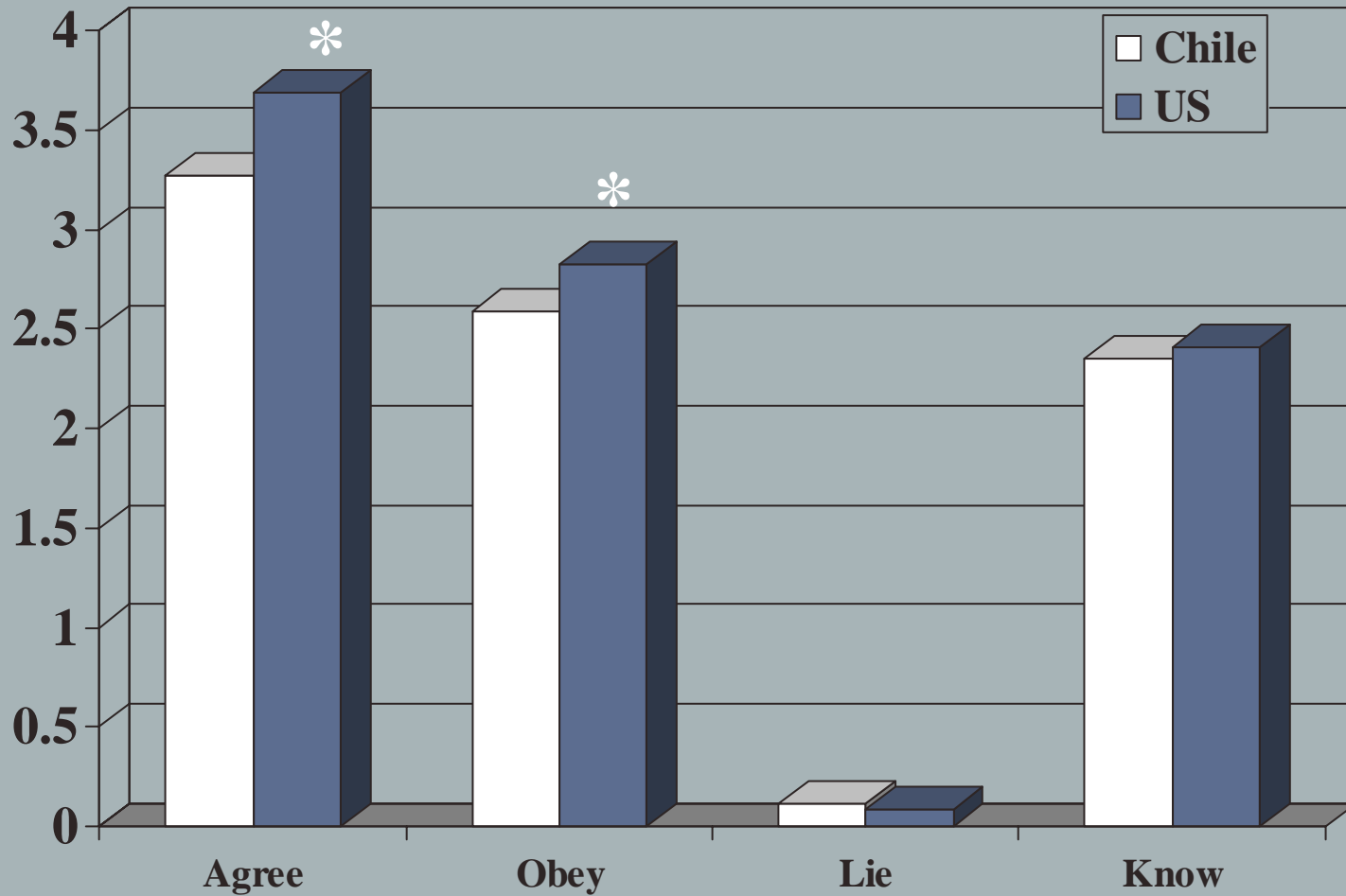


# Descriptives: Chile and the US





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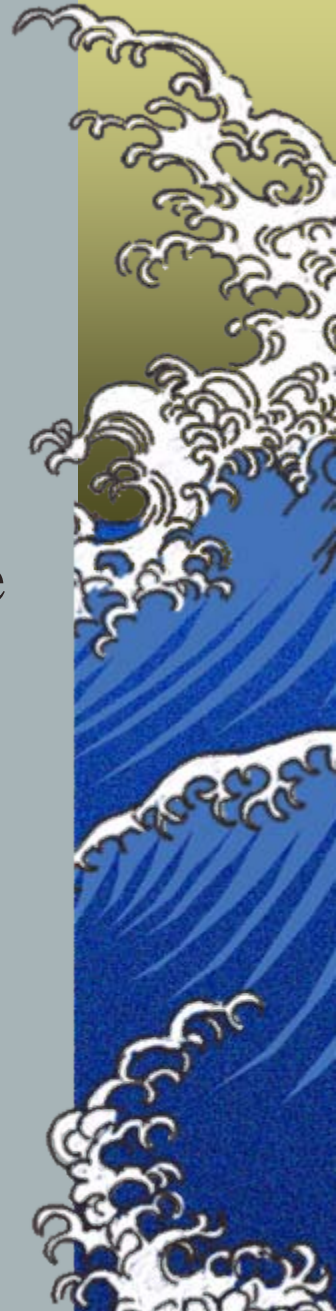
# What predicts adolescents' belief that they are trusted?

	Mothers	Fathers
<b>Constant</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.58</b>
<i>US</i>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.05</b>
<i>Age</i>	<b>0.03*</b>	<b>0.04**</b>
<i>Agreement</i>	<b>0.09***</b>	<b>0.10***</b>
<i>Obedience</i>	<b>0.12***</b>	<b>0.10***</b>
<i>Parental Knowledge</i>	<b>0.33***</b>	<b>0.17**</b>
<i>Lying</i>	<b>-0.75***</b>	<b>-0.63***</b>
<i>Rules</i>	<b>-0.06</b>	<b>-0.03</b>
<i>Monitor</i>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.16**</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>.58</b>	<b>.54</b>



# Conclusions

- ▶ In the context of the parent-adolescent relationship, feelings of being trusted reflect parental granting of responsible autonomy
  - ▶ They trust me to act in accordance to what I've been taught and not to hurt them by hurting myself
- ▶ Model suggests that feelings of being trusted are predicted by:
  - ▶ Exhibiting responsible autonomy
  - ▶ NOT predicted by parental behavior
- ▶ Difference between trust reported by US and Chilean youth is mediated by youth behavior



# All good things go together

- ▶ Past research (Cumsille, Darling, Peña-Alampay, 2002) had concluded that adolescents' perception of parent authoritativeness predicts both adolescent agreement and adolescent disclosure
- ▶ These results build on those findings to suggest that agreement, disclosure (low lying and high parental knowledge), and obedience predict adolescents' feeling that they are trusted

