

The Intergenerational Transmission of Aggressive Personality

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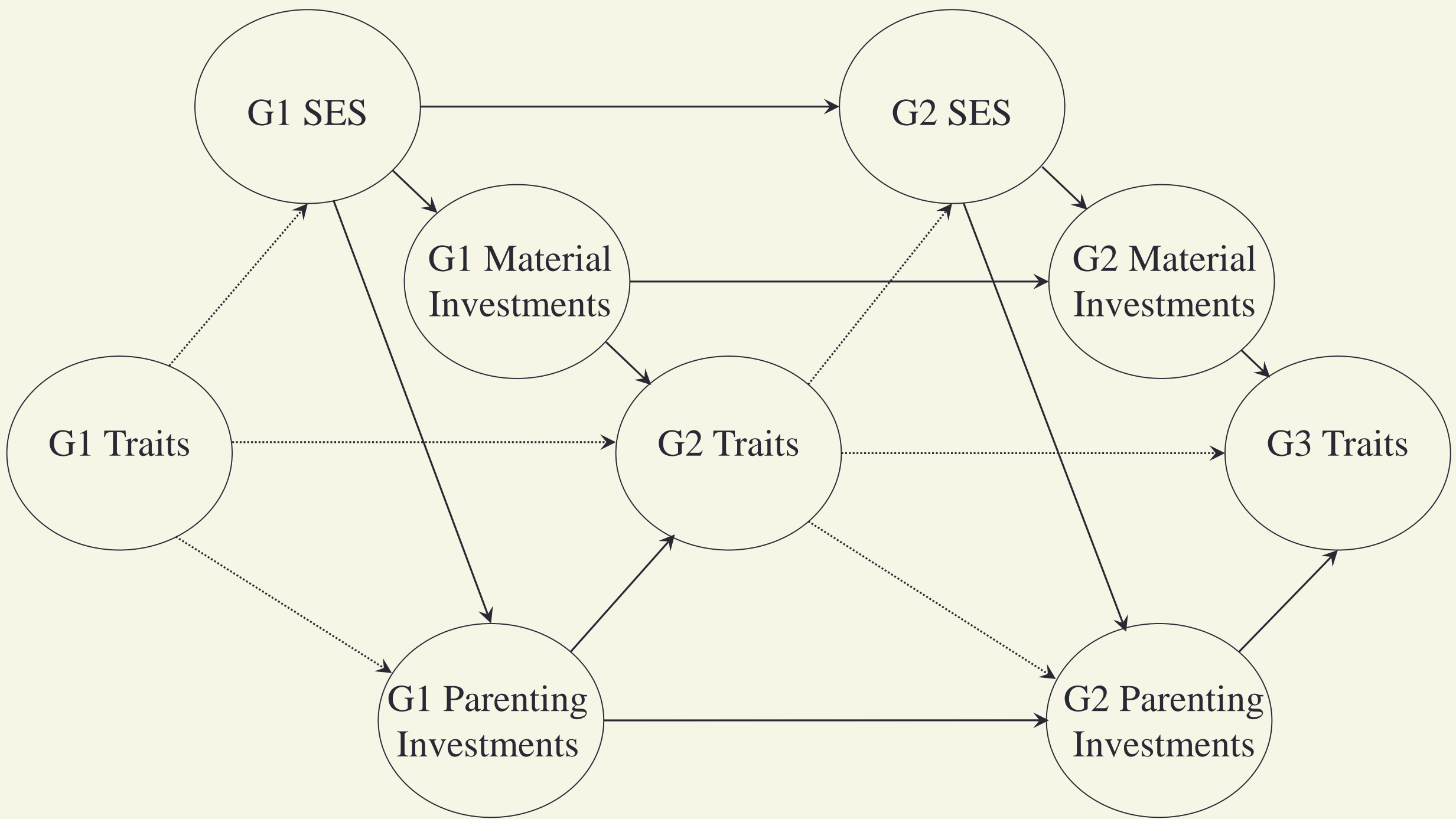
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The Interactionist Model of Socioeconomic (SES) Influence

(Conger, Conger, & Martin, 2010; Conger & Donnellan, 2007; Martin et al., 2010)

- Social causation perspective
 - Socioeconomic status influences families and individuals
 - Economic disadvantage has negative consequences
- Social selection perspective
 - Individual differences in personal characteristics explain the relationship between SES and family processes and individual outcomes
 - Traits and dispositions of individuals influence their social circumstance and behaviors
- Interactionist Model – both interact over in a transactional process

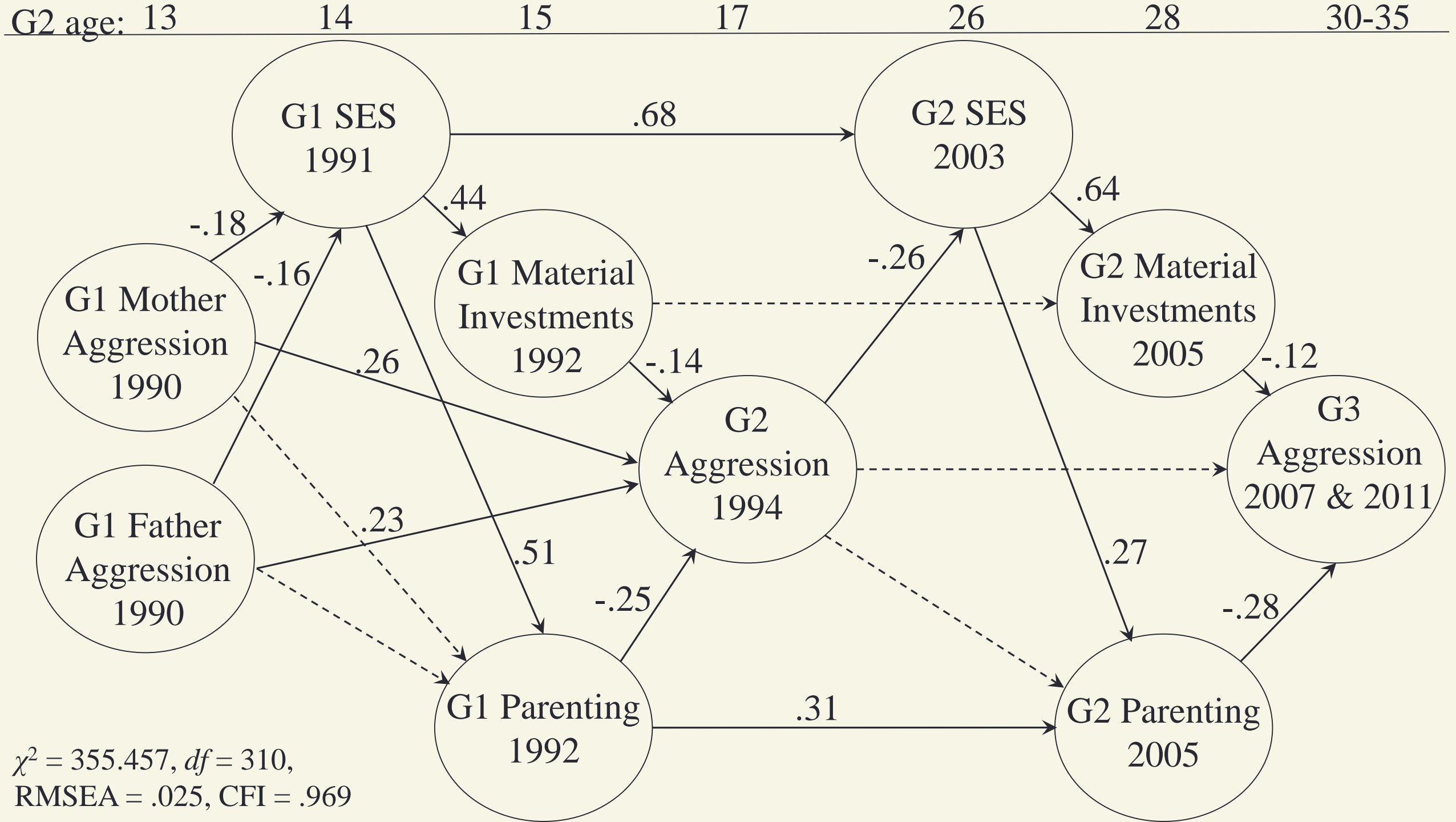


FAMILY TRANSITIONS PROJECT (FTP)

- Prospective, longitudinal, intergenerational study of youth and their families originally from rural areas of Iowa
- Data collection: 1989 through 2011
 - (Target Youth: 12 to 35 years old)
- Data collected on three generations
 - Target youth (now adult; G2)
 - Parents (G1)
 - Target's children (G3)
- 450 G2 targets and over 2,000 participants overall
 - 90% retention of the G2 targets through 2011

Measures

- Aggressive Personality
 - G1 Mother and Father 1990: NEO Hostility sub-factor (self report)
 - G2 Target 1994: MPQ Aggression (G1 parents report)
 - G3 Child 2007 & 2010: IPQ Aggression (G2 parent report)
- Socioeconomic Status (SES)
 - G1 (1991) and G2 (2003) Education and Family Income
- Material Investments
 - G1 Investments in the home environment, youth activities, aid with talents/skills and during the transition to adulthood (1992)
 - G2 Investments in home environment, health insurance, and desirable neighborhood (2005)
- Parenting Investments
 - G1 (1992) and G2 (2005) Observed measures of parents' warmth, discipline, and hostility (reversed)



Conclusions

- Findings are generally consistent with the Interactionist Model
- Suggest reciprocal processes between individual and environment influence:
 - the development of aggressive personality
 - socioeconomic advantages over time and across generations

Discussion Questions

- What factors might moderate the association between aggressive personality and later socioeconomic success?
- What additional processes might help to disrupt the intergenerational transmission of aggressive personality?