

Effects of Parents' Unemployment on a Child's Personality and Emotions

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Research Question: Methodological Artefact

Negative effects on socio-emotional behaviour of child caused by the mother's job loss (Peter & Spieß 2013)

vs.

Positive effects on conscientiousness and neuroticism of children whose father lost his job (Angelini et al. 2015)

Are previous results driven by methodological artefacts (LDV, dependent variable)?

If not, what are the mechanisms behind the effects?

Theoretical Model and Results

Lazarus (1976): Stressful event → personality is open to changes

Lazarus (2006): Internalization of job loss → negative emotions (anxiety, fear, sadness)
Darity & Goldsmith 1996: Emotions conferrable to social periphery

➤ **Job loss of a parent → negative changes on the child's personality & emotions**

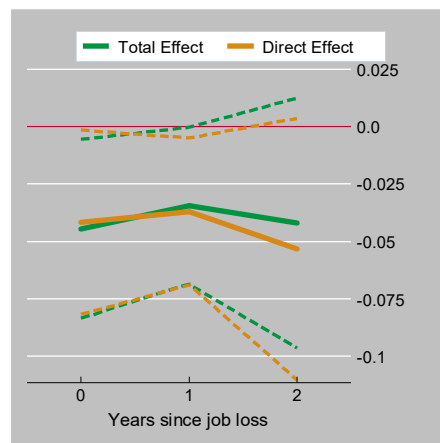
Mechanisms:

➤ **Mediators:** Parents' life satisfaction, parents' health, financial resources, time spent with child

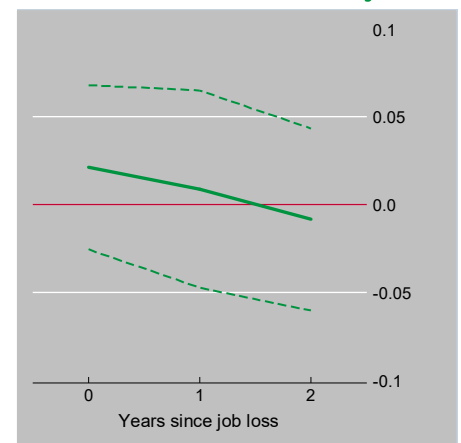
Dynamic model:

➤ **Negative effects of the parental job loss disappear after some time**

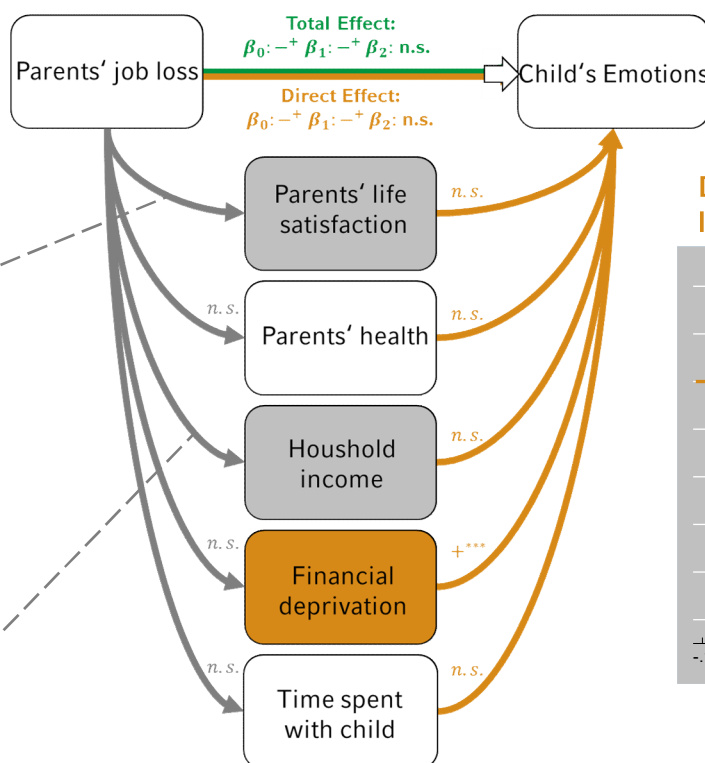
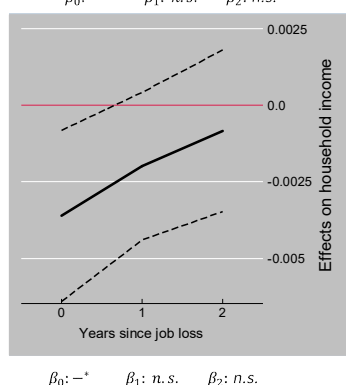
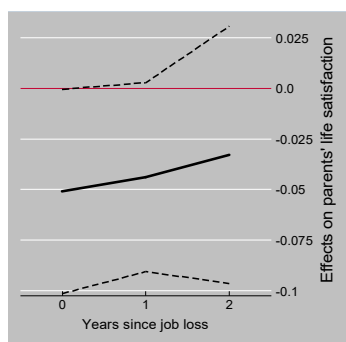
Effects on Emotions



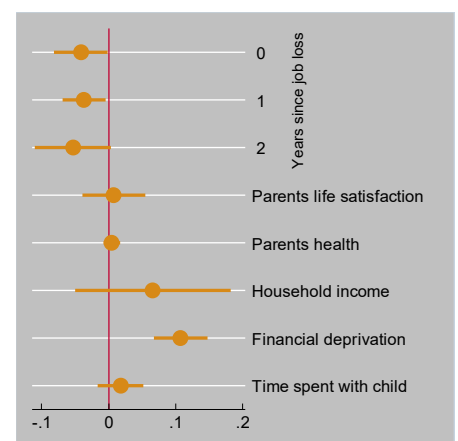
Effects on Personality



Effects of Parents' job loss on selected Mediators:



Direct Effect of Parents' job loss on Child's Emotions:



Data and Methods

- **Pairfam** (Release 7.0): Waves 2-7
- Fixed-effects regressions (**total effect**, **direct effect** and effects of job loss on mediators)
- **Dependent variables:** Personality and Emotions of the child (perspective of the child), [0,1]-standardized
- Dynamic models using **event time dummy variables** (Reference: all years before parent lost job)

Conclusion

- Why is there **no effect on children's personality**?
Different methodological approach than Peter & Spieß (2013) & Angelini et al. (2015)

Open Questions

- Why is there **an effect on children's emotions**?
What explains the effect?
Missing mechanisms?