

A review of the SDT's studies about the antecedents of parental psychological control

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“Within the theoretical framework of the Self-determination theory, parental psychological control has been widely recognized as a need-thwarting behaviour with abundant studies that have shown the deleterious effects that this practice could have in the life cycle. At the same time, there is a growing number of studies that are exploring the antecedents of parental psychological control that could help to explain the reasons behind the use of this strategy. However, the fragmentation of these studies does not allow us to grasp the overall contribution of research on this emerging theme. Furthermore, SDT can offer itself as a theoretical framework within which synthesizing and integrating, in a reasoned manner, the contributions of the antecedents of psychological control. For this reason, the purpose of this presentation is to synthesize the findings from previous studies that have used SDT as the theoretical framework to study the antecedents of parental psychological control providing help to extend and organize the knowledge on this topic reversing the perspective from children to parents. In line with the traditional categorization of the antecedents of parenting, the contents of these studies are organized into three broad categories: parental characteristics (or pressure from within); child characteristics (pressure from below); family social environment characteristics (pressure from above). Results of this synthesis have shown that a wealth number of antecedents have been explored in the SDT literature for each category and underline the need to continue this line of study to facilitate the definition of future prevention projects for parents based on the principles of SDT.”