

Direct and Interactive Roles of Parental Civic Socialization Practices and Autonomy Support in Predicting Children and Adolescents' Civic Engagement

Laura Wray-Lake, *University of Rochester*

Amy K. Syvertsen, *Search Institute*

Aaron Metzger, *West Virginia University*



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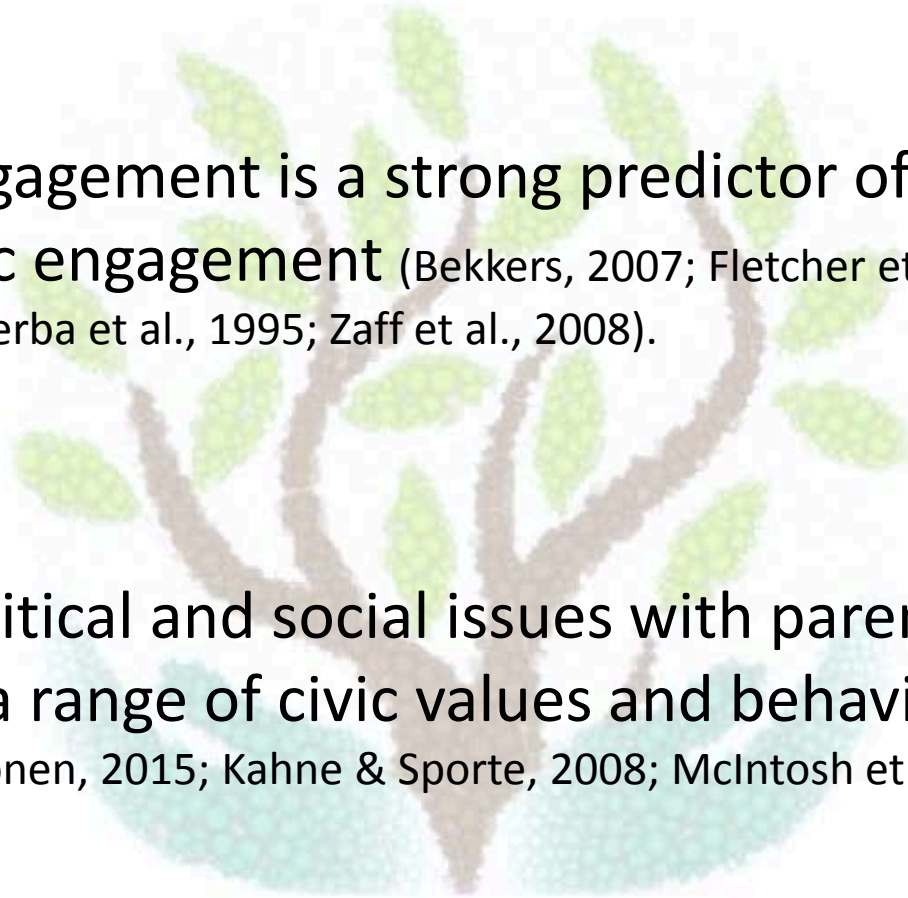
Parental Socialization Strategies for Civic Engagement

Civic Modeling

- Parents' civic engagement is a strong predictor of adolescents' civic engagement (Bekkers, 2007; Fletcher et al., 2000; van Goethem et al., 2014; Verba et al., 1995; Zaff et al., 2008).

Civic Discussion

- Discussion of political and social issues with parents is associated with a range of civic values and behaviors (Boyd et al., 2011; Hooghe & Boonen, 2015; Kahne & Sporte, 2008; McIntosh et al., 2007).

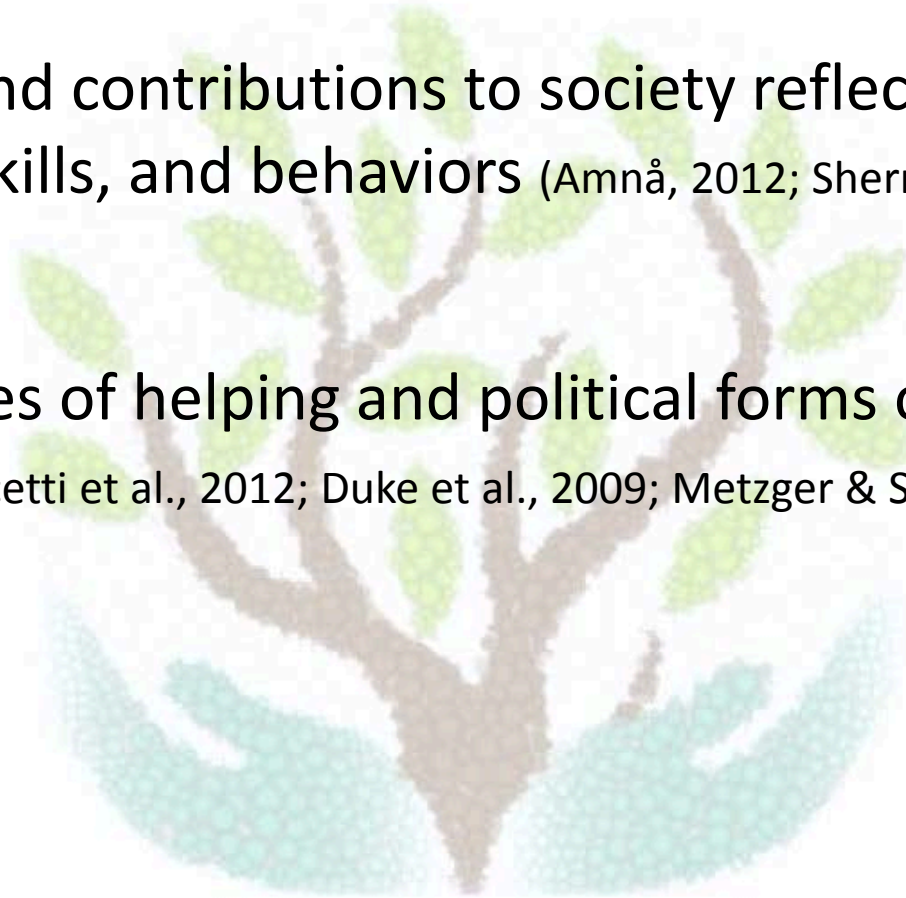


The Role of Autonomy Support

- According to **Self Determination Theory (SDT)**, parental support of autonomy, competence, and relatedness facilitates youth's intrinsic values and prosocial behaviors (Deci & Ryan, 2000; Gagné, 2003; Grolnic et al., 1997; Kasser et al., 1995).
- Parental warmth and support linked to adolescents' civic engagement (Bebiroglu et al., 2013; Lenzi et al., 2014).
- Parental autonomy support may make socialization strategies more effective (Collins & Laursen, 2004; Darling & Steinberg, 1993; Grolnic et al., 1997; Grusec & Goodnow, 1994).

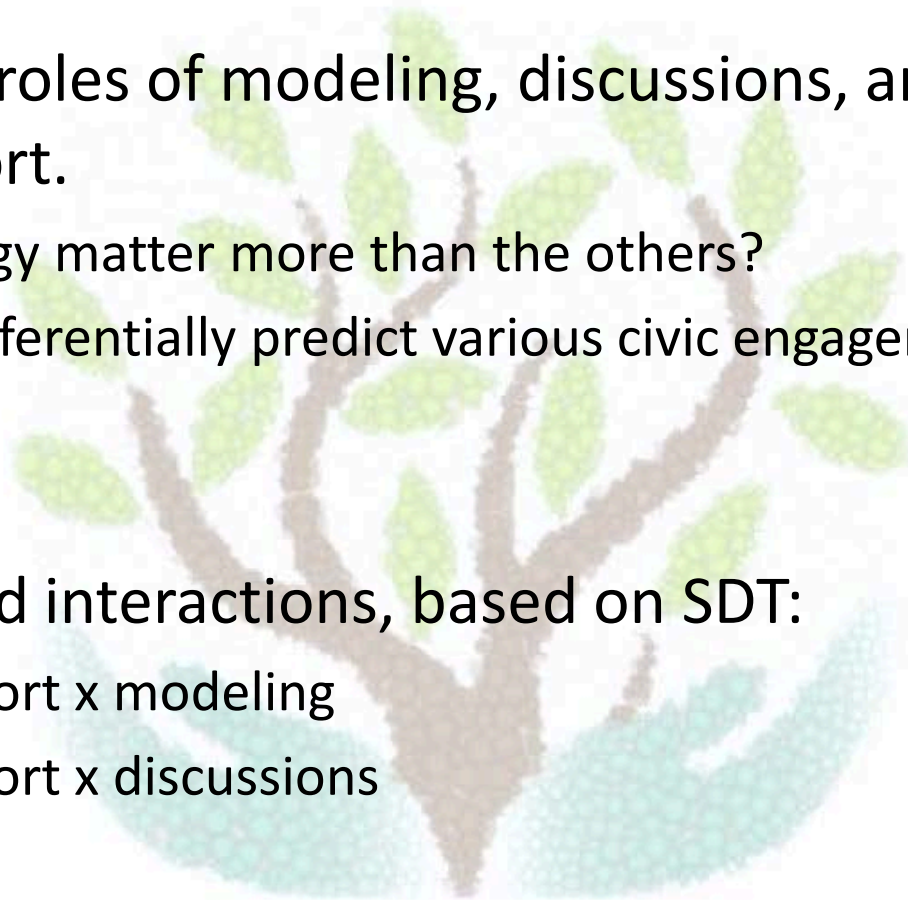
Civic Engagement: A Multidimensional View

- Commitments and contributions to society reflected in values, beliefs, skills, and behaviors (Amnå, 2012; Sherrod & Lauckhardt, 2009).
- Distinct correlates of helping and political forms of civic engagement (Crocetti et al., 2012; Duke et al., 2009; Metzger & Smetana, 2009).



Study Goals

- Examine unique roles of modeling, discussions, and autonomy support.
 - Does one strategy matter more than the others?
 - Do strategies differentially predict various civic engagement indicators?
- Test hypothesized interactions, based on SDT:
 - Autonomy support x modeling
 - Autonomy support x discussions



Sample

- 2467 youth (55.7% female)
- Planned missing (3-form) design
- $M_{\text{age}} = 13.35$
 $SD = 2.66$
- Grades 4 – 12
 - 512 Elementary (grades 4-5)
 - 813 Middle (grades 6-8)
 - 1135 High (grades 9-12)

Race/Ethnicity (Check all that apply)	
White	50.5%
Hispanic	30.1%
Black	9.5%
Other	7.7%
Asian	6.7%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	3.7%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	1.7%

Measures: Civic Engagement

Social Responsibility Values “It’s important to consider the needs of others.”

4 items, $\alpha = .69$; 1 (not at all) to 5 (extremely)

Political Beliefs “People should keep up with current events.”

2 items, $\alpha = .62$; 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)

Volunteering

1 item; 1 (0 hours) to 6 (5+ hours)

Informal Helping “I helped a neighbor for no pay.”

6 items, $\alpha = .73$, 1 (never) to 5 (very often)

Environmental Behavior “I limit how much paper I use.”

3 items, $\alpha = .71$; 1 (never) to 5 (very often)

Voting Intentions

1 item; 1 (I wouldn’t do this) to 5 (I will or have already done this)

News Consumption

1 item; 1 (never) to 5 (very often)

Civic Skills “Create a plan to address a problem.”

6 items, $\alpha = .88$; 1 (I definitely can’t) to 5 (I definitely can)

Measures: Socialization & Support

Modeling of Civic Behavior (4 items, $\alpha = .74$)

My parents volunteer in our community.

My parents vote in elections.

My parents follow news about politics and current events.

My parents are active in improving our neighborhood.

Civic Discussions (3 items, $\alpha = .80$)

In my family, we talk about politics and current events.

In my family, we talk about times when people are treated unfairly.

In my family, we talk about problems facing our community.

Autonomy Support (6 items, $\alpha = .90$)

My parents respect my opinions.

My parents give me positive feedback when I do something well.

My parents always tell me I can succeed at my goals.

I feel close and connected to my parents.

My parents accept me as I am.

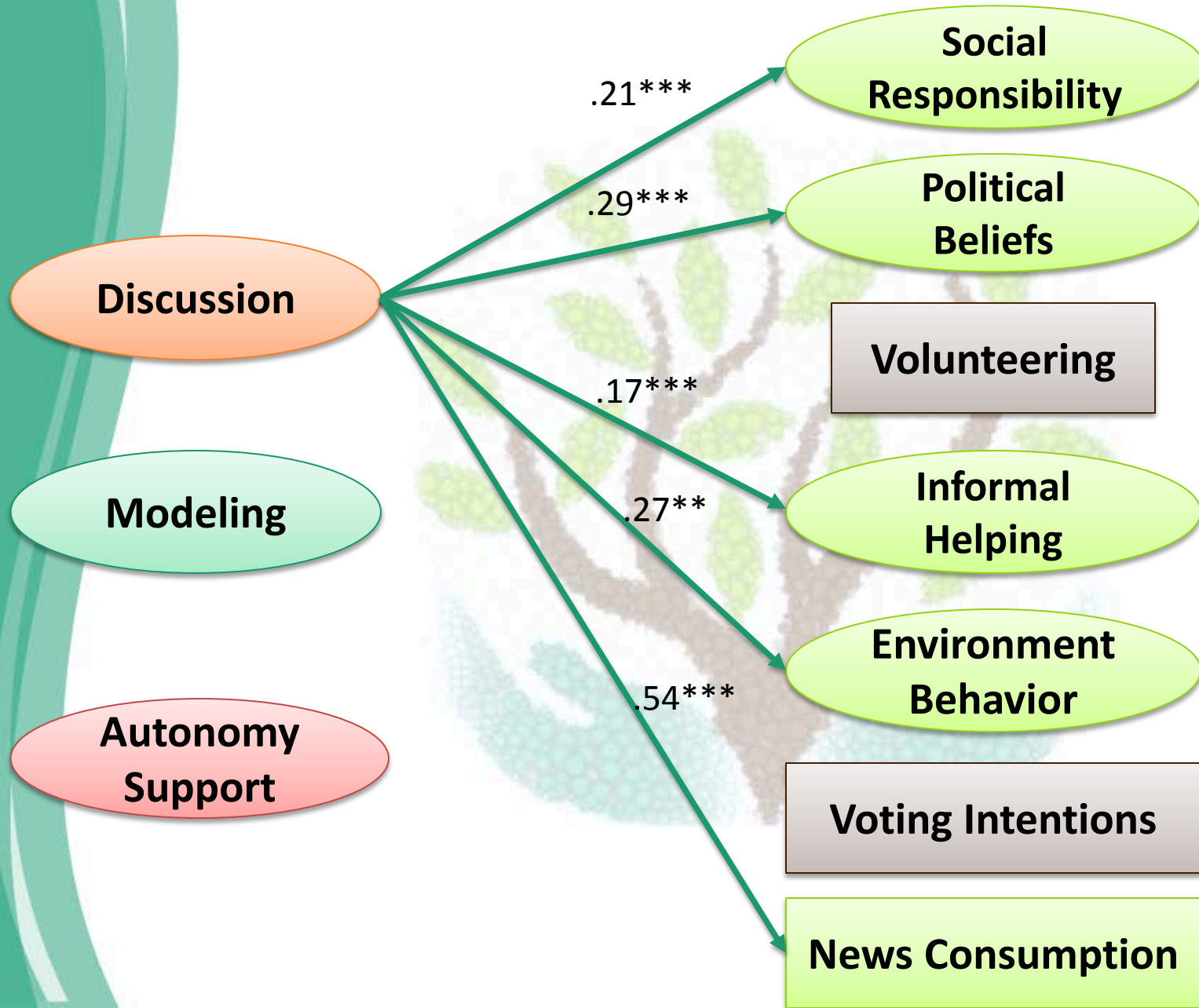
I trust my parents.

Response Options: 1(*strongly disagree*) to 5 (*strongly agree*)

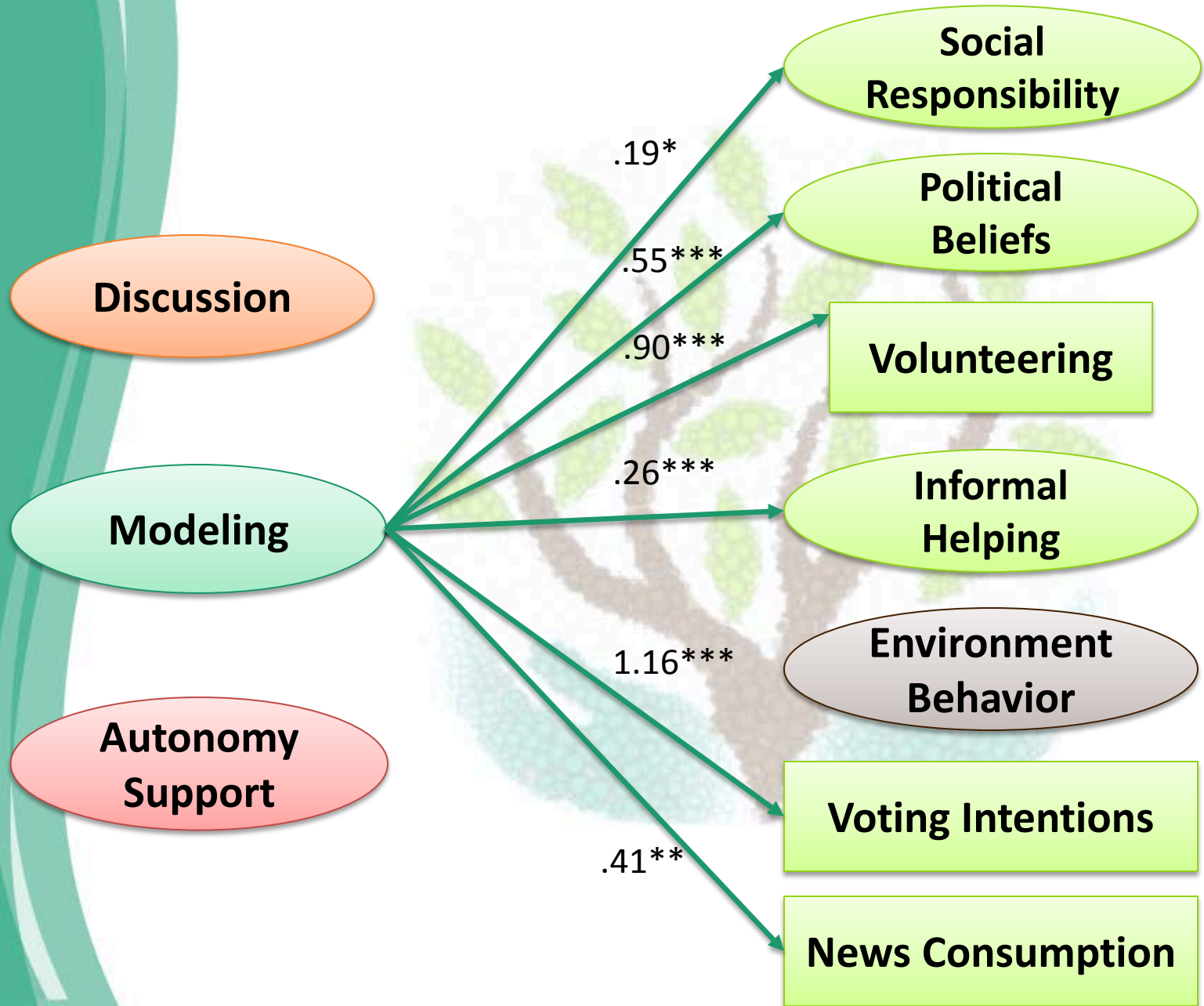
Analytic Plan

- Structural equation modeling using *Mplus* 7.11
 - FIML with principle components as auxiliary variables to handle missing data (Little et al., 2008)
1. Full Measurement Model
 2. Structural Model – Main Effects
 3. Latent Variable Interaction Model 1: *Autonomy x Modeling*
 4. Latent Variable Interaction Model 2: *Autonomy x Discussions*
- Control Variables: age, gender, ethnicity (Black, Hispanic, Other), parental education, perceived financial security

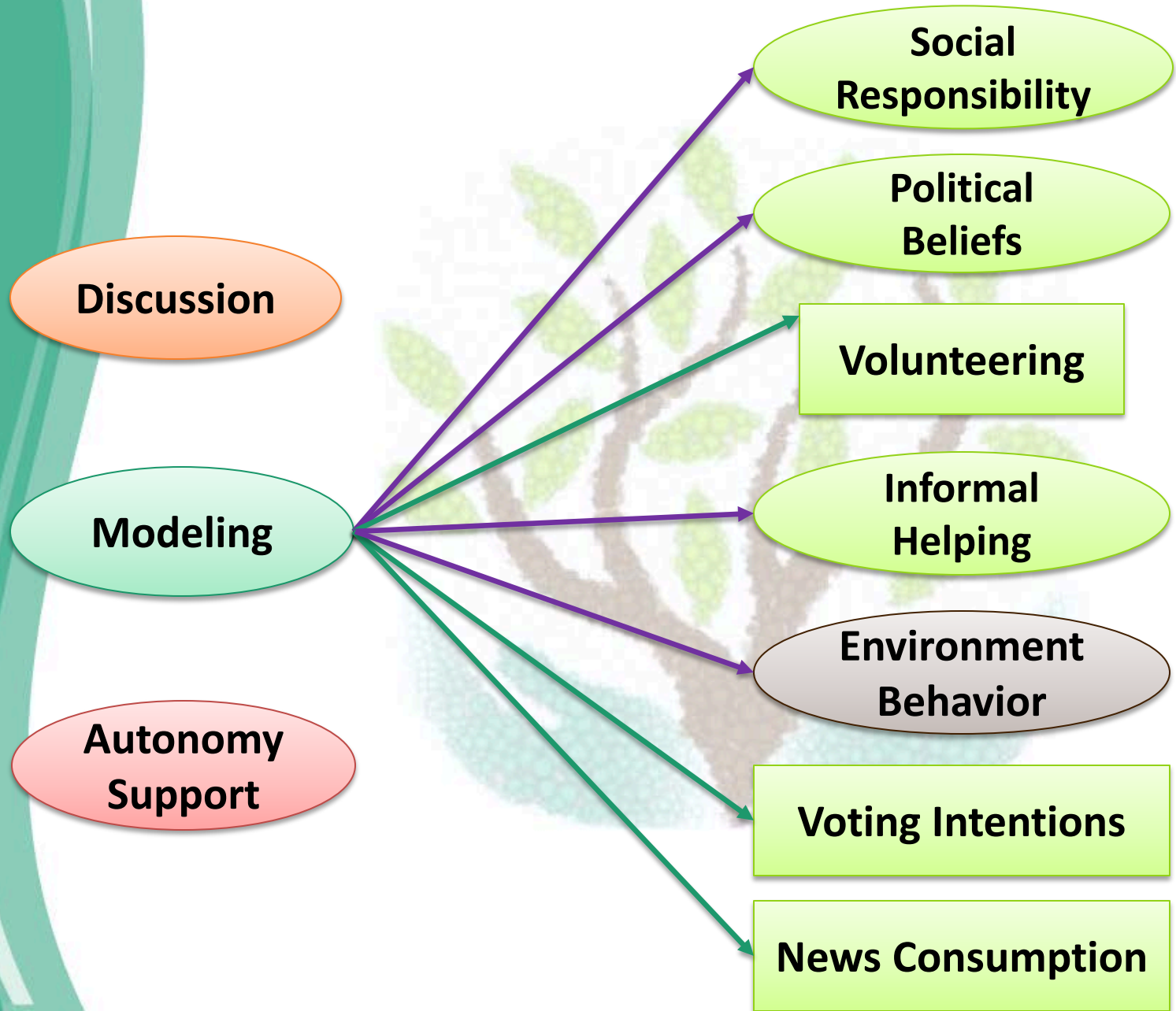
Results: Main Effects



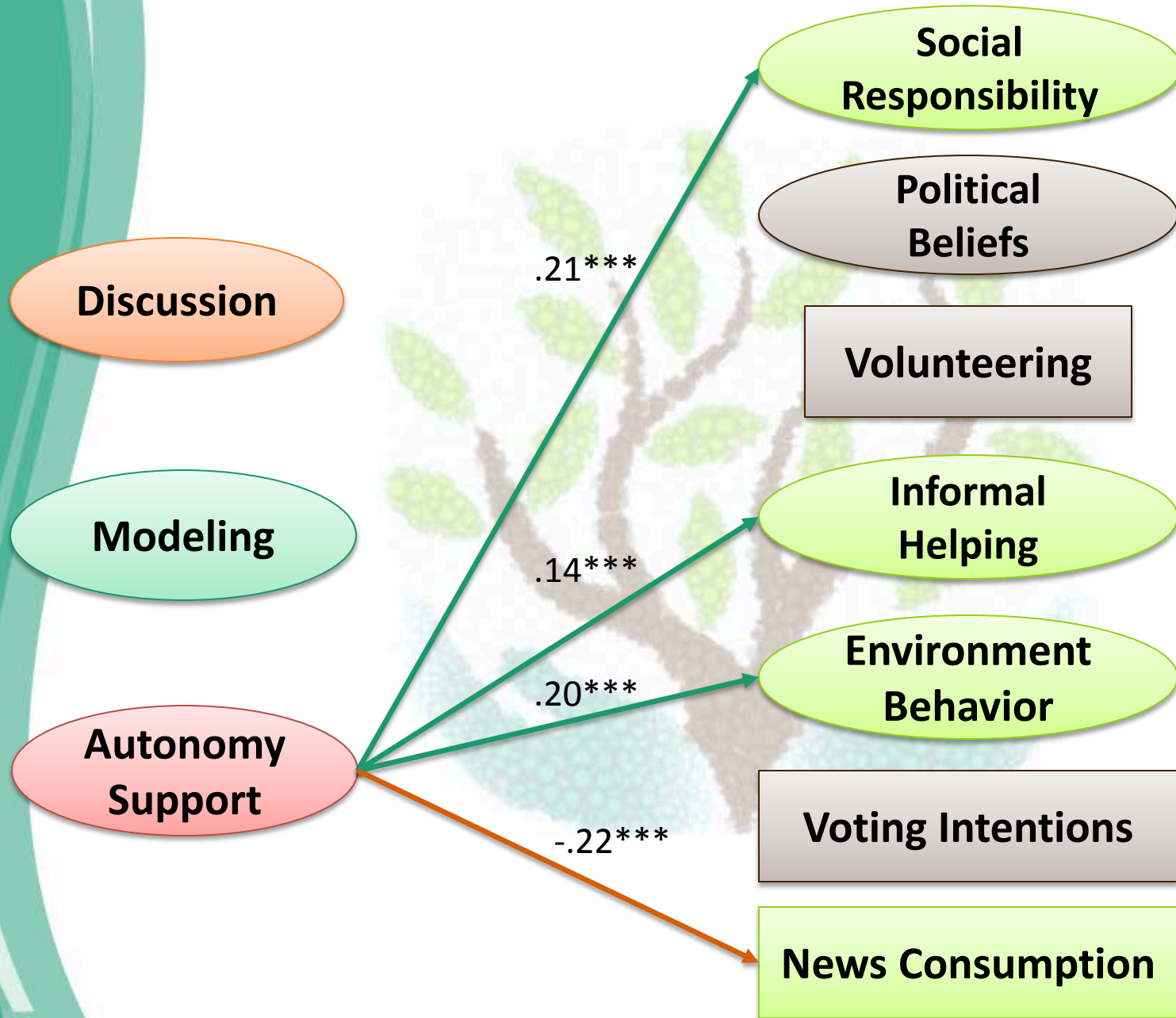
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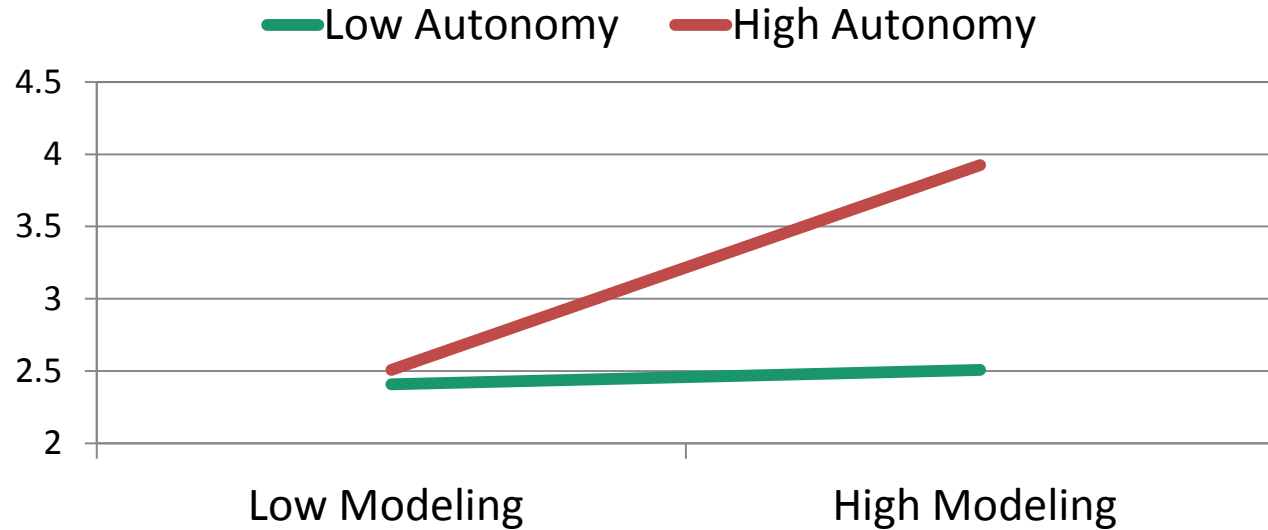


Results: Main Effects

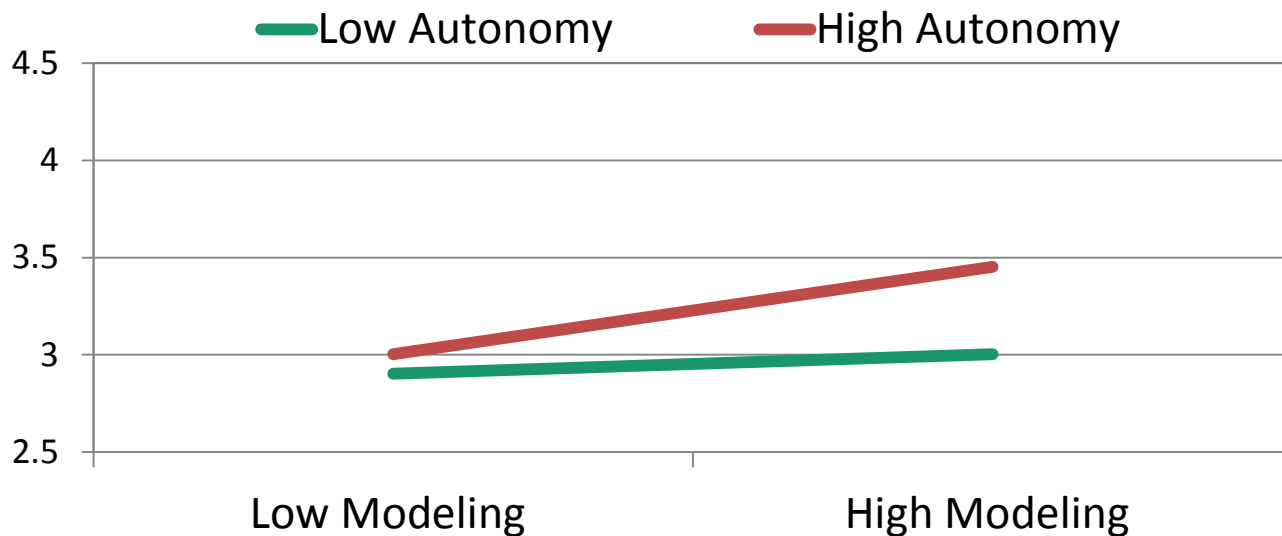


Results: Interactions

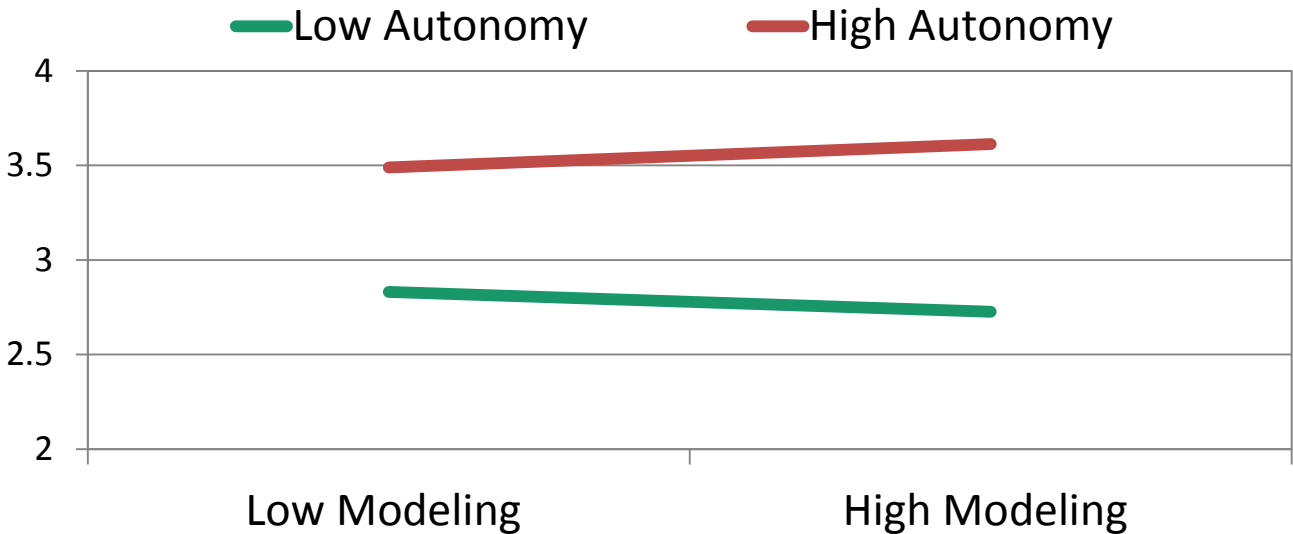
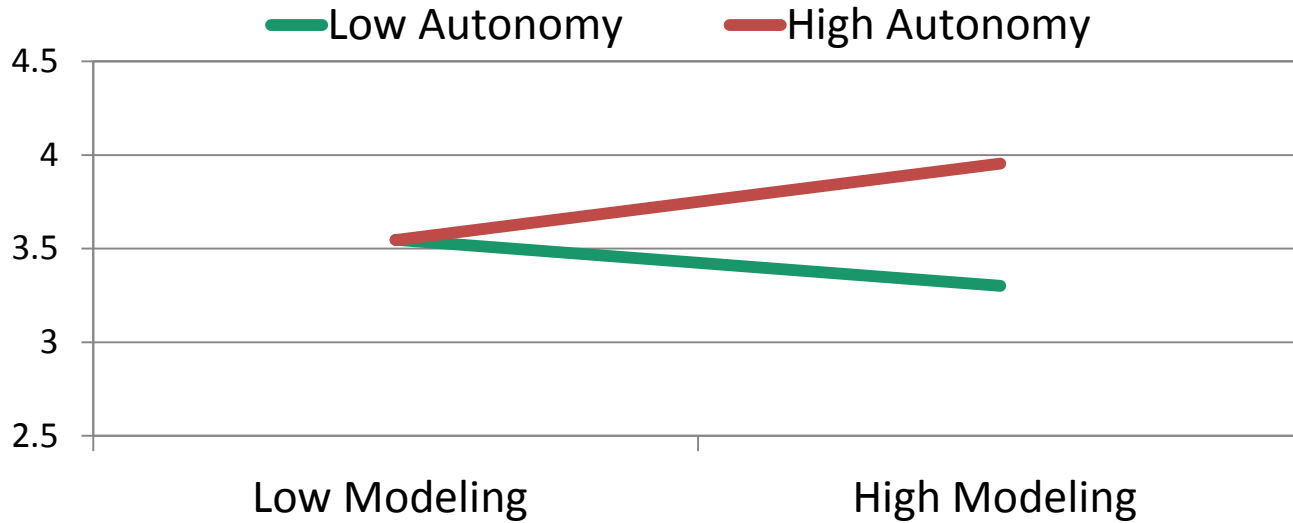
Environmental Behavior



Informal Helping



Results: Interactions



**Social
Responsibility
Values**

**Political
Beliefs**

Discussion

- Civic modeling and discussions as uniquely important socialization strategies.
- Autonomy support encourages more inherently intrinsic values and behaviors, but appears less relevant for political engagement.
- Moderation findings support self-determination theory, suggesting that socialization efforts are more effective in the context of autonomy support.





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SUPPORTING SCIENCE ~ INVESTING IN THE BIG QUESTIONS

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