DEVELOPMENTAL ENVIRONMENTS, COGNITIONS, AND SOCIAL COMPARISON REACTIONS: 
THE IMPACT OF CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES ON THOUGHTS AND BELIEFS

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BACKGROUND

- According to life history theory, energy resources are differentially allocated to maximize survival within a specific environment.
- Poor developmental environments promote fast life history strategies.
- Fast life history strategies have been proposed to promote dysfunctional behaviors and psychopathologies.
- Early maladaptive schemas are fixed dysfunctional cognitions maintained over the lifespan.
- Many dysfunctional cognitions involve perceptual distortions of one's self relative to others.
- The absence of positive schemas is associated with psychopathologies.

(1) Are social comparison reactions associated with developmental environments and dysfunctional cognitions?
(2) Do schemas explain unique variance in cognitive distortions and socioemotional comparisons?
(3) Are these variables causally linked?

METHODS

Participants
- Participants were 140 M, 105 F (age: M = 38.7, SD = 12.6), recruited from the crowdfunding platform Turk Prime (n = 245)

Measures
Developmental Environments
- Retrospective Family Unpredictability Scale (RFUS)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)
- Mini K: 20-item measure of behavioral and cognitive indicators of life history strategies

Cognitions
- Young Schema Questionnaire S3 (YSQ): 90-item measure of maladaptive schemas
- Positive Schema Questionnaire (PSQ)
- Cognitive Distortions Scale (CDS)

Social Comparison Reactions
- Socioemotional Comparisons Scale (SECS)
- Dispositional Envy Scale (DES)

Structural Equation Modeling (Stata/IC 15.1 for Mac)
- Model estimation using maximum likelihood with missing values

CORRELATIONS

Figure 1. Correlational Relationships Between SECS and DES, developmental environments, life history strategies, and cognitions.

Table 1. Predictive power of positive and negative cognitions on SECS scores

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<td>.01</td>
<td>.74</td>
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<td>.09</td>
<td>.03</td>
<td>.16</td>
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MULTIPLE REGRESSION

Developmental environments and maladaptive schemas explain a significant and large amount of variance in social comparison reactions.

Table 2. Predictive power of maladaptive schemas on CDS scores

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<th>B</th>
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<tr>
<td>.40</td>
<td>.11</td>
<td>.23</td>
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<td>1.67</td>
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Figure 2. Path analysis model of developmental environments on cognitive distortions

PATH ANALYSIS

Poorer development environments predict propensity for maladaptive schemas and cognitive distortions.

REFERENCES AND NOTES
1. Departments of Psychology, University of Regina
2. Hille levene Schools of Business, University of Regina
5. Ellis et al. (2012) Developmental Psychology

** = p < .05, *** = p < .001; SECS = socioemotional comparison scale; DES = dispositional envy scale; YSQ = young schema questionnaire; CDS = cognitive distortions scale; ACE = adverse childhood experiences; RFUS = retrospective family unpredictability scale; Mini K = Mini K life history strategies; PSQ = positive schema questionnaire.