



LUDWIG-  
MAXIMILIANS-  
UNIVERSITÄT  
MÜNCHEN

Carolin Thönnissen<sup>1</sup>, Eugenia Scabini<sup>2</sup> & Sabine Walper<sup>1</sup>

# YOUNG ADULTS' RELATIONSHIP TO PARENTS IN CROSS-NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE:

**A FOCUS ON INSTRUMENTAL SUPPORT**



<sup>1</sup> LMU Munich  
<sup>2</sup> UCSC Milan



## 1.) Theory

- Individuation
- Support

## 2.) Results

- Sample
- Results

## 3.) Discussion

- Cross-national differences
- Differences regarding gender of parent

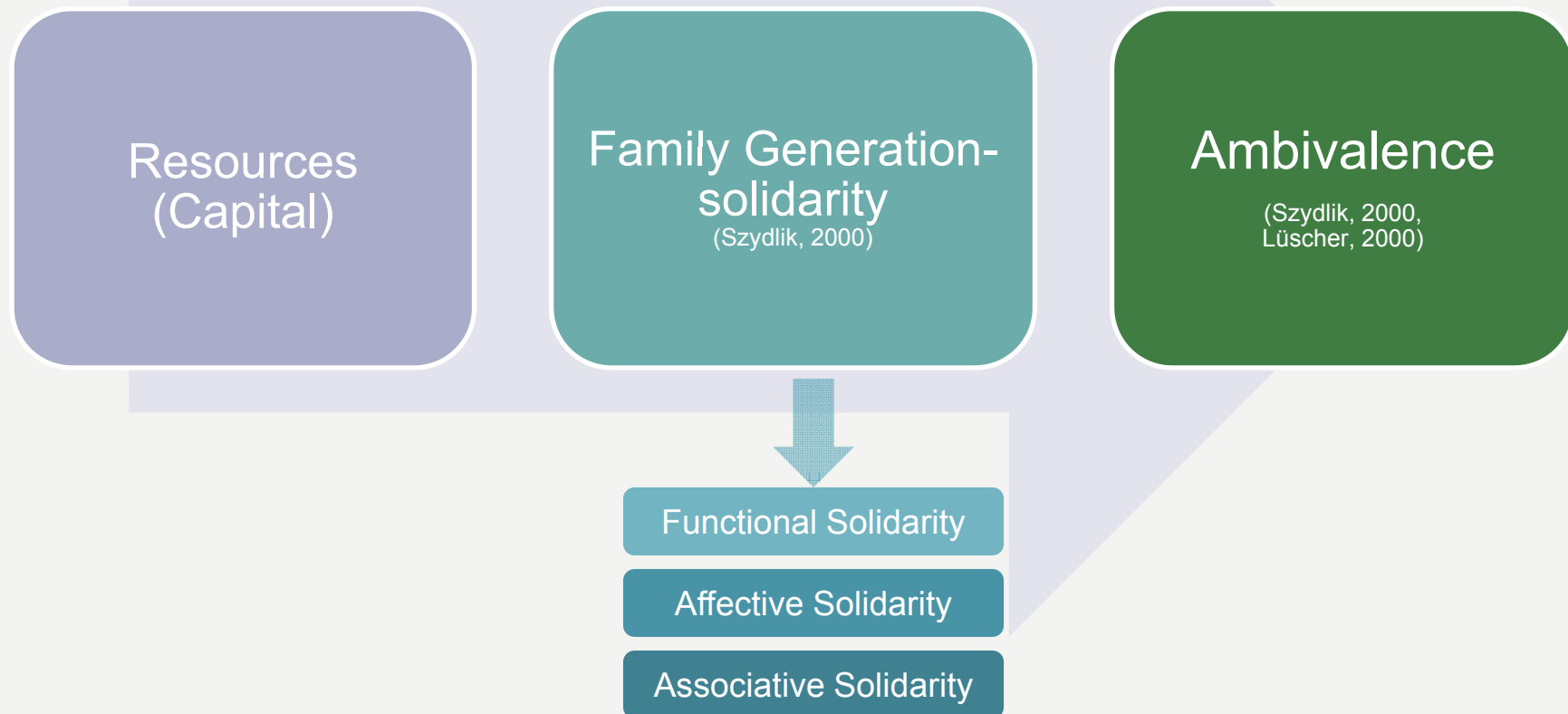


## Individuation:

- ✓ Individuation is a developmental task in adolescence as well as in early adulthood (e.g. Becker-Stoll et al., 2000)
- ✓ Development of autonomy while maintaining related (Allen et al., 1994; Blos, 1966; Walper 2003; Youniss & Smollar, 1985):
  - **Relatedness:** sympathy, loyalty, mutual support
  - **Autonomy:** becoming independent from thoughts and intentions of others
    - ☞ emotional autonomy
    - ☞ autonomy of behavior
    - ☞ cognitive autonomy
    - ☞ economic autonomy



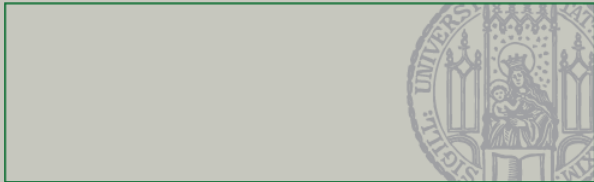
## Support:



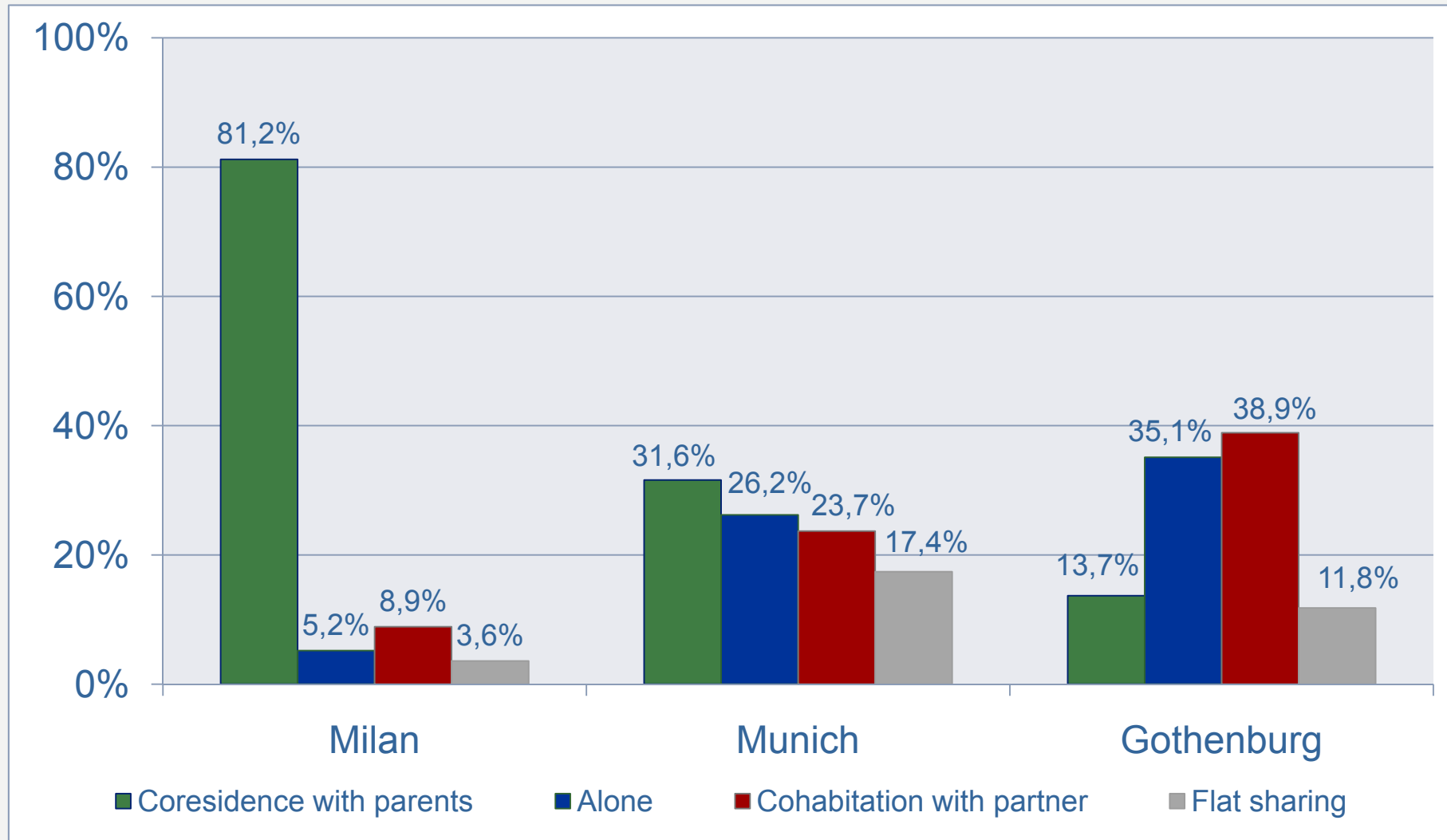


	Munich	Milan	Gothenburg	All
Participants	541	504	211	1256
Age (SD)	24.3 (3.1)	25.0 (2.9)	24.1 (2.5)	24.6 (2.9)
female	59.7%	56.2%	59.7%	58.3%
High school or more	77.7%	74.4%	99.0%	79.9%
In romantic relationship	61.6%	63.7%	61.6%	62.4%

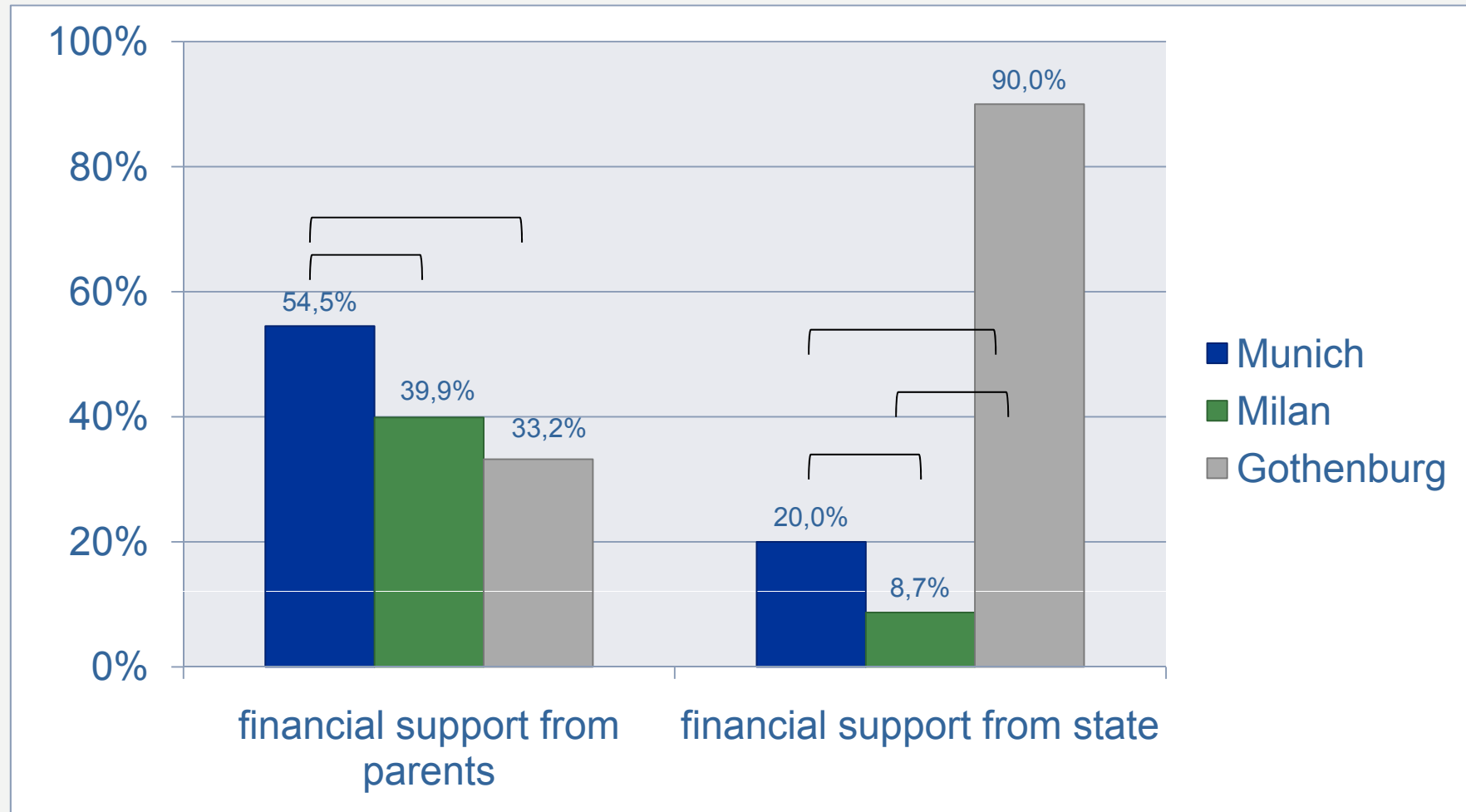
- **Intimacy & Conflict**
  - Based on Network of Relationship Inventory (NRI) (Furman & Buhrmester, 1985)
- **Successful individuation**
  - A subscale of the Munich Individuation Test of Adolescents
- **Relatedness** <sup>META</sup>
  - 3 MITA subscales: successful individuation, support seeking, denied need of attachment (Walper, Schwarz & Jurasic, 1996)
- **Individuationproblems** <sup>META</sup>
  - 3 MITA subscales: Ambivalence, Fear of Love withdrawal, Engulfment Anxiety (Walper, Schwarz & Jurasic, 1996)



- **Residential Arrangement**
  - „Which person lives together with you in one household?“
- **Emotional support**
  - Based on *Filial Responsibility Scale (FRS-A)* (Jurkovic & Thirkield, 1998)
- **Financial support**
  - “Do you get financial support from your parents?“
- **Instrumental aid**
  - Based on Network of Relationship Inventory (NRI) (Furman & Buhrmester, 1985)

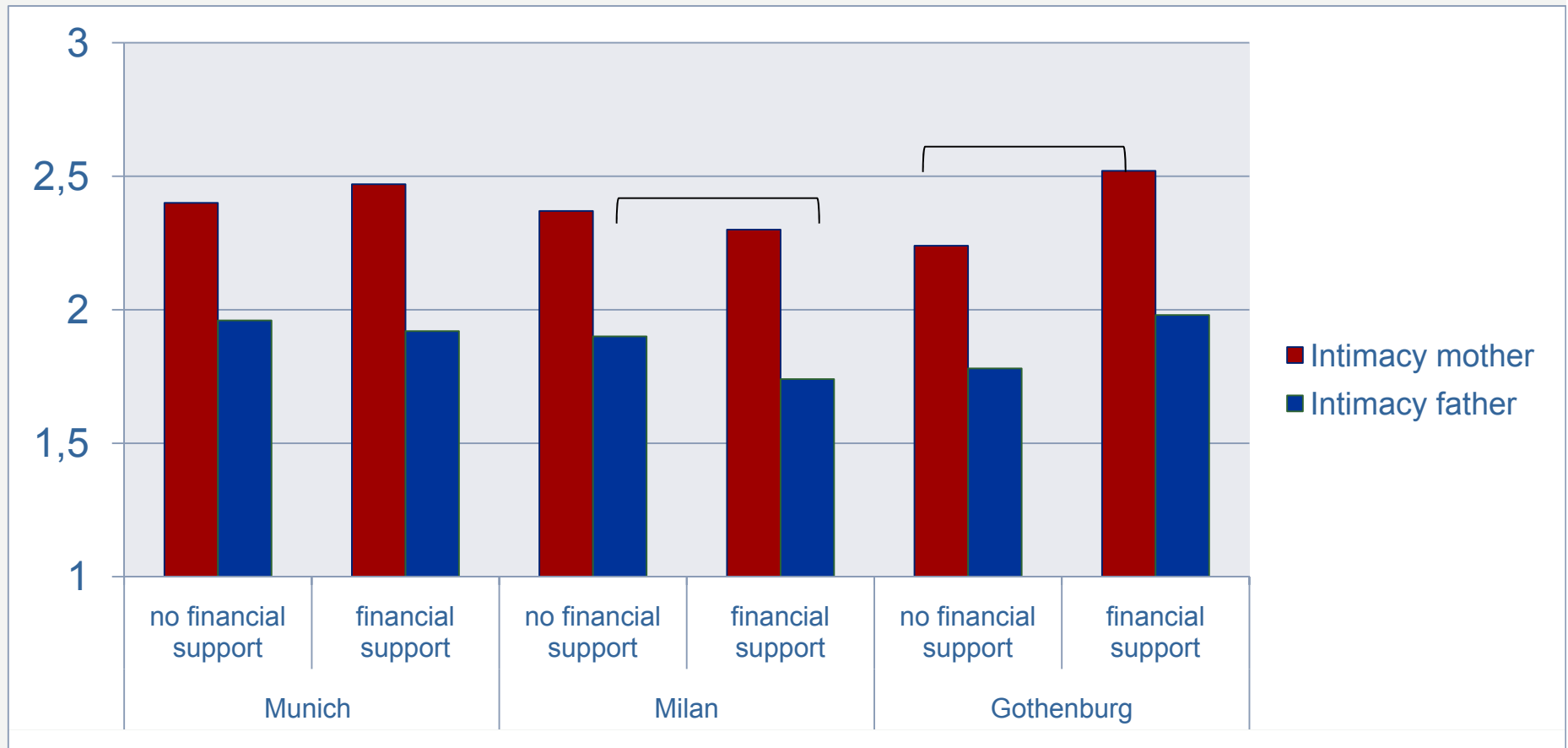


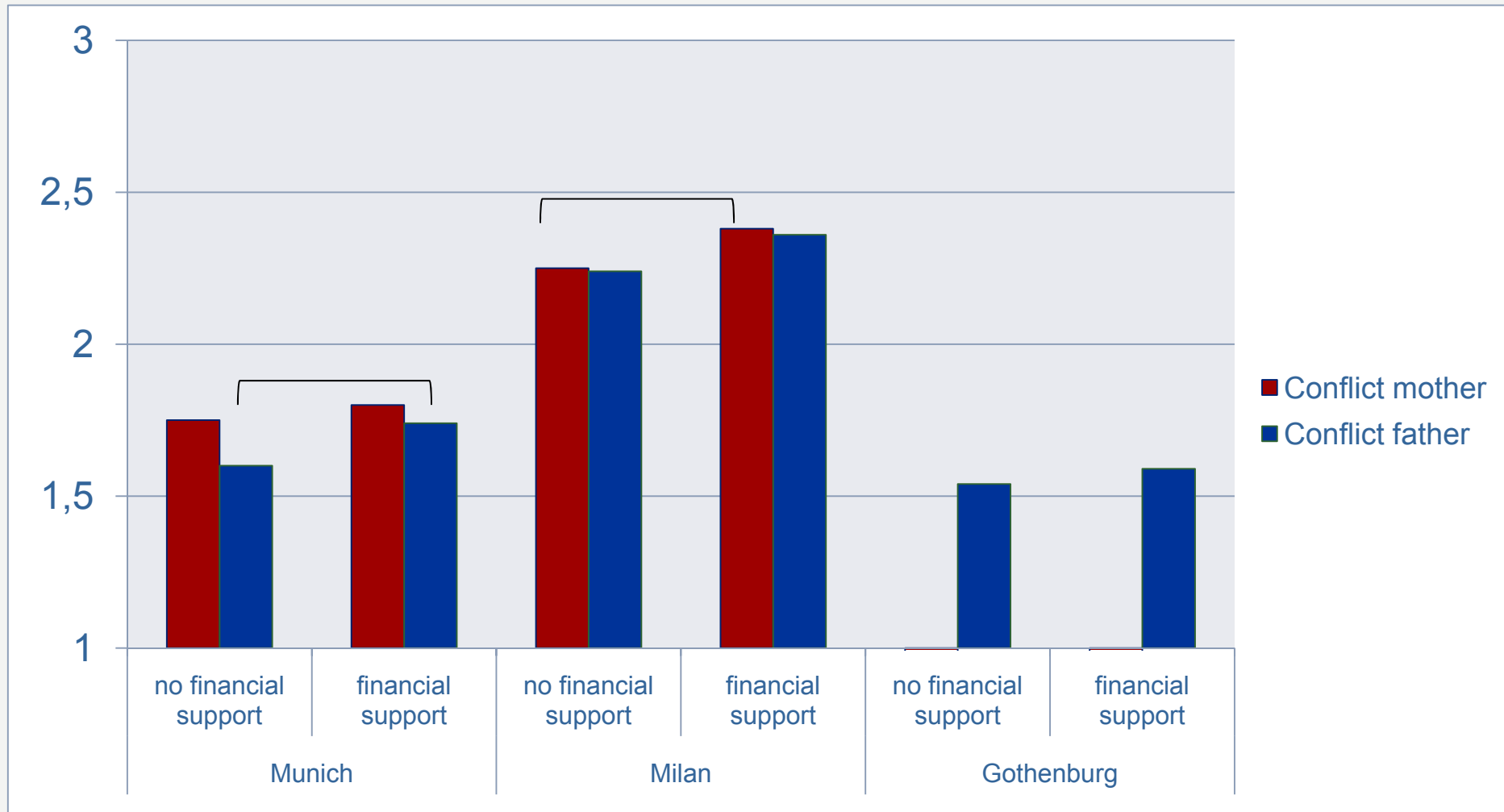




	Financial support from parents Exp (B)		
	Munich	Milan	Gothenburg
Gender	1.033	2.362	1.345
Age	.798***	.640*	1.030
Student – Status	9.172***	11.037*	1.143
Intimacy Mother	1.127	.442	1.557
Intimacy Father	.664*	.318	.825
Coresidence with parents	.499	1.306	3.897
Live alone	.801	.004*	1.020
Cohabitation with partner	.614	.199	2.380
Economic situation of parents	1.947***	1.814	1.493 <sup>+</sup>
Education attainment	1.180	1.712	.820
Education mother	1.160	.447	1.015
Education father	1.305*	3.141	1.174
Contact parents	.716**	.447**	.535**
Estimation of economic circumstances	1.007	1.152	.902
Nagelkerkes R <sup>2</sup>	.478	.640	.183

## 2.) Results – Mean differences Intimacy





## 2.) Results – Influence on Individuation



Relationship to mother	Relatedness $\beta$	Individuationproblems $\beta$
Instrumental aid	.194**	.055
Emotional support	.422**	-.238**
financial support	-.025	.051
	R <sup>2</sup> =.303	R <sup>2</sup> =.046

Relationship to father	Relatedness $\beta$	Individuationproblems $\beta$
Instrumental aid	.189**	.111
Emotional support	.459**	-.208**
financial support	-.029	.055
	R <sup>2</sup> =.348	R <sup>2</sup> =.032

Signifikanzniveaus: \* $\leq$ .05; \*\* $\leq$ .01

## 2.) Results – Influence on successful individuation



Relationship to mother	Successful Individuation $\beta$		
	Munich	Milan	Gothenburg
Instrumental aid	.014	.135**	.103
Emotional support	.328***	.272***	.295**
financial support	.030	-.034	-.013
	R <sup>2</sup> =.111	R <sup>2</sup> =.127	R <sup>2</sup> =.120

Relationship to father	Successful Individuation $\beta$		
	Munich	Milan	Gothenburg
Instrumental aid	.158**	.211***	.136
Emotional support	.379***	.255***	.421**
financial support	.040	-.022	.013
	R <sup>2</sup> =.238	R <sup>2</sup> =.161	R <sup>2</sup> =.246



- age at & reasons for home-leaving, economic circumstances, and residential arrangements after home-leaving  
(Bernardi & Nazio, 2006; Rusconi, 2006; Iacovou, 2002; Schizzerotto, 2003; Vogel, 2003; Mills, 2006)
- **“family welfare regime”** with respective patterns like “famiglia lunga” in Italy vs.
- **“institutional welfare state”** in Sweden  
(Berthoud & Iacovou, 2003; Esping-Andersen, 1990; Vogel, 2003 )



- More **intimacy** in relationship to mother
- **Mother-daughter-dyads** as most emotional relationship in family (Scabini & Galimberti, 1995)
- **Instrumental aid**: different effects in relation to parents and between cities





THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR  
ATTENTION!

Contact:

[c.thoennissen@lmu.de](mailto:c.thoennissen@lmu.de)

[www.yagiss.de](http://www.yagiss.de)