

Interacting Through Diverse Styles of Relatedness:

Understanding Coresident Young Adults' Parent-Child Relationships

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Research Question

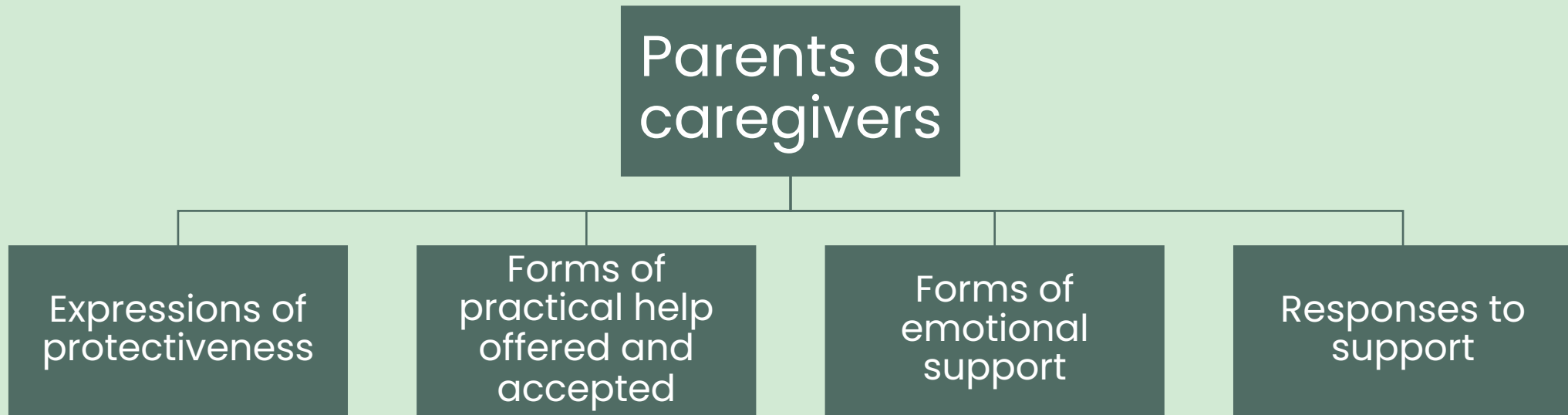
How do coresident young adults experience and construct their relations to their parents?

How do they construct *themselves* in relation to their parents?

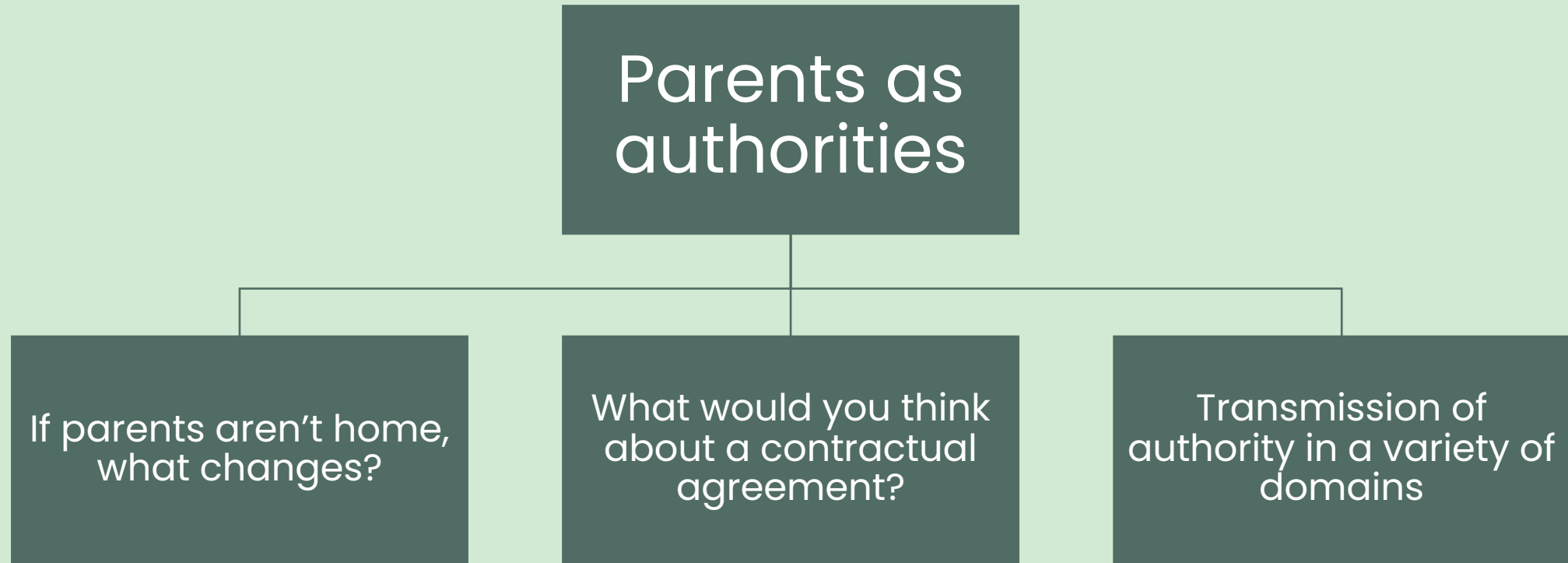
How do they construct *their parents* in relation to themselves?

How do they describe the bond *between* themselves and their parents?

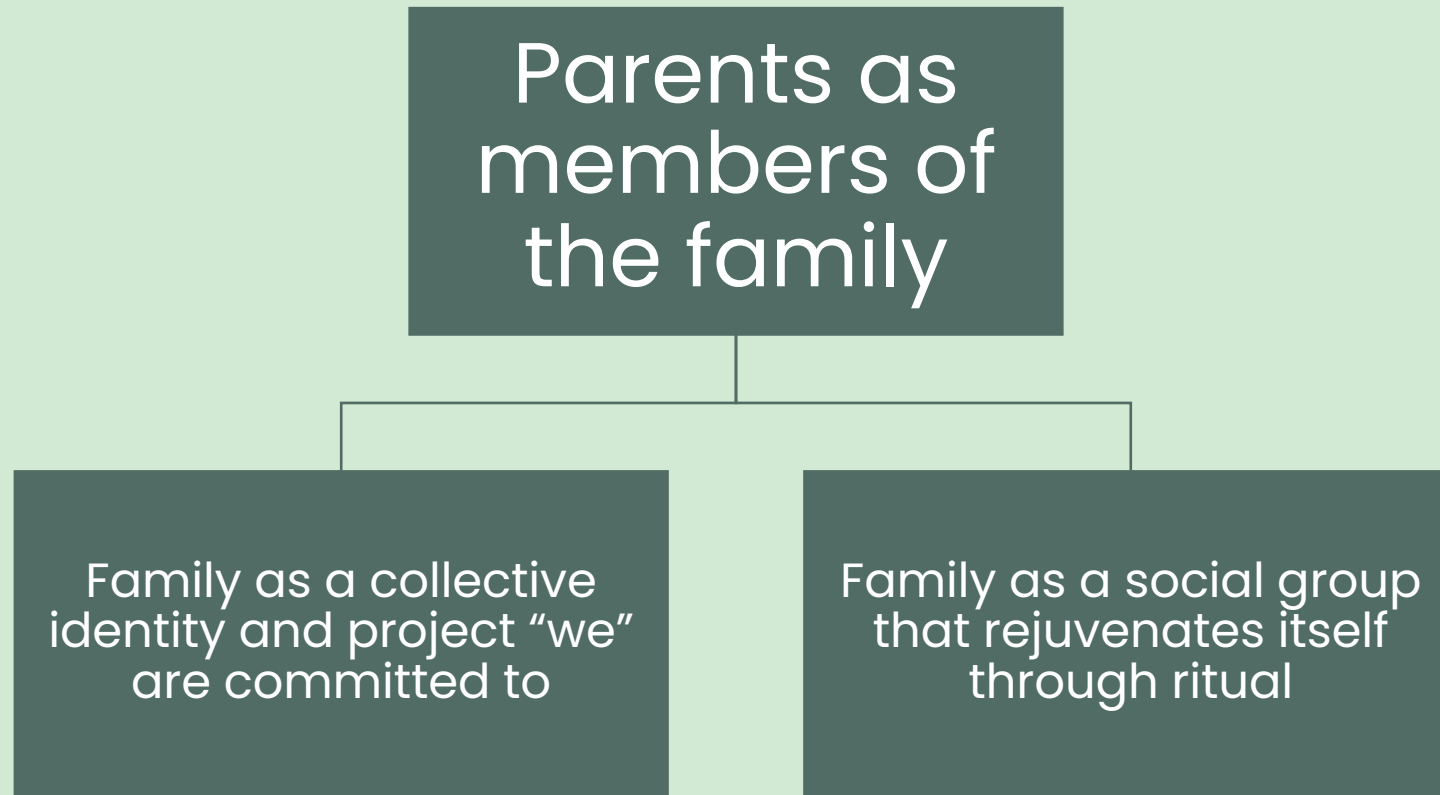
Chapter 1



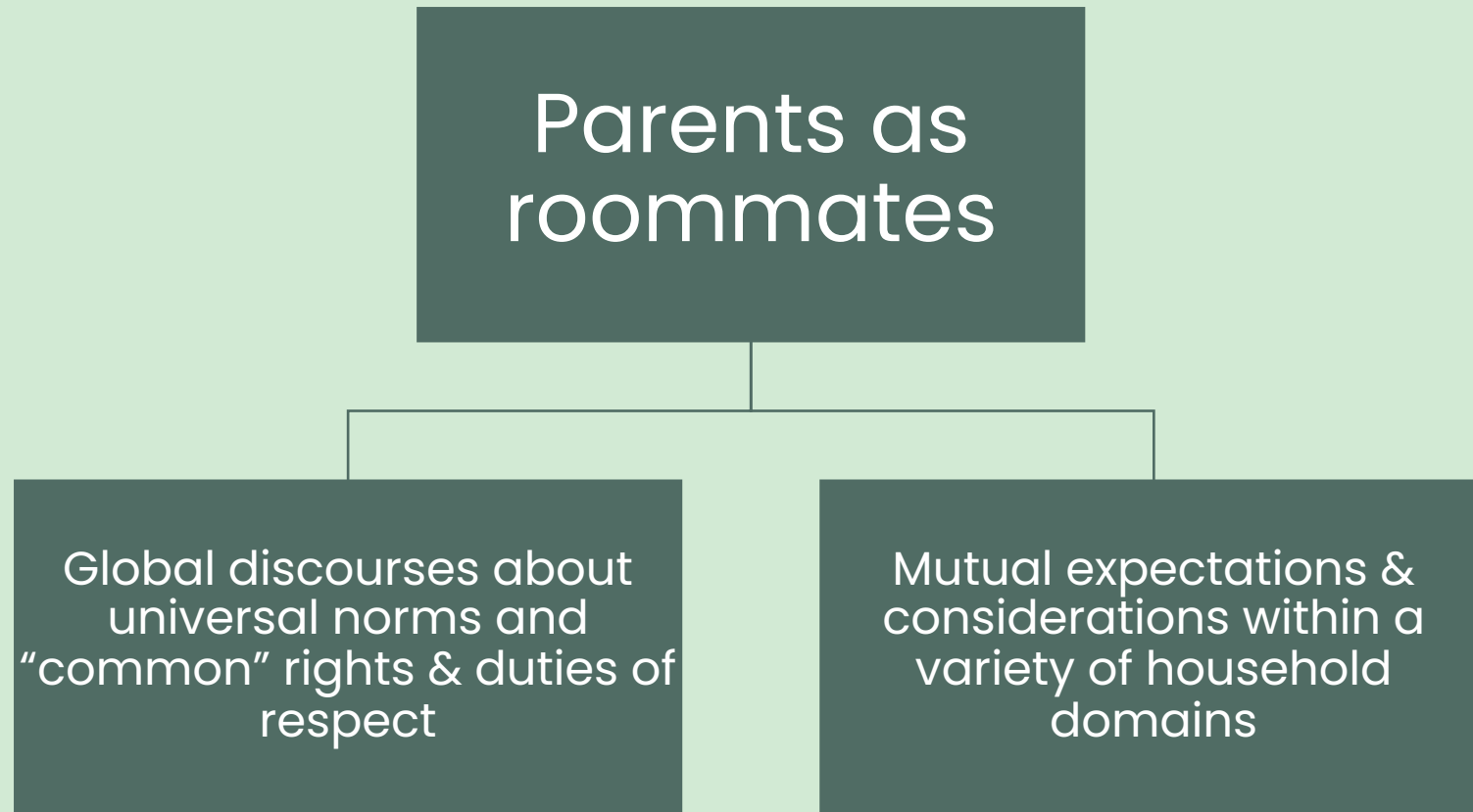
Chapter 2



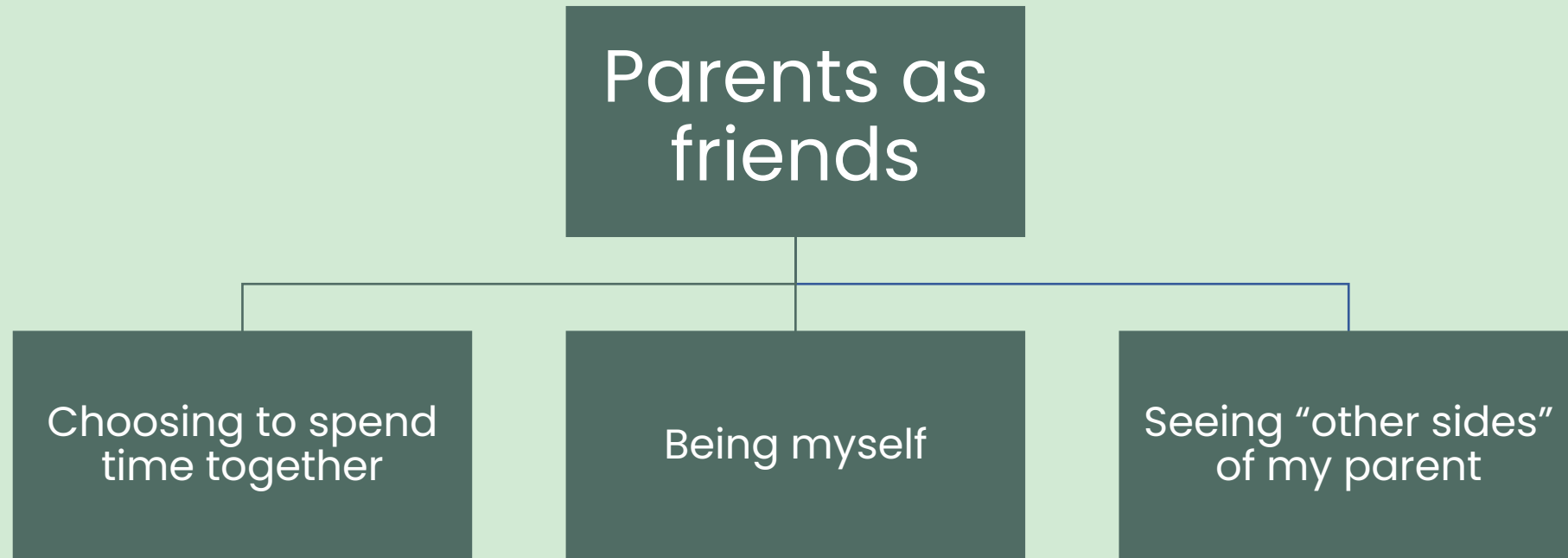
Chapter 3.1



Chapter 3.2



Chapter 3.3



Seven Styles of Relatedness

| Chapter | Style of Relatedness | | Figure(s) |
|---------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2 | 1 | Care-giving and receiving | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregiver • Care-receiver |
| 3 | 2 | Transmitting and receiving authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of authority • Receiver of tradition |
| | 3 | Tyranny and subjection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyrant • Subject of unconstitutional influence |
| | 4 | Collective negotiation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal member of the polis |
| 4 | 5 | Civil cohabitation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectful roommate |
| | 6 | Family as a ground project & identity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family member |
| | 7 | Companionate friendship | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like a friend |

Three Worlds of the Family

A
balanced
& robust
family
world

An
imbalanced
and
delicate
family world

A frozen
family
world

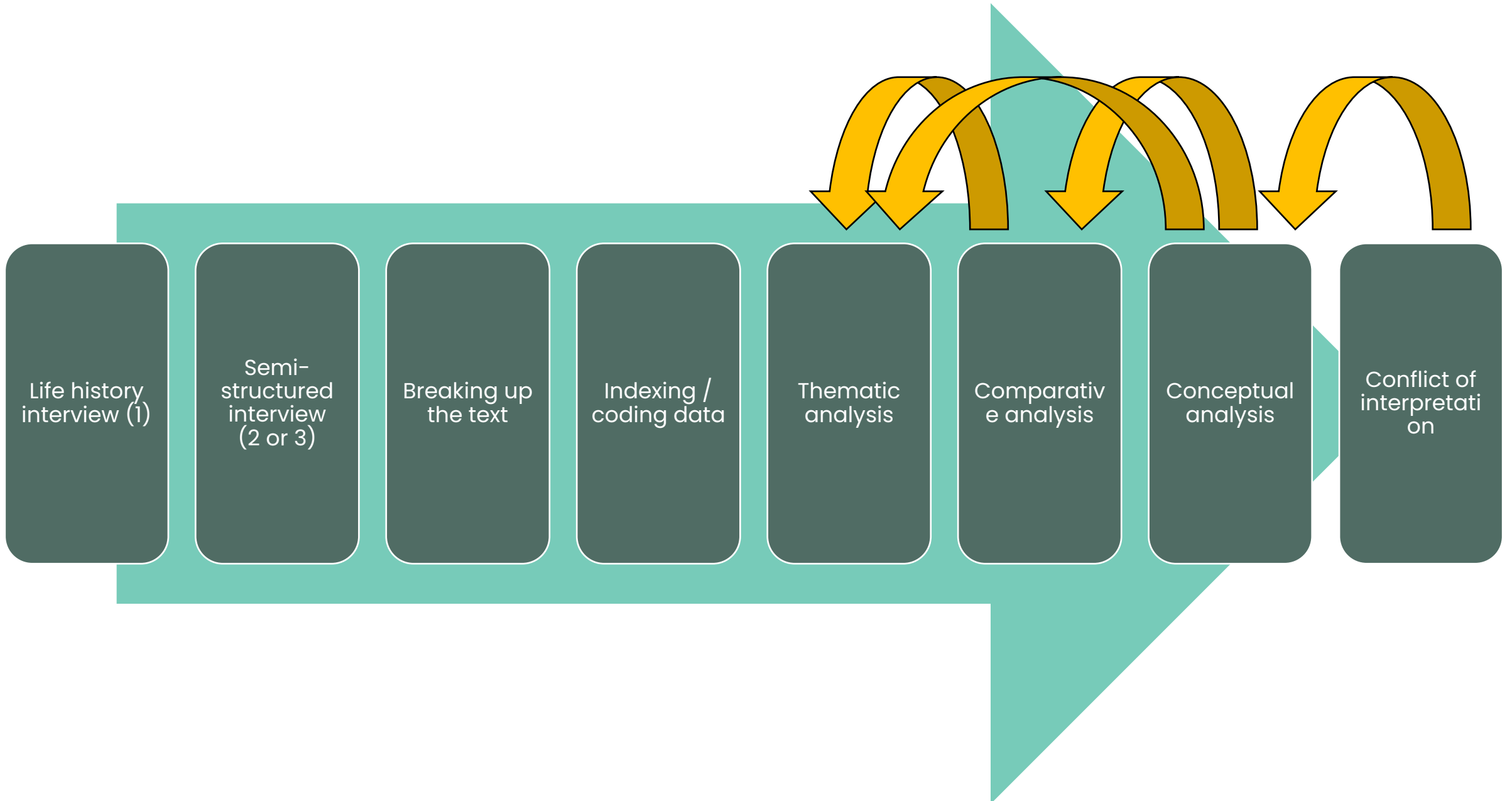
| | 12 participants | 2 participants | 1 participant |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Styles of relatedness | High diversity & balanced | High diversity & imbalanced | Low diversity & precarious |
| Mutual understanding | High | Moderate | Low |
| Management of the bond | Shared involvement | Carried by participant | Shared lack of involvement |

Four global claims

1. Coresiders' experiences of the parent-child bond **cannot be adequately represented by a single world of experience**
2. Young adults draw on **a repertoire of styles of relatedness** to engage with their parents **across social settings**
3. Coresident young adults require not only the abstract knowledge of varied styles of relatedness, but also the **competence to discern when, where, and how these ought to be performed**
4. Coresident young adults **constitute themselves as capable persons** by cultivating and performing a repertoire of styles of relatedness – ideally undertaking this work alongside their parents as a **joint project of moral becoming**

Dissertation structure

1. Introduction
2. Parents as Caregivers
3. Parents as Authorities
4. Parents in Symmetrical Roles
 1. Parents as Members of the Family
 2. Parents as Members of the Household
 3. Parents as Friends
5. Conclusion



Participant demographics (15 participants)

- **Age**
 - 10 ages 23-28
 - 5 ages 28-33
- **Gender**
 - 12 women
 - 3 men
- **Family type**
 - 9 intact parent couples
 - 3 single parents
 - 3 re-coupled
- **Ethnic identity**
 - 11 self-identified Caucasian
 - Other 4: Metis, South Asian Canadian, Chinese Canadian, Yoruba
- **Occupation**
 - 6 employed full-time
 - 6 employed part-time
 - 3 unemployed
- **Education**
 - 10 enrolled full-time
 - 2 enrolled part-time
 - 3 non-students
- **Home-leaving background**
 - 7 had stayed at home continuously
 - 8 had returned home after a substantial period away
- **Parental home**
 - 14 owned
 - 1 rented
- **Siblings**
 - 13 participants had at least 1 sibling; none had more than 2 siblings
 - 5 had a sibling living at home; none had >1 sibling living at home
- **Personal income for past 12 months**
 - 8 participants made <\$15,000
 - 6 participants made \$20,000-\$65,000
 - 1 participant made > \$90,000

Theoretical Foundations

Moral Experience (Kleinman, 1999)

Subjectively
felt

Occurring
in local
worlds

Infused
with
morality

Inter-
subjective

Intertwined
with
politics

In 2016,
42% of Canadians in their
20s were living with their
parents

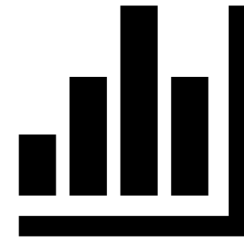
Common Themes in the Literature



Histori
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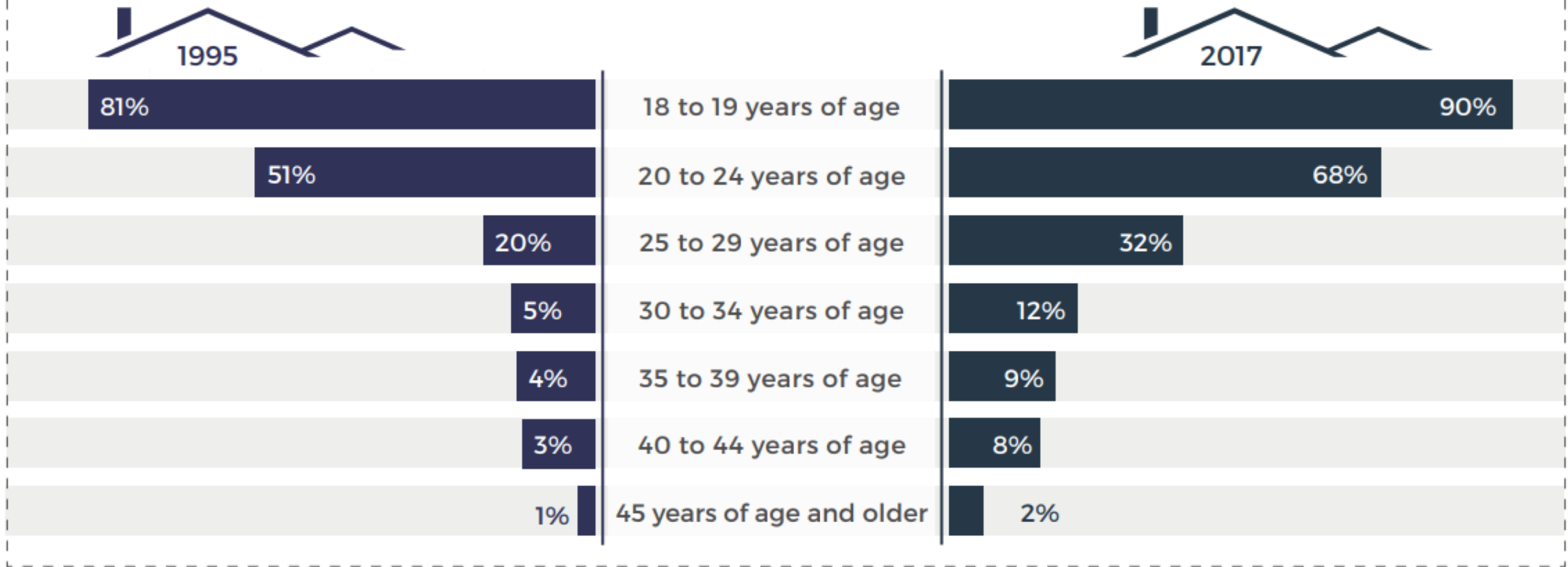


Econo
mic
predict
ors



Demograp
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variations

Over the past 20 years, the proportion of adults who live with a parent has increased.

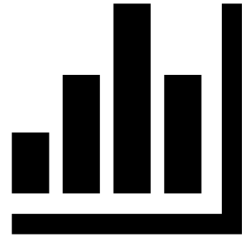




Historical
changes



Economic
predictors



Cultural
norms



Developmental
measures



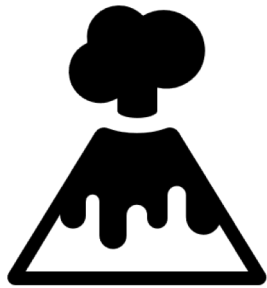
Measures
of well-
being &
life
satisfaction



Family
structures
&
characteristics



Why
positive
evaluation
s of
the bond?



Managem
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of conflict
&
tension?



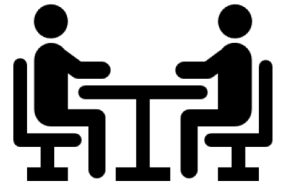
Significan
ce
of care &
support?



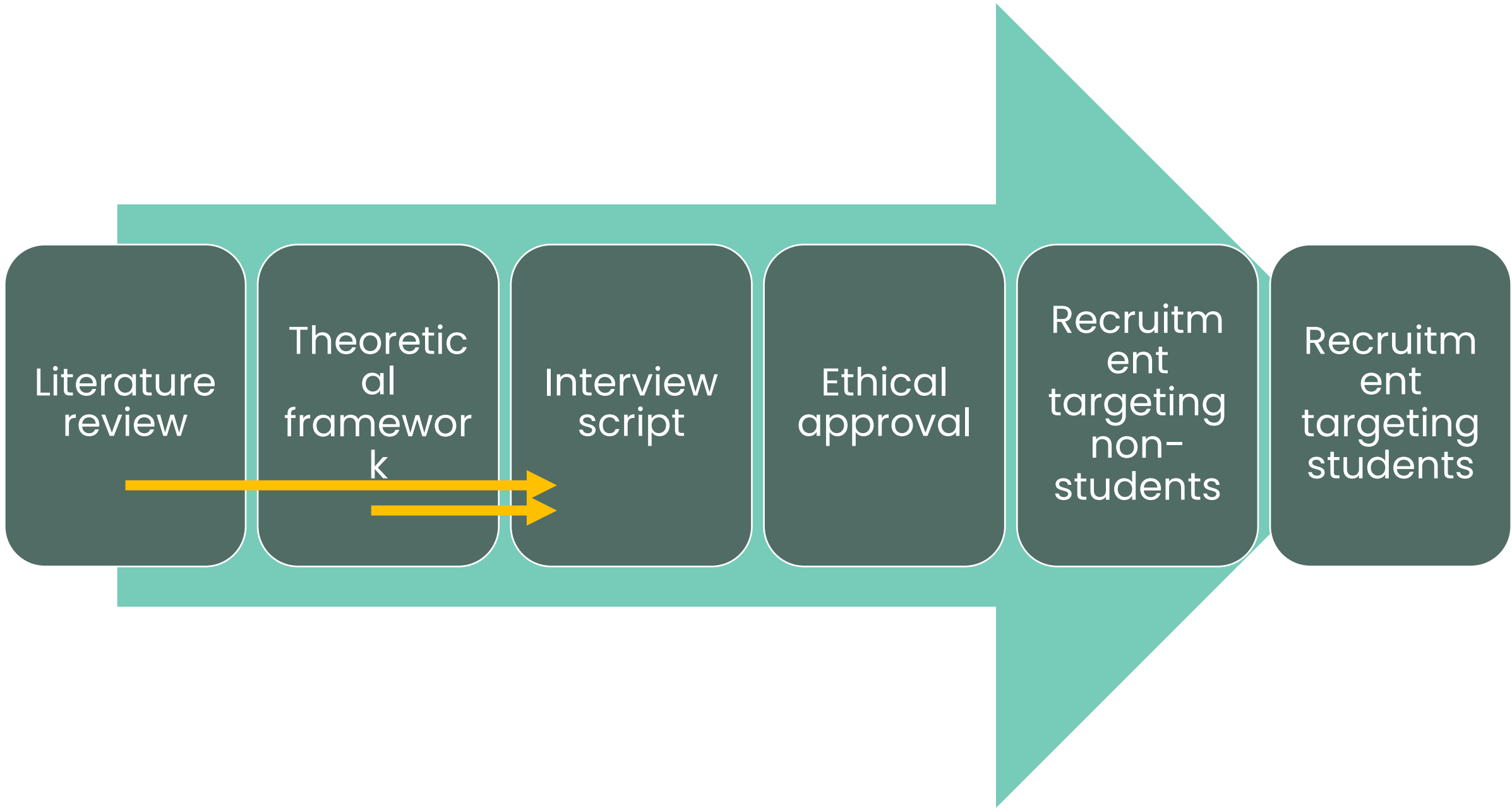
Evaluations
of
ambivalen
ce?



Ongoing
reinventio
n
of the
family?



Everyday
interactio
ns?



Literature review

Theoretical framework

Interview script

Ethical approval

Recruitment targeting non-students

Recruitment targeting students

Parent demographics (27 residential parents)

- **Gender**
 - 15 women
 - 12 men
- **Mother's highest level of education**
 - 4 High school or less
 - 6 College diploma or certificate
 - 3 Bachelor's degree
 - 2 Masters or PhD
- **Father or mother's partner's highest level of education**
 - 5 High school or less
 - 3 College diploma or certificate
 - 3 Bachelor's degree
 - 1 Masters or PhD

- **Total combined incomes of parents* over past 12 months**
 - 4 unknown
 - 2 self-identified middle class
 - 3 \$35,000-\$65,000
 - 3 \$80,000-\$150,000
 - 3 > \$225,000

*Includes residential mother or mother's partner; does not include non-residential fathers

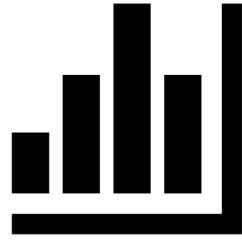
| Theme in the literature | Contributions of the thesis |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Economic dimensions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaffirming the economic value of coresidence, adding varied “ends” at which support aims • Highlighting the symbolic and relational stakes of practical and economic support |
| Cultural dimensions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a framework of styles of relatedness that could be examined across cultural contexts • Bringing nuance to individualist vs. collectivist duality • Demonstrating children’s and parents’ creativity and agency in reinventing “the family” |
| Developmental dimensions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing the agency and practical wisdom that young adults exercise within their bonds • Identifying “what counts” as mature participation in the parent-child bond • Detailing diverse forms of asymmetry and symmetry between parents and young adult children |
| Dimensions of well-being | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing in context role of the living arrangement for shaping self-esteem in the context of the parent-child relationship |
| Relational dimensions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the diverse set-ups that nourish a good life shared by young adults and their parents who live together • Identifying a broader range of sources and implications of conflict |



Historical
changes



Economic
predictors



Cultural
norms



Developmental
measures



Measures
of well-
being &
life
satisfaction



Family
structures
&
characteristics

Contributions to the Literature



What
constitutes
& nourishes
good life
together



Symbolic &
relational
significance
of
practical
support

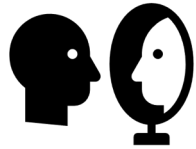


Robust
account
of mid-life
family
processes

Some implications for practice & policy



- For governments: the limits to economic solutions for improving relational experiences



- For clinicians: address the narrative & emotional underpinnings of rigidity, misunderstanding, and denial of alterity



- For families: the limits of common and clear expectations; contractual obligations alone are unlikely to suffice

A few limitations & future directions

Limitations

- Success stories
- Students
- Scope of the life history question
 - Too many stories
 - Few details of transformation
 - Highly varied across participants

Future Directions

- Comparative research & more purposive sampling
- Intersections between parent-child relationships in mid-life and other relationships (e.g., pets, romantic partners, parents' new partners)
- More interdisciplinary investigations