

ADOLESCENT CONFLICT WITH PARENTS AND FRIENDS: THE ROLE OF
NEGATIVE AFFECT AND RESOLUTION STRATEGY IN PREDICTING
RELATIONSHIP IMPACT

by

Gwen R. Pursell

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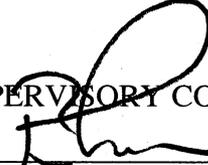
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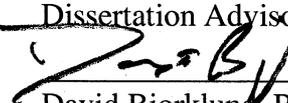
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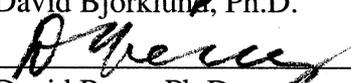
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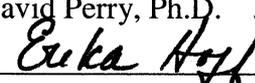
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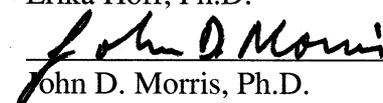
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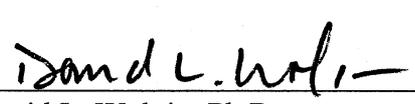

Brett Laursen, Ph.D.
Dissertation Advisor

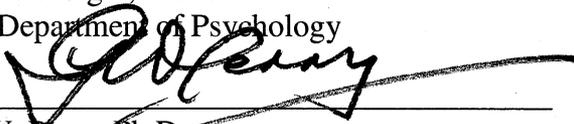

David Bjorklund, Ph.D.

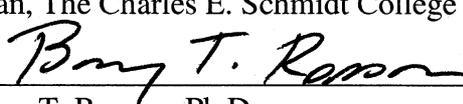

David Perry, Ph.D.


Erika Hoff, Ph.D.


John D. Morris, Ph.D.


David L. Wolgin, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Psychology


Gary W. Perry, Ph.D.
Dean, The Charles E. Schmidt College of Science


Barry T. Rosson, Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate College

November 9, 2009
Date

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ABSTRACT

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This study examined associations between conflict affect, resolution, and relationship impact in adolescent conflicts with mothers and friends. Participants included 231 adolescents who were on average 14 years of age. Over three consecutive days, participants completed a diary study in which they reported and described conflicts with mothers and friends. Path analyses were used to examine direct and indirect associations from negative affect and resolution to relationship impact contrasting disagreements with mothers and disagreements with friends. Moderator analyses examined whether patterns of association differed by gender or conflict topic. Findings revealed that lower levels of negative affect and higher levels of compromise were associated with improved relations for both adolescent conflicts with mothers and friends. Mediation analyses indicated that negative affect largely accounted for the association between compromise and relationship impact. There was no difference

between mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships in the strength of these associations. Gender and conflict topic did not moderate these associations. These findings are consistent with a larger body of research on marital relationships, which suggests that negative affect plays a key role in predicting relationship outcomes. Specifically, it appears that regardless of the amount of compromise, it is the expression of anger that determines whether a conflict improves or worsens a relationship.

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Introduction

During adolescence, as during all other periods of life, conflict is a normative feature of relationships. For adolescents, the highest rate of conflict occurs in relationships with mothers followed by relationships with friends (Laursen, 1995). Although numerous studies have described the rate of adolescent conflict with mothers and friends, less is known about properties of conflict that predict adverse relationship outcomes. Theory suggests that parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships are organized in a manner that should be reflected in prevailing patterns of conflict management (Collins & Laursen, 1992). Specifically, parent-adolescent interactions tend to be asymmetrical or hierarchical in nature, obligatory, and stable. In contrast, friend-adolescent interactions are more symmetrical or egalitarian, voluntary, and are characterized by less stability (Berscheid, 1985; Laursen & Collins, 1994). As a consequence, parent-adolescent disagreements have been found to involve greater negative affect, coercion, and unequal outcomes than friend-adolescent disagreements. In contrast, friend-adolescent disagreements are characterized by greater levels of positive affect, mitigation, and equal outcomes than parent-adolescent disagreements (Adams & Laursen, 2001; Laursen, 1993). Moreover, although conflicts with friends tend to involve fewer negative conflict components than those with parents, their destructive potential, including emotional upset, disrupted relations, and unequal

outcomes, may be one reason that adolescents report conflict as one of the greatest threats to friendship (Selman, 1980).

To date, most studies of adolescent conflict have described separate features of conflict including affective intensity, resolution strategy, and solution equality. An important feature of conflict that has not typically been considered however is relationship impact or whether a conflict worsens or improves a relationship. For example, some conflict research has examined main effect differences in affect, resolution strategy, and solution equality across parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. Other studies have examined associations among affect, resolution strategy, and solution equality within parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. To date, only one study has compared associations between these conflict components across parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. Adams and Laursen (2001) found that specific patterns of affect, resolution strategy, and solution equality tend to co-occur in disputes with mothers and in disputes with friends. Analyses comparing interconnections between components across the two relationships found that the combination of angry affect, power assertive resolutions, and inequitable outcomes were more apt to occur in mother-adolescent conflicts than in friend-adolescent conflicts. In contrast, the combination of positive affect, negotiation, and equitable outcomes occurred more frequently in friend-adolescent conflicts than in mother-adolescent conflicts. Conflict topics differed across relationships. Friend-adolescent disagreements were more often about relationships and mother-adolescent disagreements were more often about daily hassle topics. Nevertheless, differences

between friend-adolescent and mother-adolescent relationships in the prevalent forms or types of conflict remained after accounting for differences in conflict topics.

In summary, previous research has found different patterns of association among conflict components within parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. Research has also shown that there are differences between relationships in specific conflict components, as well as the frequency with which these conflict components arise. However, these studies have left key questions about adolescent conflicts with parents and friends unanswered. Which best predicts the impact of a conflict on a relationship, affect or resolution strategy? Does the prediction of the impact of conflict on a relationship differ across relationships, gender, or conflict topic? To address these questions, a total of 231 adolescents described conflicts with mothers and friends during three consecutive days. Analyses examined direct and indirect associations from conflict affect and resolution to relationship impact contrasting disagreements with mothers and disagreements with friends. Moderator analyses examined whether patterns of association differed for males and females and for conflicts about relationships and conflicts about daily hassles.

Defining Conflict

Conflict may be defined as incompatible behavior and/or goals that result in overt verbal or behavioral opposition (Shantz, 1987). The term overt describes behaviors that occur between two individuals and are directed toward one another such that both partners understand that a disagreement has occurred. In defining conflict, the terms verbal and behavioral connote that conflicts are expressed in an observable manner. Conflicting private opinions cannot be considered a disagreement unless one or

both partners express these differences either verbally or behaviorally. Opposition implies a contradictory position or action. Disagreements occur in response to another person's verbal or behavioral actions. That is, a conflict involves one partner contesting or resisting the words or behaviors of another (Shantz, 1987).

It is important to point out that the term conflict is not synonymous with terms such as anger, aggression, dominance, or competition. However, a conflict may involve one or all of these elements. Interpersonal conflict may or may not involve verbal or physical aggression and dominance. For example, conflicts between peers rarely involve dominance or aggression (Hartup & Laursen, 1993). Competition may lead to a conflict and anger may arise from conflict. Competition itself, however, is not the same as conflict. Competition often occurs in artificial, rule-governed circumstances, such as sporting events. These circumstances and rules differ from the relationship constraints and norms that govern verbal and behavioral opposition between conflict partners (Hartup, French, Laursen, Johnston, & Ogawa, 1993). As for anger, conflicts may provoke anger but many conflicts do not involve anger and instead are associated with positive affect. For example, negative affect is not representative of conflicts between friends and positive affect has been reported following conflict between close peers (Murphy & Eisenberg, 2002; Laursen, 1993). In many cases, conflict and anger have also become entangled as some measures conflate conflict with affect. Angry conflicts tend to be especially salient and more easily remembered over time (Collins & Laursen, 1992).

Conflict Components and Conflict Management

Disagreements are made up of discrete components. These components include affective intensity, resolution, and conflict outcome (Adams & Laursen, 2001; Shantz, 1987). This description highlights the sequential structure of the exchange and allows for a focus on the organization of conflict. For example, Laursen and Collins (1994) have likened conflict episodes to a novel or play in which there is a protagonist and antagonist (conflict participants), a theme (conflict topic), a complication (initiation), rising action and a crisis (resolution), and denouement (outcome). Applying this framework to the study of adolescent conflict allows for the identification of these discrete components and the examination of the associations between components within different types of relationships.

Conflict management has been defined as the specific behaviors or tactics that determine the course of a disagreement (Canary, Cupach, & Messman, 1995). Conflict management processes describe patterns of handling conflict. These, in turn are thought to be linked to conflict outcomes including the impact of conflict on a relationship. Two features are central to the management of conflict: Affective intensity and resolution tactics. Affective intensity describes emotional expressions, ranging from positive (joy) to negative (rage) (Shantz, 1987). Resolution strategies describe tactics for concluding a disagreement. Four distinct strategies have been identified: submission, compromise, disengagement, and third-party intervention (Vuchinich, 1990). Submission involves one partner giving in to the demands of the other partner. Compromise typically involves negotiation with both partners conceding. Disengagement may result from either a standoff or withdrawal. A standoff occurs when a disagreement ends with no

resolution. When one partner discontinues interaction or leaves the field, withdrawal has taken place. Finally, a third-party intervention occurs when an uninvolved individual offers or imposes a solution.

Conflict outcome refers to the consequences of a conflict as well as the impact it has on a relationship. Conflict may result in either equitable or inequitable outcomes. Also, conflict may worsen or improve a relationship or have little to no impact on a relationship. Research on conflict suggests that equity of outcomes primarily depends on the relationship in which it takes place. For example, adolescent conflict with parents often involves inequitable outcomes. In contrast, adolescent conflict with friends is more likely to end with equitable outcomes (Adams & Laursen, 2001).

As for conflict impact, only a few studies have considered how adolescent conflict impacts parent and friend relationships. Of the few studies that have considered conflict impact, results suggest that conflict between friends may have some relationship benefits. For example, conflict between best friends has been found to protect one's sense of self (Rizzo, 1992) and conflict between close peers has been found to result in positive feelings and improved relations (Laursen, 1993). Rarely do conflicts between friends worsen a friendship or result in a terminated relationship (Rizzo, 1989). Research examining the negative impact of conflict on parent-adolescent relationships has found that disagreements rarely result in termination of the parent-adolescent relationship (Laursen, 1993). However, longitudinal research suggests that repeated conflict between adolescents and parents may deteriorate their bond over time (Patterson & Bank, 1989). Likewise, continual, intense conflict between parents and adolescents has been negatively linked to indices of adjustment such as emotional

states, adolescent attitudes towards parents (Olsen et al., 1983), and parental self-esteem (Silverberg & Steinberg, 1987). Given these findings, our understanding of the relationship between conflict components is limited. Research has not investigated whether the conflict components, affect and resolution, are associated with relationship impact differentially across relationships. For example, does affect during a conflict episode have an impact on the relationship and does this impact differ by relationship? Similarly, do different resolution tactics predict relationship impact? Again, does the association between resolution and impact differ by relationship?

Although little is known about how conflict components differentially impact parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships, both affective intensity and conflict resolution appear to predict disagreement outcomes. For example, Laursen and Koplas (1995) interviewed adolescents about their daily conflicts. In general, negative affect during a conflict often co-occurred with inequitable outcomes, damaged relations, and even termination of a relationship. Pleasant affect promoted positive conflict outcomes such as equitable outcomes and improved relations. Resolution strategies were found to co-occur with disagreement outcomes. Use of compromise co-occurred with equitable outcomes and improved relations. Resolution tactics that involved dominance, submission, or a lack of resolution co-occurred with negative outcomes such as inequitable solutions and worsened relations. Finally, affect and resolutions were found to be linked. For example, negative affect after a conflict was linked to disengagement and positive affect such as friendliness was linked to negotiation. In sum, these findings support the premise that affect and resolution are associated with conflict outcomes. However, this study considered co-occurrence of conflict

components rather than addressing the question of whether affect and resolution differentially predict the impact of a conflict on parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relations.

In examining affect, resolution strategy, and conflict outcome, other studies have identified three general patterns of conflict (Laursen, Hartup, & Koplas, 1996). Conflicts which involve negative affect and power assertive strategies such as submission have been termed coercive and typically result in unequal or unfavorable outcomes. Another pattern of conflict management, mitigation, entails neutral or positive affect and negotiation. These result in equitable, constructive outcomes. A third pattern of conflict management involves disengagement. These are conflicts that are not resolved and do not involve a specific outcome (Laursen & Hartup, 1989). Of the three patterns of conflict found across adolescent relationships, coercion appears to be more prevalent within parent-child relationships and mitigation appears to be more prevalent among friends (Adams & Laursen, 2001).

Relationship Properties and Implications for Conflict Outcomes

Theorists assert that adolescent conflict behavior with parents and friends differs according to specific properties within these relationships (Laursen & Collins, 1994; Collins, Laursen, Mortensen, Luebker, & Ferreira, 1997). Patterns of conflict management are hypothesized to differ according to the degree of symmetry and stability within a relationship, as well as the conflict setting. These properties influence how conflicts unfold, which in turn, determines conflict outcomes.

One important difference between parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships is symmetry (Youniss & Smollar, 1985). Interactions between parents and

adolescents can be thought of as vertical or asymmetrical in the sense that these relationships are characterized by an unequal distribution of power. Parents make demands and enforce rules; adolescents are expected to comply with parental demands. In contrast, interactions between adolescents and their friends have been characterized as horizontal, symmetric, and egalitarian in nature. Adolescents and friends tend to share decision-making and distribute power equitably within their relationships.

Adolescent relationships with parents and friends also differ in type as well as by the setting in which interactions occur. Parent-adolescent relationships are obligatory or involuntary in nature. Involuntary relationships are typically constrained by kinships, norms, and environmental pressures. Interactions within these relationships are characterized by routine scripts and long histories that are difficult to modify. In contrast, friend-adolescent relationships are completely voluntary. That is, the formation and maintenance of adolescent-friend relationships are not constrained by the biological or societal laws which affect family relationships (Collins & Laursen, 1992). These two relationship types are associated with different interaction settings. Relationship interactions can take place in either open-field or closed-field settings. In a closed-field setting, interaction partners cannot easily leave the field. Parent-adolescent interactions most often take place in this type of setting. In contrast, friend-adolescent interactions more often take place in open-field settings. In an open-field setting, interaction partners are free to leave the interaction at any time. Interactions within open-field settings tend to be fluid, as they are initiated and dissolved with greater ease and frequency than are interactions in closed-field settings. Competition from outside partners is also more

likely to occur in open-field settings as compared to closed-field settings (Laursen, 1993).

Finally, adolescent relationships with parents and friends differ according to stability. Given that parent-adolescent relationships are involuntary and interactions between partners typically occur in closed-field settings, these relationships are also relatively stable. That is, disagreements between parents and adolescents are unlikely to result in dissolution of the relationship (Collins et al., 1997). Friend-adolescent disagreements, on the other hand, are voluntary and interactions are more likely to occur in open-field settings. These factors make friend-adolescent relationships less stable. That is, friend-adolescent disagreements are more likely than parent-adolescent disagreements to end in the termination of the relationship. Also, greater competition between partners and the ability of partners to leave the interaction field contribute to the greater instability of friend-adolescent relationships (Laursen et al., 1996).

Relationship property differences between adolescents' relationships with parents and friends are thought to manifest themselves in distinct conflict behaviors. These specific conflict behaviors may in turn, predict relationship outcomes. The properties that characterize parent-adolescent relationships including asymmetry, stability, and closed-field interactions are likely to promote coercive conflict behaviors within parent-adolescent disagreements such as angry affect and coercive resolution strategies (e.g., dominance, submission). Although the use of such strategies would likely result in inequitable, win/loss outcomes, it is unlikely that such resolutions would have a negative impact on the parent-adolescent relationship. Because adolescents are dependent on their parents, the future of parent-adolescent relationships is not

determined by how a conflict unfolds or is resolved. Thus, an inequitable outcome for the parent-adolescent relationship would rarely have a long-lasting, detrimental impact on the relationship (Laursen & Collins, 1994; Laursen et al., 1996).

In contrast, the properties that characterize friend-adolescent relationships including symmetry, instability, and open-field interactions are more encouraging of affiliative behaviors such as positive affect and mitigation than coercive conflict behaviors. Because friendships are based on egalitarian roles, it is probable that the use of constructive resolution strategies such as negotiation would be more effective in achieving equitable outcomes than for parent-adolescent disagreements. Likewise, the motivation to use such resolution strategies is probably quite high as inequitable outcomes for a friend-adolescent disagreement could potentially have great consequences such as dissolution of the relationship. Equitable outcomes have been associated with elongating and improving friend relations (Laursen et al., 1996). Thus, for friend-adolescent conflict, resolution strategy is much more likely to have an impact, whether positive or negative, on the relationship, than it would on a parent-adolescent relationship.

Patterns of Conflict Behavior in Adolescent Relationships with Parents and Friends

Several studies have shown that patterns of conflict behavior within adolescent relationships with parents and friends do in fact differ. There is also evidence that patterns of conflict behaviors within adolescent relationships with parents and friends may predict conflict outcomes. Specifically, these studies have identified relationship differences in conflict management. Support for these assertions come from studies that

have either examined relationship differences in components of conflict, or described specific associations between components of conflict within friend-adolescent and parent-adolescent relationships. As to the former, main-effect differences have been reported. Research suggests that components of conflict differ between parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent conflicts (Laursen, 1993). Other research has considered associations rather than main-effect differences, finding that unique patterns of conflict management exist within adolescent relationships with parents and friends (Adams & Laursen, 2001). This research is noteworthy as these findings indicate that relationship properties are influential in determining conflict processes and outcomes within relationships.

Relationship Differences in Conflict Components

The majority of research on adolescent conflict has compared conflict components across adolescent relationships with parents and friends. In most cases, these studies have focused on main-effect comparisons. Overall, research indicates that parent-adolescent conflict involves higher levels of negative affect and greater use of coercive resolution strategies than friend-adolescent conflict. Friend-adolescent conflict, in contrast, is more likely than parent-adolescent conflict to involve high levels of positive affect and compromise. For example, Laursen (1993) found that conflicts with friends involved lower levels of negative affect than conflicts with parents. Affect in conflicts with parents was also more likely than affect in conflicts with friends to be characterized by anger. Negative affect has been found to exceed positive affect in family relations compared to close friend relations (Stapley, Stedman, & Koufakis, 1994). In comparing friend and parent conflicts, Jensen-Campbell and Graziano (2000)

also found that adolescents reported more intense anger in conflicts with parents and more pleasurable interactions in conflicts with friends. Likewise, using the Experience Sampling Method, Larson and Richards (1991) found that over a week, adolescents described more positive affect in their daily interactions with close friends than with parents whereas interactions with family members were more likely to involve conflict and neutral or negative affect.

Conflict resolution also differs for parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent conflicts. In a meta-analysis by Laursen (1993), it was reported that conflict between close peers involved higher rates of compromise than parent-adolescent resolutions. In contrast, parent-adolescent disagreements were more likely than disagreements between close peers to be characterized by submission and disengagement. Similarly, a meta-analysis of peer conflict by Laursen and colleagues (2001) found that when disagreeing with a friend, negotiation was the most commonly used conflict resolution strategy followed by coercion and then disengagement. In considering parent-adolescent disagreements, Montemayor and Hanson (1985) found that standoffs and power assertion were equally likely to occur. Negotiation, on the other hand, was rarely used. Likewise, parent-adolescent disagreements tend to involve high levels of submission and disengagement. Disengagement was less typical during friend-adolescent disagreements. Finally, adolescents' descriptions of actual conflicts from telephone interviews with adolescents have revealed that adolescents perceive their conflicts as involving more compromise with friends and close peers and more coercion and submission with parents (Laursen, 1993). Moreover, adolescents prefer non-threatening resolution strategies such as compromise and disengagement only in conflicts with

close peers. Power assertive strategies are more likely to occur in all other adolescent relationships (for a review, see Collins & Laursen, 1992).

Research considering the conflict outcome differences between parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships has resulted in two main findings. First, findings suggest that adolescent conflicts with friends are more likely to result in improved relations and positive affect than are adolescent conflicts with parents (Laursen, 1993; Laursen & Collins, 1994). Observational and interview work on friend conflicts has similarly concluded that for one-third of friend conflicts, disagreements result in relationship benefits and few negative consequences with none ending in termination of the relationship (Rizzo, 1992). Secondly, in a review of peer conflict research, it was reported that adolescent conflicts with friends as compared to other relationships have the highest rates of equivalent outcomes and lowest rate of win/loss outcomes. In contrast, adolescent conflicts with parents are more likely than friend conflicts to end with an inequitable solution (Laursen et al., 1996).

To summarize, main-effect comparisons have shown that conflict components differ between adolescent conflicts with parents and friends. Specifically, adolescent disagreements with friends are more likely to involve positive affect, constructive resolution, and outcomes such as continued social interaction, positive affect following the conflict, equitable outcomes, and improved relations. In contrast, adolescent disagreements with parents more often involve negative affect, coercive behaviors, and outcomes such as discontinued social interaction, distancing, and inequitable outcomes. For parent-adolescent conflicts, disagreements typically have little or no impact on their relationship (Laursen, 1993). These findings suggest that relationship properties affect

how conflicts unfold in adolescent relationships with parents and friends. Less is known about which features of conflict predict positive and negative relationship outcomes.

From a theoretical standpoint, it has been argued that conflicts may unfold in a systematically different way as a function of relationship properties and closeness of a relationship. Moreover, affect and resolution strategy may be predictive of specific conflict outcomes within different types of relationships (Collins & Laursen, 1992). As already discussed, conflicts that occur within a vertical, stable, and involuntary relationship such as a parent-child relationships, are much more likely to involve negative affect, coercive resolution strategies, and unequal outcomes. Due to the nature of this relationship, however, conflicts are not likely to have a great impact. In contrast, conflicts that occur within a horizontal, unstable, and voluntary relationship such as a friend-adolescent relationship are more likely to result in equitable outcomes and to have a greater impact on the relationship.

Relationship properties are likely to influence how conflict components are associated within relationships and suggest that different resolution tactics may result in different outcomes within these relationships. Choosing constructive resolution strategies such as compromise is one way to minimize the destructive impact of conflict on a relationship. In general, however, the use constructive resolution in managing a conflict is likely to be more beneficial for preserving a friendship than parent-adolescent relationship. Power assertive strategies may be less destructive to parent-adolescent relationships than friend-adolescent relationships. In sum, closeness without the constraints of kinship is more likely to promote the use of constructive strategies in

resolving conflict and these strategies are also more likely to result in a beneficial impact (Laursen & Collins, 1994).

Patterns of Conflict Behavior within Relationships

To date, only a handful of studies have examined patterns of association between components of conflict within adolescent relationships. These studies have led to two important findings. Not only have conflict components been found to be associated, but research suggests that these components form distinct patterns of association within adolescent relationships. For example, Laursen and Koplas (1995) have reported that combinations of affective intensity, resolution, and conflict outcomes result in unique sequences of adolescent conflict management. Unequal outcomes tend to be interconnected with affect and power assertive resolution strategies such as submission. Equal outcomes, in contrast, are associated with positive affect and conciliatory resolution strategies such as negotiation.

More recent research with adolescents suggests that conflict interactions that include associations between positive affect, constructive resolution strategies, and equal outcomes may be especially characteristic of friend-adolescent relationships. For example, observational research with adolescent best friends has shown that when working through an unresolved conflict, support and validation are positively associated with problem-solving behaviors and positive affect (Black, 2000). In an examination of preadolescent peer conflict behavior, Murphy and Eisenberg (2002) found that preadolescents' conflicts with friends were predictive of friendly goal behaviors and the use of constructive conflict behavior. Specifically, use of friendly goal behavior during conflicts was positively correlated with constructive conflict behavior. Intensity of

anger was negatively correlated with constructive conflict behavior. Moreover, as the tendency to report using constructive behavior during friend conflicts increased, the reporting of positive relationship outcomes also increased.

Evidence that affect, resolution, and outcomes are interrelated in conflict episodes also comes from research by Adams and Laursen (2001) who examined the frequency with which different conflict components tend to co-occur in adolescent relationships. Within parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships, patterns of co-occurrence between conflict resolutions and conflict outcomes and conflict resolutions and affect were found to differ for parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. Specifically, parent-adolescent conflicts were more likely to involve coercive patterns of conflict than were friend-adolescent conflicts. The proportion of conflicts that involved power assertive resolutions with win/lose outcomes was greater for parent-adolescent conflicts than friend conflicts. Parent-adolescent conflict involved more angry affect with win/lose outcomes and power assertive resolutions than friend conflicts. In contrast, conflicts with the combination of positive affect with negotiation or disengagement, disengagement with no conflict outcome, and positive affect with equal or not outcome were greater for friend-adolescent conflicts than parent-adolescent conflicts.

Together, these studies point to two important themes. First, associations between conflict components form meaningful sequences within parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent conflicts. Second, these associations also appear to differ by relationship. Specifically, conciliatory patterns of conflict management have been identified within friend-adolescent conflicts. For friend-adolescent conflicts, positive

affect and constructive resolution strategies have been linked to equitable outcomes. For parent-adolescent conflict, coercive patterns of conflict management have been identified. Negative affect and coercive resolution strategies have been linked to unequal outcomes.

Gender as a Moderator of Relationship Differences in Conflict Outcomes

To date, limited attention has been given to the role of gender in conflict management processes. Studies of parent-adolescent relationships have found that although girls report both feeling closer to and disclosing more to their mothers than boys (Kandel & Lesser, 1972; Youniss & Smollar, 1985), mother-daughter dyads experience more conflict than any other parent-adolescent relationship within the family (Smetana, 1988; Laursen, 1995). Importantly though, girls are more likely to have calm conflict discussions whereas boys are more likely to become angry when disagreeing with a parent. Boys are also more likely than girls to disengage from conflicts with parents (Tesser, Forehand, Brody, & Long, 1989). Likewise, boys have been found to be more power assertive in family discussions, more likely to interrupt, and less likely to offer explanations when arguing with their parents (Steinberg & Hill, 1978).

A few studies suggest that boys and girls may also differ in conflicts with friends. However, it is not known whether there are gender differences in the magnitude of associations between conflict components. For example, girls experience more conflict in their friendships than boys (Laursen, 1995). Girls have also been found to pursue friendlier conflict goals and more constructive conflict behaviors than boys while boys report lower levels of anger during conflicts with friends (Murphy & Eisenberg, 2002). In an observational study, adolescent girls were rated lower on

withdrawal and higher on communication skills and support-validation during a conflict resolution task with best friends than were adolescent boys. Boys, on the other hand, rated their friendships as more contentious on a questionnaire than did girls (Black, 2000). Finally, Laursen (1993) presented research which finds that girls are more likely than boys to report that conflicts with friends made their relationships better. Together, these few studies suggest that girls experience more conflict with friends than boys. These conflicts also appear to be more conciliatory than boys' conflicts with friends.

These findings are noteworthy as they indicate that gender may play a role in adolescent conflict with parents and friends. Importantly though, these studies do not address the possibility that gender moderates conflict processes, particularly the conflict behaviors that predict relationship outcomes. However, the findings that boys' and girls' conflict tactics differ in their interactions with parents and friends provides a rationale for testing whether gender moderates differences between mother and friend conflict outcomes. For example, because girls' conflicts with friends involve more constructive conflict goals than boys' conflicts with friends it is reasonable to assume that resolution tactics such as compromise would have a greater impact on girls' friend relations than on boys' friend relations.

Gender may also moderate relationship differences in factors that predict conflict outcomes. A few studies indicate that girls' relationships with parents and friends are more similar than boys' relationships with parents and friends in terms of closeness. In contrast, boys' relationships with parents and friends appear to be more similar than girls' in terms of distribution of power. For example, girls have reported being closer to their mothers (Kandel & Lesser, 1972) and experiencing greater

disclosure with their mothers (Rivenbark, 1971) than boys. Similarly, research studies have found girls' friendships to be closer, more supportive, and to involve more intimate disclosure than boys' friendships (Buhrmester & Furman, 1987; Crocket, Losoff, & Petersen, 1984; Noack & Buhl, 2004; Sharabany, Gershoni, & Hofman, 1981). As for distribution of power within relationships, girls report having less power and boys report having more power in their relationships. Overall, imbalances in power are less evident in boys' relationships. Girls, on the other hand, are more likely to see their relationships as unilateral (Noack & Buhl, 2004). In line with these findings, Daddis (2008) has hypothesized that within female relationships, females have more opportunities to influence each other as they are more likely to discuss beliefs regarding personal authority. Because girls' relationships are closer and involve a greater imbalance of power than boys' relationships, girls' resolution strategies may be more influential in determining conflict outcomes and relationship impact than boys' resolution strategies.

The Role of Conflict Topic in Adolescent Conflict

The relative frequency of disagreements over specific topics varies with friends and parents. Descriptive research has found that parents and adolescents agree that their disagreements typically occur over everyday mundane hassles involved in family life such as behavioral styles, responsibilities (e.g., chores, homework), daily routines (e.g., bedtime), school performance, health and hygiene, adolescent's choice of activities (e.g., TV viewing), and parental regulation of adolescent relationships and social life (Montemayor, 1982; Smetana, 1988; Smetana, 1989; Youniss & Smollar, 1985). Of these topics, the most common conflicts have been found to occur over daily hassles

such as chores (Smetana, Yau, & Hanson, 1991) and responsibilities (Allison & Schultz, 2004; Ellis-Schwabe & Thornburg, 1986). For the most part, these conflict topics result from specific disagreements over rule breaking and noncompliance with parents (Smetana, 1989).

Research conducted on disagreements between adolescents and their friends has found that disagreements are often focused on violations of trust and intimacy (Raffaelli, 1992). In a study of adolescent conflict, Laursen (1995) reported that friend conflict topics include friendship issues, differences of opinion, standards of behavior, transportation (e.g., getting rides), heterosexuality, criticism/teasing/put-downs, and annoying behavior. Of these topics, relationship concerns such as friendship issues occurred with the greatest frequency followed by differences of opinion.

Differential reasoning about conflict topics may have implications for conflict resolution. Theory suggests that with age, adolescents increasingly attempt to assert control over their environment. One way that this is accomplished is by striving for autonomy and seeking to change parent-enforced rules (Youniss & Smollar, 1985). Because parents manage their adolescent's daily activities and choices from a conventional perspective yet adolescents increasingly see these same activities as personal, autonomous decisions, it stands to reason that parent-adolescent conflict is likely to occur often over these daily hassles and decisions. Through such conflicts, adolescents indicate a desire for independence (Smetana, 1996). Thus, relations with parents are likely to pose obstacles that hinder the process of adolescent individuation and, in turn, adolescents are likely to challenge these obstacles (Cooper, 1988). Moreover, given the different conceptualizations of conflict by parents and adolescents

and the unequal distribution of power in the parent-adolescent relationship, finding a way to compromise over these issues is likely to be difficult (Smetana, Braeges, & Yau, 1991).

A few studies suggest this pattern of parent-adolescent conflict reasoning impacts conflict behaviors. For example, as conflicts over autonomy increase, negative affect within parent-adolescent conflict also increases and positive affect decreases (Flannery, Montemayor, Eberly, & Torquati, 1993). Also, when faced with an increasing push for autonomy by their adolescent, parents often resist these changes (Smetana, 1988). The result may be an emphasis on coercive resolution strategies while avoiding softer resolution strategies such as compromise (Cooper, 1988). Research by Smetana and colleagues (1991) has also found that parents rarely explain their reasoning during disputes with their adolescents, leaving little room for negotiation. When parents believe a dispute is of a conventional nature, they have been found to clearly reject adolescent claims of personal jurisdiction. Moreover, it has been argued that parent-adolescent conflicts over daily hassles are especially likely to involve coercion as such topics do not lend themselves to negotiation as easily as relational topics (Adams & Laursen, 2001). Other research suggests that adolescents are also uninterested in compromise when arguing with parents as they are less able or willing to take their parents perspective on conventional matters. Likewise, Smetana and colleagues (1991) have asserted that adolescents may submit within parent-adolescent conflicts, as they do not always mention their views on personal jurisdiction given that parents tend to disagree and they do not want to escalate conflict. Finally, Vangelisti (1992) has asserted that as long as adolescents perceive their conflict with parents as

similar to what other adolescents experience and as a normal part of parent-adolescent communication, conflict is unlikely to have an impact on the parent-adolescent relationship or to result in relationship dissatisfaction.

Adolescent conflict reasoning may also affect conflict behaviors between friends. As previously stated, friend-adolescent disputes that occur with the greatest frequency involve personal issues (e.g., relationships, opinions). Daddis (2008) has found that adolescent friends reason similarly about issues of a personal nature. Likewise, adolescents are more likely to choose friends who reason similarly to them and are likely to become more similar over time in their reasoning about personal issues. Peers have also been found to have the most influence over personal issues (e.g., identity, personal taste, peer culture). Given the egalitarian nature of friendship, partner influence, and similarity in reasoning, it may be that adolescent conflicts are more likely to be characterized by mitigation than coercion. For example, Daddis (2008) has postulated that compared with parent-adolescent relationships, friendships may be more open to examination of conflicting ideas. This examination may specifically involve perspective-taking, discussion, and gathering of information. Such tactics lend themselves to conciliatory resolution strategies more than to power assertive strategies. Moreover, similarity in reasoning over personal issues may also promote positive affect and improved relations.

Topic as a Moderator of Relationship Differences in Conflict Outcomes

Thus far, research has been presented to show that daily hassle disputes are most common in parent-adolescent relationships whereas conflicts over relationship issues are most frequent in friend-adolescent relationships. In addition, adolescents have been

found to reason differently about daily hassles than parents. Adolescents perceive many daily hassles to be of personal jurisdiction. Parents view these same issues as conventional and under their authority. In contrast, adolescent friends reason in a similar manner concerning issues that are personal in nature such as relationships. It has also been theorized that differential reasoning over conflict topics within relationships may differently impact conflict behaviors such as conflict resolution and outcome. Different conceptualizations of daily hassles between parents and adolescents are likely to result in power assertive resolutions and unequal outcomes. Similarities in reasoning between friends, on the other hand, may promote mitigation and positive outcomes in resolving relationship conflicts. Given these findings, it is reasonable to question whether conflict topic moderates conflict processes within adolescent relationships with parents and friends. Specifically, if conflict topics differ by relationship, they may also contribute to relationship differences in conflict processes. Moreover, certain conflict topics might lend themselves to an easier resolution or more specific type of resolution than others (Deutsch, 1973).

Support for the notion that conflict topic moderates associations between conflict behaviors comes from the research of Adams and Laursen (2001). In this study, adolescents were interviewed by phone regarding conflicts with parents and friends. The frequency of co-occurrence of two-component conflict chains was contrasted across relationships. Daily hassle disagreements were found to be more frequent in parent-adolescent conflicts than in friend-adolescent conflicts. For parent-adolescent conflicts, daily hassle disagreements were more likely to involve power assertive resolutions and neutral affect than were friend-adolescent conflicts. Relationship

disagreements with positive affect were more common in friend-adolescent relationships than parent-adolescent relationships. After controlling for rate of conflict over each topic, however, only daily hassle disagreements with power assertive resolution strategies and neutral affect were more common in parent-adolescent relationships.

In sum, these findings show that for adolescent relationships with parents and friends, specific conflict topics tend to co-occur with other components of conflict including affect and resolution. The finding that relationship disagreements with positive affect were more common in friend-adolescent relationships than in parent-adolescent relationships provides support for the notion that the egalitarian nature of friendships as well as friends' similarity in reasoning over personal issues are likely to be reflected in conflict components. Importantly, the finding that daily hassle disagreements with power assertive resolution strategies were more common in parent-adolescent relationships than in friend-adolescent relationships are in line with the idea that differences in reasoning over daily hassle conflicts between parents and friends may have implications for how these conflicts are resolved. Finally, the fact that this finding remained even after controlling for rate of conflict over each topic provides support for the premise that conflict topic may moderate relationship differences in conflict management.

Limitations of Previous Research

Previous research has shown that there are differences between conflict components across parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. Also, these components have been shown to be interrelated. However, several limitations of

previous research have not allowed key questions about adolescents' conflicts with parents and friends to be answered. Specifically, do level of affect and the resolution strategy predict the impact that conflict has on a relationship? Do these effects differ for adolescent relationships with friends and adolescent relationships with mothers?

In considering previous work on adolescent conflict with parents and friends, several limitations are apparent, resulting in unanswered questions. First and foremost, previous research is limited in that it has only examined main-effect differences in conflict components between adolescent relationships or conflict component associations within adolescent relationships. Although informative, these studies have not questioned whether associations between conflict components differ across parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent conflicts. In their research, Adams and Laursen (2001) addressed this question by examining the frequency with which different conflict components occur together across mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. However, this study was limited in several ways. Two-component conflict chains were examined for frequency of occurrence across relationships. By using two-component conflict chains, direct and indirect associations from affect and resolution to outcomes could not be tested. Thus, Adams and Laursen (2001) did not examine whether the relative strength of association between conflict components differed between adolescent relationships. Another limitation involved the examination of conflict outcomes. Although this and previous studies have considered relationship outcomes, specifically, solution equality, they have failed to examine the impact that conflict behavior has on parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. That is, whether adolescent conflict improves or worsens relationships with parents and friends

is unknown. A third limitation was that participants were not equally represented within the analyses. That is, participants with high conflict rates contributed more conflict data than participants with low conflict rates. This limitation is problematic in two ways. First, it may have led to inflation of specific types of conflict. Second, rates of conflict within the study may have been more reflective of individuals included in the sample rather than actual frequency of adolescent conflict. A fourth limitation of their study involved the method of data collection. Phone interviews were used to collect data in which participants were only questioned about one day of conflict. Depending on the day of the week adolescents were questioned, data could have resulted in under or overrepresented rates and topics of conflict within relationships. This method of data collection is problematic in that opportunities for conflict with parents and friends may not be equally distributed across days of the week.

In order to address the above limitations, a number of steps were taken in this study. First, individual reports of conflict were aggregated across conflicts and across days such that each participant contributed one score to data on friend conflict and one score to data on parent-adolescent conflict. Thus, individual differences could be studied by creating average scores of conflict components for each participant. Second, conflict data were collected over a three day period (i.e., Thursday, Friday, Saturday) rather than over just one day. By collecting weekday and week-end conflict information, data were more likely to be representative of actual conflict rate and issues that occur across relationships. In addition, information on relationship impact was collected. Specifically, participants were asked whether each conflict worsened, improved, or had no impact on their relationship.

In addition to problematic limitations, previous research has also left some unanswered questions. First, it is unknown whether conflict affect and resolution predict relationship impact for parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships or the extent to which the associations between these components are direct or indirect. To identify unique predictors of relationship impact and to assess indirect links, the strength of associations between relationship impact and the two components of conflict affect and conflict resolution were measured using path analysis. Another question unanswered by previous research is whether relationship moderates the extent to which conflict affect and conflict resolution predict relationship impact. In order to address the question of relationship as a moderator, path analysis multigroup comparisons were used to test for differences in the magnitude of associations between conflict components across relationships. Two further questions that have been unanswered by prior research on adolescent conflict are whether gender or topic moderate associations between conflict components within or between adolescent relationships. In previous research as well as work by Adams and Laursen (2001), gender as a potential moderator of associations between conflict components has been neglected. Adams and Laursen (2001), however, did attempt to address conflict topic as a moderator. Specifically, they included conflict topic as a moderator of relationship differences in the frequency with which specific construction of conflict behavior occurred, but they lacked power for these analyses and no statistically significant findings emerged. In order to address questions of moderation, path analysis multigroup comparisons were used to test for differences in the magnitude of associations between conflict components across gender and conflict topic.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

Three questions guided this investigation: (a) Do the level of negative affect and the resolution strategy predict the impact that conflict has on a relationship? (b) Do these effects differ for adolescent relationships with friends and adolescent relationships with mothers? (c) Are associations from negative affect and resolution to relationship impact moderated by gender or conflict topic?

Previous research has found that parent-adolescent disagreements are characterized by coercive conflict management processes including negative affect, power assertive resolution strategies, and inequitable outcomes. In contrast, friend-adolescent conflict management often involves positive affect, mitigation, and equitable outcomes (Laursen, 1993). However, the relative strength of association between these conflict variables is unknown. Also, whether affect and resolution predict relationship impact is unknown. In extending these findings, it was hypothesized that for both mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent conflict, negative affect and conflict resolution would be associated with relationship impact. Specifically, it was hypothesized that lower levels of negative affect and greater compromise would be associated with improved relations.

These effects were expected to differ somewhat across adolescent relationships. Given the relationship properties of mother-adolescent relationships (i.e., stable, vertical, involuntary) versus friend-adolescent relationships (i.e., unstable, egalitarian, voluntary), it was expected that relationship would moderate associations between conflict components. Specifically, it was hypothesized that negative affect and

compromise would be stronger predictors of relationship impact for friend relations than parent relations.

The next set of hypotheses examined whether gender moderated associations between conflict components. Previous research has found that girls display higher rates of conflict with mothers and friends than boys. In addition, girls' conflict strategies tend to be softer, involving more negotiation and positive affect than boys' conflicts with mothers and friends (Laursen, 1995; Murphy & Eisenburg, 2002; Tesser et al., 1989). Given these findings, it was hypothesized that associations from affect and resolution to relationship impact would be stronger for girls' conflicts than for boys' conflicts. An additional research question considered whether gender moderated relationship differences in factors that predicted relationship impact. Given that girls' relationships with mothers and friends are closer and involve a greater imbalance of power than boys' relationships (Kandel & Lester, 1972; Buhrmester & Furman, 1987; Noack & Buhl, 2004), it was expected that girls' resolution strategies may be more influential in determining relationship impact than boys' resolution strategies.

Finally, previous research has shown that links between daily hassle conflicts and angry affect, power assertion, and win-lose outcomes are more common in parent-adolescent conflicts than in friend-adolescent conflicts (Adams & Laursen, 2001). Given these findings, it was expected that within daily hassle conflicts, parent-adolescent conflicts would show stronger associations between affect and resolution in predicting relationship impact than for friend-adolescent conflicts. In contrast, because friends tend to argue over personal issues such as relationships, are likely to reason similarly (Daddis, 2008), and are highly invested in relationship maintenance (Laursen

& Collins, 1994), it was hypothesized that within relationship conflicts, the associations from affect and resolution to relationship impact would be stronger for friend-adolescent disagreements than parent-adolescent disagreements.

Method

Participants

Participants included 231 8th ($n = 100$) and 9th ($n = 131$) grade students. Of these participants, 113 were girls and 100 were boys. Participants ranged in age from 13 to 16 years old ($M = 14.0$). Of this total, 52% were European Americans ($n = 120$), 21% were Asian Americans ($n = 49$), 9% were African Americans ($n = 21$), 9% were Hispanic Americans ($n = 21$), and the remainder identified mixed and other ethnic backgrounds. Of a potential range of 8-66, Hollingshead (1975) socioeconomic scores ranged from 9 to 66 ($M = 54.14$, $SD = 10.28$).

Measures

Daily conflict questionnaires. Interpersonal conflicts were assessed using event-contingent diary reports (see Appendix A). These instruments represent a modified version of the widely used Rochester Interaction Record (Wheeler & Reis, 1991) revised for use with young adolescents (Jensen-Campbell & Graziano, 2000, 2001) and modified to assess all instances of daily conflict (Burk, Denissen, Van Doorn, Branje, & Laursen, 2009). Over the course of three consecutive days (i.e., Thursday, Friday, Saturday), participants completed a social interaction worksheet for every social interaction lasting at least five minutes. After describing each social interaction, participants indicated whether or not it involved a disagreement. Of the 231

participants, 25 reported at least one conflict with mothers only, 129 reported at least one conflict with friends only, and 77 reported conflicts with both mothers and friends.

For each interaction that involved a conflict, participants were prompted to identify a conflict partner and to answer several questions regarding the characteristics of the disagreement. This study focused on four conflict characteristics. *Conflict topic* referred to the disagreement issue. Participants answered the question, “What was the disagreement about?” by choosing one of ten specific conflict topics. The original 10 conflict topics were combined to form two categories on the basis of a priori groupings. Daily hassle conflicts consisted of the following conflict topics:

car/telephone/TV/computer; money/possessions; responsibilities; and school/work.

Relationship conflicts consisted of the following conflict topics: annoying behavior; criticism/teasing; differences of opinion; personal freedom; relationships; and standards of behavior.

Conflict affect. This included five measures of perceived affective intensity (happy, sad, fear, angry, nervous) in disagreements with mothers and friends. For each, participants answered the question, “How did you feel during the disagreement?” Affective intensity was scored on a 5-point scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very).

Principle components factor analyses were separately performed on happy, sad, fear, and angry conflict affect scores for both adolescent conflicts with mothers and friends.

A varimax rotation was used. For both mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent conflict affect data, two factors emerged. Sad and fear loaded onto one factor and happy and angry loaded onto a second factor (see Table 1). The present study focused on one of these factors: negative affect. For adolescent conflict with friends, this factor had

eigenvalues ranging from 2.05 to 1.20 and accounted for 51.2% to 29.9% of the variance. For adolescent conflict with mothers, this factor had eigenvalues ranging from 2.15 to 1.07 and accounted for 53.7% to 26.7% of the variance. A *negative affect* composite was created from the mean of angry and reverse happy scores. Nervous scores were removed from all analyses because the nervous item was added to the diary worksheet mid-way through data collection. Only one of the three cohorts responded to questionnaires with the nervous item.

Conflict resolution. This described behaviors that brought about a cessation of the conflict. “How was the disagreement resolved?” Participants chose one of five potential resolutions: we compromised; I gave in; other gave in; no resolution; and someone else resolved it. Conflict resolution scores were converted into individual proportion scores by relationships. Three sets of proportions scores were calculated for each participant. First, overall mother scores were calculated by dividing the number of mother-adolescent conflicts an individual reported with a particular resolution by the total number of mother-adolescent conflicts an individual reported. For example, if a participant reported three mother-adolescent conflicts in which one was resolved with compromise and two were resolved with self-submission, the participant’s mother-adolescent proportion scores would be as follows: compromise = $1/3 = .33$, self-submit = $2/3 = .67$, other-submit = $0/3 = .00$, and no resolution = $0/3 = .00$. In the same way, overall friend scores were calculated by dividing the number of friend-adolescent conflicts an individual reported with a particular resolution by the total number of friend-adolescent conflicts an individual reported.

Second, proportion scores were calculated separately by daily hassle conflict topics. Mother-adolescent daily hassle scores were calculated by dividing the number of mother-adolescent daily hassle conflicts with a particular resolution by the total number of mother-adolescent daily hassle conflicts an individual reported. For example, if a participant reported four mother-adolescent daily hassle conflicts in which two were resolved with compromise and two were resolved with other-submission, the participant's mother-adolescent daily hassle proportion scores would be as follows: compromise = $2/4 = .50$, self-submit = $0/4 = .00$, other-submit = $2/4 = .50$, and no resolution = $0/4 = .00$. Similarly, friend-adolescent daily hassle scores were calculated by dividing the number of friend-adolescent daily hassle conflicts with a particular resolution by the total number of friend-adolescent daily hassle conflicts an individual reported.

Third, proportion scores were calculated separately by relationship conflict topics. Mother-adolescent relationship scores were calculated by dividing the number of mother-adolescent relationship conflicts with a particular resolution by the total number of mother-adolescent relationship conflicts an individual reported. For example, if a participant reported five mother-adolescent relationship conflicts in which two were resolved with compromise, one was resolved with self-submission, and two were resolved with other-submission, the participant's mother-adolescent relationship proportion scores would be as follows: compromise = $2/5 = .40$, self-submit = $1/5 = .20$, other-submit = $2/5 = .40$, and no resolution = $0/4 = .00$. Similarly, friend-adolescent relationship scores were calculated by dividing the number of friend-adolescent

relationship conflicts with a particular resolution by the total number of friend-adolescent relationship conflicts an individual reported.

Relationship impact. This described the perceived effect of a conflict on relations with mothers and friends. “How did the disagreement affect your relationship?” Relationship impact was scored on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (made it better) to 5 (made it worse).

Scores for each individual for each variable were averaged across the three day period.

Procedure

All participants were drawn from a larger ongoing longitudinal study underway in Montgomery County, Maryland. All 8th and 9th grade participants from three separate cohorts were invited to participate in the diary study.

Prior to data collection, participants met with research assistants to review procedures for diary data collection. Participants were provided with telephone numbers to contact research assistants should questions arise during the course of data collection. During this initial meeting, participants were provided with definitions and examples of conflict and social interaction. Each question on the diary was reviewed along with a set of helpful hints that accompanied the diaries. Participants then completed a sample version of the diary.

Participants were asked to complete diary records for three consecutive days: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. This allowed for the sampling of interactions and disagreements that arise during school days and week-ends. Participants were given separate diaries for each day, consisting of a cover page summarizing interactions and

20 interaction forms describing specific social interactions and disagreements.

Participants were asked to complete the diaries the same time every day, preferably before they went to bed that day or in the morning the following day. Reminder tablets were provided so that participants could make notes about interactions during the course of the day to assist in recall when completing diaries later. Research assistants called adolescents to remind them to complete their diaries daily and to answer any questions that arose. Diaries were collected from participants the following Monday upon arrival at school. Follow-up telephone calls were used to check the integrity of reports provided by each participant.

Plan of Analysis

Preliminary analyses were used to identify correlations between conflict variables and to identify differences between mother and friend conflicts and between daily hassle and relationship conflicts. Four sets of correlational analyses were conducted. Bivariate correlations identified associations between conflict variable including negative affect, all conflict resolution variables (compromise, self-submit, other-submit, no resolution), and relationship impact. The next set of correlations identified associations between these conflict variables separately for boys and girls. Another set of correlations identified associations between these conflict variables, separately for daily hassle conflicts and relationship conflicts. The final set of correlations identified associations between these conflict variables, separately for conflicts with mothers and conflicts with friends.

Preliminary analyses were also used to identify differences in clusters of mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent conflicts. Two-way ANOVAs were conducted

with relationship and sex as the independent variables. Separate analyses were conducted with negative affect, each conflict resolution (compromise, self-submit, other-submit, no resolution), and relationship impact as the dependent variables.

Using AMOS 5.0 (Arbuckle, 2003), path analyses were conducted with negative affect, relationship impact, and one of the four resolution styles (compromise, self-submit, other-submit, and no resolution). In all, six sets of analyses were conducted, each including four conflict models. All models were fully saturated, allowing all parameters to be freely estimated. Each model was tested in two steps. First, direct associations were calculated from one conflict resolution style (e.g., compromise) to relationship impact. Second, analyses examined whether negative affect mediated associations between the conflict resolution style and relationship impact.

The first set of analyses identified direct and indirect associations from conflict resolution and negative affect to relationship impact for the total sample. The second set of analyses identified direct and indirect associations from conflict resolution and negative affect to relationship impact, separately for boys and girls. These analyses address the question: Do conflict processes differ by sex? Multigroup comparisons were used to test whether the strength of associations between the conflict variables were moderated by sex. Chi-square difference testing compared one path at a time by constraining all other path coefficients to be equal. The third set of analyses identified direct and indirect associations from conflict resolutions and negative affect to relationship impact, separately for daily hassle conflicts and relationship conflicts. These analyses addressed the question: Do conflict processes differ by conflict topic? Multigroup comparisons tested whether the strength of associations between the conflict

variables were moderated by conflict topic. The fourth set of analyses identified direct and indirect associations from conflict resolutions and negative affect to relationship impact, separately for conflicts with mothers and conflicts with friends. These analyses addressed the question: Do conflict processes differ by relationship? Multigroup comparisons tested whether the strength of associations between the conflict variables were moderated by relationship.

The fifth set of analyses identified direct and indirect associations from conflict resolutions and negative affect to relationship impact, separately for boys' disagreements with mothers and friends, and for girls' disagreements with mothers and friends. These analyses addressed the question: Are relationship differences in conflict management processes moderated by sex? Multigroup comparisons tested whether the strength of associations between conflict variables were moderated by relationship, separately for boys and girls.

The final set of analyses identified direct and indirect associations from conflict resolutions and negative affect to relationship impact, separately for mother and friend daily hassle disagreements, and for mother and friend relationship disagreements. These analyses addressed the question: Are relationship differences in conflict management processes moderated by conflict topic? Multigroup comparisons tested whether the strength of associations between the conflict variables were moderated by relationship, separately for daily hassle conflicts and relationship conflicts.

Results

Preliminary Analyses

Table 2 presents intercorrelations between conflict variables. Negative affect was positively associated with relationship impact and self-submit, and negatively associated with compromise. Relationship impact was negatively associated with compromise and positively associated with no resolution. There were inverse associations between all conflict resolution variables (compromise, self-submit, other-submit, no resolution) with one exception: self-submit was not linked to other-submit.

Table 3 presents intercorrelations between conflict variables, separately for boys and girls. Similar patterns of correlations emerged among boys and girls. Negative affect was positively associated with relationship impact. For girls only, negative affect was negatively associated with compromise; for boys only, negative affect was positively associated with self-submit. Relationship impact was negatively associated with compromise and positively associated with no resolution. All conflict resolution variables (compromise, self-submit, other-submit, no resolution) were inversely associated, with the exception of self-submit and other-submit.

Table 4 presents intercorrelations between conflict variables, separately for daily hassle topics and relationship topics. Similar patterns of correlations emerged for each. Negative affect was positively associated with relationship impact. For relationship disagreements only, negative affect was negatively associated with compromise and positively associated with self-submit; for daily hassle disagreements only, negative affect was positively associated with no resolution. Relationship impact was negatively associated with compromise and positively associated with no resolution. Conflict

resolution variables were inversely associated, with the exception of self-submit and other-submit.

Table 5 presents intercorrelations between conflict variables, separately for conflicts with mothers and for conflicts with friends. Similar patterns of correlations emerged for each. Negative affect was positively associated with relationship impact and negatively associated with compromise. Relationship impact was negatively associated with compromise and positively associated with no resolution. Conflict resolution variables (compromise, self-submit, other-submit, no resolution) were inversely associated, with the following exceptions: (1) compromise and other-submit; (2) for mother-adolescent conflicts only, compromise and other-submit; and (3) for friend-adolescent conflicts only, self-submit and other-submit. For mother-adolescent conflicts only, negative affect was negatively associated with other-submit and positively associated with no resolution.

A series of 2 (sex) x 2 (relationship) ANOVAs were performed on each conflict variable. Relationship differences emerged on negative affect, $F(2, 223) = 6.66, p = .002$. Negative affect was higher in conflicts with mothers ($M = 3.84, SD = .92$) than in conflicts with friends ($M = 3.07, SD = .97$). Relationship differences also emerged on self-submit, $F(2, 224) = 8.68, p < .01$, with participants reporting higher proportion scores in conflicts with mothers ($M = .29, SD = .44$) than in conflicts with friends ($M = .10, SD = .24$). No differences emerged on relationship impact, compromise, other-submit, and no resolution.

Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Total Sample

Direct and indirect associations from one of the four resolution variables (i.e., compromise, self-submits, other-submits, no resolution) and negative affect to relationship impact were tested with path analysis. Follow-up analyses determined whether negative affect mediated associations between conflict resolution and relationship impact for each of the four models. Analyses were conducted on the total sample.

Figure 1 presents the results for each of the four models. For the compromise model, a statistically significant path emerged between compromise and negative affect, between compromise and relationship impact, and between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater compromise was associated with less negative affect and improved relations, and high levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. Follow-up mediation analyses revealed that the initial association between compromise and relationship impact was attenuated by negative affect, indicating partial mediation.

For the self-submit model, a statistically significant path emerged between self-submit and negative affect and between negative affect and relationship impact. Self-submit was associated with greater negative affect which in turn was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the other-submit model, there was a statistically significant association between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, there was a statistically significant association between no resolution and relationship impact and between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations and no resolution was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Summary. Path analysis results on the total sample revealed that for all models, high levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. Compromise and self-submit were linked to negative affect such that greater compromise was associated with less negative affect, and higher levels of self-submission were associated with greater negative affect. Only compromise and no resolution were both linked to relationship impact: greater compromise was associated with improved relations and higher levels of no resolution were associated with worsened relations. There was evidence of mediation in one model: negative affect partially mediated the association between compromise and relationship impact. Taken together, the findings supported the prediction that conflict management components are associated. Specifically, both mitigation and coercive patterns of conflict were identified. Greater compromise was associated with less negative affect and improved relations. Higher levels of self-submission were associated with greater negative affect. Higher levels of no resolution were associated with worsened relations.

Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Moderator Analyses

Sex differences. Direct and indirect associations from one of the four resolution variables (compromise, self-submit, other-submit, no resolution) and negative affect to relationship impact were tested with path analysis. Follow-up analyses determined whether negative affect mediated associations between conflict resolution and relationship impact for each of the four models. Analyses were conducted separately for boys and girls.

Boys' disagreements. Figure 2 presents results for each of the four models for boys' disagreements. For the compromise model, statistically significant paths emerged between compromise and relationship impact and between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater compromise was associated with improved relations, and higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the self-submit model, statistically significant paths emerged between self-submit and negative affect and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of self-submit were associated with greater negative affect and greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the other-submit models, statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between no resolution and relationship impact and between negative affect and relationship impact.

Higher levels of no resolution were associated with worsened relations. Higher levels of negative affect were also associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Girls' disagreements. Figure 3 presents results for each of the four models for girls' disagreements. For the compromise model, statistically significant paths emerged between compromise and negative affect, between compromise and relationship impact, and between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater compromise was associated with less negative affect and improved relations. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. Follow-up mediation analyses revealed that the initial association between compromise and relationship impact was attenuated by negative affect indicating partial mediation.

For the self-submit and other-submit models, statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between no resolution and relationship impact and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of no resolution were associated with worsened relations. Higher levels of negative affect were also associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Sex differences in patterns of associations. A multiple-group procedure compared paths for boys' and girls' disagreements with each model. For each of the four models, the model fit was good, CFI = 1.0, RMSEA = .00. All models were fully saturated, $\chi^2(0) = 0.00$. There were no statistically significant sex differences on any path in any model.

Conflict topic differences. Direct and indirect associations from one of the four resolution variables (compromise, self-submit, other-submit, no resolution) and negative affect to relationship impact were tested with path analysis. Follow-up analyses determined whether negative affect mediated associations between conflict resolution and relationship impact for each of the four models. Analyses were conducted separately for daily hassle conflicts and relationship conflicts.

Daily hassle disagreements. Figure 4 presents results for each of the four models describing daily hassle disagreements. For the compromise model, statistically significant paths emerged between compromise and relationship impact and between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater compromise was associated with improved relations, and higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the self-submit and other-submit models, statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between no resolution and negative affect, between no resolution and relationship impact, and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of no resolution were

associated with greater negative affect and with worsened relations. Higher levels of negative affect were also associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Relationship disagreements. Figure 5 presents results for each of the four models describing relationship disagreements. For the compromise model, statistically significant paths emerged between compromise and negative affect, between compromise and relationship impact, and between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater compromise was associated with less negative affect and with improved relations. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. Follow-up mediation analyses revealed that the initial association between compromise and relationship impact was attenuated by negative affect, indicating partial mediation.

For the self-submit model, statistically significant paths emerged between self-submit and negative affect and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of self-submit were associated with greater negative affect, and greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the other-submit model, statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. High levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between no resolution and relationship impact and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of no resolution were associated with worsened relations. Higher levels of negative affect were also associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Conflict topic differences in patterns of associations. A multiple-group procedure compared paths for daily hassle conflict topics and relationship conflict topics within each model. For each of the four models, the model fit was good, CFI = 1.0, RMSEA = .00. All models were fully saturated, $\chi^2(0) = 0.00$. There were no statistically significant conflict topic differences on any path in any model.

Relationship differences. Direct and indirect associations from one of the four resolution variables (compromise, self-submit, other-submit, no resolution) and negative affect to relationship impact were tested with path analysis. Follow-up analyses determined whether negative affect mediated associations between conflict resolution and relationship impact for each of the four models. Analyses were conducted separately for mother and friend conflicts.

Disagreements with mothers. Figure 6 presents results for each of the four models describing disagreements with mothers. For the compromise model, statistically significant paths emerged between compromise and negative affect, between compromise and relationship impact, and between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater compromise was associated with less negative affect and with improved relations. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. Follow-up mediation analyses revealed that the initial association between compromise and relationship impact was eliminated by the inclusion of paths to negative affect, indicating full mediation.

For the self-submit model, statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the other-submit model, statistically significant paths emerged between other-submit and negative affect and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of other-submit were associated with less negative affect. Lower levels of negative affect were associated with improved relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between no resolution and negative affect, between no resolution and relationship impact, and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of no resolution were associated with higher levels of negative affect and with worsened relations. Higher levels of negative affect were also associated with worsened relations. Follow-up mediation analyses indicated that the initial association between no resolution and relationship impact was eliminated by the inclusion of paths to negative affect, indicating full mediation.

Disagreements with friends. Figure 7 presents results for each of the four models describing disagreements with friends. For the compromise model, statistically significant paths emerged between compromise and negative affect, between compromise and relationship impact, and between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater compromise was associated with less negative affect and with improved relations. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. Follow-up mediation analyses revealed that the initial association between compromise and relationship impact was attenuated by negative affect, indicating partial mediation.

For the self-submit and other-submit models, statistically significant paths

emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between no resolution and relationship impact and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of no resolution were associated with worsened relations. Higher levels of negative affect were also associated with worsened relations.

Relationship differences in patterns of associations. A multiple group procedure compared paths for mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent disagreements. For each of the four models, the model fit was good, CFI = 1.0, RMSEA = .00. All models were fully saturated, $\chi^2(0) = 0.00$. A relationship difference emerged between mother and friend disagreements for the other-submit model, $\chi^2(1) = 5.59$, $p = .02$. The path from other-submit to negative affect was stronger for mothers than for friends.

Summary. Regardless of sex, relationship, or conflict topic, relationship impact was linked to compromise, no resolution, and negative affect. Among girls' conflicts, relationship conflicts, and conflicts with mothers and friends, negative affect fully or partially mediated associations between compromise and relationship impact such that greater compromise was linked to less negative affect, which in turn, was linked to improved relations. Among boys' conflicts and relationship conflicts, higher levels of self-submit were linked to greater negative affect. For disagreements with mothers, higher levels of other-submit were associated with lower levels of negative affect. For daily hassle disagreements and disagreements with mothers, negative affect fully or partially mediated associations between no resolution and relationship impact such that

higher levels of no resolution were linked to greater negative affect, which in turn, was linked to worsened relations.

Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Gender by Relationship Interactions

Boys' disagreements with mothers and friends. Direct and indirect associations from one of the four resolution variables (compromise, self-submit, other-submit, no resolution) and negative affect to relationship impact were tested with path analysis. Follow-up analyses determined whether negative affect mediated associations between conflict resolution and relationship impact for each of the four models. Analyses contrasting disagreements with mothers and disagreements with friends were conducted separately for boys and girls.

Boys' disagreements with mothers. Figure 8 presents results for each of the four models describing boys' disagreements with mothers. For the compromise model, statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the self-submit model, statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the other-submit model, statistically significant paths emerged between other-submit and negative affect and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of other-submit were associated with lower negative affect. Higher

negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Boys' disagreements with friends. Figure 9 presents results for each of the four models describing boys' disagreements with friends. For the compromise, self-submit, other-submit, and no resolution models statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Relationship differences in patterns of associations. A multiple group procedure compared paths for boys' disagreements with mothers and boys' disagreements with friends within each model. For each of the four models, the model fit was good, CFI = 1.0, RMSEA = .00. All models were fully saturated, $\chi^2(0) = 0.00$. A relationship difference emerged between disagreements with mothers and disagreements with friends in the other-submit model, $\chi^2(1) = 5.10$, $p = .02$. The path from other-submit to negative affect was stronger in disagreements with mothers than in disagreements with friends.

Girls' disagreements with mothers and friends.

Girls' disagreements with mothers. Figure 10 presents results for each of the four models describing girls' disagreements with mothers. For the compromise model, statistically significant paths emerged between compromise and negative affect, between compromise and relationship impact, and between negative affect and

relationship impact. Greater compromise was associated with less negative affect and with improved relations. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. Follow-up mediation analyses revealed that the initial association between compromise and relationship impact was eliminated with the addition of paths to negative affect, indicating full mediation.

For the self-submit and other-submit models, statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between no resolution and negative affect and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of no resolution were associated with greater negative affect. Greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Girls' disagreements with friends. Figure 11 presents results for each of the four models describing girls' disagreements with friends. For the compromise model, statistically significant paths emerged between compromise and negative affect, between compromise and relationship impact, and between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater compromise was associated with less negative affect and with improved relations. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. Follow-up mediation analyses revealed that the initial association between compromise and relationship impact was attenuated by negative affect, indicating partial mediation.

For the self-submit and other-submit models, statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between no resolution and relationship impact and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of no resolution were associated with worsened relations. Higher levels of negative affect were also associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Relationship differences in patterns of association. A multiple group procedure compared paths for girls' disagreements with mothers and girls' disagreements with friends within each model. For each of the four models, the model fit was good, CFI = 1.0, RMSEA = .00. All models were fully saturated, $\chi^2(0) = 0.00$. There were no statistically significant differences between disagreements with mothers and disagreements with friends on any path in any model.

Summary. For both boys' and girls' disagreements with mothers and friends, relationship impact was linked to negative affect. Among girls' conflicts with mothers and friends, negative affect fully or partially mediated associations between compromise and relationship impact such that greater compromise was linked to less negative affect, which in turn, was linked to improved relations. For boys' disagreements with mothers, high levels of other-submit were associated with greater negative affect. For girls' disagreements with mothers only, higher levels of no resolution were associated with greater negative affect. For boys' disagreements with mothers and girls' disagreements with friends, higher levels of no resolution were

associated worsened relations. Finally, the multigroup comparisons revealed that the path from other-submit to negative affect was stronger in boys' disagreements with mothers and in boys' disagreements with friends.

Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Conflict Topic by Relationship Interactions

Daily hassle conflicts with mothers and friends. Direct and indirect associations from one of the four resolution variables (compromise, self-submit, other-submit, no resolution) and negative affect to relationship impact were tested with path analysis. Follow-up analyses determined whether negative affect mediated associations between conflict resolution and relationship impact for each of the four models. Analyses contrasting disagreements with mothers and disagreements with friends were conducted separately for daily hassle and relationship topics.

Disagreements with mothers. Figure 12 presents results for each of the four models describing daily hassle disagreements with mothers. For the compromise model, a statistically significant path emerged between compromise and negative affect. Greater compromise was associated with less negative affect. There was no evidence of mediation.

For both the self-submit and other-submit models, statistically significant paths emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between no resolution and negative affect and between no resolution and relationship impact.

Higher levels of no resolution were associated with greater negative affect and worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Disagreements with friends. Figure 13 presents results for each of the four models, describing daily hassle disagreements with friends. For the compromise, self-submit, and other-submit models, a statistically significant path emerged between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between no resolution and relationship impact and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of no resolution were associated with worsened relations. Higher levels of negative affect were also associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Relationship differences in patterns of associations. A multiple group procedure compared paths for daily hassle disagreements with mothers and daily hassle disagreements with friends within each model. For each of the four models, the model fit was good, CFI = 1.0, RMSEA = .00. All models were fully saturated, $\chi^2(0) = 0.00$. There were no statistically significant differences between disagreements with mothers and disagreements with friends on any path in any model.

Relationship conflicts with mothers and friends.

Disagreements with mothers. Figure 14 presents results for each of the four models describing relationship disagreements with mothers. For the compromise model, statistically significant paths emerged between compromise and negative affect, between compromise and relationship impact, and between negative affect and

relationship impact. Greater compromise was associated with less negative affect and with improved relations. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. Follow-up mediation analyses revealed that the initial association between compromise and relationship impact was eliminated by the inclusion of paths to negative affect, indicating full mediation.

For the self-submit model, statistically significant paths emerged between self-submit and negative affect and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of self-submit were associated with greater negative affect. Greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the other-submit model, statistically significant paths emerged between other-submit and negative affect and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of other-submit were associated with lower negative affect. Higher negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, a statistically significant path emerged between no resolution and negative affect and between negative affect and relationship impact. Higher levels of no resolution were associated with greater negative affect. Greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Disagreements with friends. Figure 15 presents results for each of the four models describing relationship disagreements with friends. For the compromise model, statistically significant paths emerged between compromise and relationship impact and between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater compromise was associated

with improved relations. Higher levels of negative affect were associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the self-submit and other-submit models, there was a statistically significant link between negative affect and relationship impact. Greater negative affect was associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

For the no resolution model, statistically significant paths emerged between no resolution and relationship impact and between negative affect and relationship impact. No resolution was associated with worsened relations. Higher levels of negative affect were also associated with worsened relations. There was no evidence of mediation.

Relationship differences in patterns of associations. A multiple group procedure compared paths for relationship disagreements with mothers and relationship disagreements within friends. For each of the four models, the model fit was good, CFI = 1.0, RMSEA = .00. All models were fully saturated, $\chi^2(0) = 0.00$. Relationship differences emerged between mother and friend disagreements in the compromise, other-submit, and no resolution models. In the compromise model, the path from compromise to negative affect was stronger for mother disagreements than for friend disagreements, $\chi^2(1) = 3.75, p = .05$. In the other-submit model, the path from other-submit to negative affect was stronger for mother disagreements than for friend disagreements, $\chi^2(1) = 6.56, p = .01$. In the no resolution model, the path from no resolution to relationship impact was stronger for friends than for mothers, $\chi^2(1) = 3.84, p = .05$.

Summary. For relationship disagreements with mothers and friends, as well as daily hassle disagreements with friends, relationship impact was linked to negative

affect. For daily hassle disagreements with mothers, relationship impact was linked to negative affect for only the self-submit and other-submit models. For both daily hassle and relationship disagreements with mothers, greater compromise was linked to lower negative affect, and higher levels of no resolution were linked to greater negative affect. For relationship disagreements with mothers only, higher levels of self-submit were associated with greater negative affect whereas higher levels of other-submit were associated with less negative affect. For daily hassle disagreements with mothers and friends and relationship disagreements with friends, higher levels of no resolution were associated with worsened relations. For both daily hassle and relationship disagreements with friends, greater compromise was associated with improved relations. For relationship disagreements with mothers, negative affect fully mediated the association between compromise and relationship impact such that greater compromise was linked to less negative affect, which in turn, was linked to improved relations. Finally, the multigroup comparisons revealed that the paths from compromise to negative affect and from other-submit to negative affect were stronger in relationship conflicts with mothers than in relationship conflicts with friends. The path from no resolution to relationship impact was stronger in relationship conflicts with friends than in relationship conflicts with mothers. Overall, these analyses lend partial support the hypothesis that relationship differences in conflict management would be moderated by conflict topic. For mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent conflicts, associations between resolution strategy and negative affect were moderated by conflict topic. Regardless of whether conflicts were over daily hassles or relationships, negative affect and compromise were both linked to relationship impact for conflicts with friends. For

the most part, negative affect rather than resolution strategy was linked to relationship impact for conflicts with mothers.

Discussion

This investigation represents one of just a few comparative studies of conflict in parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. Rather than focusing on mean level differences between conflicts in relationships, this study examined patterns of associations between conflict components both within and across adolescent relationships. Whether affect and resolution predicted relationship impact was of particular interest. Moderation and mediation analyses as well as multiple group comparisons were conducted to allow for a greater understanding of how conflict components differentially impact adolescent relationships with parents and friends.

The primary hypothesis of this study was that level of affect and type of resolution would be predictive of relationship impact for both mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent conflict. A second hypothesis predicted that these associations would be stronger for friend-adolescent conflict than for mother-adolescent conflict. Overall, the primary hypothesis was supported. Lower levels of negative affect and higher levels of compromise were associated with improved relations with mothers and friends. Mediation analyses indicated that for both mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent conflict, negative affect accounted for much of the influence of compromise in the impact of conflict. The second hypothesis, however, was not supported. There was no difference between relationships in the strength of associations from affect and compromise to relationship impact. In considering the significance of these findings, the take home point is not only that compromise and negative affect predict relationship

impact. What stands out is the finding that negative affect largely accounted for the association between compromise and relationship impact. In other words, regardless of the amount of compromise, it is the expression of anger that determines whether a conflict improves or worsens a relationship.

Although few studies have considered the significance of negative affect in conflict in adolescent relationships, the findings are consistent with a larger body of research on marital relationships. Perhaps the best example of such research is Gottman's (1979, 1994, 2000) physiological and observational research. Examining associations between negative affect and marital relationship outcomes, Gottman has shown that negative affect, as reflected in anger, sarcasm, criticism, and blame, stands out as one of the strongest predictors of relationship outcomes, as well as one of the strongest discriminators between satisfied and unsatisfied couples. For example, his early research demonstrated that negative affect was associated with physiological arousal during conflicts. Levenson and Gottman (1983, 1985) examined high-conflict discussions between married couples. They found that negative behaviors during conflict can result in emotional "flooding" and heightened physiological arousal. This heightened arousal, in turn, appears to lead to the "flight or fight" response among partners and an even greater negative arousal. This negative arousal has been associated with lower levels of marital satisfaction, accounting for 60% of the variance in satisfaction. Moreover, this heightened physiological arousal has also been associated with decline in marital satisfaction at three and five year follow-ups.

Gottman (1994) also found that distressed couples expressed a higher proportion of negative affect in their disagreements than nondistressed couples. For example,

stable, satisfied couples engaged in five times more positive than negative interaction behaviors. Unstable, dissatisfied couples engaged in an equal amount of positive and negative interactions. Others have reported similar findings. For example, Noller and colleagues (1994) found that highly satisfied couples are less likely to use coercive behavior such as manipulation and threats during conflicts. Canary and Cupach (1988) found that in comparing distressed and nondistressed marriages, distressed marriages involve behaviors that are more critical, sarcastic, hostile, coercive, and rejecting. Overall, these behaviors were detrimental during conflict resolution and tended to result in less outcome satisfaction.

Reciprocity of negative affect also has been found to discriminate between couples who are seeking therapy and those who are not. Reciprocity of negative affect refers to one person's negative behavior increasing the probability of subsequent behavior by the other person (Brazelton, Koslowski, & Main, 1974). Reciprocity of negative affect is associated with relationship outcomes. For example, reciprocity of negative affect is more characteristic of clinic couples (i.e., couples seeking marital therapy) than nonclinic couples and better discriminates between clinic and nonclinic couples than reciprocity of positive affect (Gottman, 1979). In the negotiation phase of conflicts, clinic and nonclinic couples look quite similar except for the expression of negative affect. For clinic couples, the expression of negative affect by one partner during negotiation is mirrored by the other partner resulting in a chain or cycle of negative exchanges which become difficult to exit. Nonclinic couples differ in that they are better able to break chains of negative affect and stop their negative interaction patterns. In other words, nonclinic couples do not mirror one another's negative affect.

In a similar way, men and women in satisfied marriages both work to deescalate negative affect. Women have been found to deescalate negative affect in high conflict situations and men in low conflict situations (Gottman, 1979).

Gottman and Notarius (2000) have also considered the role of negative affect in predicting concurrent relationship satisfaction and divorce. Again, negative affect plays a critical role in determining relationship outcomes. For example, Gottman (1979) found that negative interactions including the expression of anger predicted concurrent marital dissatisfaction. The nature of negative interaction had differential effects, however. Over time, expression of anger was associated with an increase in marital satisfaction. Negative interaction, as defined by defensiveness, stubbornness, and withdrawal, on the other hand, predicted both concurrent marital distress and deterioration of marital satisfaction over time. Gottman and Levenson (1992) also found that quality of negative affect during conflict resolution predicted marital separation and divorce four years later. Specifically, interactions characterized by more negativity than positivity were associated with a cascade toward divorce. Gottman (1994) has identified four patterns of negative interaction that are especially characteristic of dissatisfied couples and highly predictive of divorce. These include complaining/criticism, contempt, defensiveness, and withdrawal/rejection. Importantly, the specific type of negative affect has also been found to differentially characterize conflict as well as to predict early versus later divorce. For example, criticism, anger, contempt, belligerence, and defensiveness have been found to characterize attack-defend modes of conflict and are predictive of early divorce. In contrast, negative affect that includes sadness,

disgust, and listener withdrawal characterize conflict disengagement and are predictive of later divorce (Gottman & Levenson, 2000).

These findings suggest that different forms of negative affect can be identified with different relationship outcomes. As measured through both physiological arousal and observation, negative affect during conflict resolution appears to not only discriminate between satisfied and dissatisfied couples but also predicts both short-term and long-term marital satisfaction and divorce. These findings are in line with the results from the current study in that they suggest that negative affect plays a key role in determining the impact that conflict will have on a relationship.

Consistent with the marital literature, research on family functioning indicates that negative affect also discriminates between distressed and nondistressed families. For example, Prinz and colleagues (1978) found that mothers in distressed families are more negative than mothers in nondistressed families. Specifically, mothers in distressed families were more demanding, demonstrated more anger, and were more likely to verbally attack family members than were mothers in nondistressed families. Similarly, Montemayor (1986) and Alexander (1973) both reported that families with delinquent children differ from families without delinquent children in terms of the expression of negative affect. Families with delinquent children display less support in their communication and show more reciprocation of negative interactions during conflict episodes. Functional families, in contrast, reciprocate positive interactions during conflict.

Finally, research on early childhood conflict points to the significance of negative affect in conflict management. These studies suggest that negative affect plays

a key role in determining how conflicts unfold. More specifically, whether a conflict leads to compromise appears to be associated with the expression of negative affect. For example, Dunn (1996) reported that preschool age children's level of anger and distress were associated with mothers' use of negotiation in conflict. As children became more distressed, mothers were more likely to use compromise to resolve a conflict. Mothers' use of compromise, however, was not associated with neutral affect. One interpretation of this finding may be that mothers choose to compromise in an attempt to both lessen their child's emotional upset and to restore effective communication. This strategy may also safeguard the mother-child relationship from the detrimental impact of negative affect.

Negative affect also affects friend conflicts. Dunn and Herrera (1997) found that when high levels of negative affect were expressed during conflict episodes between preschool age friends, children were less likely to take a friend's perspective, to reason effectively, or to use a conciliatory resolution strategy. Whereas negative affect during conflict at younger preschool ages may hinder children's ability to perspective-take and compromise, at older preschool ages, high levels of affective tension may motivate children to better understand the situation as well as reasons for another's behavior (Dunn, 1988). These findings suggest that even at an early age, negative affect plays a key role in how conflicts are managed. Negative affect may signal potential harm to a relationship and thus promote the use of conciliatory resolution strategies. In line with these findings, Katz and colleagues (1992) argued that negative affect serves an important function in preschool children's conflict management with friends. Inability to effectively manage conflicts with friends has been associated with an escalation of

negative affect (frustration, anger, impatience) and a decrease in positive affect. Over time, increased negative affect and ineffective management of conflict has an impact on friendship. High levels of unmanaged conflict have been associated with inability to sustain play, friend avoidance, and loss of friendship.

In summary, negative affect is associated with a wide variety of influences on the relationship. Negative affect has discriminates between satisfied and unsatisfied couples as well as to predict short-term and long-term marital outcomes. Negative affect expressed during family conflict also discriminates between distressed and nondistressed families. Finally, negative affect has been linked to effective conflict management skills, including increased perspective-taking and motivation to compromise. Together, these findings are consistent with the results of the current study in that they show that negative affect influences the impact conflict will have on a relationship.

The second set of analyses examined gender as a moderator of conflict associations. Specifically, analyses examined whether gender moderated associations from negative affect and resolution to relationship impact. It was hypothesized that associations from negative affect and compromise to relationship impact would be stronger for girls' conflicts than boys' conflicts. Another hypothesis examined whether gender moderated relationship differences in the conflict components that predicted relationship impact. It was expected that girls' resolution strategies would be influential in determining relationship impact across mother and friend conflicts whereas boys' strategies would not.

The findings did not support the first hypothesis. Gender did not moderate associations between conflict components. For both boys and girls, negative affect and compromise were predictive of relationship impact. For boys, negative affect and compromise uniquely predicted relationship impact. For girls, negative affect partially mediated this association between compromise and relationship impact. However, it is likely that this difference in patterns of association was largely a function of differences in sample size. The smaller sample size for boys may not have allowed the association between compromise and negative affect to reach statistical significance, precluding the possibility of mediation. Consistent with this interpretation, comparison of these associations across boys' and girl's conflicts did not result in statistically significant group differences. The associations from affect and resolution to relationship impact were not stronger for girls' conflicts than boys' conflicts.

Findings did not support the second gender hypothesis either. For both girls' and boys' relationships with mothers and friends, negative affect was the primary predictor of relationship impact. This finding was expected for boys but not for girls. It may be that the small sample sizes for boys' conflicts with mothers and friends were the reason that compromise did not reach statistical significance in predicting relationship impact. This is likely given that compromise was associated with relationship impact when boys' mother and friend conflicts were combined into one sample. Comparison of girls' conflicts with mother and friends found that negative affect partially mediated the association between compromise and relationship impact for friend conflicts and fully mediated this association for mother conflicts. So, although compromise was associated with relationship impact in girls' relationships, its influence on relationship impact

appeared to mostly be driven by negative affect. There was no difference in the strength of these associations between the two relationships for either girls' or boys' conflicts.

Taken together, these results indicate that girls and boys are more similar than different in their management of conflict. For both boys and girls, negative affect appears to play a primary role in predicting relationship impact. There are several studies in the adult literature that also find men and women to be similar in their use of conflict tactics. For example, Cupach and Canary (1995) argued that although it is widely believed that women and men differ in the management of their interpersonal conflict, actual behavioral differences between the sexes have not been consistently demonstrated. For instance, a commonly held notion is that women are more cooperative in their management of conflict whereas men are more competitive. Also, women are thought to control the expression and display of anger during conflict more than men. The research on sex differences in conflict, however, tells a different story. Although some of these stereotypes hold true in interactions with acquaintances or strangers (Aries, 1996), these stereotypes do not characterize interactions within personal relationships (Putnam & Wilson, 1982). Several studies have reported that not only do men and women use similar tactics in conflict management (Bell, Chafetz, & Horn, 1982; Sternberg & Soriano, 1984) they also do not differ in their experience, expression, or suppression of anger (Burrowes & Halberstadt, 1987; Stoner & Spencer, 1987; Thomas, 1989). For example, in a meta-analysis of sex differences in social interaction, Canary and Hause (1993) reported that the perception that sex differences affect social behavior is unfounded. It may be that, on the whole, men and women act more similarly than differently including in their expression of negative affect. Finally,

in observations of married couples, Margolin and Wampold (1981) found that husbands and wives did not differ on 75% of the observation codes used including behaviors relevant to conflict and negative affect, such as the use of problem-solving, positive and negative verbal comments, and negative nonverbal behavior.

The final set of analyses focused on conflict topic as a moderator of the associations from negative affect and resolution to relationship impact. It was hypothesized that for daily hassle conflicts, associations from affect and resolution to relationship impact would be stronger for mother-adolescent disagreements than for friend-adolescent disagreements. For relationship conflicts, it was expected that associations from affect and resolution to relationship impact would be stronger for friend-adolescent disagreements than for mother-adolescent disagreements.

The results did not support these hypotheses. For daily hassle disagreements, a different pattern of associations emerged for mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. For mother-adolescent daily hassle conflicts, neither compromise nor negative affect was associated with relationship impact. In friend-adolescent daily hassle conflicts, both compromise and negative affect were associated with relationship impact. The failure of negative affect and compromise to predict relationship impact in daily hassle disagreements with mothers was likely a function of small sample size. Thus, although a different pattern of associations was found, there were no differences in the strength of associations.

As for relationship disagreements, a different pattern of associations emerged for mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. Negative affect and compromise were unique predictors of relationship impact for friend disagreements.

Negative affect fully mediated the association between compromise and relationship impact for mother-adolescent relationships. These results are in line with the main findings of this study. Compromise influenced relationship impact only as a function of its association with negative affect. In contrast, the finding that compromise and negative affect were unique predictors of relationship impact for friend-adolescent relationship conflicts suggests that both negative affect and willingness to compromise play a key role in influencing relations when the topic of disagreement is a relationship topic. Again, although a different pattern of significant associations emerged for mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationship conflicts, there were no statistically significant differences in the strength of associations from affect and resolution to relationship impact.

Limitations

Several important limitations must be considered in interpreting the findings of this study. First, type 1 error is always a potential risk when multiple analyses are conducted. In this case, three of the six conflict variables were simultaneously tested within multiple path models, thus, increasing the probability of type 1 error. A second limitation of this study concerns sample size. More participants reported friend conflicts than mother conflicts. When these samples were separated according to gender or conflict topics, the difference in sample size between friend and mother conflict became more apparent and may have reduced analysis power. Making conclusions from a small number of events may have also contributed to the reduced generalizability of these findings.

The present study used a diary report method in collecting conflict data. Participants were asked to report all of their interactions and conflicts at the end of each day. It is unlikely that all interactions and conflicts were remembered and reported each day. Research has shown that when reporting conflict, participants are more likely to remember and report conflicts that involved high levels of affective intensity (Collins & Laursen, 1992). This tendency could be problematic as it may have inflated negative affect scores within the sample as well as the importance of affect in the results. Another potential limitation may be related to the use of retrospective self-report data. Retrospective reporting could be biased in that participants may be influenced by their beliefs on how conflicts should unfold or conflict participants should act (Adams & Laursen, 2001). Moreover, participants were asked to report on their conflicts with other persons. However, previous research has found that parent and adolescent reports of conflict events often do not converge (Gonzales, Cauce, & Mason, 1996). It is not clear whether these differences extend to patterns of associations between conflict components. Another limitation involves shared method and shared reporter variance. In this study, all participants were from the same sample and completed a self-report measure of negative affect, resolution strategy, and relationship impact. Associations between these variables may be somewhat inflated due to shared method and shared reporter biases. Shared variance is typically not a concern, however, when mediation models are tested. Future replication of this study through the examination of similar links with measures from multiple reporters and multiple research methods would eliminate the potential for shared method and reporter variance. A final limitation of the data collection method used in this study involves reliability testing. The use of a diary

report questionnaire can be problematic as there is no good measure of reliability for this type of instrument.

Other methodological limitations of this study involved the collection of relationship impact and resolution data. The outcome variable, relationship impact, was measured through a single-item on the diary questionnaire. Using more than one item to measure a variable is favorable over a single-item measure as a single-item is unlikely to capture all dimensions of a behavior or experience and thus, could compromise the validity of that item. In considering the resolution proportion scores, there were two issues that arose. First, in reporting conflicts, the majority of participants chose compromise and no resolution over all other resolutions. Thus, many participants had a zero proportion for the submission variables. This is likely the reason that few associations between the submission variables and other conflict components reached statistical significance. Second, the format of the resolution question was another reason that participants had relatively low submission proportion scores. In denoting submission, participants were forced to choose between “I gave in” and “other gave in.” Therefore, two submission proportion scores were created for each individual. Creating a composite of from these two scores would not have been meaningful. By separating power assertion across two proportions, however, many participants had relatively low submission proportions in comparison to their other resolution variables. Again, having two submission proportion scores rather than one may have decreased the opportunity to uncover significant associations between submission and other conflict components.

Finally, some parent data were not used in the present study which was one reason the mother-adolescent sample was smaller than the friend-adolescent sample.

Participants reported conflict with fathers only, both parents, and mothers only. Because adolescents typically have more interactions and conflicts with their mothers and these conflicts may differ in nature from father-adolescent conflicts, it was decided to exclude fathers and joint parent conflicts from the data set. Unfortunately, there were not enough father-adolescent conflicts to examine patterns of associations in this relationship.

Conclusion

This study is the first investigation to examine associations from conflict affect and conflict resolution to relationship impact for both parent-adolescent and friend-adolescent conflict and to investigate whether relationship, gender and conflict topic moderate these associations. The main finding of this study was that lower levels of negative affect and higher levels of compromise were associated with improved relations for both mother-adolescent and friend-adolescent relationships. Mediation analyses indicated that negative affect accounted for much of the influence of compromise in the impact of conflict. In other words, the effect of compromise on adolescent relationships with mothers and friends was primarily due its association with negative affect. A secondary finding was that these associations did not differ for boys' and girls' conflicts. Thus, negative affect is an important predictor of relationship impact for both boys and girls. In general, these findings are consistent with studies that have been conducted with marital couples and families.

The findings from this study are also relevant to clinical work with children, families, and romantic partners. In working with people who are having relationship difficulties, awareness should be raised as to the importance of recognizing negative

affect and patterns of negative interaction. For example, teaching conflict partners to self-monitor their expression of negative affect, their physiological reaction to conflict, and their reciprocity of negative affect during conflict episodes would be beneficial for promoting conciliatory resolution strategies and positive relationship outcomes. Moreover, providing strategies for breaking cycles of negative reciprocity and increasing positive affect during conflict episodes would also help to improve relationship outcomes.

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Table 1
Rotated Component Matrix

	Component	
	1	2
Friend Conflict Variables		
Happy	-.01	.90
Angry	.26	.82
Sad	.90	.15
Fear	.92	.08
Mother Conflict Variables		
Happy	.02	.91
Angry	.30	.82
Sad	.84	.29
Fear	.92	.03

Note. Friend $N = 206$. Mother $N = 102$. Scores for each individual for each conflict variable were averaged across the three day diary period. Affective intensity scores ranged from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very). Happy was reversed score so that a higher score indicates less happiness.

Table 2
Intercorrelations, Means, and Standard Deviations

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	<i>M</i>	<i>(SD)</i>
Conflict Variables							
1. Negative Affect	--					3.23	0.97
2. Relationship Impact	.42**	--				2.79	0.83
3. Compromise	-.18**	-.25**	--			0.32	0.38
4. Self-submit	.16*	.04	-.29**	--		0.16	0.27
5. Other-submit	-.01	.02	-.23**	-.10	--	0.09	0.22
6. No Resolution	.05	.27**	-.51**	-.31**	-.20**	0.35	0.38

Note. $N = 231$. Scores for each individual for each conflict variable were averaged across the three day diary period. Negative affect scores ranged from 1 (not happy/angry) to 5 (very happy/angry). Relationship impact ranged from 1 (made it better) to 5 (made it worse). Conflict resolution scores were proportions that ranged from 0 to 1. The number of conflicts an individual reported that involved a particular resolution (e.g., compromise) was divided by the total number of conflicts an individual reported. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Table 3
Intercorrelations, Means, and Standard Deviations in Boys' and Girls' Disagreements

Variable							<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	<i>M</i>	<i>(SD)</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>(SD)</i>
Conflict Variables										
1. Negative Affect	--	.36**	-.21*	.12	-.01	.04	3.03	0.97	3.38	0.95
2. Relationship Impact	.48**	--	-.30**	.04	-.04	.30**	2.73	0.82	2.84	0.84
3. Compromise	-.16	-.19	--	-.33**	-.22**	-.51**	0.31	0.37	0.32	0.38
4. Self-submit	.21*	.03	-.24*	--	-.09	-.32**	0.15	0.27	0.17	0.28
5. Other-submit	-.02	.08	-.24*	-.11	--	-.24**	0.09	0.22	0.10	0.22
6. No Resolution	.06	.23*	-.51**	-.30**	-.16	--	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.38

Note. Boys $N = 100$. Girls $N = 131$. Boys' conflict variables are listed below the diagonal and girls' conflict variables are listed above the diagonal. Scores for each individual for each variable were averaged across the three day diary period. Negative affect scores ranged from 1 (not happy/angry) to 5 (very happy/angry). Relationship impact ranged from 1 (made it better) to 5 (made it worse). Conflict resolution scores were proportions that ranged from 0 to 1. The number of conflicts that an individual reported that involved a particular resolution (e.g., compromise) was divided by the total number of conflicts an individual reported. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Table 4
Intercorrelations, Means, and Standard Deviations in Daily Hassles and Relationships Disagreements

Variable							<i>Daily Hassles</i>		<i>Relationships</i>	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	<i>M</i>	<i>(SD)</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>(SD)</i>
Conflict Variables										
1. Negative Affect	--	.42**	-.19**	.17*	.01	.01	3.21	1.03	3.22	1.05
2. Relationship Impact	.33**	--	-.30**	.09	-.04	.22**	2.78	0.83	2.83	0.83
3. Compromise	-.05	-.23*	--	-.28**	-.23**	-.57**	0.32	0.41	0.32	0.40
4. Self-submit	.05	.03	-.32**	--	-.10	-.31**	0.19	0.35	0.14	0.28
5. Other-submit	-.16	.06	-.24*	-.11	--	-.22**	0.10	0.28	0.09	0.23
6. No Resolution	.20*	.29**	-.42**	-.33**	-.24*	--	0.28	0.43	0.38	0.40

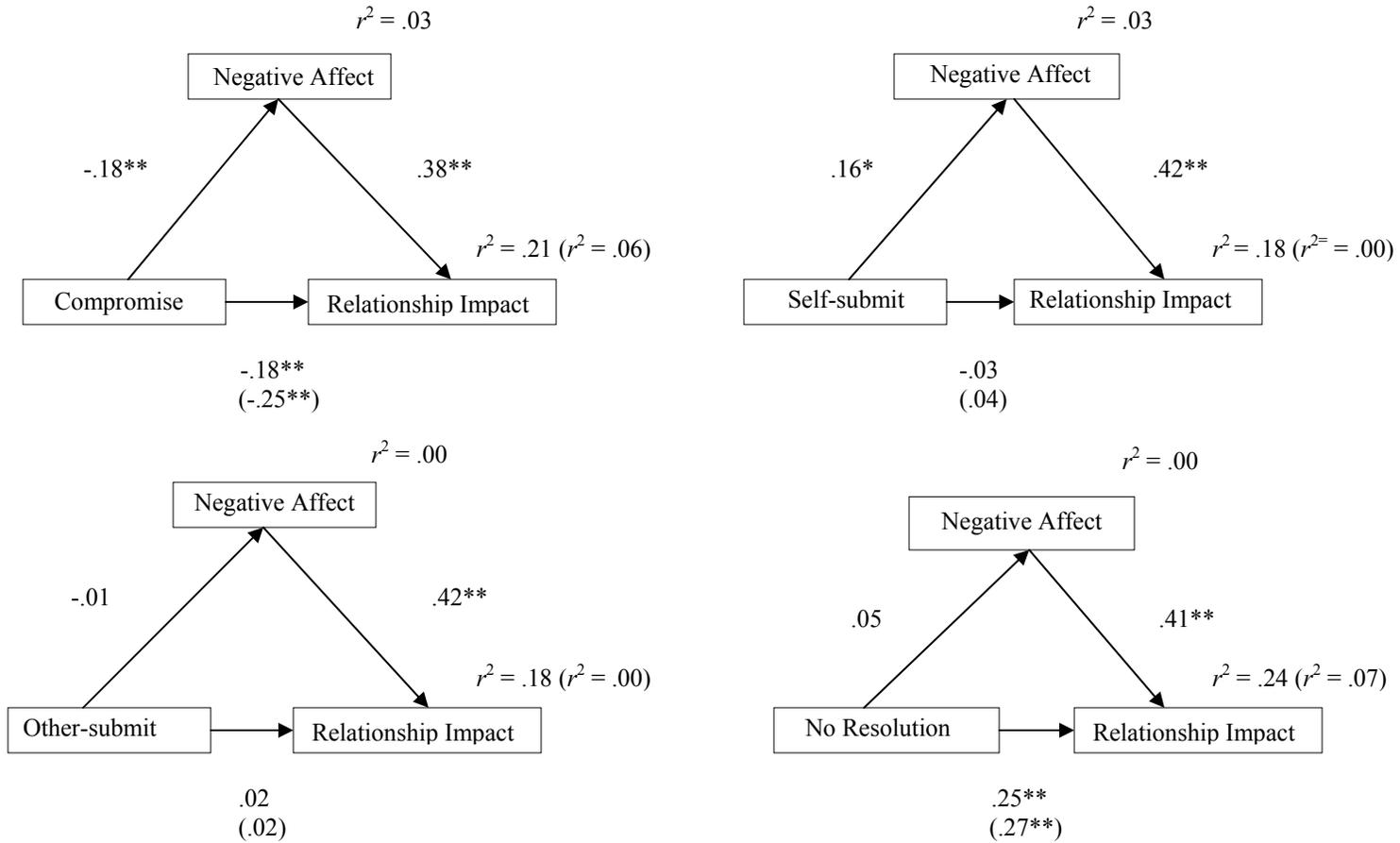
Note. Daily Hassle $N = 98$. Relationship $N = 198$. This total includes 68 participants with both daily hassle and relationship disagreements, 30 participants with only daily hassle disagreements, and 130 participants with only relationship disagreements. Daily hassle conflicts are listed below the diagonal and relationship conflicts are listed above the diagonal line. Scores for each individual for each variable were averaged across the three day diary period. Negative affect scores ranged from 1 (not happy/angry) to 5 (very happy/angry). Relationship impact ranged from 1 (made it better) to 5 (made it worse). Conflict resolution scores were proportions that ranged from 0 to 1. The number of conflicts that an individual reported that involved a particular resolution (e.g., compromise) was divided by the total number of conflicts an individual reported. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Table 5
Intercorrelations, Means, and Standard Deviations in Disagreements with Mothers and Friends

Variable							<i>Mother</i>		<i>Friend</i>	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	<i>M</i>	<i>(SD)</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>(SD)</i>
Conflict Variables										
1. Negative Affect	--	.40**	-.18*	.04	.04	.08	3.73	0.99	3.06	1.02
2. Relationship Impact	.42**	--	-.25**	.01	.05	.27**	3.04	0.91	2.72	0.85
3. Compromise	-.33**	-.29*	--	-.23**	-.24**	-.54**	0.29	0.43	0.32	0.40
4. Self-submit	.17	.08	-.41**	--	-.03	-.28**	0.31	0.43	0.10	0.25
5. Other-submit	-.26**	.01	-.17	-.20*	--	-.24**	0.09	0.26	0.10	0.23
6. No Resolution	.27**	.22*	-.44**	-.43**	-.22*	--	0.29	0.45	0.38	0.42

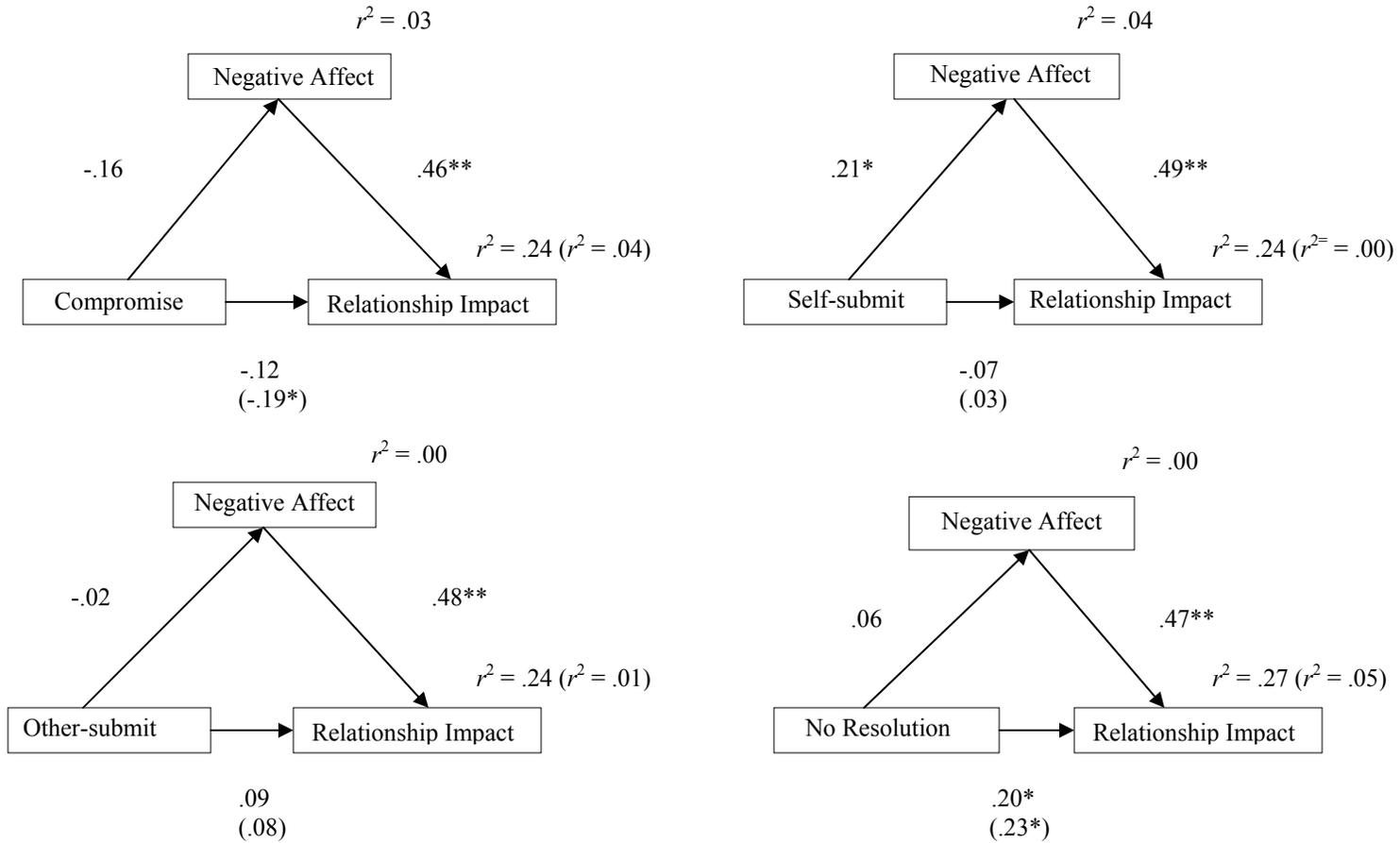
Note. Mother-Adolescent $N = 102$. Friend-Adolescent $N = 206$. This total includes 77 participants with both mother and friend disagreements, 25 participants with only mother disagreements, and 129 participants with only friend disagreements. Conflicts with mothers are listed below the diagonal and conflicts with friends are listed above the diagonal. Scores for each individual for each variable were averaged across the three day diary period. Negative affect scores ranged from 1 (not happy/angry) to 5 (very happy/angry). Relationship impact ranged from 1 (made it better) to 5 (made it worse). Conflict resolution scores were proportions that ranged from 0 to 1. The number of conflicts that an individual reported that involved a particular resolution (e.g., compromise) was divided by the total number of conflicts an individual reported. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 1. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Total Sample



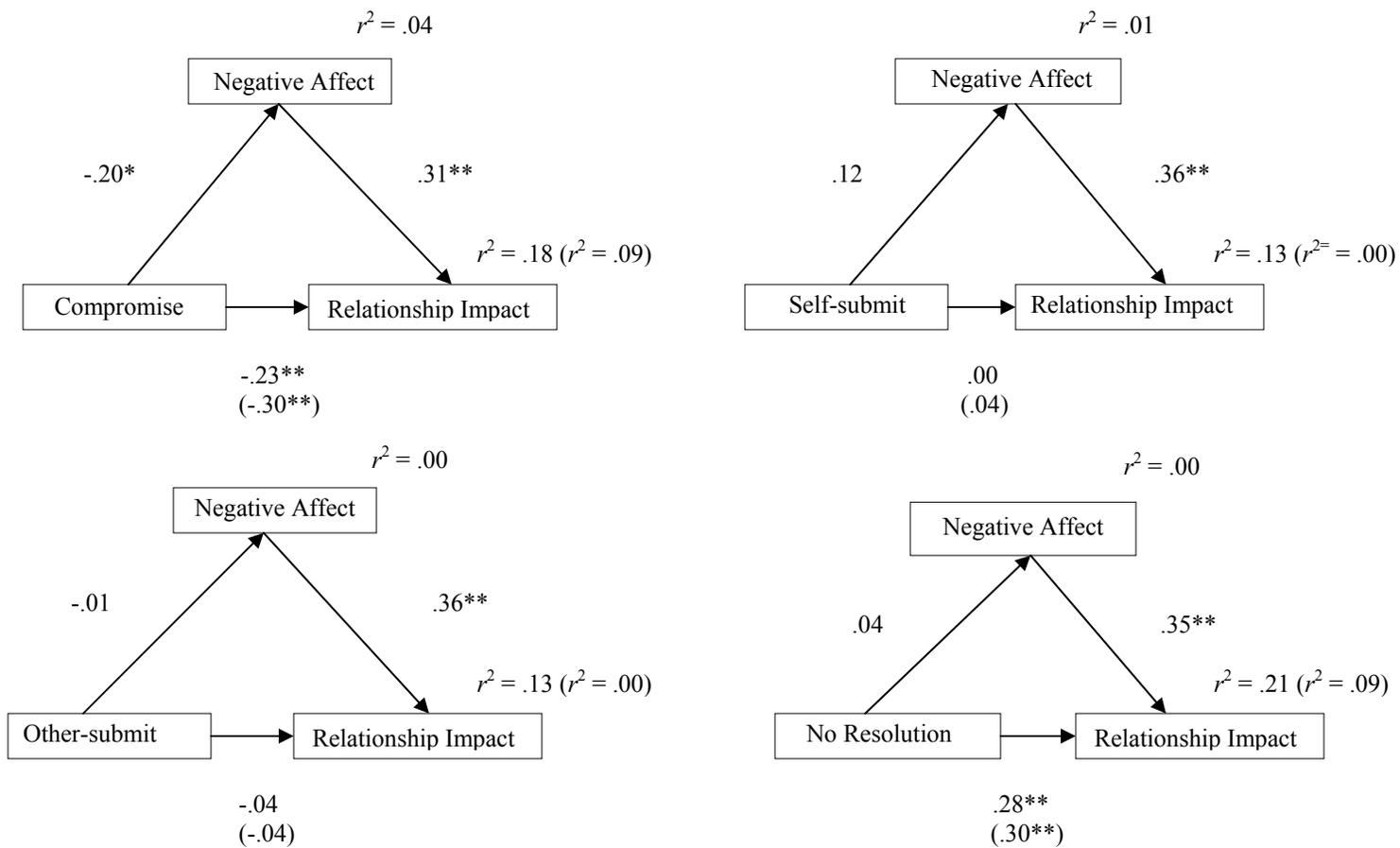
Note. $N = 231$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. Partial mediation emerged for the compromise model (sobel $z = -2.57, p = .01$). * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 2. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact Among Boys



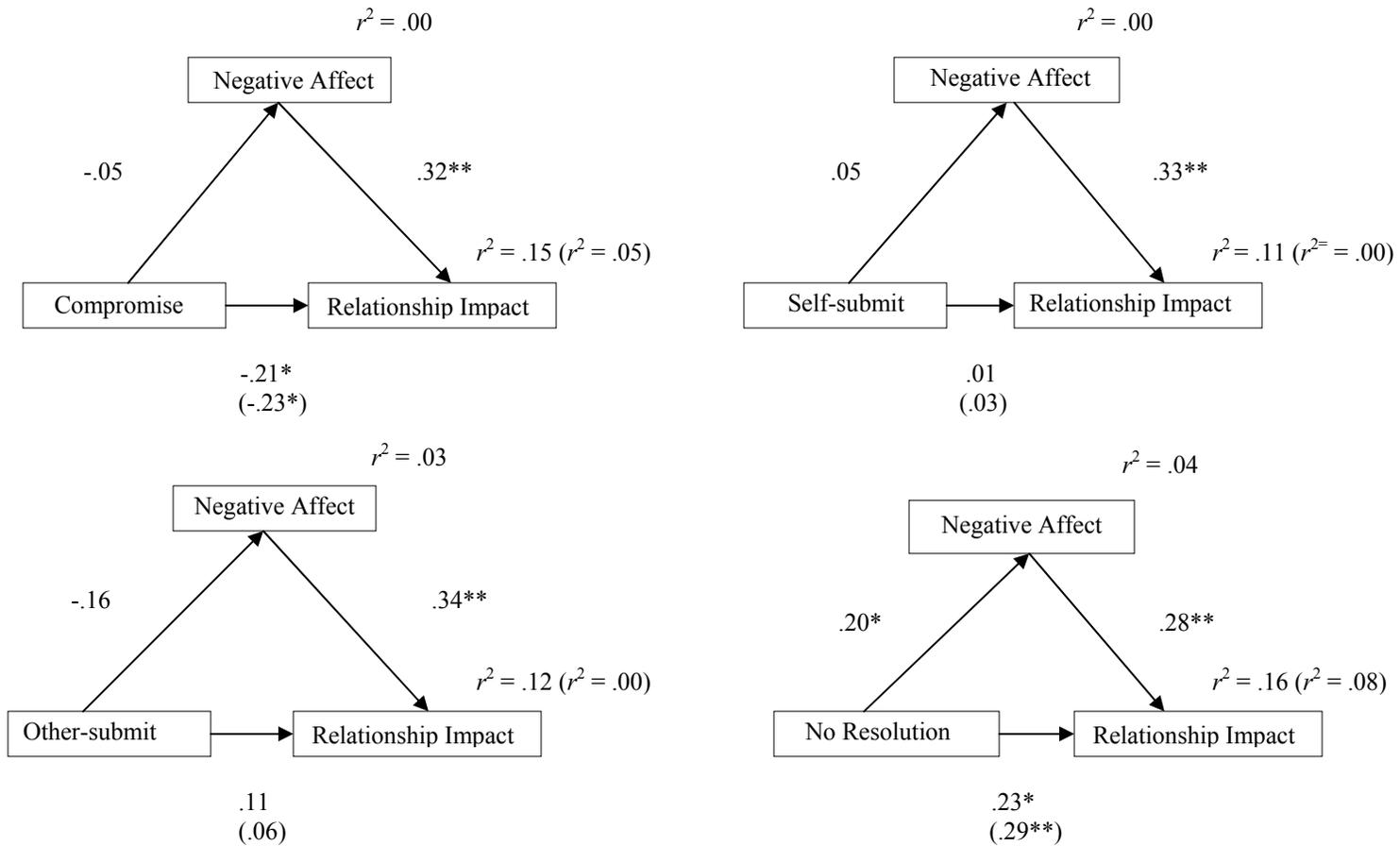
Note. $N = 100$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. $*p < .05$. $**p < .01$.

Figure 3. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact Among Girls



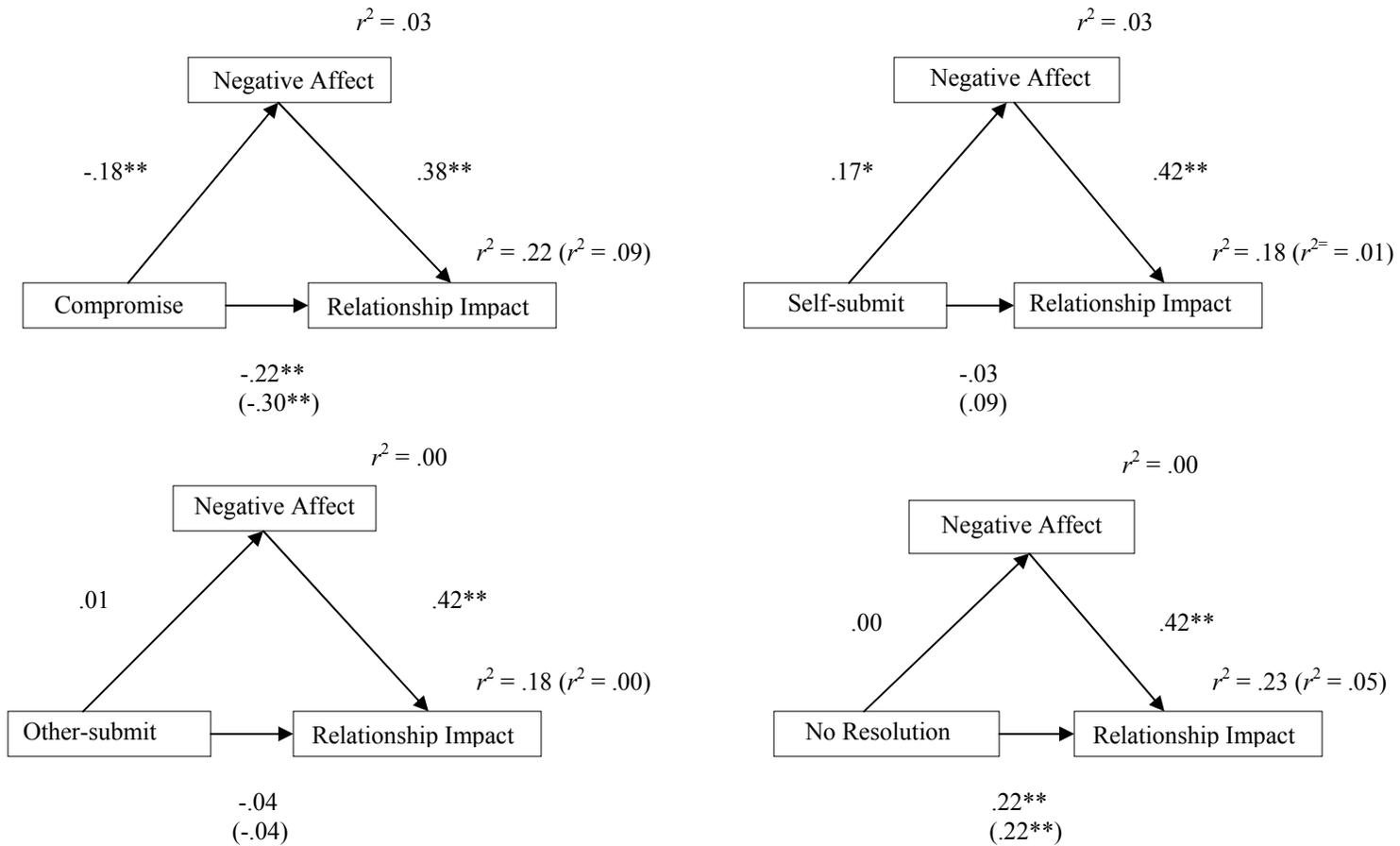
Note. $N = 131$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. Partial mediation emerged for the compromise model (sobel $z = -2.09, p = .04$). * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 4. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact in Daily Hassle Conflicts



Note. $N = 98$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

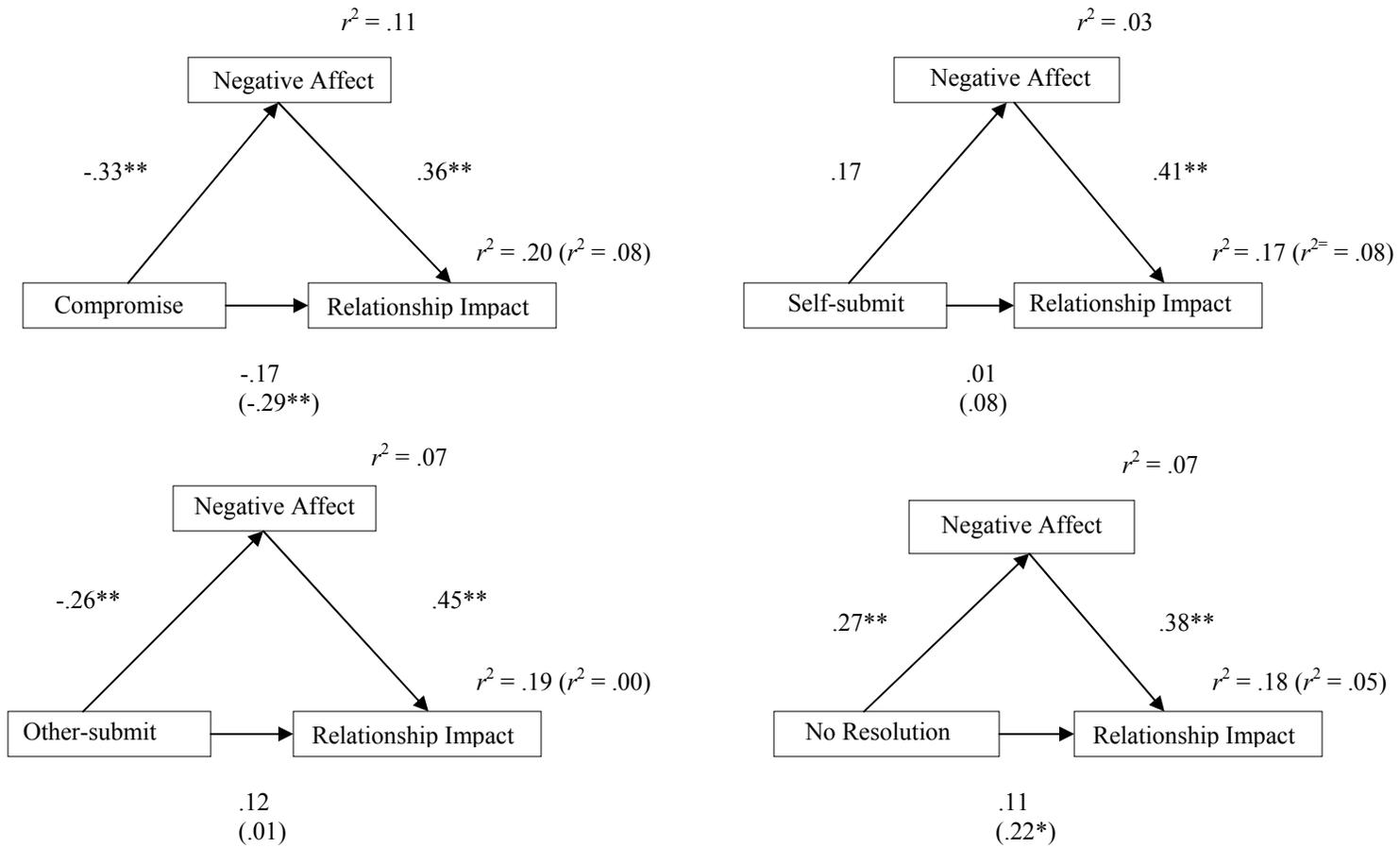
Figure 5. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact in Relationship Conflicts



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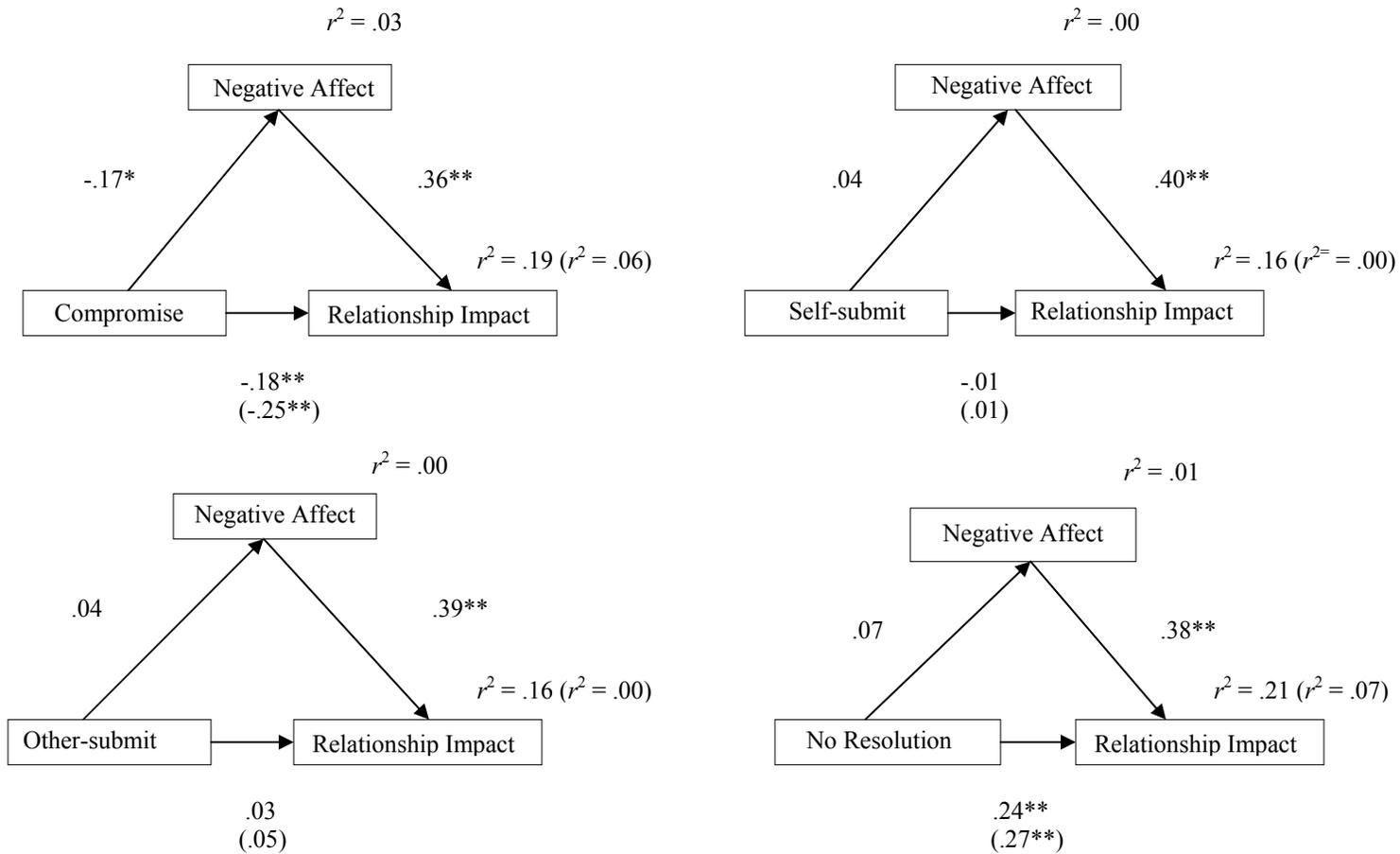
Note. $N = 198$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. Partial mediation emerged for the compromise model (sobel $z = -2.44$, $p = .01$). * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 6. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact in Disagreements with Mothers



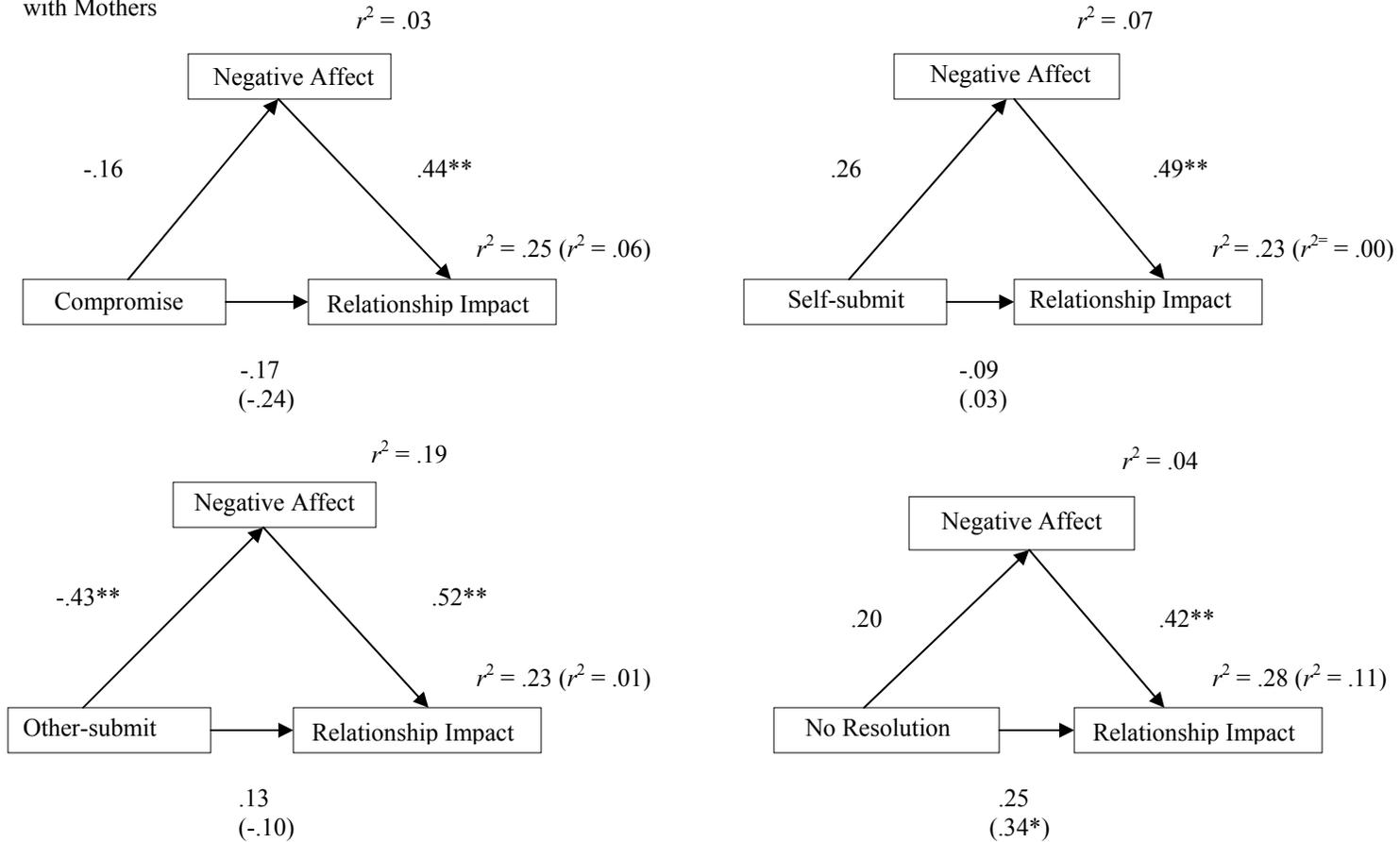
Note. $N = 102$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. $*p < .05$. $**p < .01$.

Figure 7. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact in Disagreements with Friends



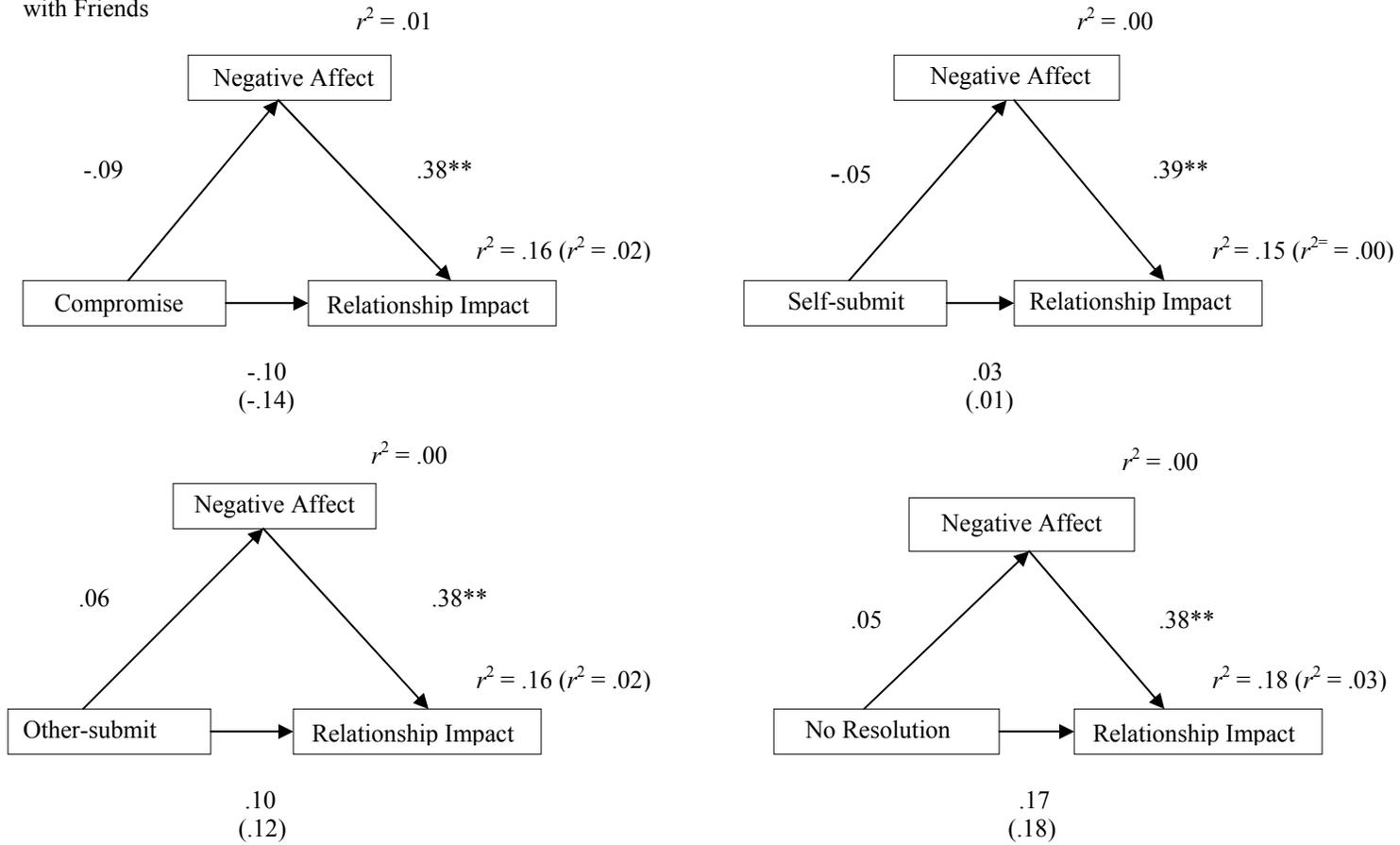
Note. $N = 206$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. Partial mediation emerged for the compromise model (sobel $z = -2.31$, $p = .02$). * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 8. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Boys' Disagreements with Mothers



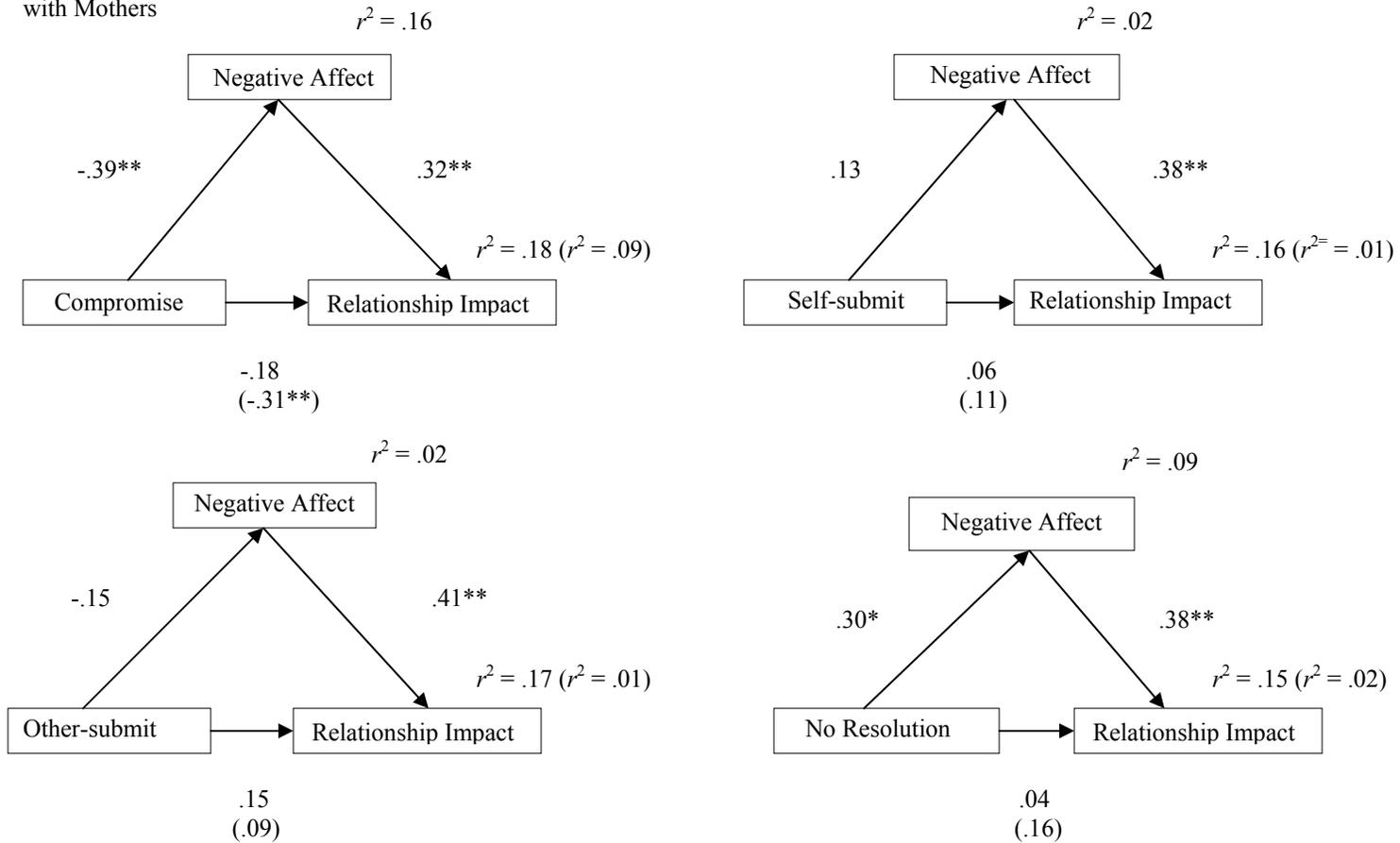
Note. $N = 33$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 9. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Boys' Disagreements with Friends



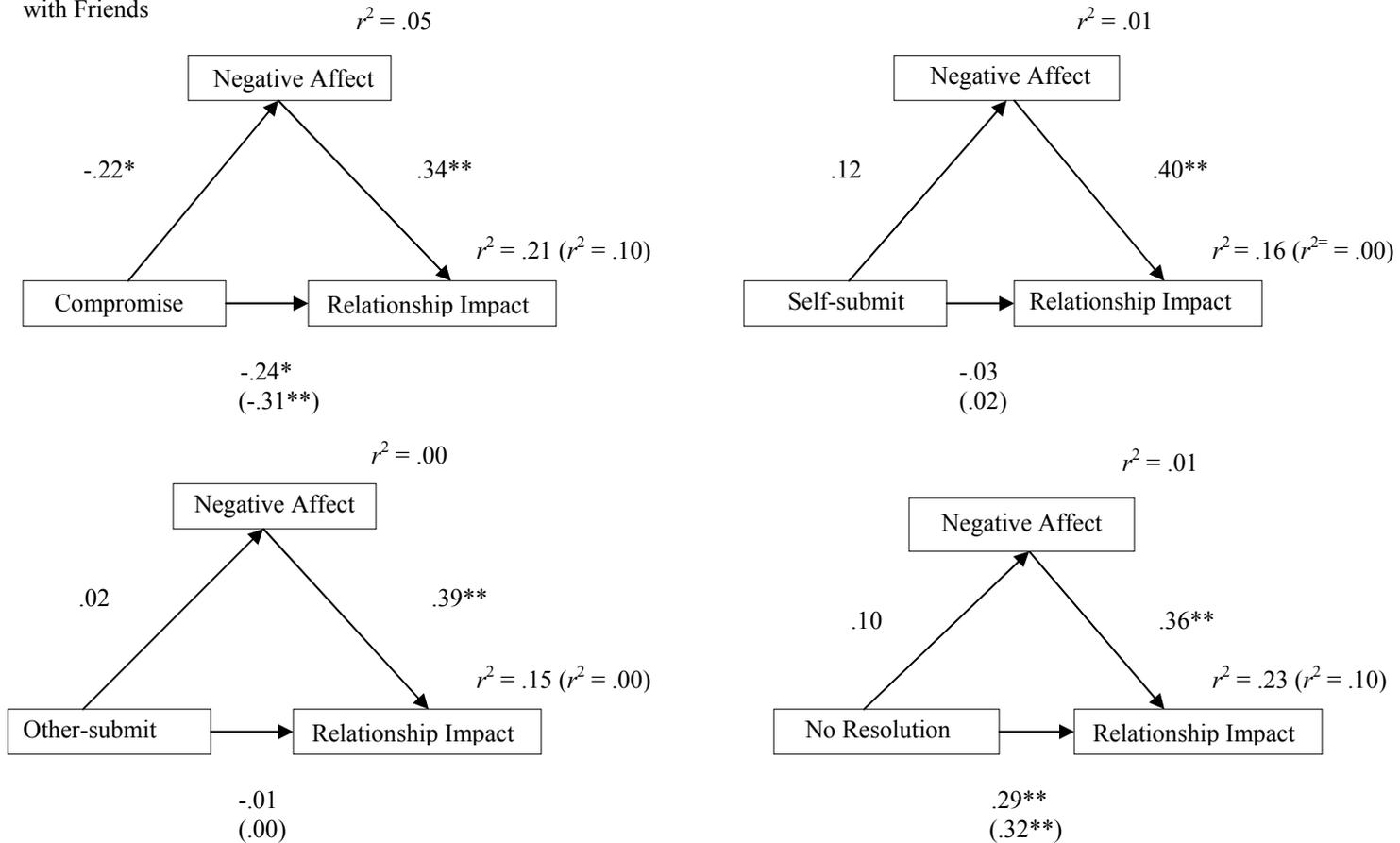
Note. $N = 88$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 10. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Girls' Disagreements with Mothers



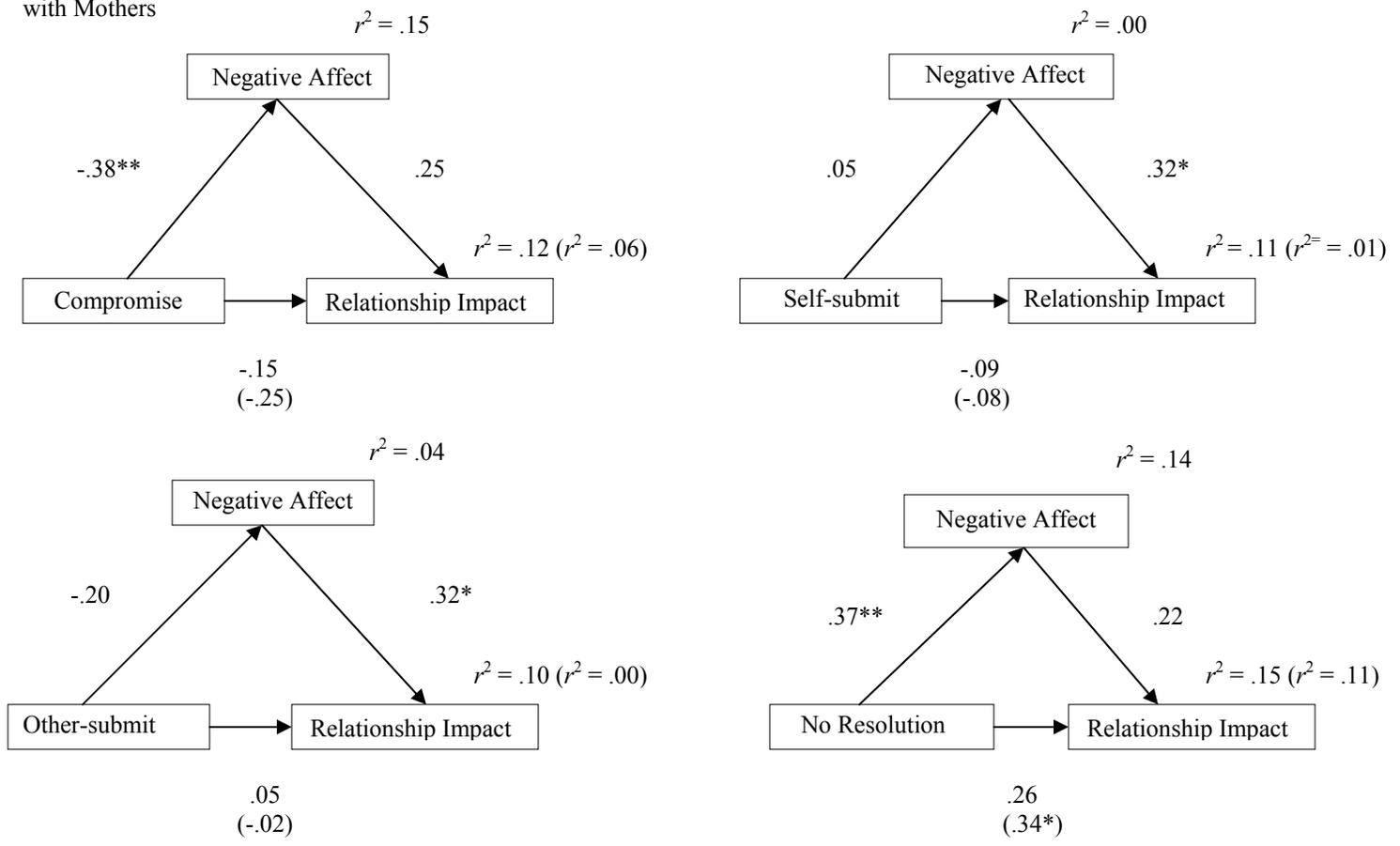
Note. $N = 68$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 11. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Girls' Disagreements with Friends



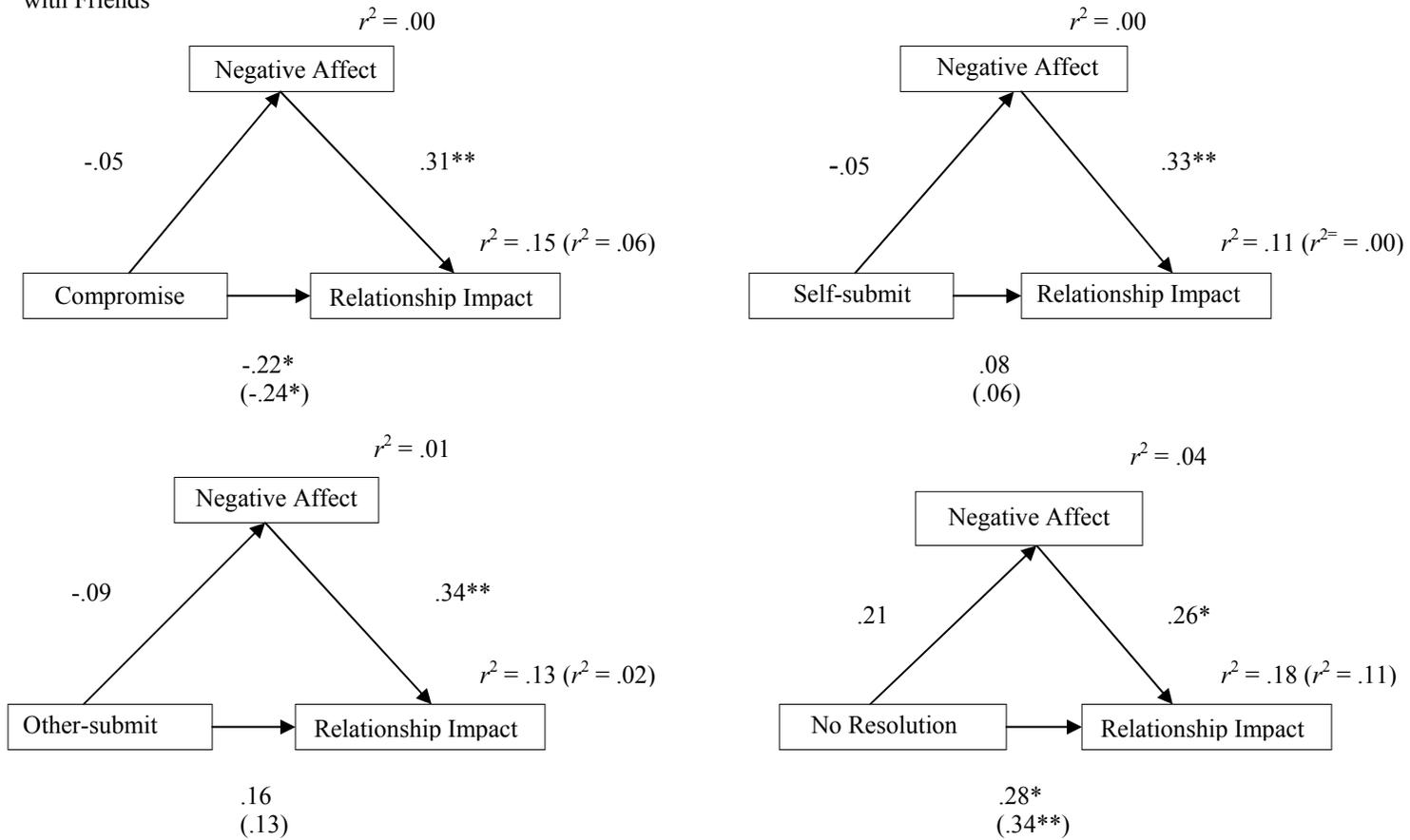
Note. $N = 117$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. Partial mediation emerged for the compromise model (sobel $z = -2.11, p = .04$). * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 12. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Daily Hassle Disagreements with Mothers



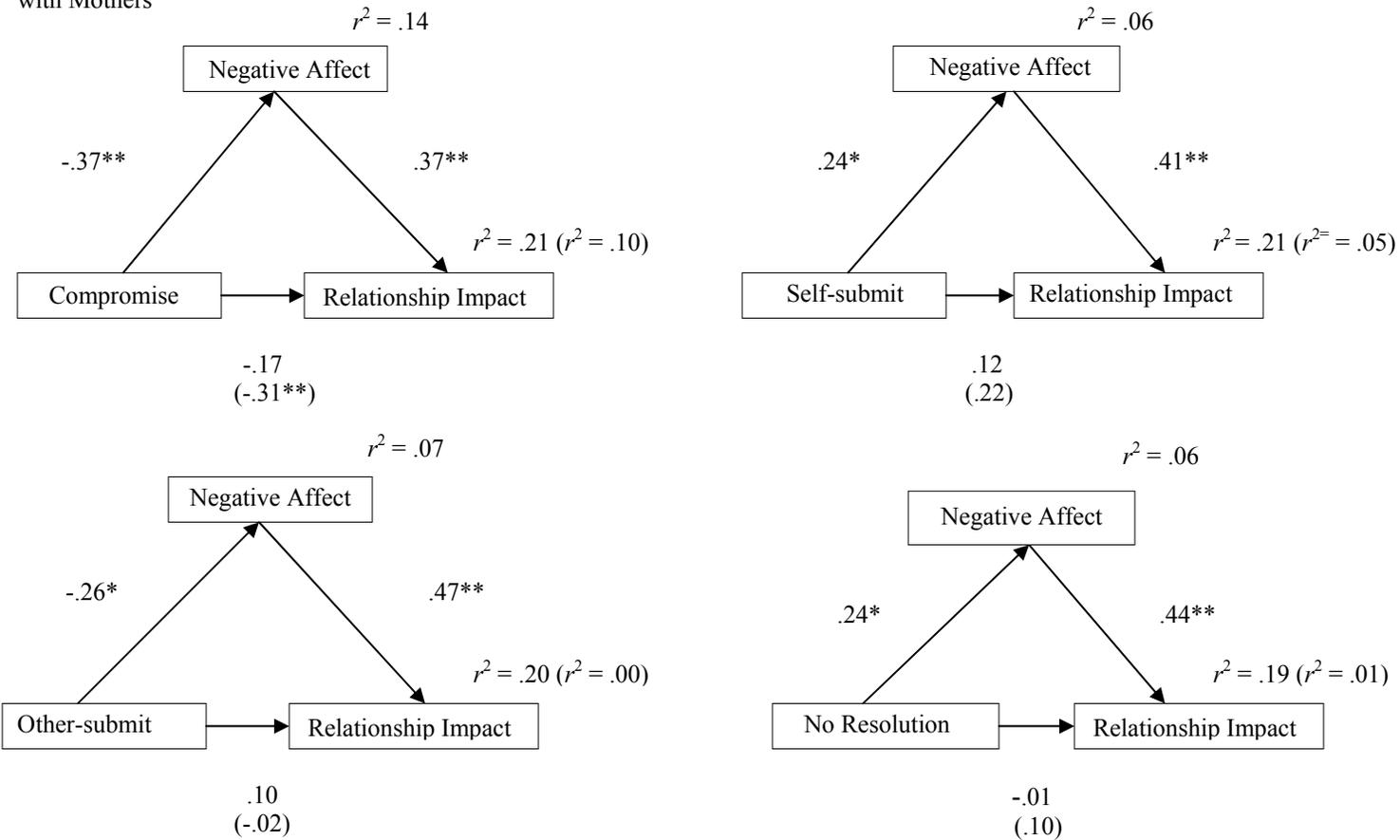
Note. $N = 44$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 13. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Daily Hassle Disagreements with Friends



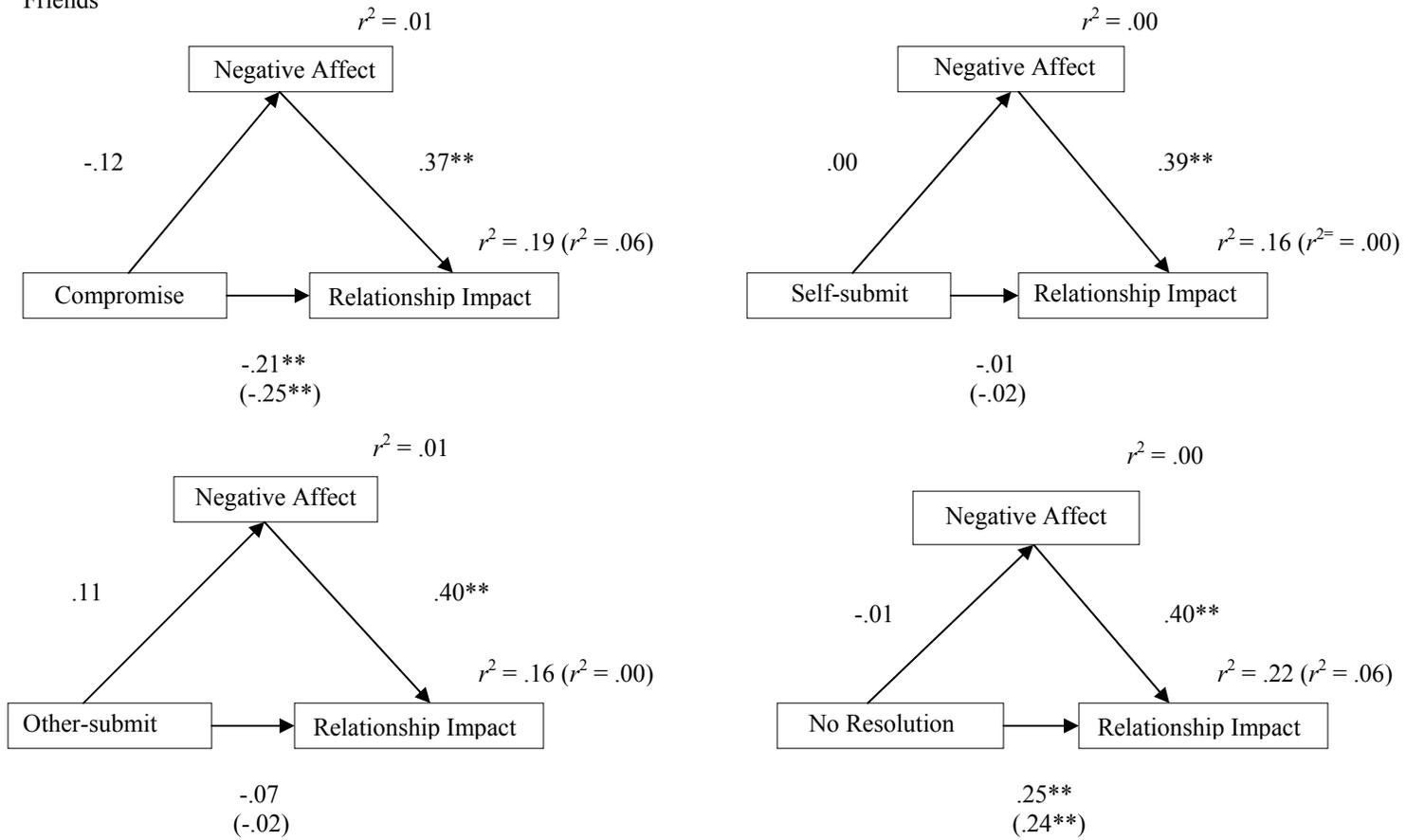
Note. $N = 66$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 14. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Relationship Disagreements with Mothers



Note. $N = 70$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Figure 15. Direct and Indirect Associations from Conflict Resolution and Negative Affect to Relationship Impact: Relationship Disagreements with Friends



Note. $N = 178$. Final standardized regression weights and r^2 are reported, with initial standardized regression weights and r^2 in parentheses. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$.

Appendices

Appendix A: Diary Worksheet

INTERACTION FORM 1: **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____ **AM or PM (circle one)** **Length:** _____ **Minutes**

People Involved: Person #1 Person #2 Person #3 Person #4 Person #5

Initials _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Male/ Female _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Relationship _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

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1. Who **STARTED** the interaction?

I started it ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Other started it

2. How did you **FEEL** during the interaction? (Please rate **all** five emotions.)

Not Happy	①	②	③	④	⑤	Very Happy
Not Sad	①	②	③	④	⑤	Very Sad
Not Fearful	①	②	③	④	⑤	Very Fearful
Not Angry	①	②	③	④	⑤	Very Angry
Not Nervous	①	②	③	④	⑤	Very Nervous

3. How **IMPORTANT** was the interaction to you?

Not important ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Very important

4. **WHERE** did the interaction take place (**CHOOSE ONE**)?

- ① Home ④ Phone
- ② School ⑤ Car / Bus
- ③ Work ⑥ Other: _____
- ⑦ IM / Chat room

5. Did the interaction include a **DISAGREEMENT** with another person?

- ① Yes
- ② No

(If **YES**, answer the following questions below)

6. Who was your disagreement with? List their initials: _____ _____ _____ _____

7. Who **STARTED** the disagreement?

I started it ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Other started it

8. **WHAT** was the disagreement about (**CHOOSE ONE**)?

- ① Annoying Behavior ⑥ Personal Freedom
 ② Car/Telephone/TV/Computer ⑦ Relationships
 ③ Criticism/Teasing ⑧ Responsibilities
 ④ Differences of Opinion ⑨ Standards of Behavior
 ⑤ Money/Possessions ⑩ School/Work

9. How did you **FEEL** during the disagreement? (Please rate **all** five emotions.)

Not Happy	①	②	③	④	⑤	Very Happy
Not Sad	①	②	③	④	⑤	Very Sad
Not Fearful	①	②	③	④	⑤	Very Fearful
Not Angry	①	②	③	④	⑤	Very Angry
Not Nervous	①	②	③	④	⑤	Very Nervous

10. Did the disagreement involve **PHYSICAL** threats or force?

None ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ A lot

11. Did the disagreement involve **VERBAL** insults?

None ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ A lot

12. How was the disagreement **RESOLVED** (**CHOOSE ONE**)?

- ① We compromised
 ② I gave in
 ③ Other gave in
 ④ No resolution
 ⑤ Someone else resolved it

13. How did the disagreement **AFFECT** your relationship?

Made it better ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Made it worse