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## Brief report

## Interactive associations of parental support, demands, and psychological control, over adolescents' beliefs about the legitimacy of parental authority



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## ABSTRACT

The present study examined the relationship between parental support, demand, psychological control and adolescents' beliefs about the legitimacy of parental authority for personal and multifaceted issues in a sample of 1342 Chilean adolescents ( $M = 16.38$ ,  $SD = 1.24$ , age range 14–20). Results from multiple regression analyses separated by age indicated that demand was positively associated with adolescents' beliefs about the legitimacy of parental authority for personal and multifaceted issues and that psychological control was negatively associated with adolescents' legitimacy beliefs concerning personal issues. Furthermore, parental support moderated the relationship between parental demand and adolescents' beliefs about parental legitimacy for personal and multifaceted issues: those who display high levels of demand showed stronger beliefs about parental legitimacy at high level of support. These results support the interactive effect of parental support and demand on adolescent development.

Adolescents differ in the degree to which they believe parents have the legitimate right to regulate their behavior (Kuhn & Laird, 2011). Interest on *beliefs about the legitimacy of parental authority* (BPL) as mostly centered on studying normative changes and determinants of this phenomenon. Some studies have connected beliefs about the legitimacy of parental authority with parenting style dimensions (e.g. Cumsille, Darling, Flaherty, & Martínez, 2006, 2009). *Parenting style* is a set of attitudes towards children which creates an emotional climate within which parenting behaviors are expressed (Darling & Steinberg, 1993). Certain dimensions are key to its characterization, specifically *support* or attitudes perceived as supportive of psychosocial development, *demand* or expectations applied to children's behaviors depending on the social/family norms, and *psychological control* as parental emotional manipulation that restrict the child's autonomy (Barber, Maughan, & Olsen, 2005). Support is positively related (Darling, Cumsille, & Martínez, 2008) and psychological control is negatively related with beliefs about the legitimacy of parental authority (Kuhn & Laird, 2011).

According to Baumrind (1991), it is natural for interaction patterns between parenting style dimensions to emerge. The interaction indicates that the associative effect, in the statistical sense, of one variable depends upon the specific value of a third variable (Aiken & West, 1991). However, findings from previous studies show only direct associations between parenting style dimensions and legitimacy beliefs. We ask whether support, demand, and psychological control are interactively associated with adolescents' beliefs in the legitimacy of parental authority.

Legitimacy beliefs about parental authority vary depending on the social-cognitive domain in which their behaviors are classified (Smetana, 1995). The domains described are *moral* (e.g., doing physical harm to others), *conventional* (e.g., etiquette and manners),

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