

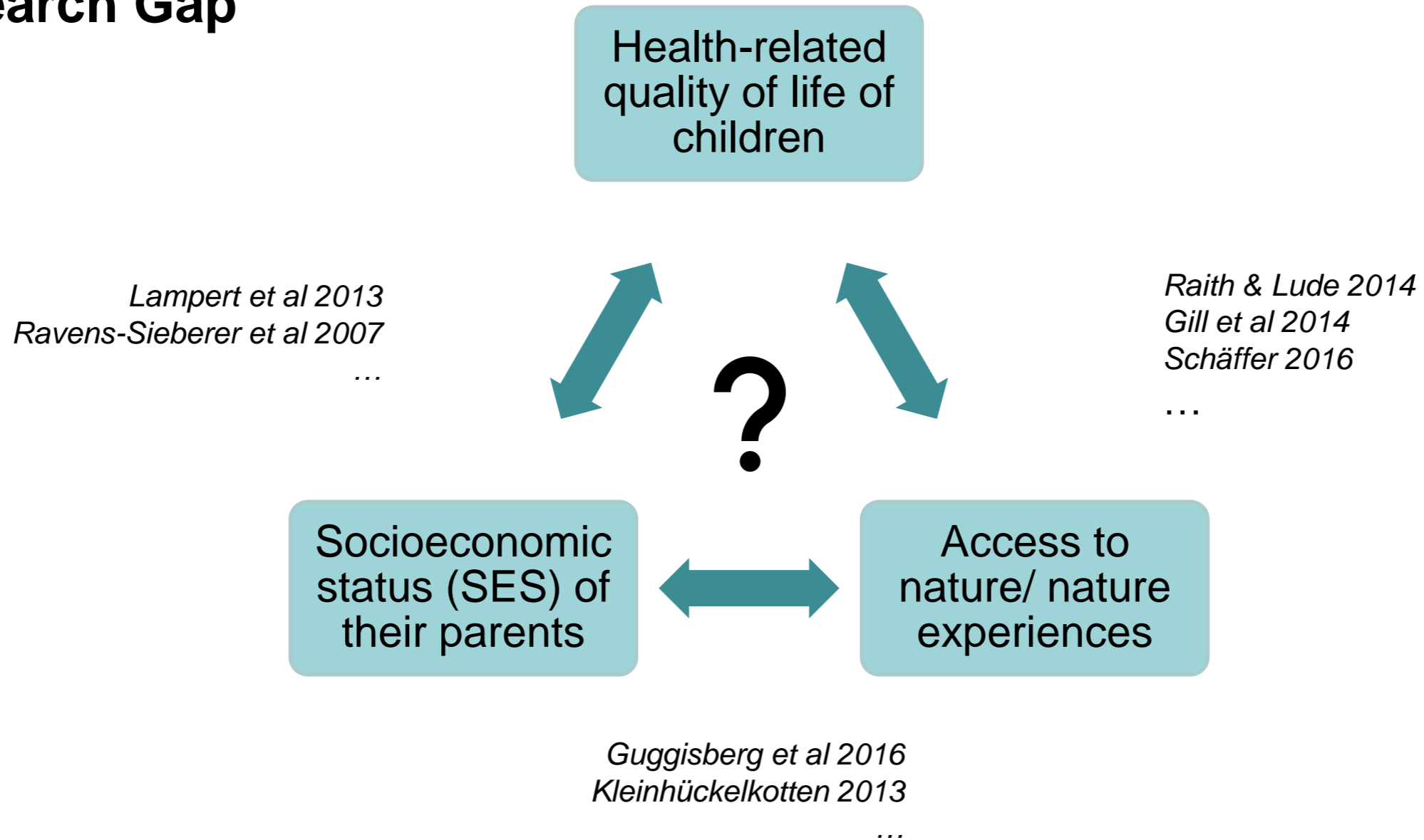
Einblicke in die Studie: «Socioeconomic inequalities and effects of nature on children's health-related quality of life»

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Samin Sepahniya M.A. und Nadja Hess M.A.,
Institut Soziale Arbeit und Gesundheit, Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit FHNW

Research Gap



Research Questions

What is the impact of socioeconomic conditions on children's HRQoL in German-speaking part of Switzerland?

To what extent are these associations mediated by access to nature, frequencies of nature experiences, and attitudes towards nature?

What are the differences between children living in urban or peri-urban / countryside regions with respect to these effects?

Hypotheses

A higher SES predicts a higher health-related quality of life among the children.

H1

Health-related
quality of life of
children

Children's quality of life is affected by access to nature, frequency of experiences in nature, and attitude towards nature.

H2

Socioeconomic
status (SES) of
their parents

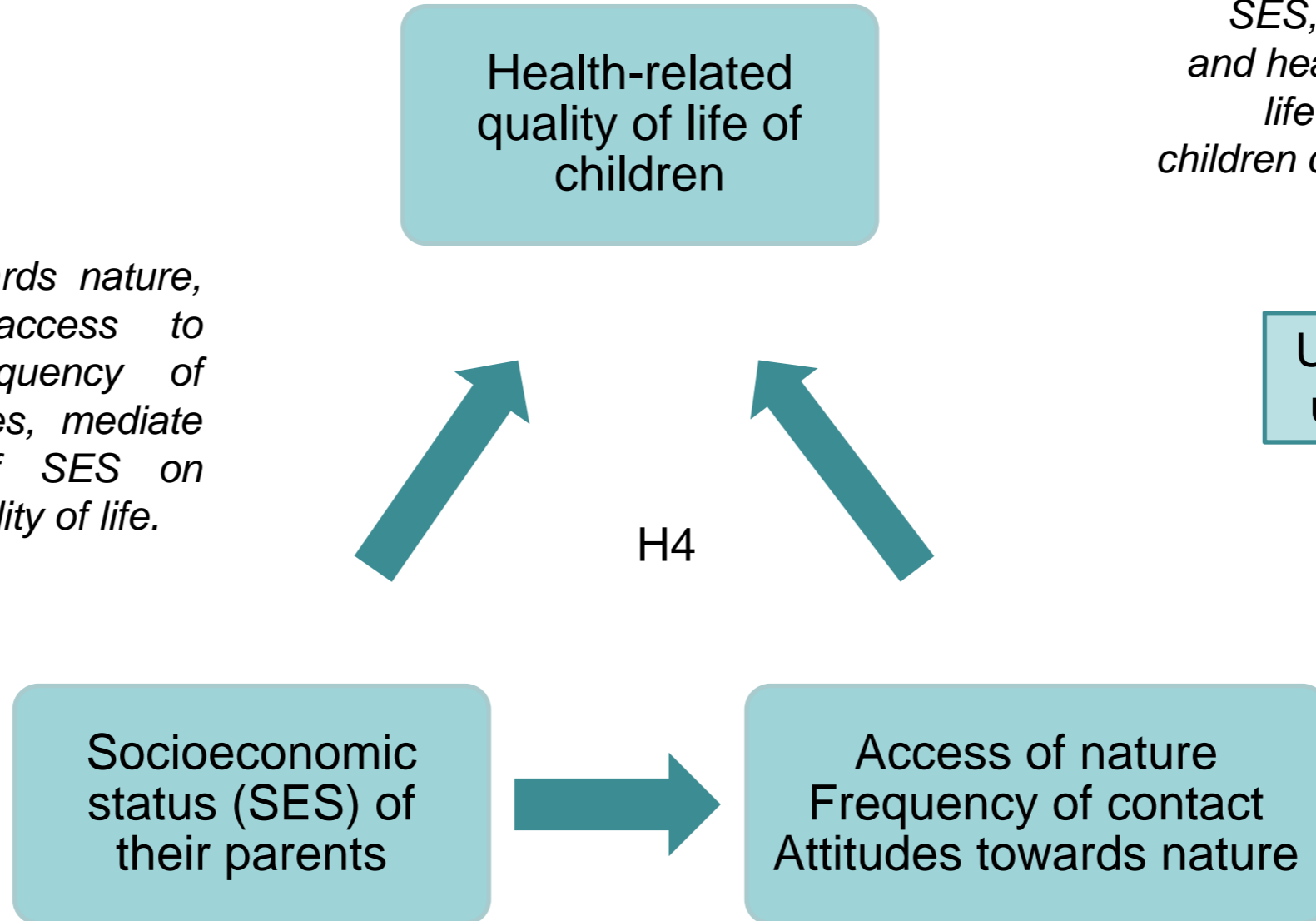
H3

Access of nature
Frequency of contact
Attitudes towards nature

The higher the SES, the better the access to nature, the frequencies of nature experiences, and the attitude towards nature.

Hypotheses

The attitude towards nature, together with access to nature and frequency of nature experiences, mediate the influence of SES on health-related quality of life.



The associations between SES, nature experiences, and health-related quality of life is different for urban children compared to children from the countryside

H5

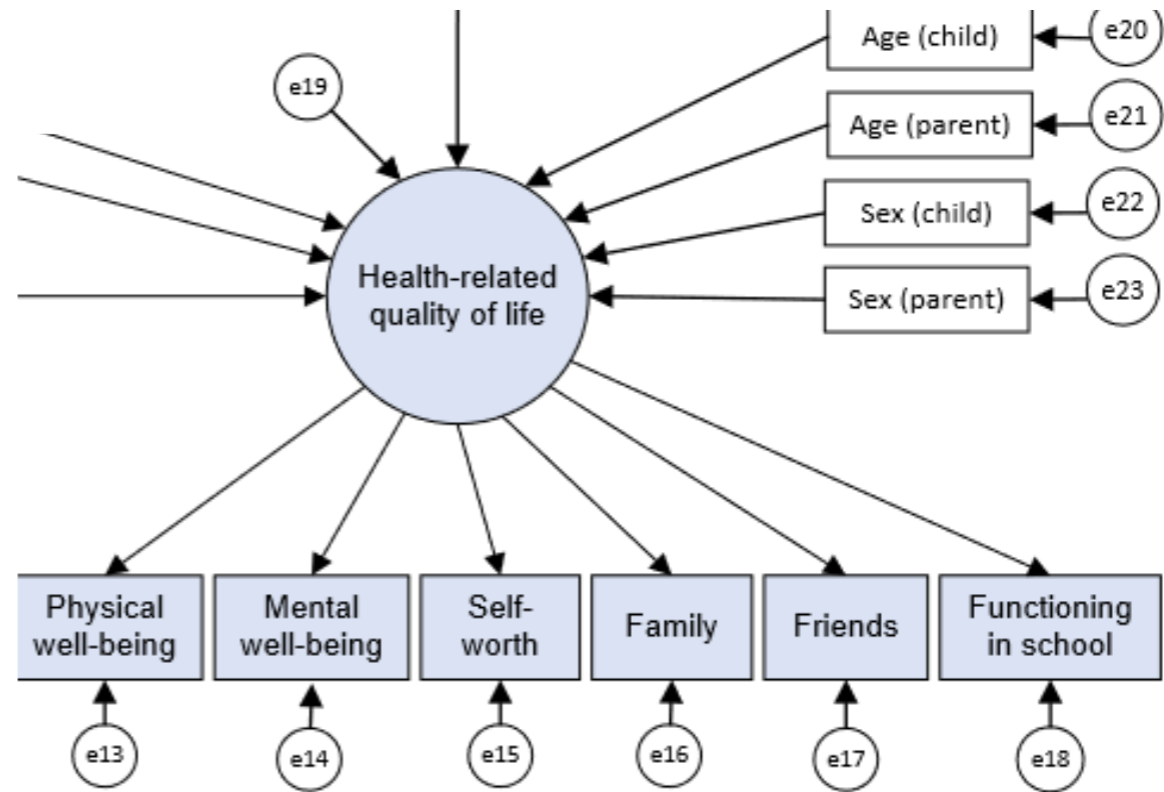
Urban vs. non urban region

Survey and Sample

Data collection: October 2021 to November 2021, organized by LINK Institute
Children-parents-pairs in German-speaking Switzerland

	Total	Urban	Countryside Peri-urban
Age (in years)	11.6	11.6	11.6
Age of parent (in years)	45.7	45.5	45.7
Share of girls (in %)	54	54	53
Share mothers (in %)	61	63	59
Share Swiss citizenship (in %)	93	91*	96*
N	343	181	159

Empirical Model



Results: Descriptive analysis

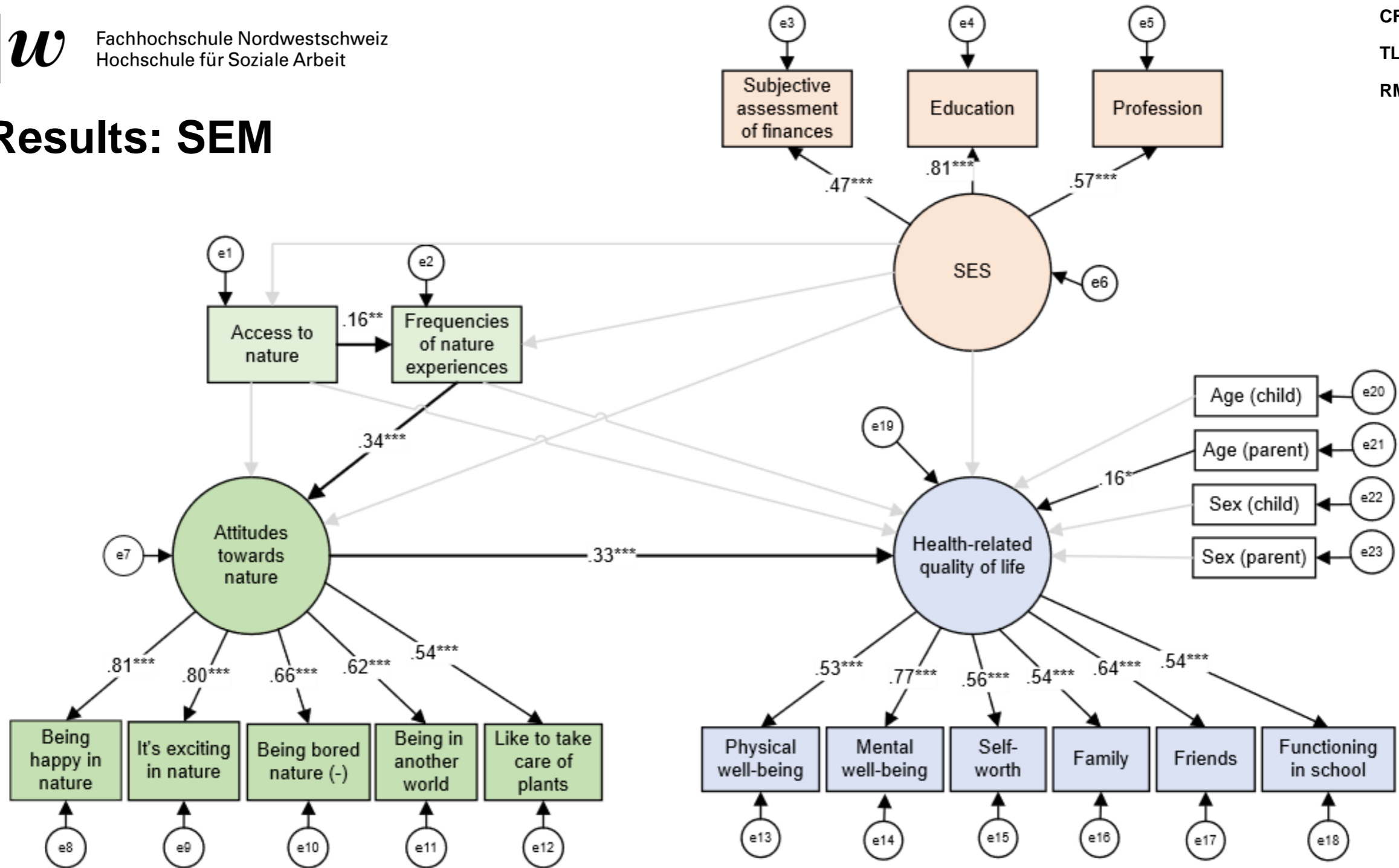
	Total	Urban	Countryside Peri-urban
SES (Range: 3-20)	14.32	14.50	14.10
Access to nature (Range: 0-3)	2.16	1.72***	2.67***
Frequencies of nature experiences (Range: 1-6)	3.75	3.69	3.8
Attitudes towards nature (Range: 1-5)	3.69	3.63	3.76
HRQoL (on 100 transformed scale)	74.54	74.05	75.25
N	343	181	159

Results: Direct correlations

	1	2	3	4	5
1. HRQoL	-				
2. Access to nature (Range: 0-3)	.13*	-			
3. Frequency (Range: 1-6)	.17**	.18***	-		
4. Attitudes towards nature (Range: 1-5)	.26***	.14**	.32***	-	
5. SES (Range: 3-20)	.04	-.05	.05	-.06	-


Notes: Total N = 343. Significance levels: *p < .05, **p < .01, ***p < .001.


Results: SEM





Summing up

H1: A higher SES predicts a higher health-related quality of life among the children. 

H2: Children's quality of life is affected by access to nature, frequency of experiences in nature, and the resulting attitude towards nature that the children have developed. 

H3: The higher the SES, the better the access to nature, the frequencies of nature experiences, and the attitude to nature will be. 

H4: The attitude towards nature, together with access to nature and frequency of nature experiences, mediate the influence of SES on health-related quality of life. 

H5: The associations between SES, nature experiences, and health-related quality of life might be different for urban children compared to children from the countryside. The expected mediation effect might be less strong or even absent in peri-urban or non-urban areas. 

Strengths

Combine children's perspectives on HRQoL with parents' statements on their SES and other parental statements

SEM: highlight the importance of positive attitudes towards nature

Limitations

Underrepresentation of families with low SES

Pandemic situation and the restrictions during data collection

Literatur

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