



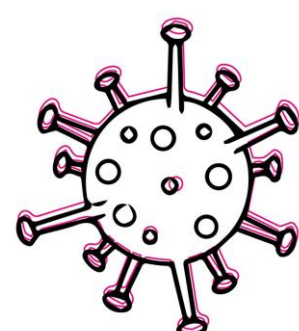
THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON VICTIMIZATION AND ITS EMOTIONAL SYMPTOMS: A LONGITUDINAL STUDY INVOLVING NATIVES AND STUDENTS FROM AN IMMIGRANT BACKGROUND

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☀ Bullying victimization is one of the main risks that students may face at school. Specifically, in the last years, major attention has been paid on bullying towards ethnic minority groups.



☀ The outbreak of the **COVID-19 pandemic** and the measures adopted to contain the virus' spread, impacted **adolescents' social interactions and mental health** (Nocentini, Palladino, Menesini, 2021). Although some studies have reported lower rates of victimization during the confinement (Mastorci et al., 2021; Vaillancourt et al., 2021), it is still unclear how different forms of bullying, peer- and emotional problems developed across the pandemic among **students at higher risk of social exclusion and victimization**.



WAVE 1: January/February 2020 (pre-COVID pandemic)

WAVE 2: February/March 2021

WAVE 3: May/June 2021

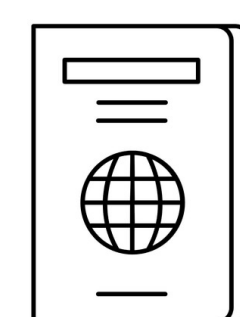


10 Italian high schools

36 classes of grade 9th

826 students (46.6% females)

Mean age=15.22 (SD=.64)



80.6% Italian students

(with the Italian citizenship)

18.5% Students from an immigrant background

(without the Italian citizenship)



Emotional Symptoms

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ; Goodam, 1997;2001)

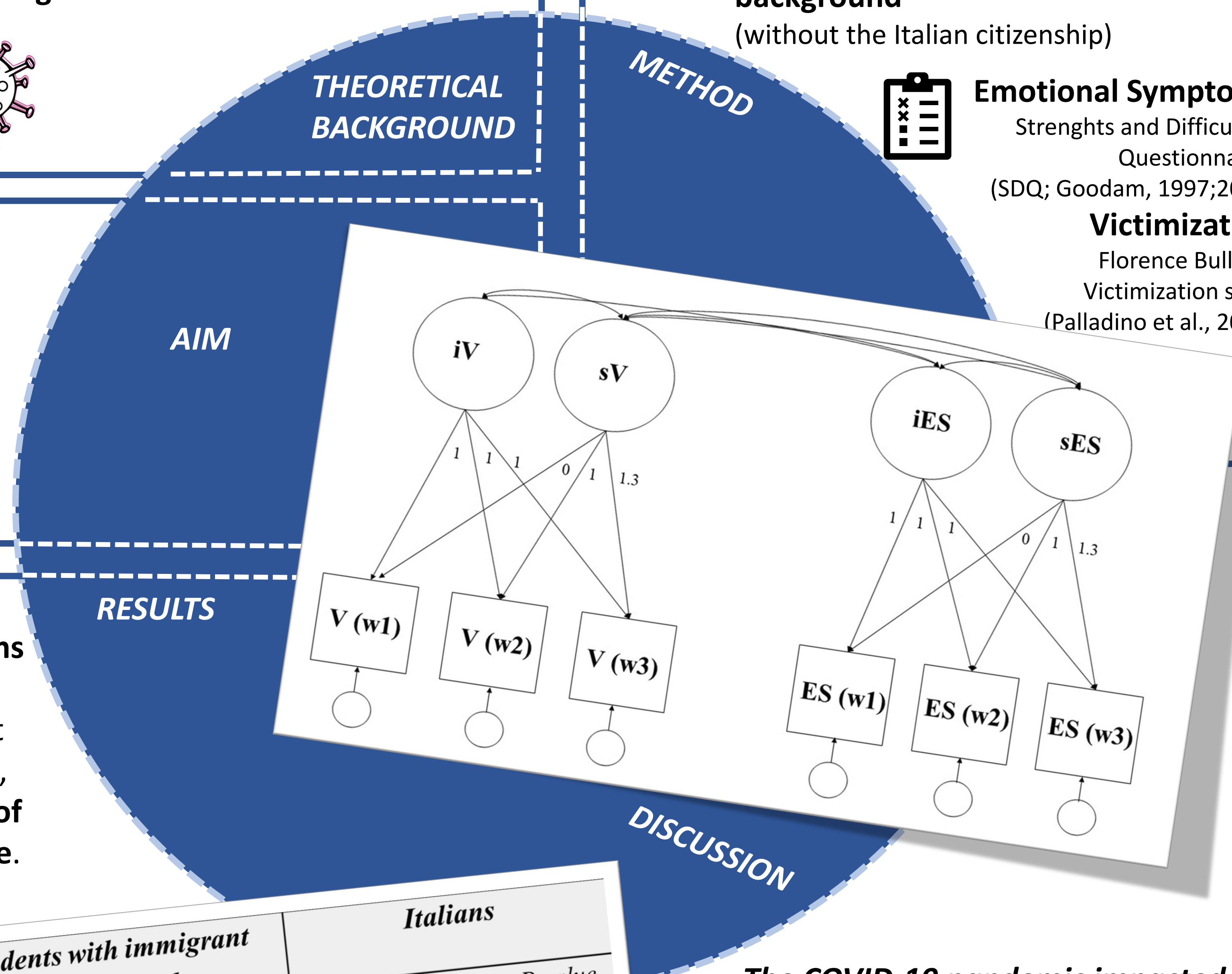
Victimization

Florence Bullying Victimization scale (Palladino et al., 2016)

☀ To analyze **trends over time** in **victimization (V)** and **emotional symptoms (ES)** looking for differences and Similarities in **Italian and students with immigrant background**.

☀ **Decrease in victimization and increase in emotional symptoms** over time for both groups

☀ Among **Italians**, students that were not victimized at Wave 1, experienced a **greater growth of emotional symptoms** over time.



	Students with immigrant background			Italians		
	Est.	S.E.	P-value	Est.	S.E.	P-value
Intercept (V)	1.092	.312	p<.001	1.106	.181	p<.001
Slope mean (V)	-.463	.226	.041**	-.257	.124	.038**
Intercept (ES)	1.699	.435	p<.001	1.604	.179	p<.001
Slope mean (ES)	.406	.180	.024**	.572	.250	.022**
Intercept (V) and slope (V)	-.675	.214	.002**	-.606	.173	p<.001
Intercept (ES) and slope (ES)	-.011	.516	.984	-.163	.337	.628
Intercept (V) and Intercept (ES)	.286	.177	.106	.433	.100	p<.001
Slope (ES) and Slope (V)	.103	.189	.585	.405	.234	.083
Intercept (V) and Slope (ES)	-.071	.186	.673	-.355	.170	.037**
Intercept (ES) and Slope (V)	.016	.153	.916	-.162	.104	.120

$\chi^2(10) = 8.773, p = .055, CFI = 1.000 (TLI = 1.005), RMSEA = 0.000 [CI .000-.049], SRMR = .017$

**p < .05

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted on bullying victimization, probably through the containment measures and affected adolescents' mental health, regardless of immigrant background.

☀ The Covid-19 pandemic impacted **not only students that were already at risk**, but also all the others.

☀ **Other factors** to be analyzed about students with immigrant background.

