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Noret, Nathalie, Hunter, Simon and
Rasmussen, Susan (2019) The role of cognitive appraisals in the relationship between peer-victimisation and adjustment: A longitudinal study. In: World Anti-Bullying Forum 2019, 4-7th June 2019, University College Dublin.

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The role of cognitive appraisals in the relationship between peer-victimisation and adjustment: A longitudinal study.

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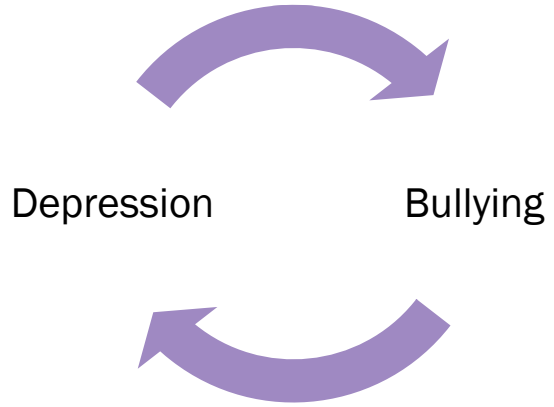
Background

- The relationship between bullying and depression is well established in the literature.
  - Relationship with mental health difficulties in the short and long-term (Ttofi, Farrington, Lösel, & Loeber, 2011).

- Bullying and depression, a vicious circle (Bond et al, 2001)?



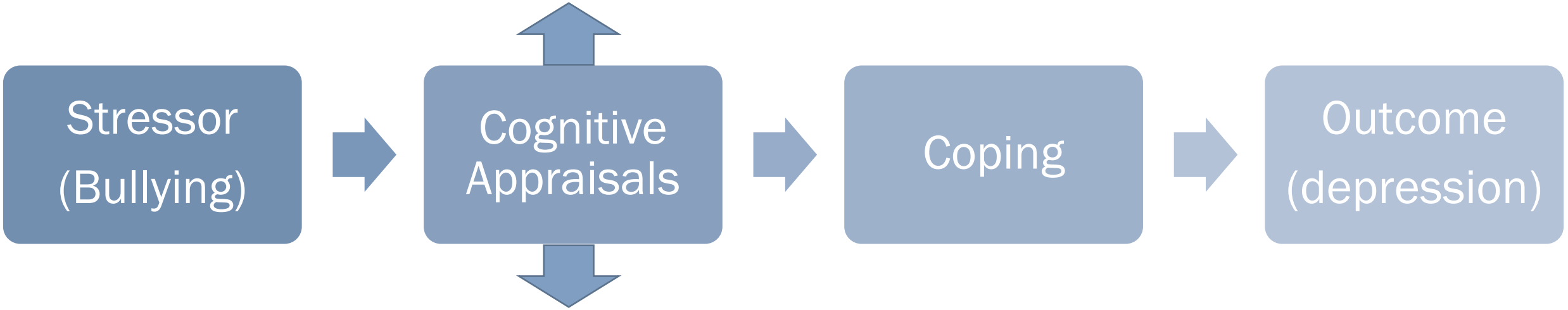
- Rejintes et al. (2010) meta-analysis of 15 longitudinal studies:
  - Found a reciprocal relationship between being bullied and internalising symptoms
  - The bullying → internalising symptoms effect was larger compared to the internalising symptoms → bullying effect.

- Not all of those who are bullied report poor mental health (Arseneault, Bowes, & Shakoor, 2010).

Background

Transactional Model of Stress (Lazarus & Folkman, 1984)

Primary: An evaluation of the significance of the event for the individual.



Secondary: evaluation of resources your have you available to manage the experience.

Background

PRIMARY APPRAISALS

Perception of threat.

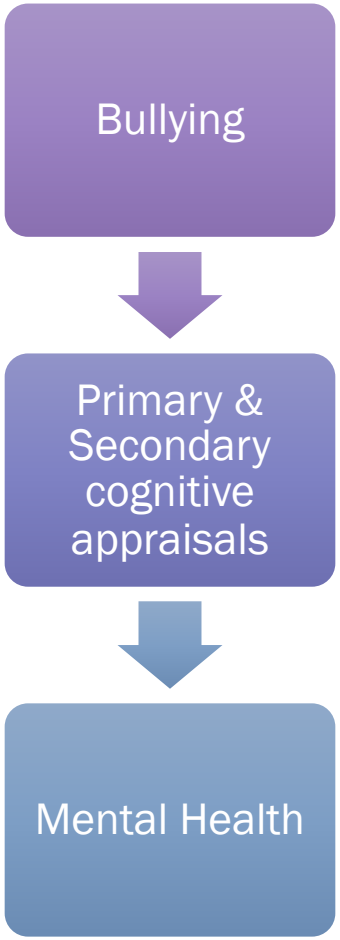
- Being bullied leads to greater appraisals (evaluations) of feeling threatened.
- Feelings which then predict anxiety and depression symptomology.

Perception of being in control.

- Being bullied leads to greater appraisals (evaluations) of feeling out of control.
- Feelings which then predict anxiety and depression symptomology.

Challenge and blame.

- No studies have studied the role of challenge in this relationship.
- Blame did not mediate the relationship.



SECONDARY APPRAISALS

Perceived social support.

- From parents/ guardians, and from teachers, can buffer the impact of bullying on mental health.
  - Is protective, although there are some age and gender differences in this relationship.
  - From friends, not always protective.
  - Mixed findings. Sometimes protective, sometimes not.

Coping Self-Efficacy

- Bullying is found to relate to mental health when confidence in ability to cope is reduced.

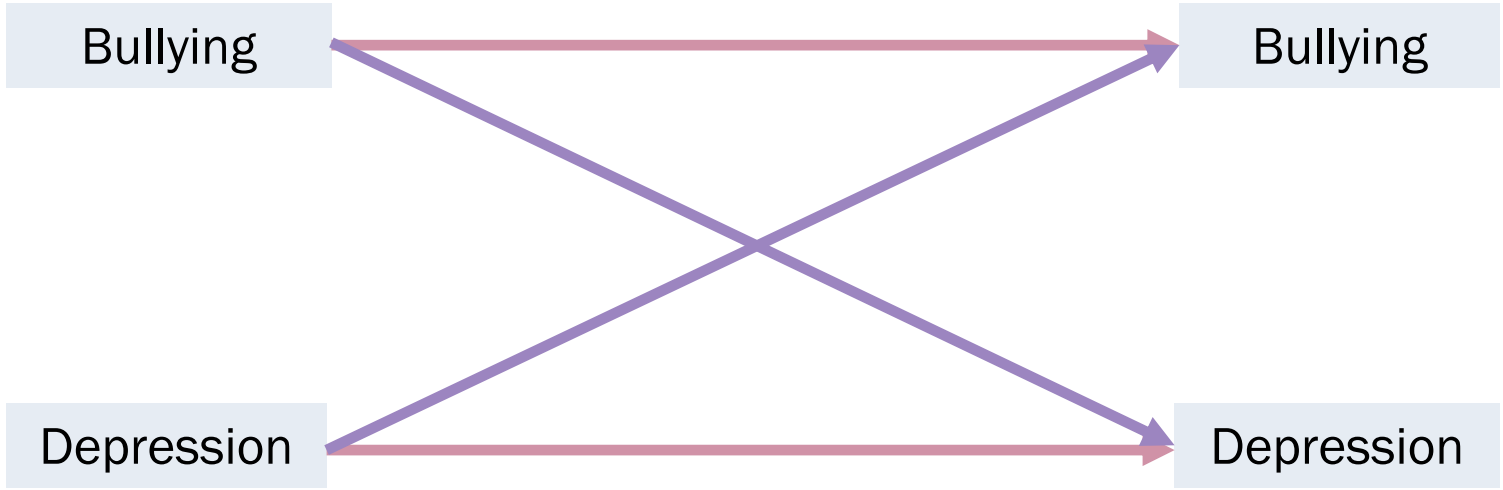
Noret, Hunter & Rasmussen (2018)

Aim of the current study

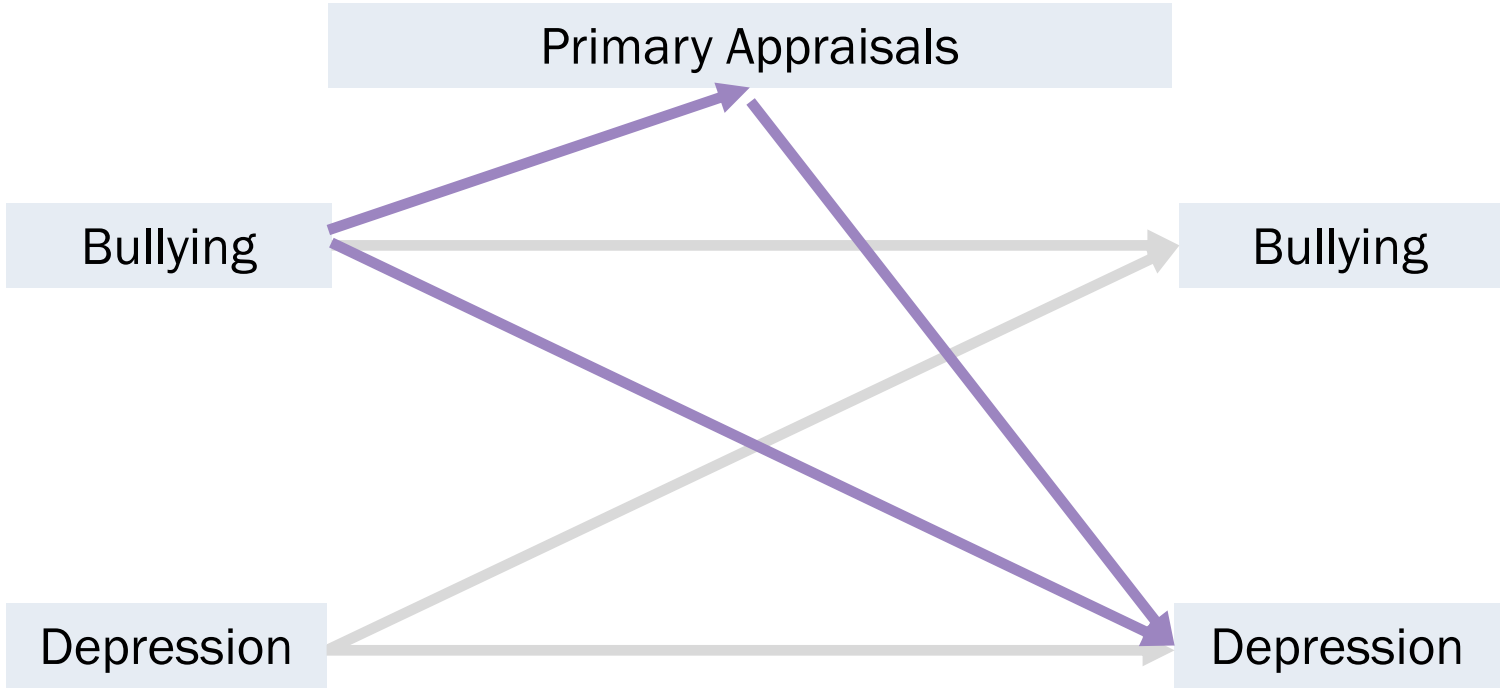
- To further examine the longitudinal cross-lagged relationship between peer-victimisation and depressive symptomology.

- To examine the role of mediating (e.g. cognitive appraisals) and moderating (perceived social support) in this longitudinal relationship.

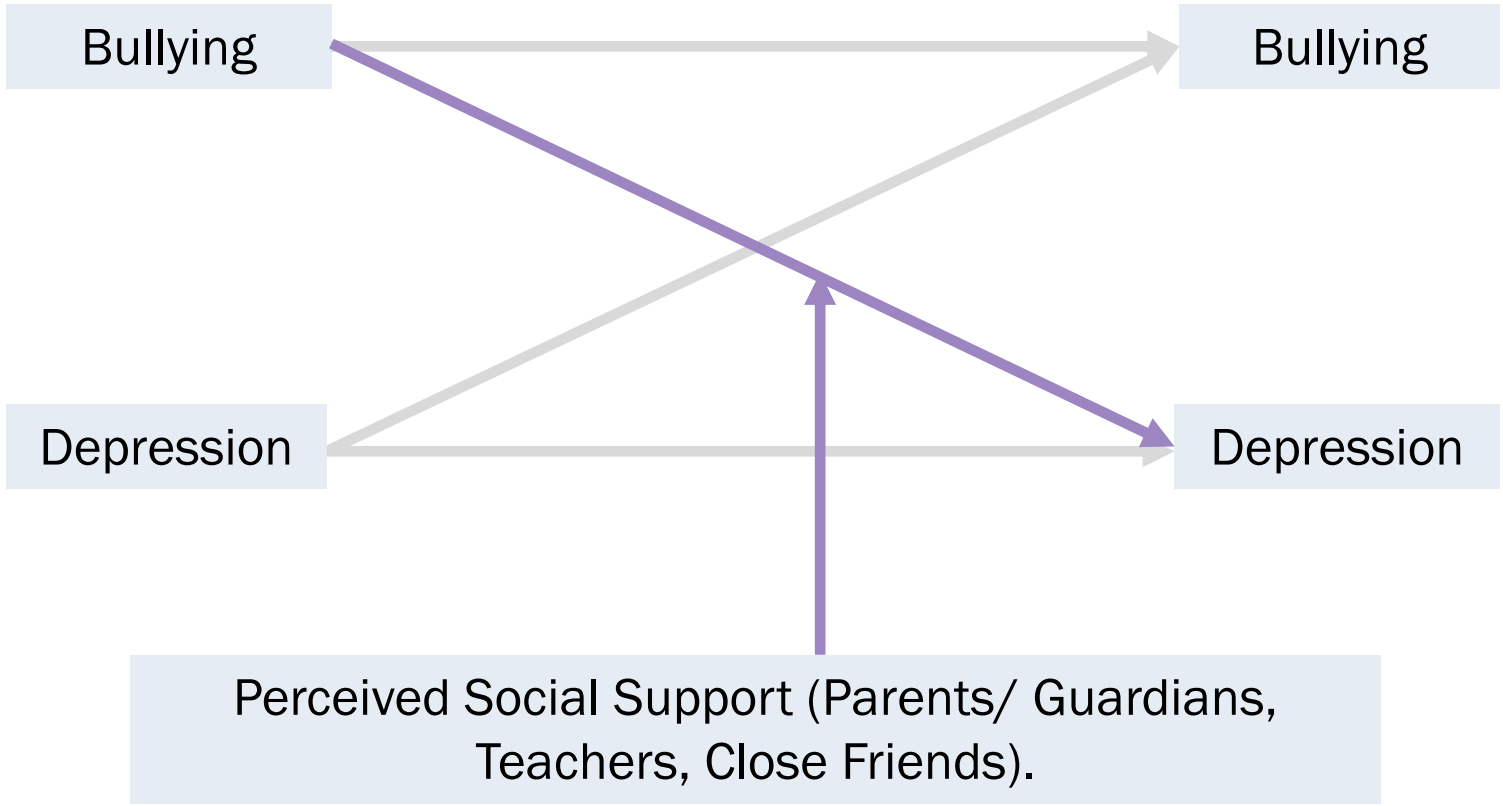
H_1: Peer-Victimisation will significantly predict symptoms of depression over time.



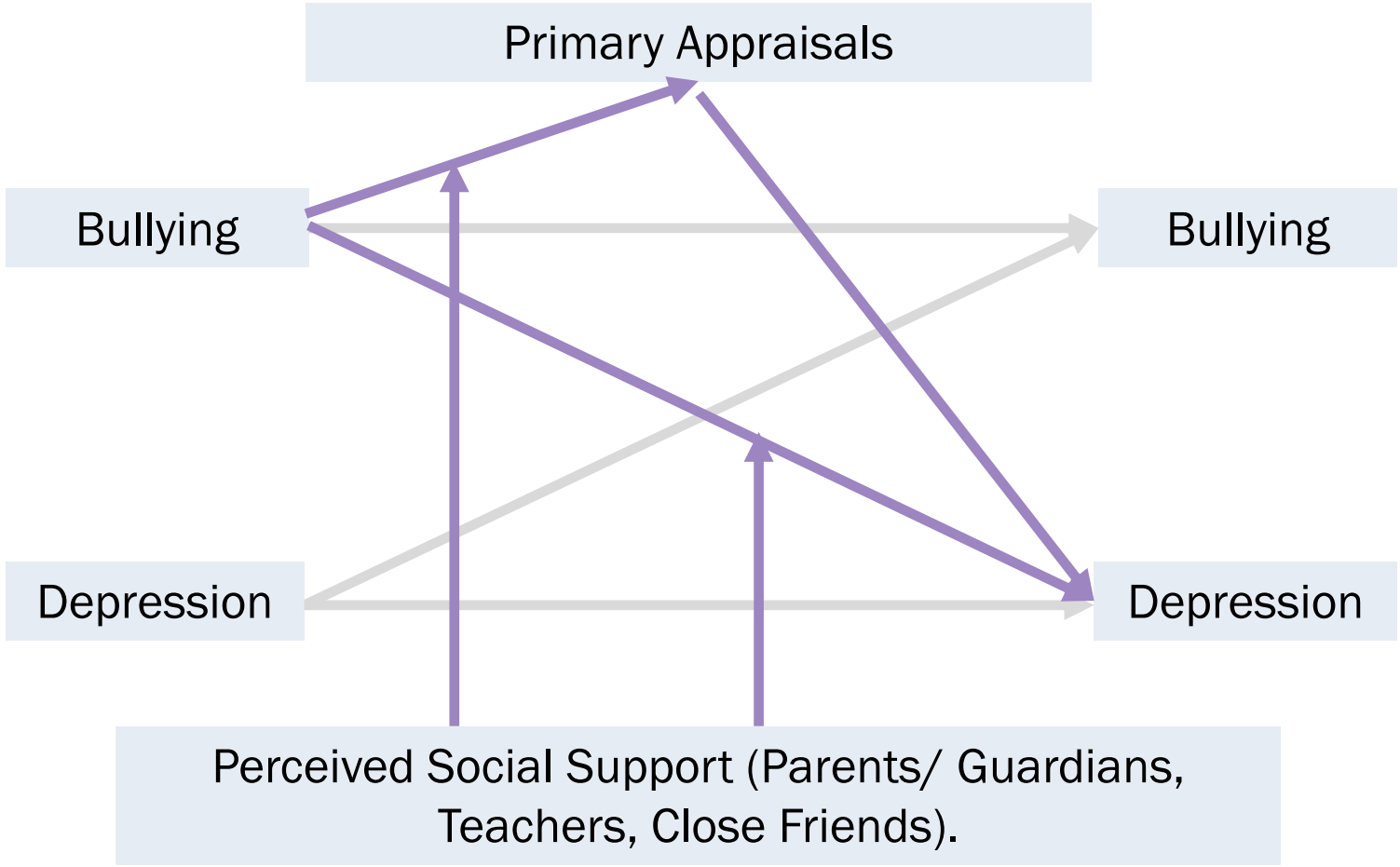
H_2: Primary appraisals of threat, blame, challenge and control, will mediate the relationship between peer-victimisation and symptoms of depression over time.



H_3: Perceived social support from parents or teachers or close friends will moderate the relationship between peer-victimisation and symptoms of depression.



H_4: Primary appraisals of threat, blame, challenge and control, will mediate the relationship between peer-victimisation and symptoms of depression over time.



Method

Time 1
Bullying, perceived social support, primary appraisals, depression.

Time 2
(one month later)
Cognitive appraisals.

Time 3
(one month later)
Bullying, perceived social support, primary appraisals, depression.

- Ethics approval & hypotheses, method and data analytic plan were pre-registered with the Open Science Framework.
- Data were collected from four secondary (high) schools at three time points, one month apart.
- Data were collected in class time, under exam questions.

Measures

- Peer-Victimisation: The Personal Experiences Checklist (Hunt, Peters, and Rapee, 2012).
- Perceived Social Support: the child and adolescent social support scale (CASSS) (Malecki and Demaray, 2002), parent/ guardian, teacher and close friend subscales.
- Cognitive Appraisals: blame and control (Catterson and Hunter, 2010), threat and challenge (Hunter et al., 2004, Hood, Power, & Hill 2009)
- Depressive symptomology: Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale-revised scale for adolescents (CESDR-10) (Haroz, Ybarra, & Eaton, 2014).

Method

- Participants were 1,061 adolescents.

Table 1: *Sample size at each time point*

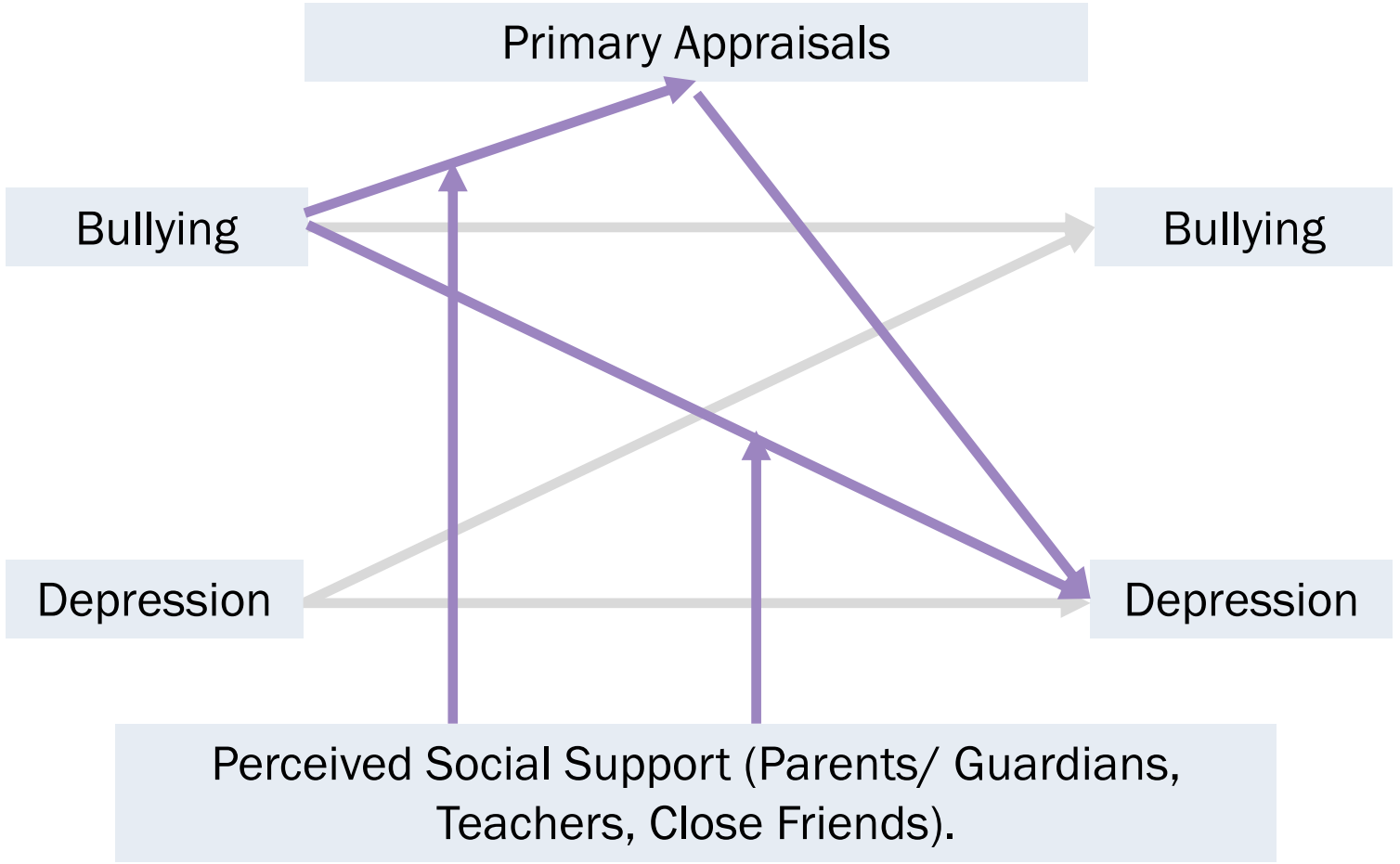
	Frequency	Percent
Time 1 only	193	18.2
Time 2 only	110	10.4
Time 3 only	87	8.2
Time 1 & Time 2	218	20.5
Time 1 & Time 3 only	81	7.6
Time 2 & Time 3	120	11.3
All 3 time points	252	23.8

Table 2: *Demographic information at each time point*

	Time 1 (N=735)	Time 2 (N=692)	Time 3 (N=532)
Gender			
Male	340 (46.5%)	317 (45.8%)	243 (45.7%)
Female	365 (49.9%)	358 (51.7%)	267 (50.2%)
Prefer not to say	26 (3.6%)	17 (2.4%)	22 (2.6%)
School Year			
Year 7/ S1	258 (35.1%)	315 (46.1%)	183 (35%)
Year 8/ S2	288 (39.2%)	244 (35.7%)	206 (39.4%)
Year 9/ S3	189 (17.8%)	124 (18.2%)	134 (25.6%)
Age (11 to 14 years)	$\bar{x}$ =12.57, sd=0.89	$\bar{x}$ =12.48, sd=0.88	$\bar{x}$ =12.75, sd=0.86

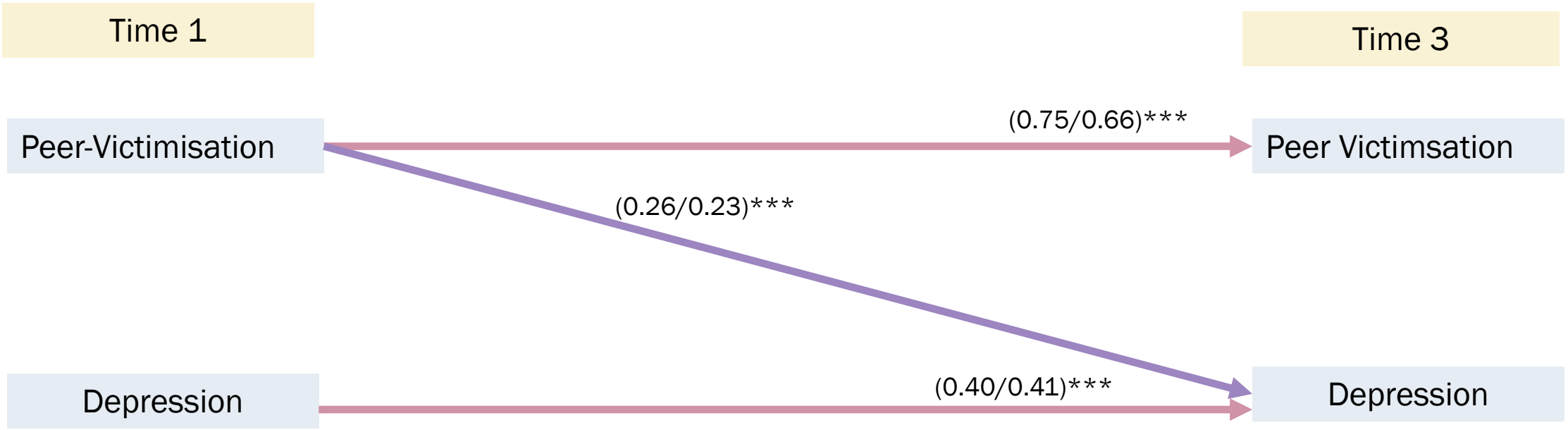
Data Analysis

- Conducted in MPLUS (v7.31).
- Missing data managed in MPLUS using Full Information Maximum Likelihood (FIML).
- Paths estimated using maximum likelihood estimator (ML) alongside bias corrected boostrapping.



Results

H_1: Peer-Victimisation will significantly predict symptoms of depression over time.

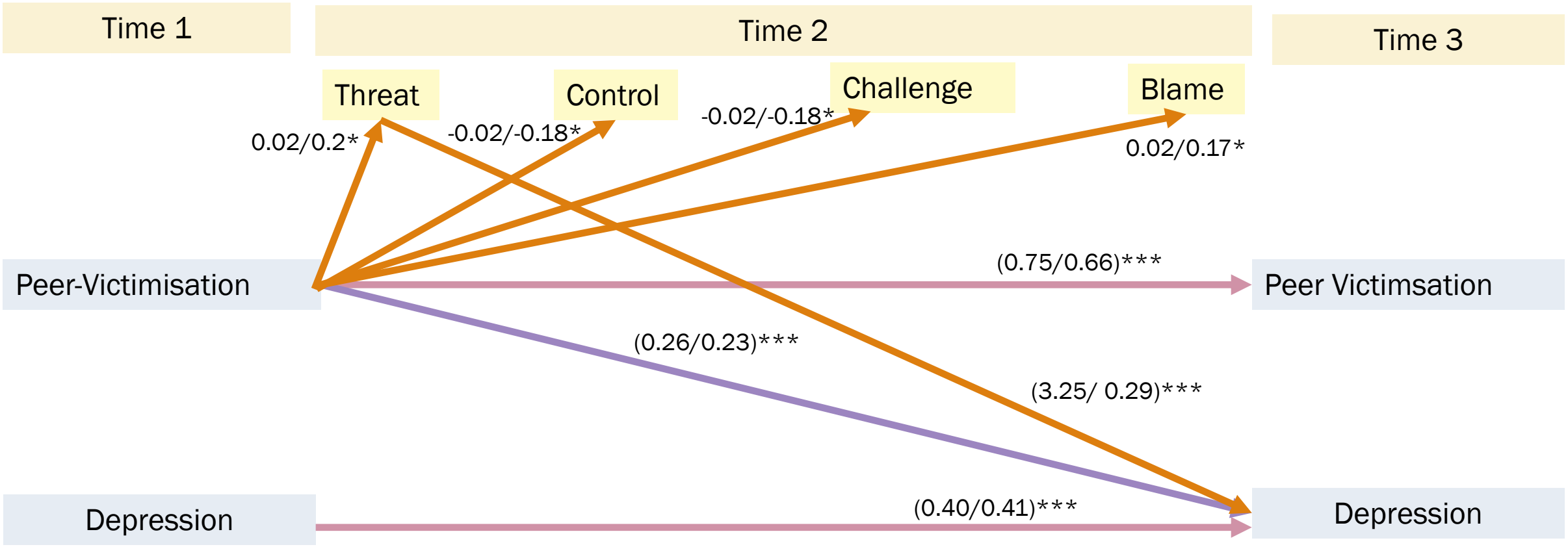


(unstandardised beta/standardised beta), ***p<0.001

PECK at time 3, R^2 = 0.45, Depression at time 3, R^2 = 0.54 .

Results

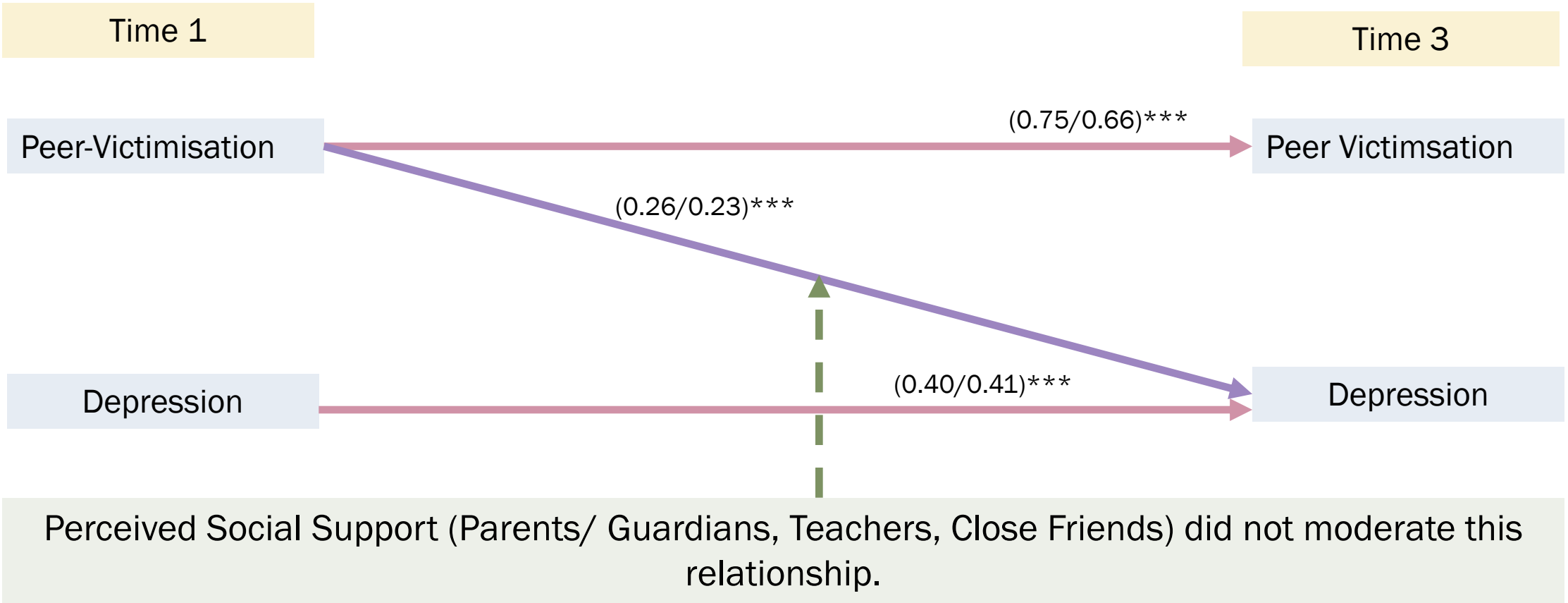
H_2: Primary appraisals of threat, blame, challenge and control, will mediate the relationship between peer-victimisation and symptoms of depression over time..



(unstandardised beta/standardised beta), ***p<0.001

Results

H3: Perceived social support from parents or teachers or close friends will moderate the relationship between peer-victimisation and symptoms of depression.

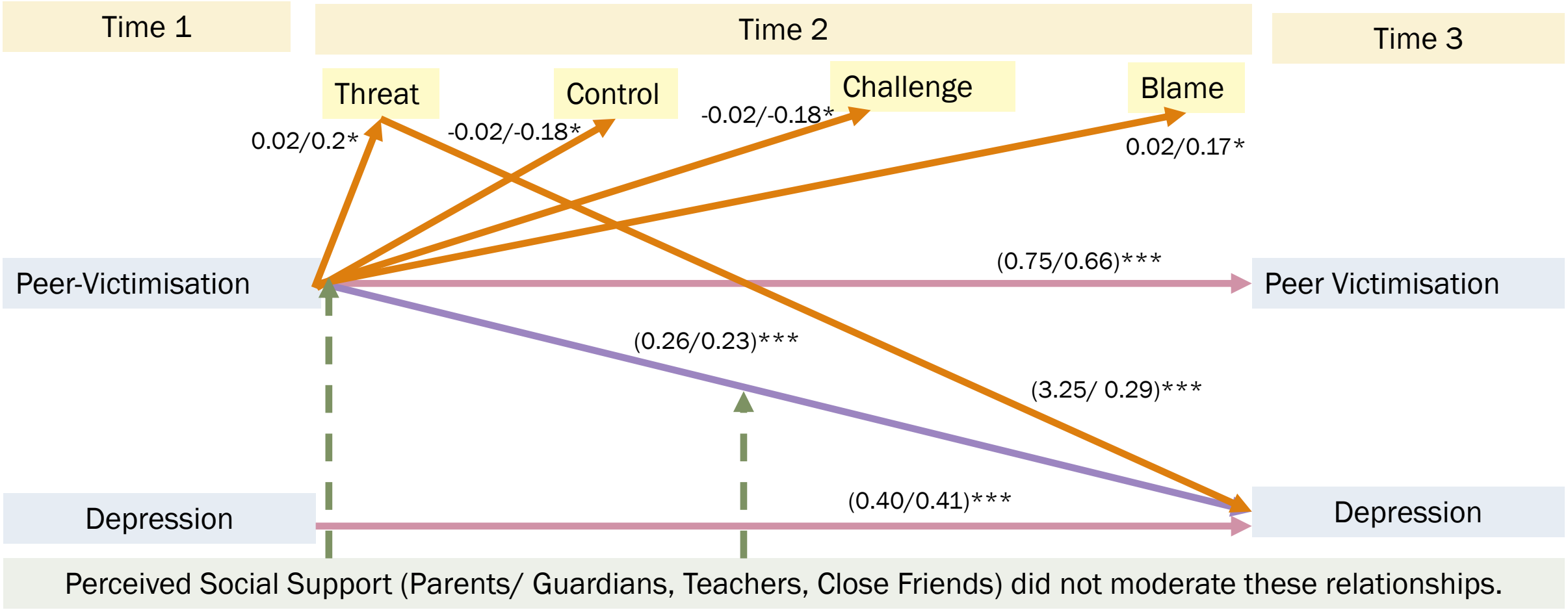


(unstandardised beta/standardised beta), ***p<0.001

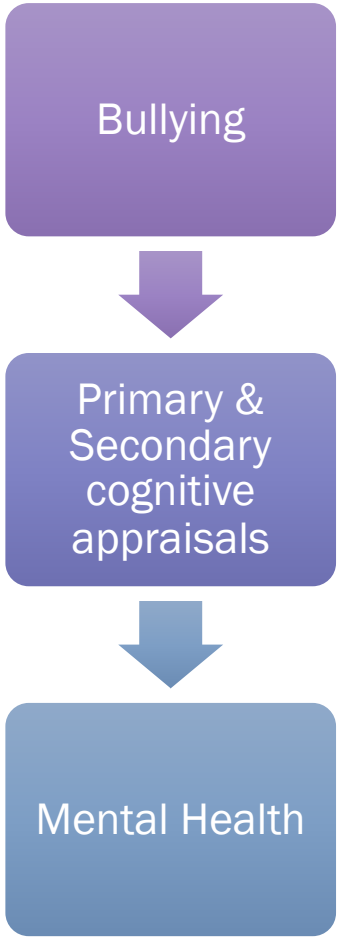
PECK at time 3, $R^2 = 0.45$, Depression at time 3, $R^2 = 0.54$.

Results

H_2: Primary appraisals of threat, blame, challenge and control, will mediate the relationship between peer-victimisation and symptoms of depression over time..



Discussion



Key findings

- Bullying at time 1 was significantly associated with depression at time 3.
- Depression at time 1 was not significantly associated with bullying at time 3.
- Bullying at time 1 was significantly associated with appraisals of threat, control, challenge and blame at time 2.
  - These cognitive appraisals did not significantly mediate the longitudinal relationship between bullying and depression.
- Perceived social support did not moderate the relationships of interest.

Evaluation

- Longitudinal study of bullying, cognitive appraisals and depression.
- Measurement
  - Timing?
  - Measure of perceived social support?

Thank you for listening.

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