Women's Decisions to Stay in or Leave an Abuse Relationship

Results From a Longitudinal Study in Bolivia

Eva Heim; Icek Ajzen; Peter Schmidt; Daniel Seddig

Table of Contents

- – Context and theoretical background

- – Methods

- – Statistical models

- – Results

- – Discussion

Context of the Study

Jan 2005 – Dec 2007

Funding: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Partner-Institutions in Bolivia:

–   Oficina Jurídica para la Mujer

–   Instituto de Humanidades y Ciencias de Educación, Universidad Mayor de San Simón

OFICINA JURÍDICA PARA LA MUJER

fhce

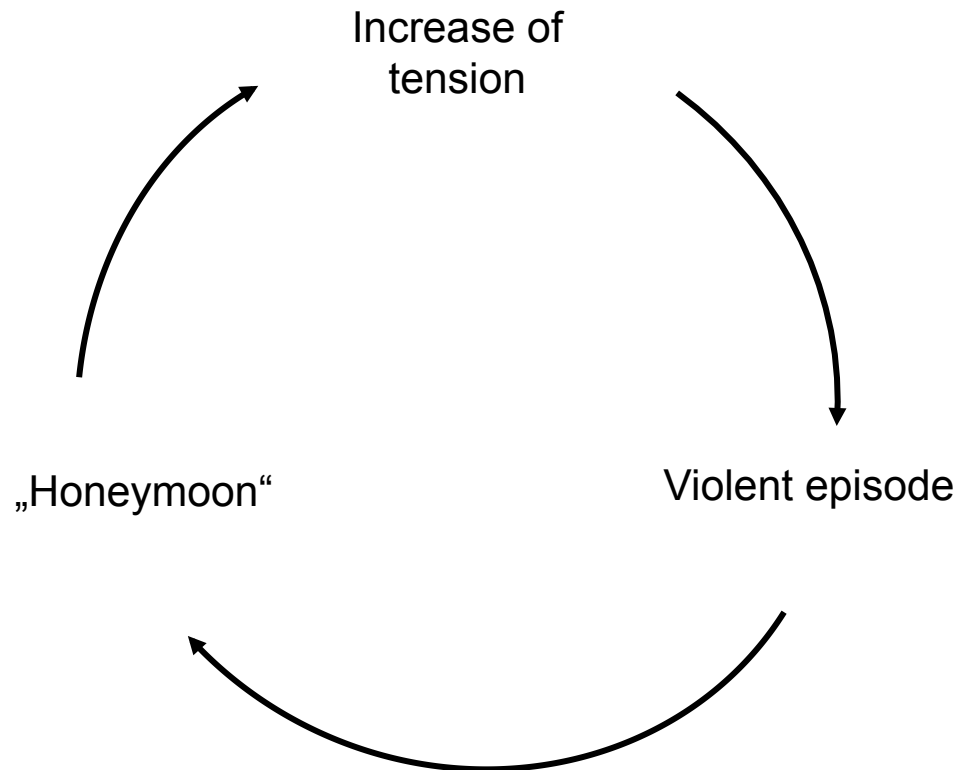Instituto de Investigaciones
Facultad de Humanidades y

Intimate partner violence in Bolivia

- According to meta-analytic evidence, Andean countries are among those with the highest prevalence (41%), after Sub-Saharan Africa (65%) and South-Asia (42%).   Devries et al., 2013, *Science, 340*(6140), 1527-1528

- WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women: 49% lifetime prevalence in Peru.
                                                          Garcia-Moreno et al., *Lancet, 368*(9543), 1260-1269

- In Bolivia, data from the 2008 census indicated that 47% of women had experienced some form of partner violence.
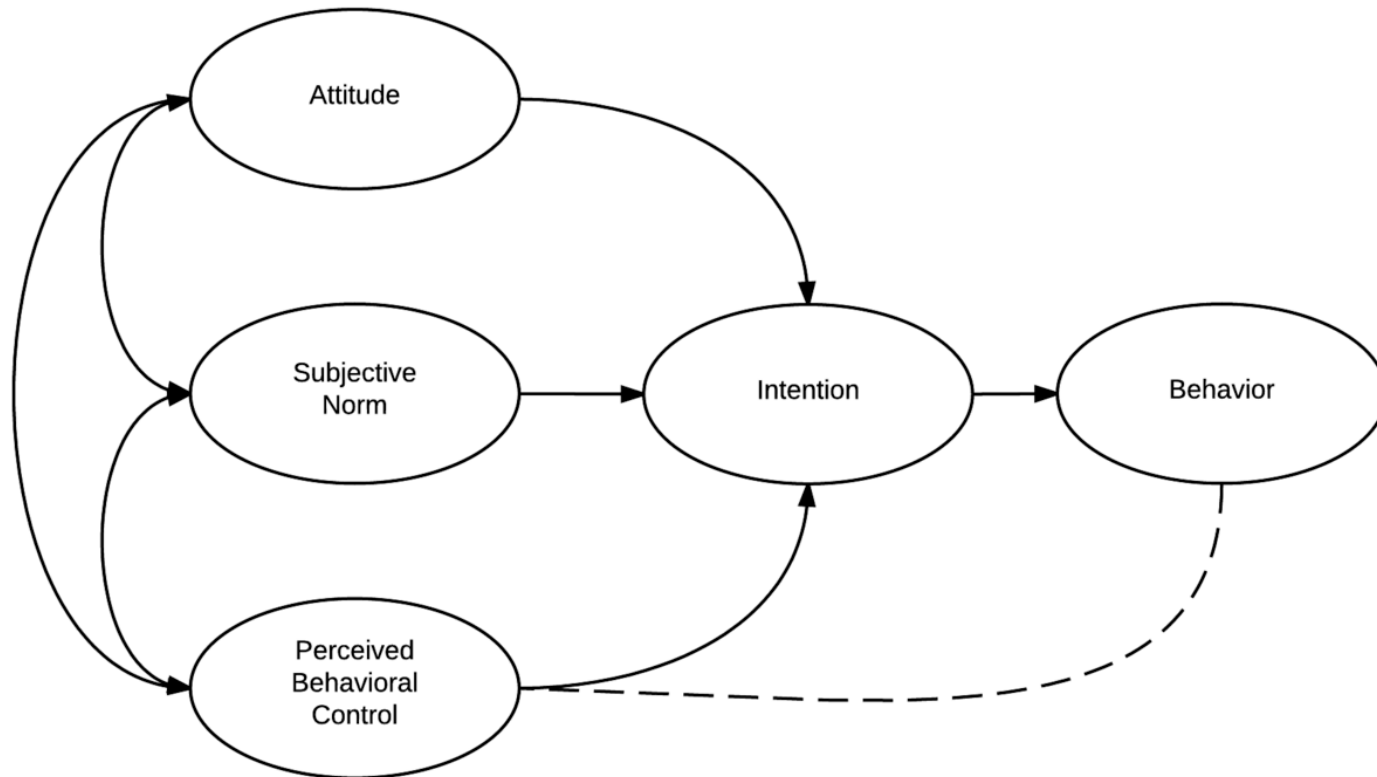   Meekers et al.,, *Global Public Health, 8*(5), 588-606
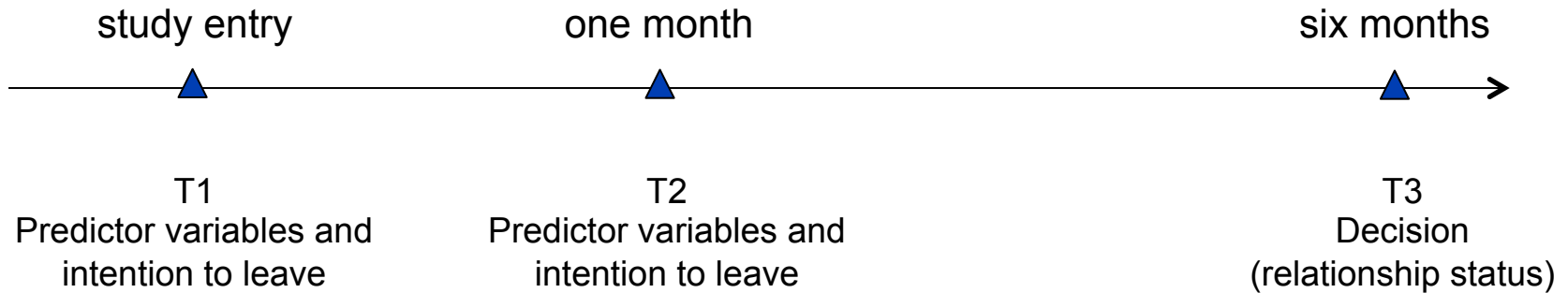
The cycle of violence

Increase of
tension

„Honeymoon"

Violent episode

Theory of Planned Behavior

Design

study entry   one month   six months

T1
Predictor variables and
intention to leave

T2
Predictor variables and
intention to leave

T3
Decision
(relationship status)

Methods

- Literature review and qualitative interviews for preparation of the study and formulation of items.

- Women who sought help at the Legal Office (about 500) were invited to participate. 134 women ultimately agreed to participate.

- A total of 100 participants were interviewed at T2, and 80 women participated at T3, with a total drop-out rate of 40%.

- Personal interviews with all participants due to high rates of illiteracy.

- Participants answered the questions with the help of a wooden board that illustrated the scales with either a colored triangle (illustrating the Likert-type scale from low to high) or smilies.

Statistical models

1. Measurement model

2. Longitudinal CFA: Test of measurement invariance

3. Cross-sectional prediction of intention to leave at T1 and T2

4. Longitudinal prediction of intention to leave at T2

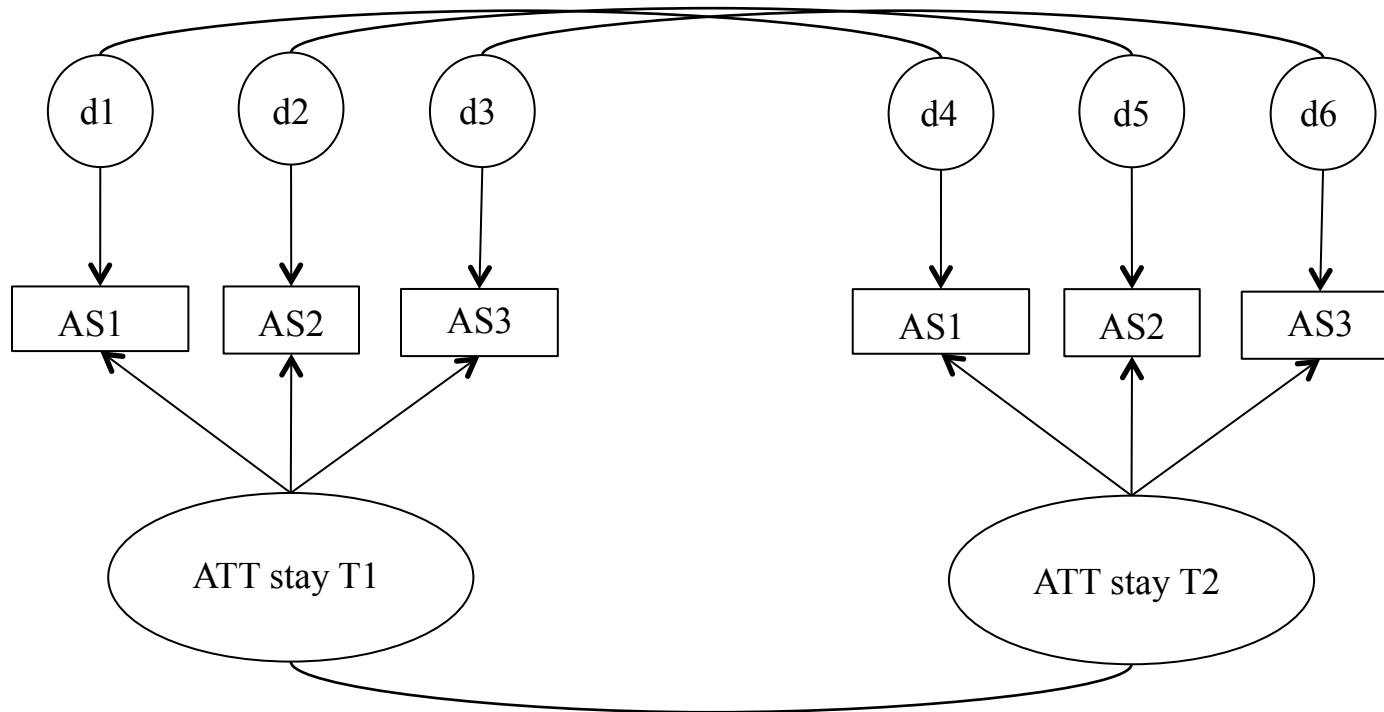5. Longitudinal prediction of decision at T3 (i.e. relationship status)

Department of Psychology – Psychopathology & Clinical Intervention

1. Measurement Model
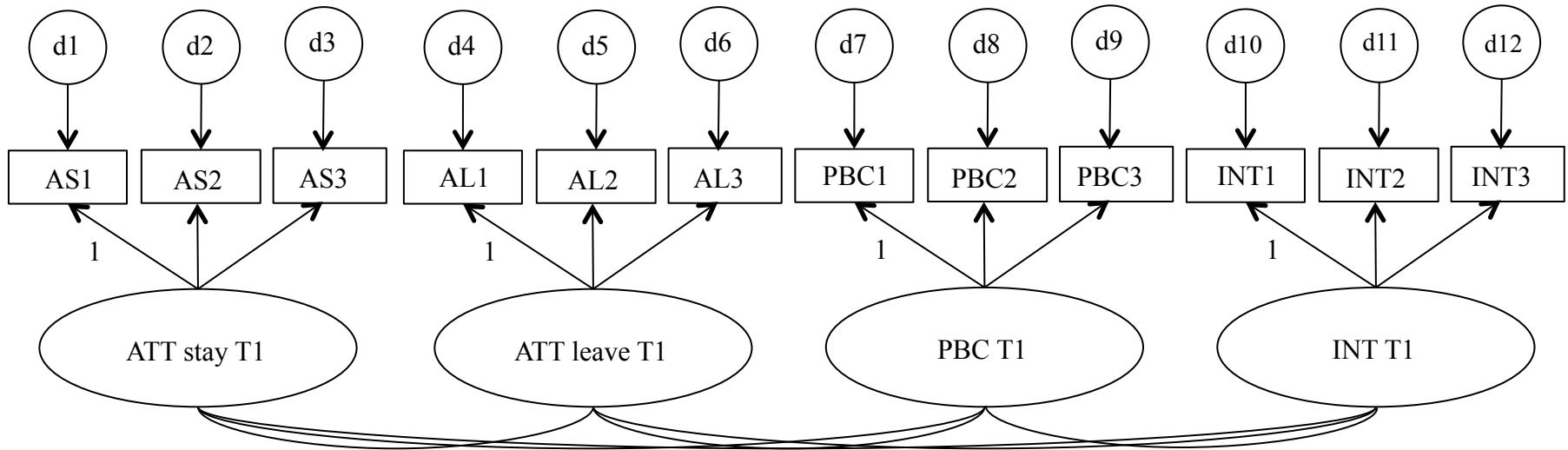
	χ^2 (df)	CFI	RMSEA (90% CI)	SRMR
T1	48.872 (48)	.998	0.012 (.000; .056)	.042
T2	84.121 (48)	.933	.086 (.053; .117)	.073

2. Longitudinal CFA

Department of Psychology – Psychopathology & Clinical Intervention

	χ^2 (df)	CFI	RMSEA	SRMR	Latent Mean T1	Latent Mean T2
Intention to leave						
Configural	15.018 (6)	.975	.106	.039		
Metric	18.111 (8)	.972	.097	.051		
Scalar	19.036 (10)	.975	.082	.052	3.26	2.88
Scalar w/ equal latent means	33.332 (11)	.937	.123	.110	3.14	3.14
Attitude toward leaving						
Configural	2.670 (5)	1.000	.000	.028		
Metric	5.934 (7)	1.000	.000	.050		
Scalar	7.243 (9)	1.000	.000	.052	4.83	4.31
Scalar w/ equal latent means	8.535 (10)	1.000	.000	.061	4.63	4.63

(*N* = 135; MLR estimator)

	χ^2 (df)	CFI	RMSEA	SRMR	Latent Mean T1	Latent Mean T2
Attitude toward staying						
Configural	8.212 (5)	.986	.070	.047		
Metric	7.968 (7)	.996	.032	.049		
Scalar	8.095 (9)	1.000	.000	.049	-2.52	-0.70
Scalar w/ equal latent means	23.045 (10)	.943	.099	.028	-1.69	-1.69
Perceived behavioral control						
Configural	4.431 (5)	1.000	.000	.036		
Metric	6.148 (7)	1.000	.000	.039		
Scalar	7.171 (9)	1.000	.000	.042	2.43	2.59
Scalar w/ equal latent means	8.884 (10)	1.000	.000	.049	2.49	2.49

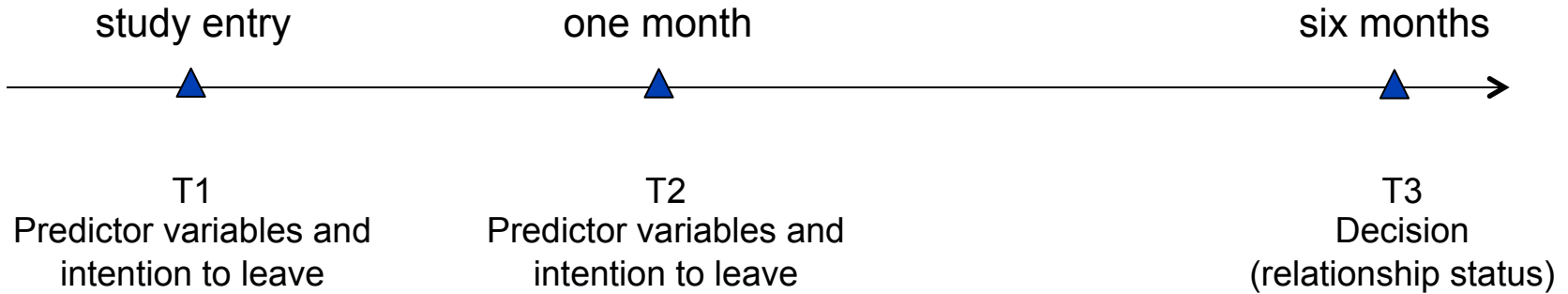(*N* = 135; MLR estimator)

3. Cross-sectional prediction of intention at T1 and T2
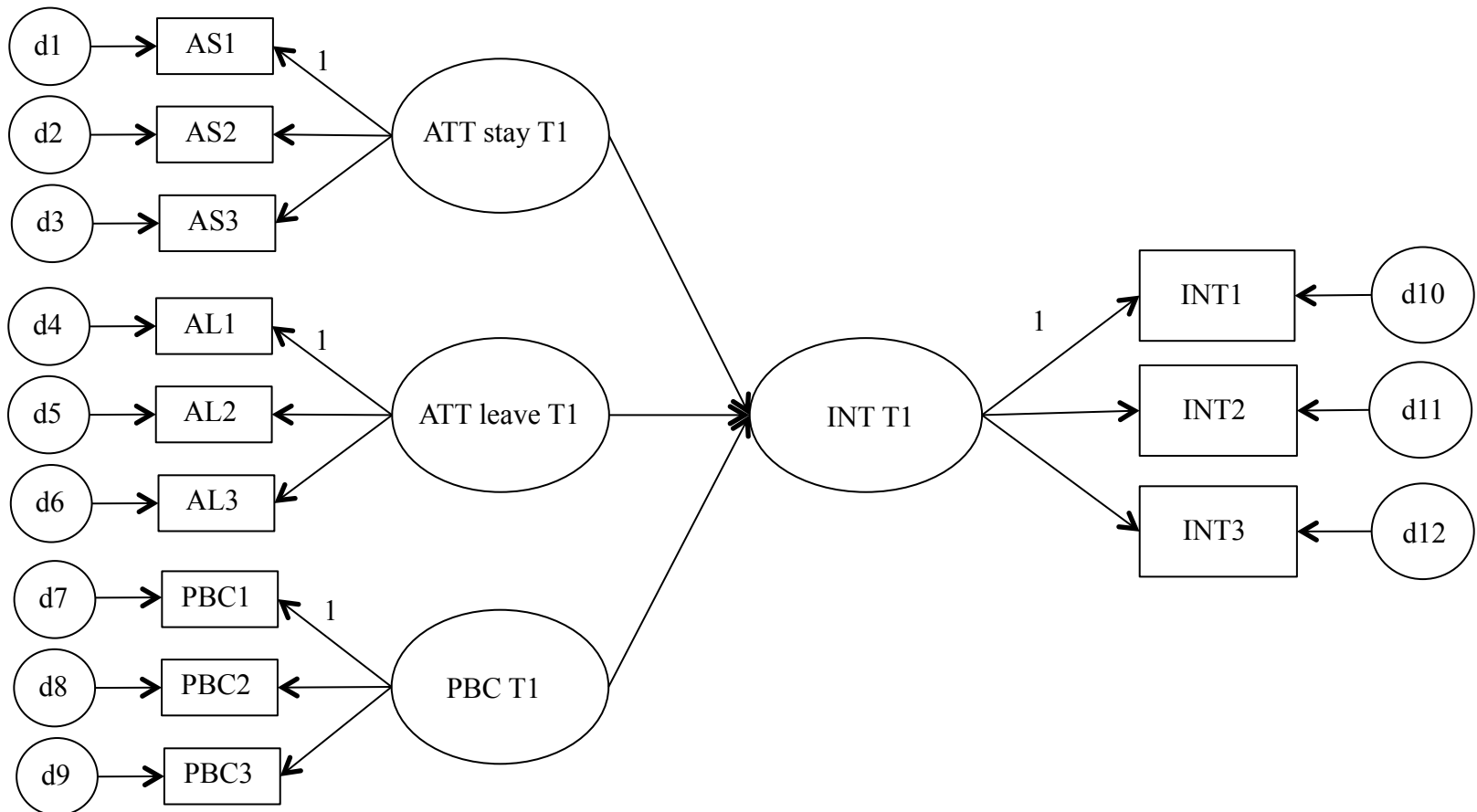
	b (SE)	p	β	χ² (df)	CFI	RMSEA	SRMR
Intention T1				48.87 (48)	.998	.012	.042
ATT leave T1	.090 (.033)	.007	.384				
ATT stay T1	-.066 (.025)	.008	-.331				
PBC T1	.096 (.144)	.504	.090				
Intention T2				84.12 (48)	.933	.086	.073
ATT leave T2	.083 (.028)	.011	.293				
ATT stay T2	-.111 (.033)	.000	-.435				
PBC T2	.083 (.014)	.556	.079				

(*N* = 135; MLR estimator)

Design
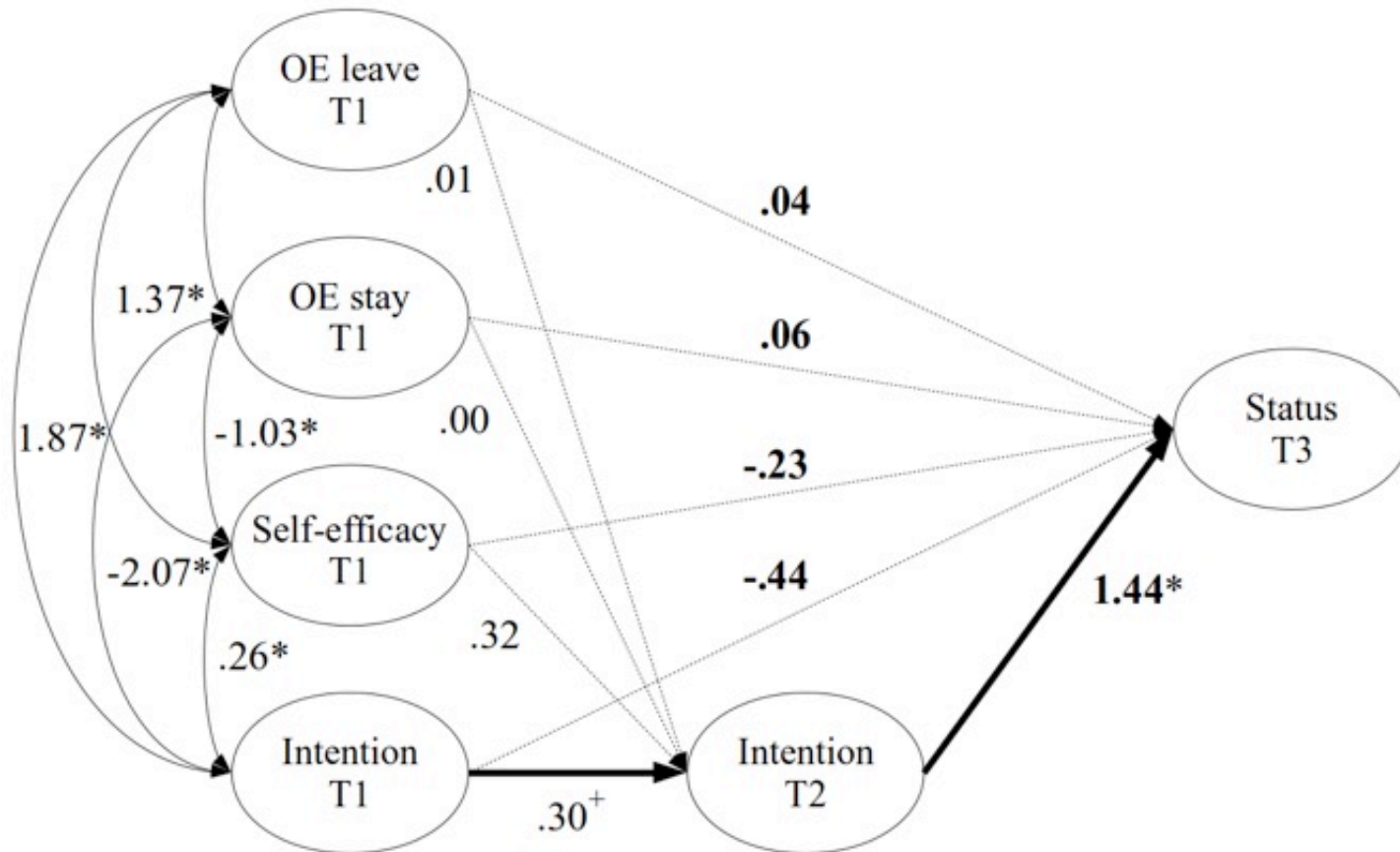
study entry   one month   six months

▲   ▲   ▲

T1   T2   T3
Predictor variables and   Predictor variables and   Decision
intention to leave   intention to leave   (relationship status)

Figure 3. Structural equation model predicting relationship status at T3. All coefficients unstandardized. **Bold** coefficients are logits (N = 135; + p < .05; * p < .001). Measurement models not displayed.

Comments by Icek Ajzen

4. The longitudinal structural models are not consistent with the TPB.

(a) We can model ATT and PBC at T1 predicting INT at T1, and then INT at T1 predicting INT at T2 (with no further contribution from ATT and PBC at T1).

(b) We should predict the behavioral decision at T3 from INT at T2, with no further contribution from ATT and PBC, either at T1 or T2.

4. Longitudinal prediction of intention at T2
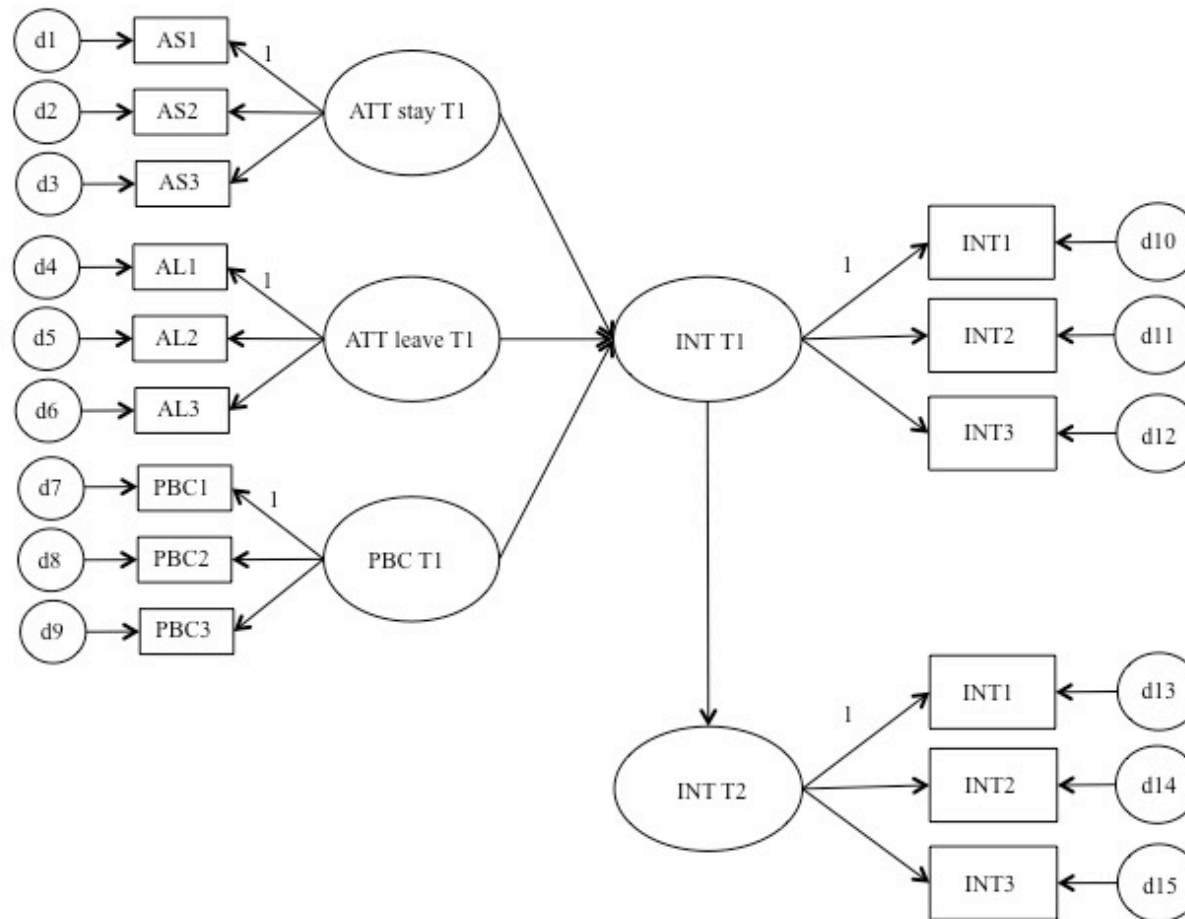
4. Longitudinal prediction of intention at T2

	b (SE)	p	β	χ² (df)	CFI	RMSEA	SRMR
Intention T2				105.875 (85)	.975	.043	.068
INT leave T1	.460 (.105)	.000	.407				
Intention T1							
ATT leave T1	.093 (.034)	.007	.387				
ATT stay T1	-.068 (.024)	.005	-.333				
PBC T1	.098 (.148)	.506	.090				

(*N* = 135; MLR estimator)

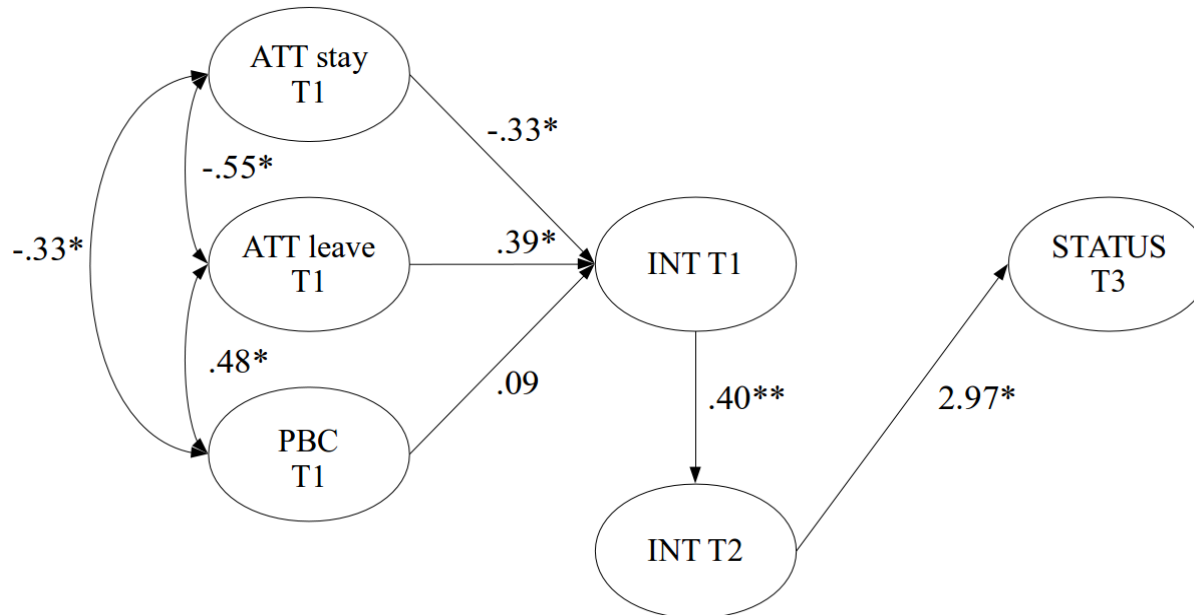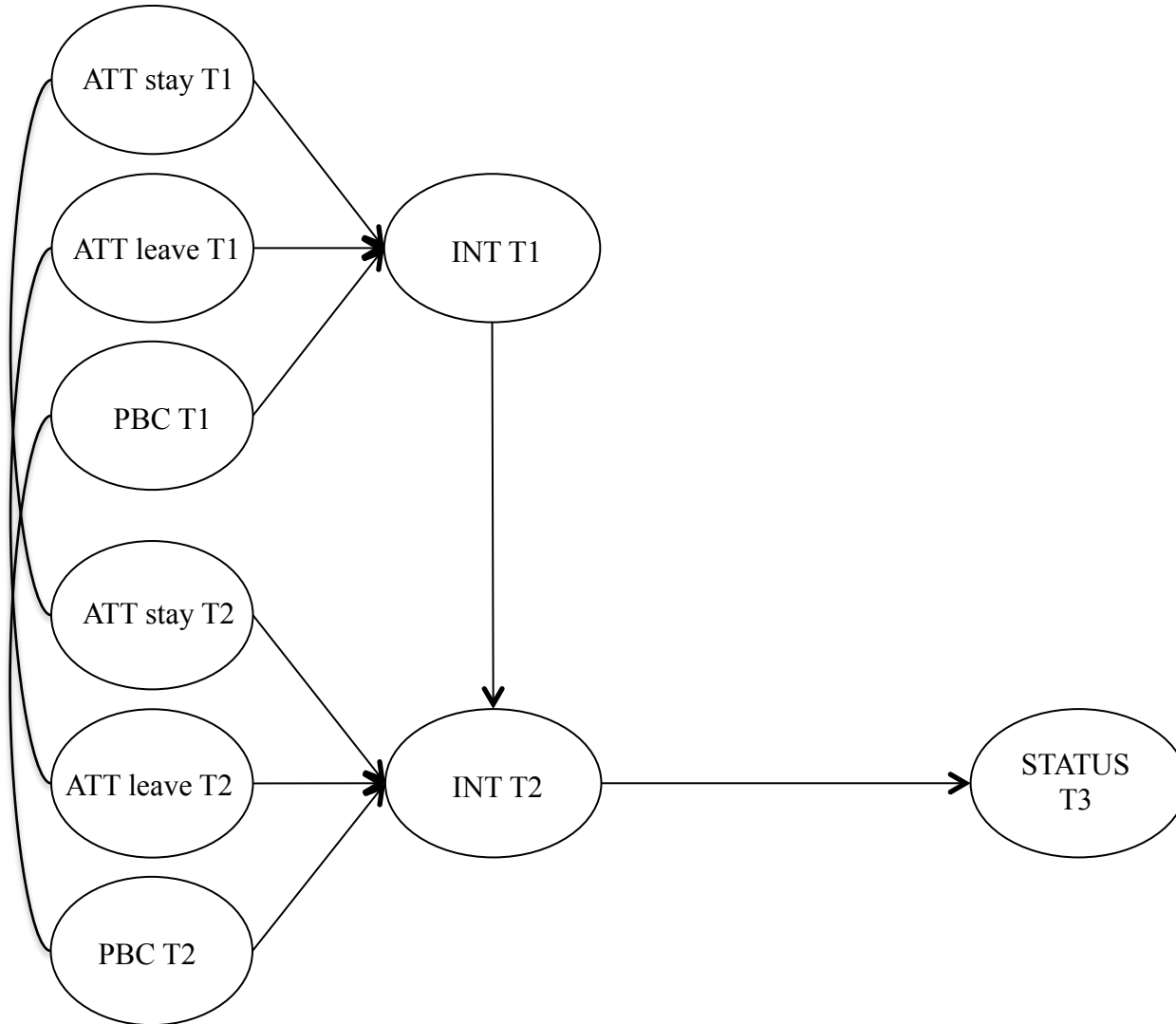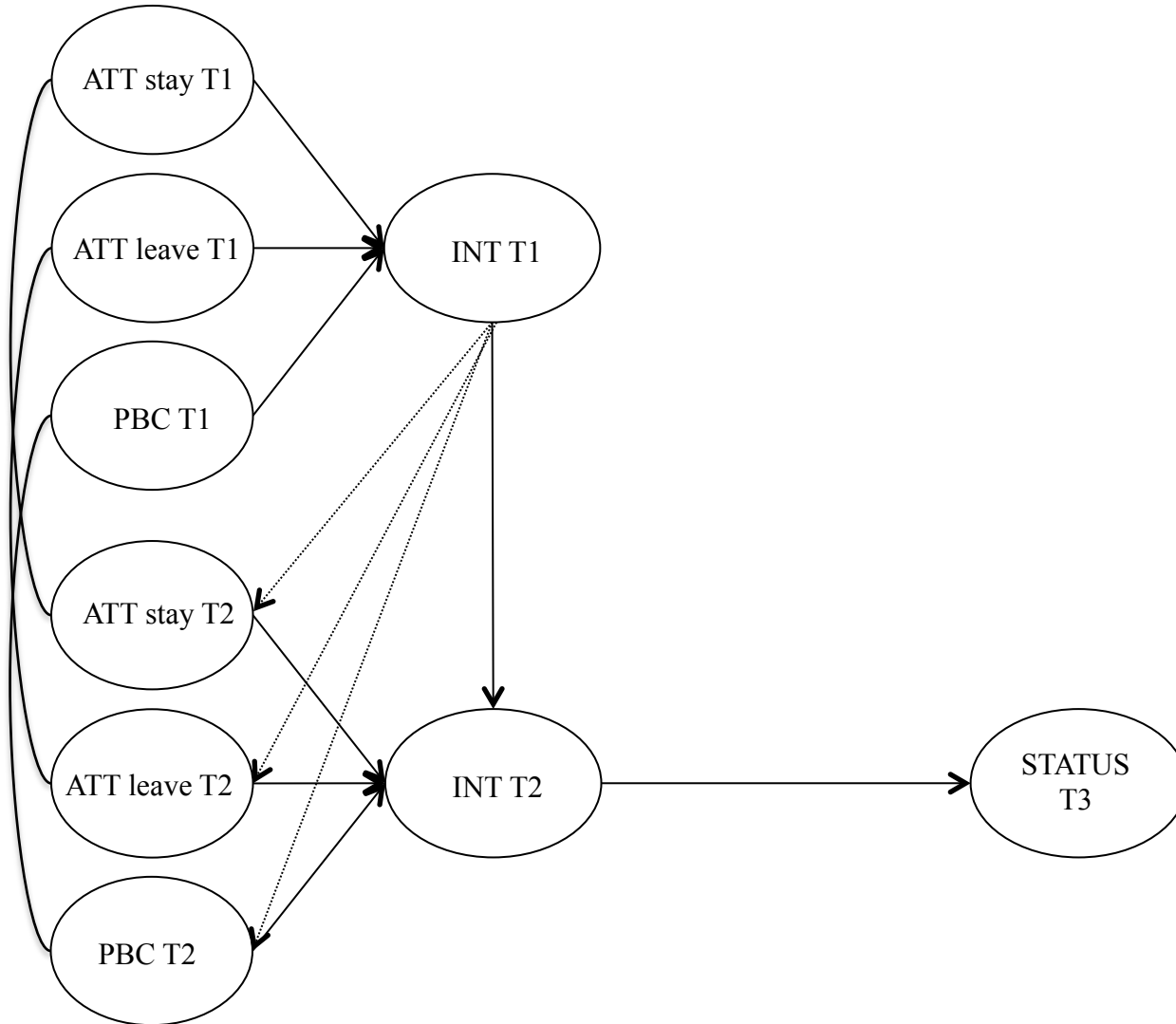# 5. Longitudinal prediction of decision at T3

Figure 3. Structural equation model predicting relationship status at T3. All coefficients standardized except coefficient from "INT T2" explaining "STATUS T3" is a logit ($N = 135$; * $p < .01$; ** $p < .001$). Measurement models not displayed.

Department of Psychology – Psychopathology & Clinical Intervention

Department of Psychology – Psychopathology & Clinical Intervention

Discussion

- Model specification: How to translate the ToPB into a longitudinal design with 3 time points?