

Family tourists' individual and collective emotions: An integrated framework

Abstract

Emotion is an important topic in tourism studies; however, family tourism researchers may struggle to illustrate this concept given its complexity. The current study combines appraisal theories with primitive emotion cognition theory to dissect family tourists' individual and collective emotions across all stages of the travel process from a family system perspective. Data were obtained via in-depth interviews, travel diaries, and observations with 31 families. Negativity and neutrality were common themes in family tourists' emotional experiences, yet positive emotions dominated participants' trips. While mothers, fathers, and children individually expressed different emotions, emotional convergence was identified both within the family and between parents. Theoretically, the constructed framework, which integrates various theories, can inspire studies on tourists' emotions both individually and collectively. The findings would inform the development of products, marketing strategies, and policies, particularly those aimed at creating happiness for children, by travel operators and administrators targeting family consumers.

Keywords

Family tourists; experiences and emotions; appraisal theories; travel process; family system perspective

1. Introduction

Going on holiday is an integral part of family life (Hall & Holdsworth, 2016), and a growing body of work has explored tourism's benefits for family functioning (e.g., Kelly, 2022). Scholars seeking to understand how tourism enhances these relationships have typically considered the roles of travel activities (e.g., shopping, dining, and sports; Lee & Lee, 2021). However, tourists' cognitive interpretations and emotional experiences can vary even when engaging in identical activities at the same time and place (Choi & Choi, 2019). Considering the subjectivity of interpreting travel experiences, an activity-oriented perspective may overlook the ultimate experiential and emotional outcomes that tourists derive from their travels (Lee & Lee, 2021). Therefore, it needs an investigation of family tourists' underlying subjective interpretation of their travel experiences. Examining families' emotional responses during trips can expand comprehension of the varying subjective meanings of tourist activities and their effects on family relationships (Kim et al., 2012).

Emotions are central to tourists' behavior and represent a popular topic in tourism research (Tuerlan et al., 2021). Studies have covered a variety of market segments, including rural travelers (Kastenholz et al., 2020), senior tourists (Pestana et al., 2020), and heritage tourists (Prayag et al., 2021). Families have been included as well. One line of inquiry has described the effects of emotions. Feelings can strongly influence people's actions: emotions contribute to information processing and goal-oriented behavior (Bagozzi et al., 1999). Positive emotions, such as joy and fulfillment, can lead to a suite of post-consumption behaviors (Zhang et al., 2021). Another line of work has aimed to discover how tourism/purchase experiences elicit emotions and their antecedents. Various themes have emerged in relation to emotions' manifestation and roles during family travel. However, several fundamental issues have not been addressed.

Investigations of family tourists' emotions have often taken a valence-based approach, failing to capture the detailed emotional experiences of family travelers. This descriptive perspective (Jiang et al., 2020) cannot explain how particular emotions are elicited and their

behavioral outcomes (Prayag et al., 2017). Also, a static perspective was common in family tourism emotion studies (e.g., Kelly, 2022). The studies examined family trips as a whole phase, neglecting the subtle emotional changes occurring during different stages of travel. Emotions change over stages and play different roles over the travel experiences (Ramer et al., 2020). For example, emotions influence tourists' decision-making in the planning phase (Hosany et al., 2020) while affecting satisfaction and recommendation behaviors in the post-travel stage (Prayag et al., 2017). Ignoring the emotional experiences of family tourists during different travel stages hinders an understanding of their behaviors. Moreover, negative emotions require more attention in family tourism. While family tourism is generally assumed to be enjoyable, evidence suggests that family leisure is not necessarily positive for all participants (Kelly, 2022). Several studies discuss travel conflicts, including adult children traveling with their aging parents (e.g., Jia et al., 2023) and tourists with disabilities (e.g., Sedgley et al., 2017). However, due to differences in travel motivations and decision-making processes (Yao et al., 2020), the results cannot fully capture the situation in this study. Additionally, researchers have tended to consider the emotions of individual family members, especially mothers (Sedgley et al., 2017). The incomplete explanation of emotional differences and dynamics among family members does not help us understand this group's travel behaviors and experiences. Assessing family tourists' emotions based on family identities while taking a family system view of the entire family hence presents an opportunity.

To address the aforementioned knowledge gaps, this study employs a family system perspective to investigate the emotional experiences of family tourists, both individually and collectively, throughout all stages of the travel process. The following questions guide this study: 1) What emotional experiences do family tourists have? 2) How is the emotional interaction among family members while traveling? Four research aims are addressed precisely: 1) to examine the elicitation of specific emotions of different valences and their corresponding outcomes for family tourists throughout the whole travel process; 2) to reveal emotional variation among family members during different travel phases; 3) to capture negative emotions and the outcomes experienced by family members in their travels; and 4) to investigate the emotional interactions within the family unit while traveling. A framework that integrates primitive emotional contagion theory, social appraisal theory, and cognitive appraisal theory (Bruder et al., 2014) is applied to address the stated research objectives. This model specializes in explaining individuals' emotional experiences and how collective emotions emerge through individuals' interactions within a group, particularly families, in this study. This research utilizes a qualitative approach, employing photo-elicited family interviews, travel diaries, and onsite observations through purposeful sampling. The use of methodological triangulation enhances data validity by capturing multiple and diverse realities of travel emotions constructed by participants, as well as by interpreting the data across different periods (Golafshani, 2003).

Findings are expected to provide insights into both the general tourist experience and the unique emotional dynamics of family tourism. By detailing how particular experiences trigger emotions, the dynamics of individual emotions and emotional interaction, and these emotions' impacts, the study provides a comprehensive view of family tourists' behaviors and emotions during traveling. The findings inform a conceptual framework that can guide tourism management and emotion scholars in exploring the interaction between tourists' personal experiences with their environment and group interaction with their social environment. Additionally, the results can spotlight shifts, such as emotion-oriented perspectives (Cohen & Cohen, 2019), a mobility paradigm (Cohen & Cohen, 2015), and conflicting positions (Gram et al., 2018), in tourism research. The study can also encourage exploration of travel's significance beyond commercial incentives (Small, 2008), especially

in terms of societal and familial transformations.

A comprehensive understanding of the elicitation, variation, and interaction of family tourists' emotions throughout their journeys (based on an array of emotions) enables the industry to develop more effective strategies. The findings can encourage travel operators and destination managers to innovate their products that can create more personal time for mothers, improve promotional content targeting fathers and mothers by emphasizing children's enjoyable experiences in destinations, and streamline operations, especially the quality and safety of travel facilities and food for children. Policy makers, including governments and tourism administrations, can be inspired to introduce initiatives that help the industry create memorable experiences for family travelers.

2. Literature review

2.1 Emotions and family tourism

The influence of emotions on judgments, assessments, and decisions has been significant in psychology and consumer behavior research (Williams, 2014). Besides utilitarian attributes and benefits of products, consumers make their rational decisions based on emotions evoked by stimuli (Hirschman & Holbrook, 1982). Emotional studies in tourism have also drawn great attention. Emotions are instrumental in tourism research (Tuerlan et al., 2021) given their interplay with travel experiences (Kelly, 2022). As the short-lived, subjective feelings arising from tourists' evaluations of goals, motives, and experiences (Frijda, 2007), emotions contribute to trips' memorability (Rezaei et al., 2023), place attachment (Yan & Halpenny, 2022), revisit intention (Chen et al., 2022a), and electronic word of mouth (Mehra, 2023). Various topics on family tourists' emotions have been explored, including family travelers' mixed emotions (Gram et al., 2019), prominent aspects of emotional experiences (Chen et al., 2022b), and emotional effects on family cohesion (Lee & Lee, 2021). Others have investigated mothers' emotions when traveling with children with autism spectrum disorder (Sedgley et al., 2017), family heritage tourists' emotion formation (Meng & Luo, 2024), and family tourists' emotional connections (Kelly, 2022; Rojas-de-Gracia & Alarcón-Urbistondo, 2020). Yet more remains to be discovered about family tourists' experiences and emotions.

Binary emotional dimensions (i.e., positive and negative) have conventionally been used when discussing family tourists (Kim et al., 2022). The valence-based view is nonetheless descriptive (Jiang et al., 2020) and cannot precisely address consumers' feelings. This approach ignores how emotions with the same valence are elicited (Roseman, 1996) and how different emotions can lead to various behavioral outcomes (Laros & Steenkamp, 2005). Moreover, the valence-based perspective cannot explain negative emotions' unique cognitive and behavioral outcomes (Nawijn & Biran, 2019). Emotions comprise a set of discrete and basic states like anger, joy, and sadness (Izard, 1977). Particular events and environments can elicit different emotions in the same dimension (e.g., fear and disappointment; Nawijn & Biran, 2019). It is fundamental to understand how experience-based emotions relate to the corresponding outcomes throughout one's experiential journey: emotional responses greatly inform consumer behavior (Liu et al., 2016). Consumer researchers have extensively concentrated on specific emotions (Laros & Steenkamp, 2005). This discrete approach is also emerging as more helpful in understanding travel experiences (Prayag et al., 2017), yet progress in family tourism studies is insufficient. This study will capture specific emotions and their outcomes across separate dimensions to portray family tourists' experiential features.

Efforts are especially needed to determine how family tourists' emotions fluctuate during travel. People's responses to stimuli inherently affect feelings (Hosany et al., 2020).

Emotions accordingly vary in each phase of a trip (Ramer et al., 2020). In the pre-travel stage, emotions steer tourists' motivations and destination choices (Hosany et al., 2020). Next, at the start of a trip, tourists' emotions differ by day (Mitas et al., 2012). Emotional experiences constitute an interactive process in which anticipatory emotions influence subsequent ones (Davidson & Milligan, 2004). Tourists' experiences are continually reshaped during a trip. As such, it is necessary to scrutinize tourists' emotions throughout the travel process (Kim & Fesenmaier, 2015). Current studies in this area have principally discussed family tourists' emotions based on overall travel experiences while neglecting subtleties in various stages.

Negative emotions have not been sufficiently explored in family tourism. Negative emotions are integral to travel, often exerting more significant effects on tourists' behavior and intentions than positive emotions (Nawijn & Biran, 2019). Tourists who are angry or worried about travel experiences may change their intentions, file complaints, or spread negative word of mouth (Jiang et al., 2020). Families derive considerable pleasure from escaping daily chores, relaxing together, and bonding on trips (Kelly, 2022). However, holidays are also part of everyday family life (Hall & Holdsworth, 2016); inevitable conflicts or tension can lead to dissatisfaction during family holidays (Gram et al., 2018). For instance, children's irritability while traveling can undermine a family's enjoyment of the trip (Backer & Schänzel, 2013). Deficiencies in destination infrastructure can provoke negative feelings like frustration (Gram et al., 2018). Although the positive benefits of family leisure, like hedonic experiences, are highly believed by parents (Shaw, 2001) and have garnered substantial attention (e.g., Kelly, 2022; Meng & Luo, 2023), the reality of family life can make the desired outcomes challenging to obtain (Shaw, 2001). The non-hedonic aspects of family tourists' experiences are crucial to consider understanding this group fully.

Travel conflicts have been covered in research on family trips by adult children and their parents (e.g., Jia et al., 2023; Yi et al., 2023). The growing independence of adult children (Yao et al., 2020) and the intergenerational differences in consumption values and travel habits can progress tensions in these family travels (Yi et al., 2023). Conversely, the final purchase is dominated by parents, although young children are the influential role in family travel decision-making (Yao et al., 2020). Simultaneously, travel preferences and experiences of adult-child-parent and young-child-parent trips vary due to their different motivations. Therefore, how the negative feelings are elicited in the former travel mode would not be suitable for understanding family trips by young children and their parents. Family tourists' negative emotions have also been investigated in dark tourism (Kidron, 2013), tourists with disabilities (Sedgley et al., 2017), and grandtravel (Gram et al., 2019). These family travel patterns are relatively unique and cannot be generalized to all family trips. Gram et al. (2018) and Kelly (2022) described unhappy aspects, but results were based on a static snapshot of families' emotional states. The current study will unveil all emotions family tourists encounter throughout the travel process.

The emotional interaction mechanism of family tourists was not fully addressed. Previous research has highlighted the need to account for all family members' perspectives (e.g., Yang et al., 2020), as doing so enables a deeper understanding of individual viewpoints and group dynamics (Yung & Khoo-Lattimore, 2018). Among the limited studies on family travel emotions that involved multiple members, the family was either not taken as a unit of explanation when exploring individual members' emotions (e.g., Gram et al., 2019) or mothers' voices were dominant (e.g., Kelly, 2022). These points of view convey neither the complexity nor the dynamics of relationships and travel emotions within a family.

Travel experiences and corresponding emotions vary within families. Due to differences in gender, generation (Obrador, 2012), and the influence of family roles (Kelly, 2022), individual family members pursue travel experiences based on their own motivations.

For example, parents often prioritize family quality time, while children's memorable family trips tend to revolve around fun activities (Li et al., 2020), cultural experiences, and experiences in natural and built-up environments like aquaparks (Buzlu et al., 2024). Each family member also experiences a unique set of emotions during travel depending on how well their experiences align with their desires (Choi & Choi, 2019). Children may have conflicting emotions if they spend extensive time with their family during a trip but lack personal opportunities for fun (Gram et al., 2018). Simultaneously, family travelers could experience shared emotions due to the naturally intense emotional bonds within families (Day et al., 1995). According to family systems theory, family is a dynamic relational and emotional system where members influence and are influenced by one another at multiple levels (e.g., individual and cross-generation; Bowen, 1985) and pursue group-based goals in tourism (Li et al., 2017). The different communication approaches shaped by individual, relational, and familial identities influence the travel decision-making process (Li & Wang, 2021). Family members manage their emotions while traveling, which can create new feelings or desired states, such as a sense of togetherness. This dynamic allows them to co-create memorable and enjoyable emotional experiences (Chen & Hsu, 2024). Family tourists' emotional dynamics (Goldenberg et al., 2020) and shared evaluation structures make collective emotions (i.e., the synchronous convergence of affective responses towards specific objects or events; von Scheve & Ismer, 2013) highly likely during traveling.

Therefore, besides interpreting the elicitation and variation of family tourists' emotions, investigating family units' emotional dynamics is important. This study examines family tourists' emotions from a family system perspective, aiming to explore how the specific emotions of individual family members are elicited and how families experience collective emotions influenced by family dynamics throughout the travel process.

2.2 An integrated framework for understanding family tourists' emotions

A suitable theory is crucial to present the nuanced emotional engagement in the current study. While family systems theory provides valuable insights into the emotional dynamics within family structures (Obrador, 2012), it does not adequately explain the processes and mechanisms that facilitate emotional interaction and convergence among family members. Research in family travel emotion area has mainly discussed findings grounded in qualitative data (e.g., Kelly, 2022; Kidron, 2013; Sedgley et al., 2017). Some studies have drawn on appraisal theory, particularly cognitive appraisal theory (CAT) (e.g., Meng & Luo, 2024; Lee & Lee, 2021). Appraisal theorists suggest that emotions emerge from one's appraisal of the significance of stimuli (e.g., objects, behaviors, events, and situations) (Ellsworth & Scherer, 2003). Researchers have proposed numerous appraisal dimensions, including novelty, pleasantness, certainty, predictability, and coping potential (Ellsworth & Scherer, 2003). Goal congruence and goal relevance are central in all contexts (Lazarus, 1991). Individuals' appraisals are shaped by the match between one's experiences with their expectations, goals, and encounters (Liu et al., 2016). For instance, a tourism experience that one finds impactful and tailored to one's interests can elicit delight (Ma et al., 2013).

CAT has supplemented previous theoretical approaches (e.g., the James–Lange theory and the simple stimulus-response framework) of studying emotions in several aspects. Instead of emphasizing emotions' inherent features (e.g., valence and arousal levels), CAT focuses on the causes and outcomes to illustrate the psychological process of emotions (Lazarus, 1991). Besides explaining how emotion emerges, CAT clarifies interpersonal differences in reactions to the same event and situation due to personal motivations, goals, and needs (Lazarus, 1991; Le et al., 2020). CAT has dominated research on travel-related emotions, given its explanatory power (Jiang, 2020) and researchers' interest in the roots of tourists'

emotional experiences (Lee & Lee, 2021). CAT helps explain why a particular emotion is elicited and the corresponding outcomes of individual family travelers in the current study (Scherer et al., 2001). However, independently applying this theory perspective may not capture the intricacies of family tourists' emotions. Others' roles (e.g., agency) and reactions (e.g., norm compatibility) are generally appraised; yet these aspects are typically thought to reflect an event's personal salience, namely in terms of well-being. The broader social context is routinely overlooked (Manstead & Fischer, 2001).

When examining family tourists' emotions, a social environment that features interpersonal attribution is also critical to consider (Manstead & Fischer, 2001). Social appraisal theory (SAT) is frequently used to study emotions (e.g., Frenzel et al., 2021; Van der Schalk et al., 2015) and is well suited to family tourists. Social appraisals explicitly recognize the social embeddedness of the appraisal process (Manstead & Fischer, 2001). According to SAT, humans are not isolated entities; they instead take a "self-in-relation-to-others" stance, such that they strive to maintain social bonds (Manstead & Fischer, 2001). Unlike other appraisal theories, SAT claims that in addition to evaluating the event itself, personal emotional experiences involve assessing other people and their actions, thoughts, and feelings within an emotional situation (Bruder et al., 2014). One's emotional responses may intensify (Bruder et al., 2014) as they share information about their surroundings in light of their companions' reactions (Spoor & Kelly, 2004). Social appraisal can account for collective emotions by considering shared knowledge, as the group's guiding principles influence members' appraisals (Parkinson et al., 2004). This type of appraisal is prevalent in intimate relationships (e.g., with family members and close friends; Manstead & Fischer, 2001) and is useful for scrutinizing emotion elicitation, outcomes, interaction, and convergence in family tourism.

To elaborate the processes linking individual and collective emotions, Bruder et al. (2014) developed a framework integrating primitive emotional contagion theory (PECT; Hatfield et al., 1994), CAT, and SAT. Under this framework, two people (i.e., perceiver and sender) simultaneously experience an emotion-eliciting situation (Figure 1). First, emotions arise based on one's cognitive appraisal of the situation (Path a). Next, social appraisal paths come into play: 1) the sender appraises the individual environment while the perceiver identifies and merges the sender's appraisal into their own evaluation of the situation (Path b); 2) this integration affects the perceiver's feelings (Path c) and expressions (Path d). PECT further suggests that the perceiver may automatically mimic the sender's emotional responses (e.g., facial and vocal expressions; Path e), which then influences the perceiver's feelings (Path f). Finally, the perceiver communicates their socially influenced appraisals via their emotional expressions (Path g). Through these pathways, collective emotions can emerge as both individuals concurrently act as sender and perceiver in an iterative and bidirectional process.

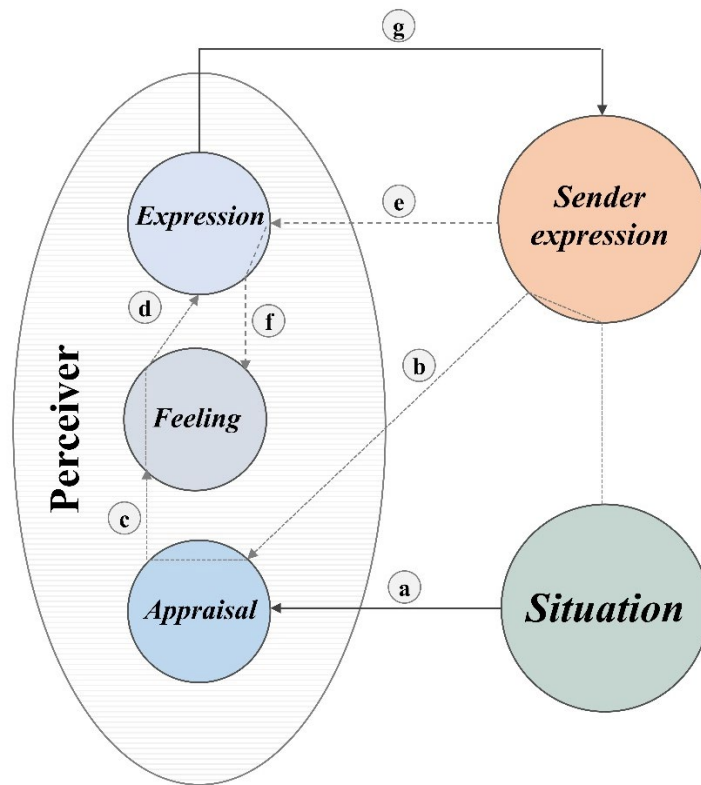


Figure 1: A potential emotion-eliciting situation involving two individuals

Source: Bruder et al. (2014)

An extended framework has since been devised to capture family tourists' emotions and subsequent outcomes (i.e., family tourists' behavior) based on Bruder et al.'s (2014) model (Figure 2). This framework comprises family members' emotional mimicry along with how family tourists (i.e., perceivers) experience emotions derived from their own perceived circumstances and their appraisal of other family members' (i.e., senders') travel experiences, actions, and emotions (Manstead & Fischer, 2001). This proposed framework aims to identify specific emotional encounters, appraisals, and manifestations of various emotional valences, along with their corresponding outcomes during different travel stages for individual family members. More importantly, it can disclose emotional interaction and contagion among family members. Specifically, CAT is used to analyze individuals' cognitive appraisals of their own experiences while SAT is applied to understand how family members appraise the social environment around them. PECT can help analyze emotional mimicry among family members.

The current study emphasizes goal congruence, a key appraisal dimension that influences emotional valence, by assessing whether experiences align with personal goals (Roseman, 1996). When family tourists see their own and others' experiences as favorable and consistent with their expectations, they become more prone to positive emotions (Ma et al., 2013). Negative emotions arise from goal incongruence. Positive emotions typically lead to favorable actions, such as intentions to recommend and revisit, whereas negative emotions often result in undesirable outcomes (e.g., service switching and complaints; Nawijn & Biran, 2019). Neutral emotions exist in addition to negative and positive ones. Some researchers have claimed that neutrality is an infeasible emotional state because people always lean towards either positive or negative feelings (Gasper et al., 2019). Yet neutral emotions reflect indifference and minimal valence (i.e., one's normative or status-quo state), such as when a

person pursues goals at their own pace (Gasper, 2018). In family tourism, neutral emotions could be elicited in various situations, such as the journey proceeding step by step as planned. Accordingly, family members do not need to pay extra attention to others, continuing to do what they are doing (Gasper et al., 2019). The outcomes of family travelers' emotions can be positive, negative, and neutral.

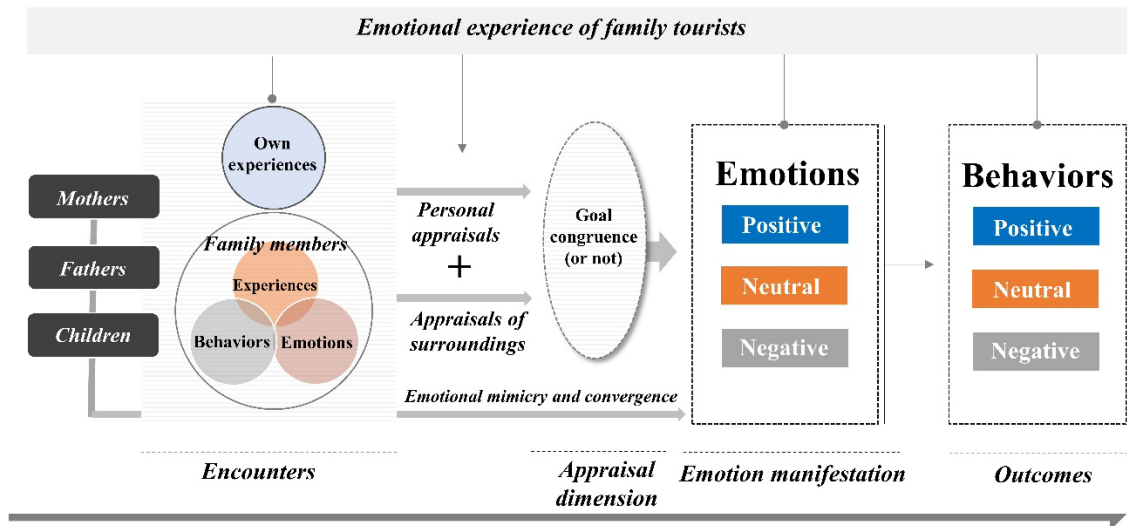


Figure 2: A framework to comprehend family tourists' emotional experiences

Inspired by Woodside and Dubelaar's (2002) tourism consumption system, family tourists' emotions are examined in this study across the pre-, during-, and post-travel phases. The emotion-related terms used in this paper originated from several taxonomies, namely those by Morgan and Heise (1988); Shaver et al. (1987); and Storm and Storm (1987).

3. Methodology

Research process

The research was conducted over several stages. The first phase involved determining research methods based on the explorative nature of this research, and social constructivism guided the study. To address research objectives, data were then acquired via three phases using qualitative methods. Subsequently, data was analyzed by a thematic approach, intending to present findings under the proposed conceptual framework. The investigators prioritized data quality and trustworthiness, employing methodological triangulation, constant comparison and reflection, and peer debriefing to minimize bias throughout the study process (Figure 3).

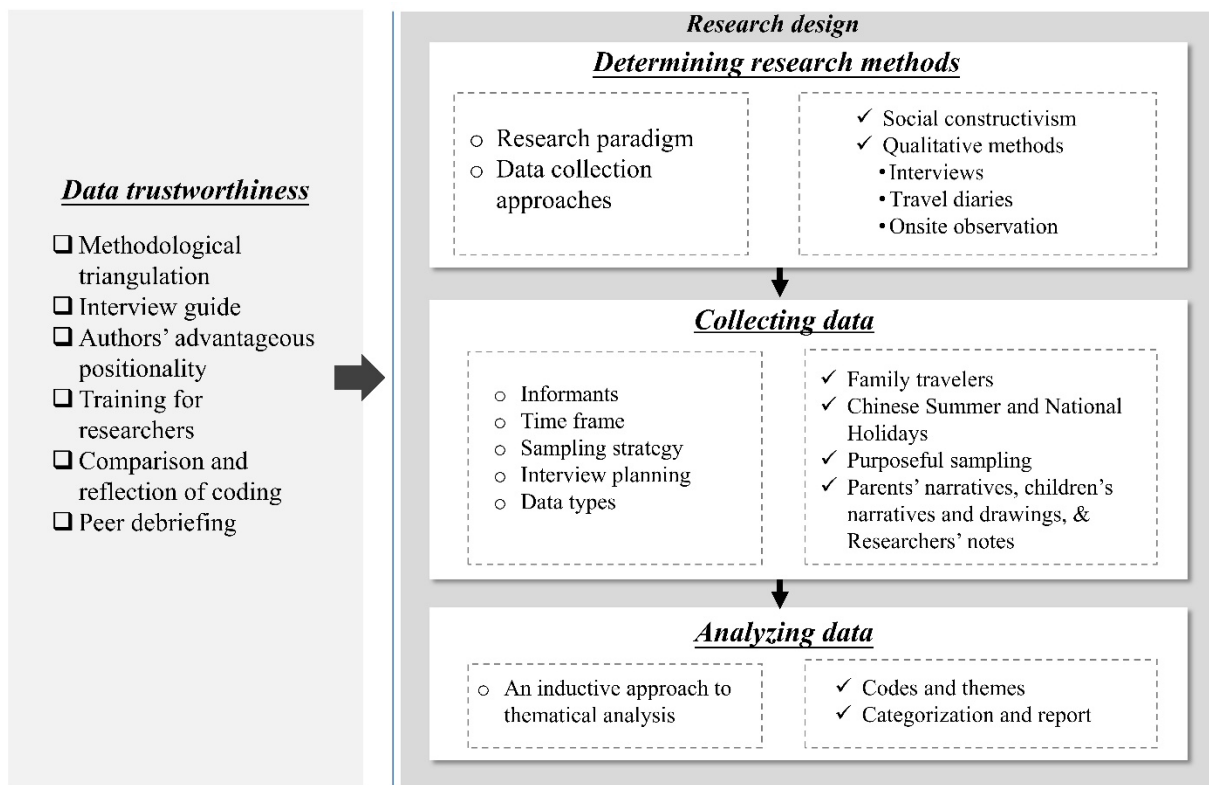


Figure 3: Research process

Research paradigm

This study is rooted in social constructivism. Constructivists believe that people actively build their reality (Patton, 2020) and interpret it in their own ways (Boyland, 2019). Constructivist grounded theory (Charmaz, 2017) was chosen in this case because it permits the flexible, rigorous use of traditional inductive methods from grounded theory (Glaser & Strauss, 1967). Researchers' roles in developing a theory from data are also crucial (Charmaz, 2014). Qualitative approaches are popular when using constructivist grounded theory. In this study, participants shared which emotions arose during their travel experiences. The investigators subsequently interpreted these remarks to present qualitative findings on families' travel experiences, feelings, and behaviors.

Data collection

The study sample comprised 31 Chinese families who met the following criteria: 1) had at least one child over 2 years old; and 2) had taken or planned to take domestic and/or international family trips before and/or during the data collection period. Children can better capture their feelings from 3 years old (Piaget, 2013); therefore, family traveling with infancy (0 to 2 years old) was not the target of this study. Data was collected in three phases from July to October to achieve the study's research objectives. The collection period coincided with local schools' summer holidays and China's National Day, when many families in China took trips together, making data gathering more efficient. Purposeful sampling was adopted to select informants given its capacity to identify information-rich cases (Palinkas et al., 2015).

Among the 31 families, participants were roughly evenly split by gender (27 mothers and 28 fathers; 49.1% vs. 50.9%, respectively). All participants had at least one child

between ages 2 and 7. Less than half (40.0%) of participants were 31–35 years old, followed by 36–40 (23.6%), 41–45 (18.2%), and 26–30 (14.5%). Participants generally earned a monthly income of either RMB10,000–20,000 (40.0%) or more than RMB20,000 (47.3%); the remaining 10.9% earned less than RMB5,000 per month. Over half of the sampled families (54.8%) had visited a domestic destination (i.e., within China), whereas 45.2% had traveled overseas. Table 1 summarizes participants’ demographics.

Table 1: Profile of participants

Code of family	Code of the respondent	Travel mode	Gender	Age range	Educational attainment	Occupation	Monthly income (thousand, RMB)	Number and age(s) of the child/ren	Family travel time (month/year)
A	A02F	Domestic	Male	36-40	Master	Financial manager	20-50	One girl aged 6	May 2019
B	B02F	Domestic	Male	36-40	Master	Financial manager	Above 50	One girl aged 5	April 2019
C	C01M	Domestic	Female	26-30	Master	Financial administrator	10-20	One girl aged 2.5	May 2019
	C02F		Male	26-30	Master	Vehicle marketer	20-50		
	D01M		Female	36-40	Bachelor	Civil servant	10-20		
D	D02F	Overseas	Male	36-40	Bachelor	Financial manager	20-50	One boy and one girl (twins) aged 3.5	July 2019
	E01M		Female	41-45	Master	Financial administrator	10-20		
E	E02F	Domestic	Male	41-45	Bachelor	Manager in Transport and Logistics	20-50	One boy aged 5; one girl aged 10	July 2019
	F01M		Female	31-35	Bachelor	Housewife	Below 5		
F	F02F	Overseas	Male	36-40	Master	Medical equipment marketer	Above 50	One girl aged 3	May 2019
	G01M		Female	36-40	Bachelor	Housewife	Below 5		
G	G01M	Domestic	Female	36-40	Bachelor	Housewife	Below 5	Two boys, aged 4 and 13	July 2019
H	H01M	Domestic	Female	36-40	Bachelor	Nurse	10-20	One boy aged 3; one girl aged 11	July 2019
	I01M		Female	26-30	Bachelor	Financial administrator	10-20		
I	I02F	Overseas	Male	26-30	Bachelor	Architect	Above 50	One boy aged 3; one girl aged 5	May 2019
	J01M		Female	31-35	Master	Civil servant	10-20		
J	J02F	Domestic	Male	36-40	Bachelor	Architect	20-50	Two girls, aged 3 and 5	July 2019
	K01M		Female	36-40	Bachelor	Civil servant	10-20		
K	K02F	Overseas	Male	36-40	Bachelor	Civil servant	10-20	One boy aged 5; one girl aged 8	April 2019
	L01M		Female	36-40	Master	HR manager	20-50		
L	L02F	Overseas	Male	41-45	Master	Civil servant	20-50	One girl aged 4	May 2019
	M02F		Overseas	Male	31-35	Bachelor	Financial manager		
M	M02F	Overseas	Male	31-35	Bachelor	Financial manager	20-50	One boy aged 6	February 2019
N	N02F	Overseas	Male	31-35	Master	Architect	Above 50	One boy aged 3.5; one girl newborn	July 2019
O	O01M	Domestic	Female	31-35	Master and above	Financial administrator	10-20	Two girls, aged 2.5 and 5	May 2019
P	P01M	Overseas	Female	31-35	Bachelor	Financial administrator	10-20	Two boys, aged 1.5 and 5	July 2019
	P02F		Male	31-35	Master	Financial administrator	10-20		
Q	Q01M	Overseas	Female	26-30	Master	Housewife	Below 5	One boy aged 3.5	July 2019
	Q02F		Male	26-30	Bachelor	Civil servant	10-20		
	R01M		Female	31-35	Master	Bank clerk	10-20		
R	R02F	Domestic	Male	31-35	Master	Financial manager	20-50	One boy aged 6; one girl aged 1.5	July 2019
S	S01M	Domestic	Female	31-35	Bachelor	Insurance marketer	10-20	One boy aged 3.5	July 2019
	S02F		Male	31-35	Bachelor	IT engineer	10-20		
T	T01M	Overseas	Female	26-30	Bachelor	Office clerk	10-20	One boy aged 4	May 2019
	T02F		Male	26-30	Bachelor	Engineer	20-50		
W	W01M	Overseas	Female	31-35	Bachelor	Housewife & writer	10-20	One girl aged 2	July-August 2019
	W02F		Male	31-35	Bachelor	IT engineer	20-50		
X	X01M	Overseas	Female	31-35	Master	Office clerk	5-10	One boy aged 4.5	July-August 2019
	X02F		Male	31-35	Bachelor	HR manager	20-50		

Y	Y01M		Female	31-35	Master	Social worker	Above 50	Two boys, aged 4 and 6	October 2019
	Y02F	Overseas	Male	31-35	Master	Construction manager	Above 50		
Z	Z01M	Overseas	Female	31-35	Master	Housewife	Below 5	One boy aged 2.5	October 2019
	Z02F		Male	31-35	Master	Financial manager	20-50		
BB	BB01M	Domestic	Female	36-40	Bachelor	Insurance sales	Above 50	Three boys aged 5, 7, and 9	July-August 2019
	BB02F		Male	41-45	Bachelor	IT technician	Above 50		
CC	CC01M	Domestic	Female	41-45	Bachelor	Housewife	Below 5	Two boys, aged 2.5 and 15	September 2019
	CC02F		Male	41-45	Master	IT engineer	20-50		
DD	DD01M	Domestic	Female	41-45	Bachelor	Financial administrator	10-20	One boy aged 3 and one girl aged 19	September 2019
	DD02F		Male	41-45	Bachelor	Construction manager	Above 50		
EE	EE01M	Domestic	Female	31-35	Master	Office clerk	10-20	One boy aged 2	August 2019
	EE02F		Male	31-35	Bachelor	Salesman	10-20		
FF	FF01M	Domestic	Female	36-40	Master	HR manager	20-50	One girl aged 4	July 2019
	FF02F		Male	41-45	Master	Civil servant	20-50		
U	U01M	Domestic	Female	31-35	Master	Civil servant	10-20	Two girls, aged 4 and 6	July 2019
	U02F		Male	36-40	Bachelor	Construction manager	20-50		
V	V01M	Domestic	Female	46-50	Bachelor	Housewife	Below 5	One boy aged 6	October 2019
	V02F		Male	46-50	Bachelor	Construction manager	Above 50		

Note: Families labeled from A to T were interviewed; data were obtained from travel diaries for families W to BB; the researcher observed families CC to V.

In phase one, photo-elicited family interviews were conducted in July in Shenzhen, China, to understand family members' travel emotions and emotional interaction in different travel stages. To ensure interview data quality, we designed protocols following Castillo-Montoya's (2016) four-step framework. Interview questions for parents included the following parts: 1) introduction serving to clarify the interview purpose, timing, recording, and consent; 2) the demographic information of the participant (e.g., age, gender, and monthly income); 3) child(ren) related information (e.g., number of children and age) and basic family travel features (e.g., frequency and travel mode); and 4) respondent's emotional experiences in their family trips (e.g., memorable travel experiences and specific emotional response during traveling). Interview questions in section four were developed in compliance with the research questions and research aims (Brinkmann & Kvale, 2015). We also prepared draw-elicited interview questions for children. The interview protocols can be referred to in Appendix A.

We required that interviewees should take family trips within the past six months at the time of participating in the interviews. As a result, ten families that had trips between February and May and ten that had just returned from their family trips in July were recruited. Participants were instructed to bring travel photos to help recall and convey their feelings as accurately as possible. Parents were initially asked to describe their most recent family trips, including travel experiences and feelings of themselves and their children. Simultaneously, drawing-elicited interviews were performed among children to understand their travel experiences. Drawing-elicited interviews have been utilized to gather the experiences and meaning-making processes of both adults and children in various fields, including tourism (e.g., Wu et al., 2019; Li et al., 2023b). Image prompts offer children a valuable way to express their feelings, thoughts, and perceptions (Buzlu et al., 2024). They can also help overcome the difficulties often encountered when interviewing children (Li et al., 2023b). Children's explanations of their drawings aid in understanding and interpreting the meaning behind the artwork (Buzlu et al., 2024). Children participants were given pencils, colored crayons, and pieces of paper and told to draw freely about the last family trip they had taken. After completing the drawings, unstructured interviews were held to discuss

what children had drawn and their travel experiences. The interview helped to reaffirm children's thoughts and feelings, ensuring we did not overlook potential findings (Israfilova & Khoo-Lattimore, 2019). For children aged less than 7, due to their limited intellectual development and logical operations (Piaget, 2013), parents would consult with them about their travel experiences and share this information with the interviewers.

Data saturation influences the quality and content validity of the research (Fusch & Ness, 2015). We determined the data saturation of interviews following the criteria: 1) when the investigators thought that the data was enough in terms of rich and thick (Dibley, 2011); 2) when new themes no longer emerged (Guest et al., 2006). Each interview for the whole family lasted 45–90 minutes until data saturation.

We carried out travel diaries collection in Phase 2 from July to October. Five more qualified families, who were about to embark on a trip, were reached. These participants were asked to document their family holiday experiences from beginning to end using WeChat, a popular instant messaging application in China. As the children neither used WeChat nor had smartphones, fathers and mothers primarily provided texts, voice messages, videos, and pictures related to their trips. Travel diaries could improve our understanding of the emotional changes experienced by family members during various travel phases. Participant observations were performed by one of the authors in Phase 3, intending to gain deeper insights into the emotional interaction among family tourists. An additional six families were efficiently approached in a family tourism destination due to work in phase 1 and 2 helped narrow down eligible participants. Data were recorded as field notes and documented from memory at the conclusion of each trip day or whenever the researcher found it necessary (i.e., throughout the day) without participants noticing. The data collected from phases two and three better reflected families' onsite travel experiences, which helped minimize recency effects that may not be avoided in phase one. Thus, a three-phase data collection approach can enhance data validity, effectively meet research objectives, and offer comprehensive insights into families' emotional experiences while traveling.

Demographic information, including gender, education level, and monthly income, was also gathered. To assure confidentiality, participants were informed that all data would be recorded and transcribed for research purposes. Children's interviews were recorded with their parents' permission for ethical consideration.

Data analysis

Voice recordings in phases 1 and 2 were transcribed verbatim. Photos, children's drawings, and videos worked as memory reminders and assisted the researchers' text analysis. Therefore, these visual materials were not analyzed.

Participants' narratives about themselves and the child(ren) were analyzed with an inductive approach to thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is appropriate for studies rooted in constructivism (Joffe, 2011) and is effective in understanding experiences, thoughts, or behaviors across a dataset (Kiger & Varpio, 2020). In line with the proposed framework, codes were developed following Kiger and Varpio's (2020) suggestion. First, the researchers repeatedly read through interview manuscripts, travel diaries, and field notes to be familiar with the dataset. Initial codes (e.g., enjoying a yummy meal with my husband) were then extracted. These codes served as primary and essential clues for decoding participants' emotional experiences throughout traveling. Next, main themes (e.g., happy) and sub-themes (e.g., positive emotions) were produced. Subsequently, all the identified themes were categorized (e.g., emotional encounters) based on the codes' attributes. The codes and themes were interpreted and concluded systematically. Detailed family travel emotion frameworks were built for mothers, fathers, and children. We coded participants' narratives manually with the finite assistance of NVivo 12 software, including managing data, constructing code

structure, and developing theme figures. Figure 4 presents an example of code development.

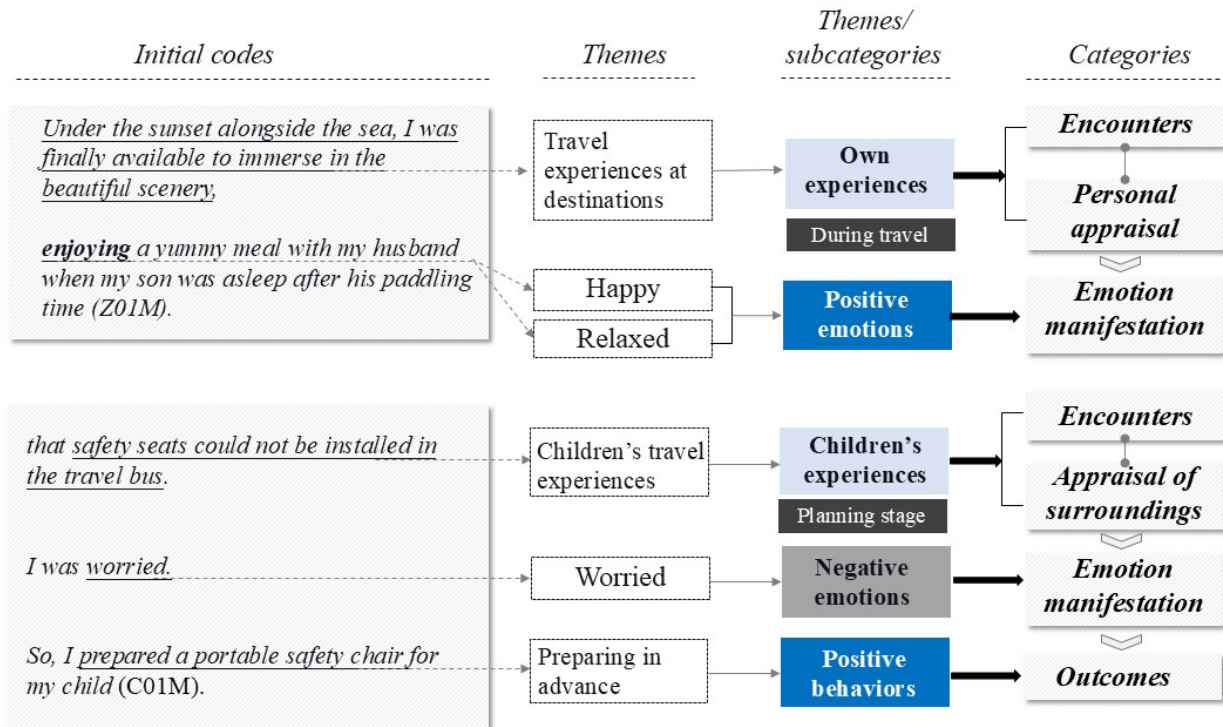


Figure 4: Example of data analysis process

Data trustworthiness

Reliability and validity are paramount in qualitative research. This study used methodological triangulation, employing interviews, travel diaries, and observations to capture diverse realities (Golafshani, 2003). All interviewers, including two of the authors, underwent training in key skills such as listening and question phrasing.

The transcripts were initially coded in the original language (i.e., Chinese) and then independently translated into English by two authors. Two additional investigators conducted translation reviews to mitigate bias and ensure translation accuracy; final decisions were made collaboratively by all authors (Behr, 2015). Constant comparison and reflection were used to align interview transcripts with codes and categories. We also utilized analytical memoing throughout the data analysis process to enhance the in-depth examination of the data, going beyond simple descriptions (Kalpokaite & Radivojevic, 2019). Peer debriefing was conducted by an expert in tourists' emotions and a researcher specializing in tourism consumer experiences, further enhancing the research's credibility.

The research team's positionality enhanced data trustworthiness. One researcher was based in Shenzhen. Her connections to the tourism industry and family travel communities greatly facilitated participant recruitment. The authors are middle-aged mothers and wives and the primary decision makers for family travel as well. Their self-position has influenced data gathering and interpretation. Based on their gender and own family roles, mutual understanding and empathy between investigators and female participants were established (Li et al., 2023b). This rapport fostered participants' deeper, high-quality interaction and disclosure (Lavee & Itzchakov, 2023). The investigators' maternal intuition, maternal confidence in understanding their children (Gardner et al., 2020), and observation of subtle changes (Callery, 1997) also made them more approachable to child participants. Insightful details of children's drawings and narratives were addressed in the research process. The researchers' proficiency in Chinese and English, combined with their expertise in family tourism and qualitative studies, enabled clear communication, rich data collection, and

precise coding.

Although the team’s identities are valuable for this study, they acknowledged that adding a male researcher’s perspective would make the interactions with fathers significantly different. The investigators made a concerted effort to remain neutral and considered fathers as reliable narrators, actively engaging as equal participants in the research (Seibold et al., 1994). The narratives from male participants were closely analyzed in compliance with the theoretical framework. The authors’ advanced educational qualifications (i.e., master’s degree and higher) and middle-class social status may have introduced sampling bias. This would potentially overlook participants from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds during data collection and may cause bias in data interpretation.

4. Findings and discussion

Mothers’ emotions throughout their trips

Mothers demonstrated the richest emotions in each travel stage, with positive reactions fluctuating most (Figure 5). Multiple roles, including leisure pursuers, decision-makers, and caretakers (Wang & Li, 2021), led mothers to intensely evaluate their own travel experiences and those of their family and children (Bruder et al., 2014). Emotions were least apparent during travel planning; however, negative emotions accounted for the largest proportion in this phase, worry being especially salient. Mothers most often experienced positive emotions, particularly happiness, while traveling. Negative emotions were also elicited and the diversity of feelings increased. Emotions such as happiness spread while slightly negative feelings persisted in the post-travel stage. Neutral emotions were basically on par with positive ones in the pre-travel phase and diminished to be nearly nonexistent during trips. Mothers tended to behave positively even if they occasionally experienced negative feelings.

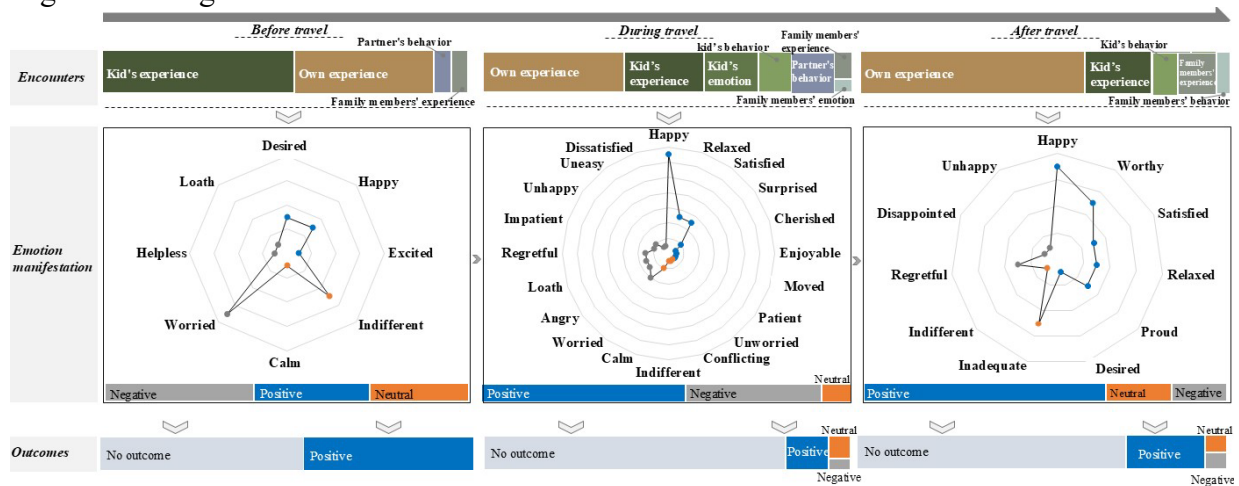


Figure 5: Mothers’ emotions across all travel stages

Before travel

Mothers were strongly concerned about potential discrepancies between their anticipated and actual travel experiences while preparing for family trips. In addition to managing family needs, mothers were preoccupied with their children’s safety, physical health, and adaptability during trips, fearing these issues could detract from the overall travel experience. For example: “[When traveling,] my biggest concern is my child’s safety. We must book a safe hotel, and I am worried about my kid getting sick away from home, so we must eat healthily” (D01M). Most anxious mothers tried to ensure children’s pleasant experiences

through thoughtful planning, including selecting a destination that was easily accessible (e.g., domestic) or known for food safety (e.g., Japan), and communicating with their children about plans. For example: “*I was worried that safety seats could not be installed in the travel bus. So, I brought a portable safety chair for my child*” (C01M); “*I would tell my son something about the trip in advance, such as where we might visit and who we might meet, to let him prepare mentally*” (H01M). Despite being worried, mothers were eager to travel with their children, even on long-haul trips, because they felt that they knew their children well.

Mothers experienced helplessness and fatigue when their aim of involving their partners in trip planning was unmet: “*[My husband] was utterly absent from planning the trip. I thought he would choose not to travel with us. I don’t think he wanted to travel, and I could take care of the kid without his help*” (P01M). However, they experienced happiness and excitement given hopes that trips would provide the relaxation they sought:

I could do whatever I wanted while traveling because I could escape from daily routines. This was freedom and so exciting. (Q01M)

Mothers appeared calm and even indifferent about revisiting destinations they considered ordinary: “*I did not have much emotion because I had traveled [to Lijiang] before. I did not expect too much, and I also did not worry about the trip*” (S01M).

During travel

Mothers’ success in creating enjoyable travel experiences for themselves, their families, and their children primarily drove their positive emotions. Mothers most frequently expressed happiness during their trips. They especially valued moments of family togetherness, like chatting with other families, taking in a fireworks show, or staying in an impressive hotel room. Participants recounted happy moments with a grin: “*Under the sunset beside the sea, I could finally immerse myself in the beautiful scenery, enjoying a yummy meal with my husband once my son was asleep after his paddling time*” (Z01M). Family members’ positive experiences and emotions, particularly those of their children, significantly enhanced mothers’ happiness: “*I felt so pleased when my child was playing happily*” (e.g., G01M, F01M). Mothers were also motivated by their children’s companionship.

Mothers reported relaxation and satisfaction. Being free from their everyday and work pressure during trips aligned with their expectations: “*When traveling, I did not need to worry about finishing work duties. The only thing was to play with my kid, and I was so relaxed*” (H01M). Children’s travel experiences also enabled mothers to unwind: “*I felt very relaxed. My kid played with his dad on the beach, and I lay beside them without considering anything*” (S01M). In addition to appreciating the fantastic sights, settings, and people at their destinations, mothers were pleased with their partners’ active involvement in childcare, trip planning, and luggage handling: “*My husband did everything he could, like taking bags and holding our kid, and I had no negative emotions about him... [only] satisfaction*” (S01M). Due to shouldering the responsibility for family labor, many mothers yearn for a break; family vacations present mothers chances to avoid mundane parenting tasks (Fountain et al., 2015) and to enjoy personal time (Schänzel & Smith, 2014). Mothers therefore greatly appreciated, and were highly satisfied with, fathers’ initiative in parenting during family holidays: men’s participation enabled mothers to achieve their goal of having some privacy. Mothers also valued the socialization opportunities that travel afforded their children. They were amazed by their children’s behavior, such as conversing with strangers and getting along with peers.

However, negative emotions including worry, unhappiness, regret, and anger were also noted. Similar to the pre-travel stage, mothers’ anxiety in destinations centered around their children’s safety and healthy eating: “*I would feel tense when traveling with my children because I was so worried about them getting lost*” (G01M). When their own experiences and

children's emotions, behavior, and experiences did not meet mothers' expectations, mothers were disappointed, remorseful, helpless, and dissatisfied:

I was very unhappy when facing a troublesome situation while traveling, such as when we couldn't hail a cab. (I01M)

Mothers displayed strong negative emotions, such as anger, when confronted with issues that disrupted their expected family holidays (e.g., their children acting out, their families' unreasonable travel decisions, their partners' non-participation and complaints about the itinerary, and traffic). They then took steps to address these matters. Some mothers, although unhappy, tried to communicate patiently with their misbehaving children: "*I would be very patient while talking to my kid when he was losing his temper, even if his behavior negatively affected my mood*" (L01M).

Participants demonstrated neutrality towards their experiences, partners' behavior, and children's experiences when these aspects were deemed irrelevant to the goal of quality family time. One mother (O01M) said, "*I didn't experience an emotional wave and even did not think about whether I was happy. I just let it be natural.*" Whereas fathers' active assistance delighted and satisfied mothers, fathers' passive actions were not as influential.

After travel

Mothers' positive emotions, including happiness and satisfaction, were extensive after travel. The trip experiences and family memories, followed by children's experiences, family members' experiences, and children's behavior, aligned with mothers' intentions to create enjoyable family travel time. Mothers expressed happiness and worth the most:

My kid was like a mirror to help reveal my shortcomings. I was so happy to learn and grow with my kid while traveling. (H01M)

Mothers were also pleased that they had been able to escape work-related pressure: "*I was happy when traveling since I could stay away from high-pressure work duties*" (K01M). Children's cooperation and memorable experiences elicited mothers' satisfaction and relaxation: "*I was pretty satisfied after coming back from Japan. Although [the kids] could not remember everything, we shared the experiences*" (D01M). Mothers were proud of successfully planning an independent journey and widening their children's horizons.

Goal incongruence, related to their own and children's travel experiences, evoked certain negative emotions (e.g., regret and disappointment) among mothers. Some mothers (e.g., C01M, S01M) expressed regret and disappointment due to poor experiences (e.g., destinations being packed with tourists during China's public holidays) and would have preferred to reschedule the trip if possible. Children's subpar experiences also elicited mothers' regret: "*I felt a bit regretful when my kid was experiencing high altitude stress and got sick at midnight*" (R01M).

Neutral emotions arose as well. Although the mothers' family travel experiences largely suited their expectations, some mothers felt inadequate because they had expected to gain more travel experiences for themselves and their children:

I would [like to have experienced] more, like taking a rickshaw trip through Hutong, the representative part of Beijing. But it was hard to have an intense itinerary with a kid. (E01M)

Fathers' emotions throughout their trips

Our results did not exemplify the gender stereotype of women as overly emotional (Sprecher & Sedikides, 1993). In addition to entertaining children and supporting mothers' interests (Schänzel et al., 2012), the study found that fathers also took on important roles in family tourism, including caretaking and planning. Their evaluation of experiences linked to these roles mirrored the travel emotions commonly felt by mothers. The depth and fluctuation of

fathers' emotions were slightly lighter than for mothers. Fathers' pre-trip emotions were usually based on their expectations about family travel and children's experiences. During this phase, fathers displayed positive behavior. As the trips began, their emotions intensified, influenced by their children's feelings and whether their children's behavior met personal expectations. At the destinations, fathers felt particularly positive. Happiness and relaxation were especially prevalent because they, their family, and their children were sharing enjoyable experiences. Fathers exhibited happiness, satisfaction, and a sense of self-worth following trips as evidenced by their assessments of experiences (i.e., for themselves, their family, and their children). Their appraisals of own travel experiences also elicited neutral and negative feelings. Fathers behaved positively in general in spite of mixed emotions (Figure 6).

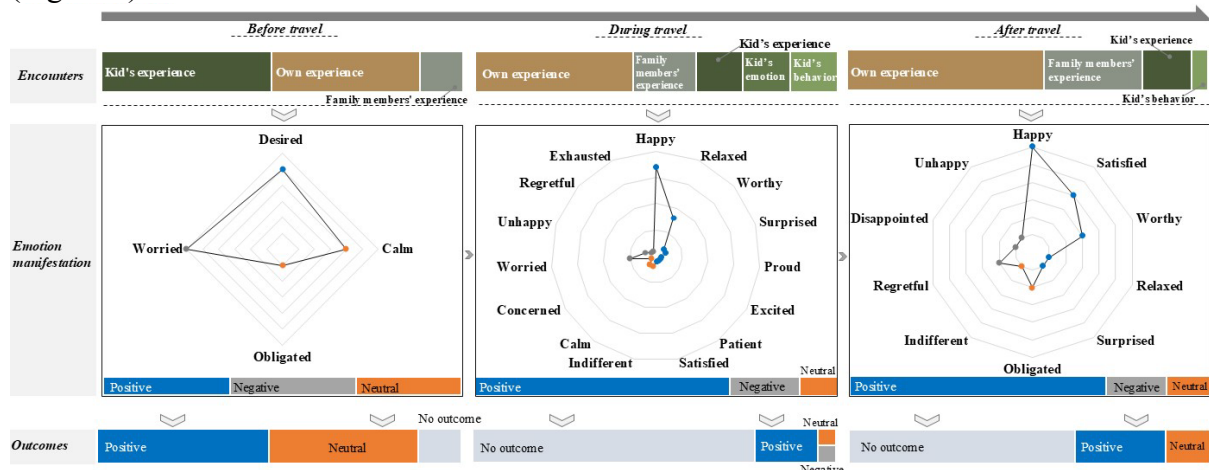


Figure 6: Fathers' emotions across all travel stages

Before travel

Anxiety, which was common among fathers prior to a trip, was the sole negative emotion. Similar to mothers, fathers' worries were mostly linked to concerns about their children's safety, adaptability, and healthy eating. The findings did not align with studies suggesting that mothers experience more worry due to balancing childcare with travel (Kelly, 2022). Fathers' self-presentation in this study informed that fathers can be *active involvers* in family tourism and be constantly engaged in decision-making and childcare (Wang & Li, 2021). Child-related issues could hinder an otherwise pleasant family trip: *Before departure, I was afraid my kid would get sick if there was heavy snow in Japan, which would be very cold. That was what I worried about the most* (K02F). Fathers' behaviors to avoid poor travel experiences were same as mothers. For instance, a father who was nervous that his children would fall ill from drinking destinations' water brought bottled water from home: *"Our drinking water was brought from home because my kids were so sensitive that they would be ill in the new environment"* (J02F). Fathers were also slightly worried about the fatigue associated with family care. Therefore, they tried to prepare mentally and plan carefully: *"[My wife and I] were both worried that our trip would be very tiring since we needed to look after family. So, I prepared myself mentally and planned"* (C02F).

The frequency of fathers' desired emotions was similar to worry. They felt obligated to take children on a journey: *"The primary purpose of our trip was to expand our kid's horizons. I thought my wife and I would stay home if not for our kid"* (S02F). Except for leisure-based activities such as sports (Harrington, 2009), family tourism offered fathers opportunities to conduct fathering and enhance the emotional connection to their children.

During travel

Consistent with mothers, given that children's behavior, experiences, and emotions fulfilled fathers' expectations, fathers' happiness accounted for most positive feelings at destinations:

My happy moment was when my kids happily played with water while drinking cola and eating snacks in the bathtub. (E02F)

Sharing pleasant experiences with family met fathers' expectations for family travel and brought them happiness: *"I was very happy on the cruise. It was so impressive that our family enjoyed a Western meal on a cruise ship over ten floors! The atmosphere and decoration of the cruise ship were so great" (L02F).*

Fathers were also thrilled to see their children's bravery: *"I felt so pleased when my son tried to play in some recreation facilities, which I thought he would be afraid of" (M02F).* Fathers hoped that family travel would allow them to depart from their routine, have novel experiences, and not have a destination agenda. Fathers felt relaxed at the destination as they enjoyed their experiences:

Traveling with kids relaxed me mentally because I could experience new things through the journey. It was different from my daily life. (N02F)

Fathers also considered whether their children's behavior met personal expectations. Positive emotions, including surprise and pride, developed among fathers when their children actively communicated with other people: *"I was surprised that [my son] could even naturally interact with our relatives and play with foreign peers, although he could not speak a foreign language" (M02F);* or behaved independently: *"My 3-year-old [son] Michael walked by himself for around 1.5 hours while most of his peers stayed in a stroller. I suddenly realized my kid could do many wonderful things I never imagined!" (X02F)*

Fathers' negative emotions appeared less often than both positive ones and mothers' negative emotions. As in the pre-travel stage, worry was the chief negative feeling. This emotion was largely attributable to children's physical health and dietary issues; it conflicted with fathers' goals of creating enjoyable experiences for their children: *"I was so worried that destinations' food was unsuitable for my kid. When there was no warm water to make milk for my child, I even complained to my wife" (I02F).* They became unhappy when their children misbehaved or expressed displeasure in other ways, like crying: *"My kid was crying very hard because the curry was so spicy that he couldn't eat, leading the whole family to be unhappy since we were all focused on our child" (A02F).* Additionally, fathers felt slightly regretful about their children's inadequate experiences and sometimes expressed resentment over having to monitor their children and luggage. But save for one father (I02F) who nagged his wife about their child's food problems, fathers experiencing negative emotions still strove to be proactive (e.g., trying to calm a crying child). Despite the clash between expectations and reality, fathers intended to create memorable holiday experiences for their families, even in less-than-perfect situations (Gram et al., 2018). However, fathers were inherently less entangled in family affairs (Wang & Li, 2021), which could evoke anxiety. Fathers appeared more apt to embrace leisure during family trips (Fountain et al., 2015); they demonstrated fewer negative and a greater degree of positive emotions.

Fathers, similar to mothers, showed the least neutrality. These feelings primarily came from appraising their own travel experiences, which had minimal impacts on their expectations for family trips. Fathers tended to be apathetic about the household division of labor. Some fathers were exceptionally calm during trips: *"It was hard for me to feel satisfied or happy with a moment or a journey because I am a rational person" (S02F).* One father's concern arose from his role as the planner and organizer of family trips: *"I must think about many things during the journey, such as communicating with the driver, and even the temperature adjustment in the car when my kid is sleeping." (A02F)*

After travel

Positive emotions usually characterized fathers' post-trip memories. Fathers felt pleased, satisfied, and deserving of travel experiences, both for themselves and their children:

I was happy about the trip, even though it was not perfect because many things happened beyond my expectations. But they became memories for me. (K02F)

Fathers' surprise and relaxation corresponded to their children's distinctive actions: *"I could see so many wonderful things about my kid! He became more open-minded and hiked around 1.5 hours by himself—I was so surprised to watch him growing up"* (X02F). The chance to relieve work pressure was also highly valued: *"Although there were so many things to be concerned about, I enjoyed traveling because it was very relaxing to escape from my job and stay with my family"* (E02F).

Several fathers felt regretful and disappointed about their travel experiences and intended to make improvements for their next trip: *"I would never visit that destination [again]. The experience was so bad because everywhere was overcrowded. We will plan [better] next time"* (C02F). Some fathers did not plan to return to their destination: *"The most striking feeling was that traveling in Sanya was expensive, and I would never go there"* (B02F).

Fathers felt that partners' complaints about their non-participation during travel did not affect fathers' own expectations or experiences on family trips; they therefore expressed indifference and did not intend to modify their behavior during ensuing holidays: *"I did not care much about my wife's complaints. I thought that I did not behave badly and [said I] would not participate in family travel planning later"* (P02F).

Children's emotions throughout their trips

Children's emotions displayed the highest positivity and the lowest intensity, opposing the patterns that emerged for mothers (Figure 7). Children's emotions were mostly linked to how well their expectations for family travel aligned with their experiences; children's responses also mimicked those of their parents. Children's feelings were positive in the pre-travel stage. At destinations, these young tourists continued to display positive emotions. Their travel experiences inspired few negative and neutral emotions. Aside from minor issues, such as losing their temper when their demands went unmet, children behaved positively. These results affirm that children primarily seek entertainment during family trips (Wang & Li, 2021): they generally look forward to traveling, and their experiences tend to match their expectations.

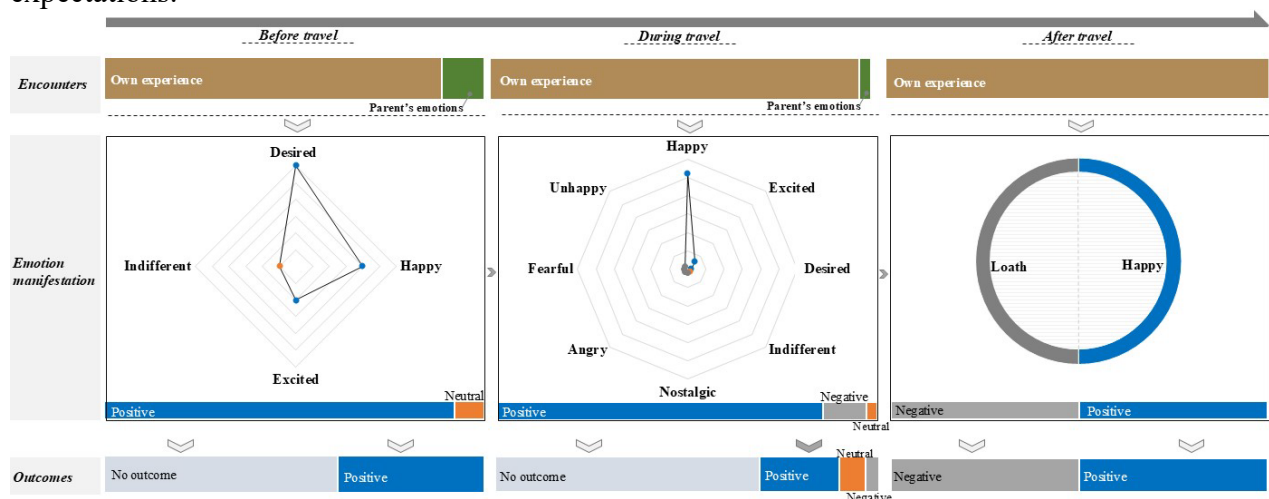


Figure 7: Children's emotions across all travel stages

Before travel

Children were excited to learn about an upcoming family trip, viewing it as an opportunity to have a fun and enjoyable time. They eagerly anticipated the journey. For example: *“I wanted to travel. Because I could sleep in a small tent in the [hotel] room. It was interesting!”* (A boy aged 9). Parents also described their children’s emotions and behavior vividly:

My daughter looked forward so much to the travel. She was not even angry about getting up at midnight to take the flight. (I02F)

[My son] was very excited to visit the zoo and play in the water park. He asked when we would go every day. (G01M)

Some children seemed indifferent towards traveling, namely because they did not have pictures of the destination and were unsure whether traveling would be pleasant: *“[The kids] had not reacted much to the upcoming ski trip. I thought it was because they hadn’t seen snow and the ski resort yet”* (K01M).

During travel

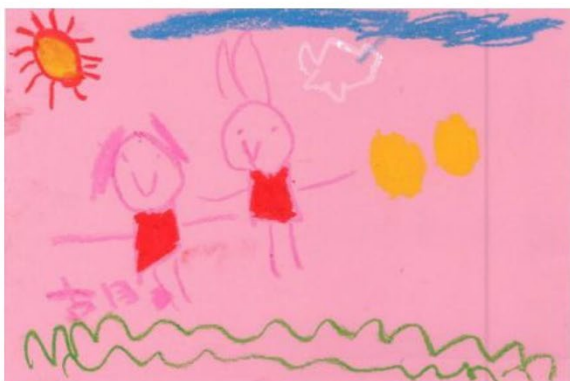
At destinations, happiness was widespread among children thanks to personally impressive and memorable travel experiences. Children had expected fun travel experiences and felt happy for taking new experiences and playing with peers: *“I was happy because I can play in the hotel room”* (A girl aged 6); *“I like Mickey Mouse, and I felt happy to visit Disneyland”* (A boy aged 4). Children’s drawings also showed their happy emotions. For example, a boy aged 5 drew a picture of him traveling with his mother to see skyscrapers in a city with a shining sun, white clouds, an airplane, and a smiling boy. Another two girls aged six used bright colors, happy faces, green grass, and a shining sun in the picture to imply their happy mood during travel. A boy aged 6 drew many animals and some green plants and said: *“I’m so happy! Look at the forest I drew, there are so many cute animals and trees. My mom gave me a lot of yummy snacks! This was my happiest day!”* Another boy aged 9 happily shared with us his swimming experience: *“I waved my arms in the sea, swam a long distance. I also saw many beautiful flowers!”* Examples of children’s drawings are shown in Figure 8 and Figure 9.



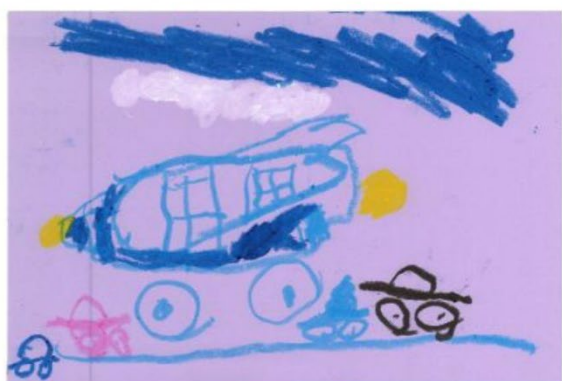
A 5-year-old boy traveled with his mother to visit skyscrapers in a city. The sun was shining, and white clouds and an airplane were in the sky. The boy was smiling for what he saw.



A 5-year-old girl happily stood on green grass under a shining sun and blue sky. She felt "Tiantian" (Sweet) for her experiences.



A 5-year-old girl happily stood on green grass with her peer under a shining sun and blue sky.



A 4-year-old boy drew a supercar with a rocket under a blue sky with white clouds.

Figure 8: Examples of children's drawings



Figure 9: Examples of children's drawings

Parents expressed that their children evidently realized their goals of having fun and spending time with peers during trips:

I thought [my son] had been very happy about the trip because he gained fresh and different experiences, like seeing historical architecture. Also, my boy played happily with his brother; they had little time to be together at home. (G01M)

Children were also enthusiastic about their hotel experiences: *"I love traveling. I can stay in a big and beautiful hotel! I want to travel next time."* (A girl aged 8). Also, as their parents said: *"[My son] was very excited about staying at hotels where he could do things [that are] less common at home, like jumping on the bed and watching TV"* (F01M); *"Staying at the family suite excited my kids due to the special child facility offerings, like a children's washroom"* (E01M). Children's emotions were affected by their parents. One child, who was nostalgic during the trip, gained happiness and a sense of desire from his parents' excitement about returning home shortly: *"[My son] would like to stay home rather than travel. Maybe he felt that I was excited about going home soon; my homesick kid was suddenly happy and looking forward to this"* (C02F). Some children were pleased and excited because they achieved their expected experiences and were eager to continue traveling: *"The sand by the*

seaside is soft! I built a big castle and picked up a lot of beautiful shells. I'm so happy!" (A girl aged 8); "[My son] enjoyed traveling so much and didn't want to go back home" (H01M). Others performed certain activities many times: "[Qiye, my kid's nickname] was so happy about the entertainment park that they couldn't stop playing on all the rides again and again!" (Z01M)

Children experienced minor negative emotions in addition to robustly positive ones, particularly if travel experiences did not match their goals. Some children became unhappy and angry if parents did not abide by their demands: "[My son] felt angry and even lost his temper when we did not buy him toys" (T01M). A father described his son's fear about riding a cable car and tried to regulate the child's negative emotions: "It was the first time [my son] had taken a cable car. He was so afraid that he was leaning into my arm and shaking during the ride. I tried to talk with my son and get him to watch the beautiful scenes out of the window to ease his nervousness and fear" (BB02F). A girl aged 8 expressed her fear of interacting with animals: "I saw many monkeys on the hill. I was scared. My mom gave me some biscuits to feed the monkeys. But I threw them down and ran away."

After travel

Children expressed a few emotions when recounting their trips. Their travel experiences made them loath when returning home, leading to reluctance to travel: "I tried to find out how my kid felt about this trip and if we should plan the next journey. But he was so tired and said he should rest" (C02F). Some children who were satisfied with their travel experiences were already anticipating another trip: "I felt [my son] was very happy about this trip. Once back home, he always asked whether we would take a cruise the next time" (L02F); "My brother and I were playing in the castle. We were very happy! I want to go again next time." (A boy aged 6).

Family tourists' collective emotions throughout their trips

Family members' individual appraisals and interactions shaped family tourists' collective emotions during trips. Each person's emotional experiences arose from how that person saw themselves and other family members. This appraisal process could produce emotional convergence within the family and specifically among parents. Generally, families shared happiness on trips. However, parents' responses were more varied: both positive and negative emotions manifested from mutual goals of providing enjoyable experiences, expectations around children's behavior, and emotional contagion from children.

Before travel

Family tourists were excited about their upcoming trips, with each member considering how their own goals would be met through travel. Mothers expected enjoying shopping and delicious food in the journey: "I felt pleased about traveling because I could go shopping and eat yummy food, which made me anticipate the journey" (T01M). Fathers were eager to take advantage of the personal time that hurried business trips did not allow: "I was anticipating family travel because I could have fun, which was different from business trips that are always in a rush" (S02F). Children were excited about the prospects of new experiences and staying in fancy accommodations: "[My son] likes traveling and was anticipating the trip, because he likes new things and enjoys staying in a hotel" (R01F).

Social appraisals of their children also influenced parents' desired emotions. Although children are unaware of their own involvement (Wang & Li, 2021), they do play a part in family tourism decisions (Li et al., 2023a). Parents were attentive to creating enjoyable, safe experiences for their children: "I was looking forward to traveling. It could enhance communication for my family and bring us closer" (T02F). According to appraisal theories,

emotions develop from comparing actual experiences with expected states (Lazarus, 1991). Children are also usually seen as vulnerable and requiring supervision (Carr, 2011). The safety of young holidaymakers is a critical criterion influencing family travelers' decision-making (Khoo-Lattimore et al., 2015). The caretakers' rigorous preparation partly helped children avoid troublesome issues and have a genuinely pleasant trip.

Children mirrored their parents' emotions, with parents' happiness generating positive feelings in them: “[My son] was thrilled when he was told that we would travel and was really looking forward to traveling together” (C02F). Negative emotions, particularly worry, emerged among mothers and fathers based on possible obstacles to giving their children enjoyable, safe travel experiences.

During travel

Happiness was common among family tourists. Mothers, fathers, and children were content when their travel experiences met pre-trip expectations. Other family members' experiences, especially those of children, often influenced parents' happiness. Positive emotional contagion from children to parents was obvious: “I was happy because my kid was happy” (e.g., A01F and H01M). *Family vacations* are a powerful context in which children observe and imitate their caregivers' emotional expressions (Ramsden & Hubbard, 2002). As pure fun-seekers, children tended to mirror parents' positive emotions rather than negative ones. Parents felt relaxed and satisfied with their travel experiences, particularly when children's behavior exceeded expectations. However, parents expressed frustration and anger when their children's behavior was incongruent with parents' goals: “Sometimes it was so tired because of the hot weather. And I would be even mad if my child was not listening to me at that time” (G01M). As in the pre-trip stage, parents worried that their children's travel experiences would not be as fulfilling as planned. This dissatisfaction led to regrets about not creating a more memorable journey for their children:

I felt so sorry for my kid because he did not eat and sleep well in an unfamiliar environment. (C01M)

[The kids] enjoyed skiing and still wanted to ski; but we did not have enough time. (K01F)

Most parents actively sought to manage negative feelings. The discussion of behavioral outcomes of specific negative emotions is rare in existing literature. Tourists who invest substantially in a trip (e.g., in terms of time and money) expect pleasant experiences (Gnoth et al., 2000) that can be goal congruent. Therefore, parents tried to find solutions to transform subpar experiences into memorable stories (Gram et al., 2018). The roles of negative emotions are worth addressing to illuminate family tourists' experiences (Zhang et al., 2021).

After travel

Happiness was prevalent within families, stemming from members' personal experiences that contributed to travel goals. Parents' social appraisals of their family members and children largely influenced their own happiness and satisfaction. They took pleasure in spending quality time together: “I enjoy bringing my family members to travel together. Although sometimes I was tired from caring for my kid, I felt very happy during the whole journey” (D01M); “I was tired but very happy. [My family] had a lot of time together when traveling, which is rare in our daily lives” (E01F).

5. Conclusion

Theoretical implications

This research yielded four key findings based on data from in-depth interviews, travel diaries, and observations involving 31 families. The results shed light on tourists' experiences, particularly in the realm of family tourism and associated emotions, in several aspects.

This study marks as the initial effort to present a comprehensive picture of the specific emotional encounters, elicitation, and outcomes of mothers, fathers, and children when traveling. Family travelers experienced a range of specific emotions in positive, neutral, and negative valence. The identified specific travel emotions of different valence for family members are much more abundant than earlier studies (e.g., Kelly, 2022). Although mothers, fathers, and children encountered a similar travel environment, each of them had their own unique perceptions and appraisals of the environment, leading to their distinct emotional experiences. Parents and children demonstrated the inclination that travelers' positive emotions have been found to contribute to active behavioral intentions (Chen et al., 2022a). They could respond positively or negatively to the same negative emotion. For example, some disappointing travel experiences made parents hesitant to take future trips or to try to plan itineraries carefully. The findings further suggest that understanding specific emotions can provide deeper insights into the feelings and behaviors of family consumers and beyond.

Second, this research represents an empirical attempt to investigate how emotions of family members evolve throughout trips. Emotions develop through an ongoing process, changing as appraisals are added or revised (Scherer et al., 2001). Family tourists enjoyed their journeys overall. This outcome corroborates other research on travel and family tourism (e.g., Kelly, 2022; Li et al., 2020). As with generic leisure travelers, family tourists' emotions followed a positive upward curve (Mitas et al., 2012); their positive emotions rose as trips approached and peaked within destinations. However, the positive emotional curve of mothers, fathers, and children for each travel stage was demonstrated differently, based on their appraisal of their own and the surrounding environment (Figure 10). Negative emotions from the same category could be triggered differently depending on the travel stage. Neutral emotions, which have seldom been addressed in the literature on family tourism emotions, were found apparent across all travel stages; particularly when trips were planned and proceeded as intended (Gasper, 2018). The subtle changes of emotions and subsequent impacts of family members throughout the travel process were further addressed. In the pre-trip stage, emotions activated families' travel motivations and parents' planning. During trips, emotions became stronger based on leisure time and inevitable conflicts. Emotions were also pivotal to family travelers' assessments of their experiences, travel intentions, and plans upon returning home. The results inform the importance of applying a dynamic perspective to investigate emotions in travel.

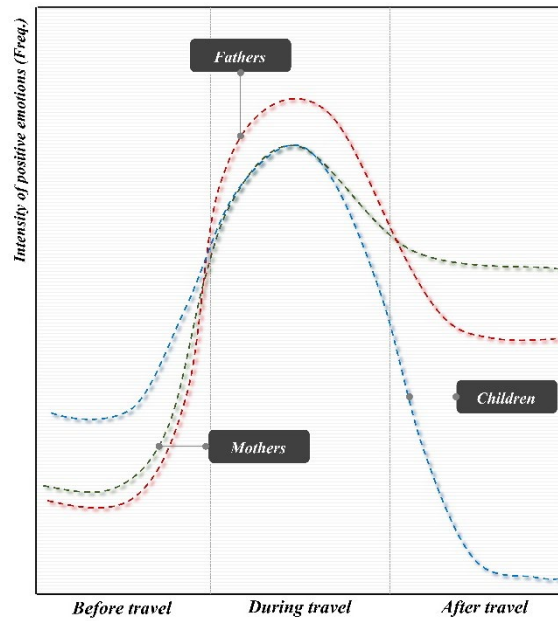
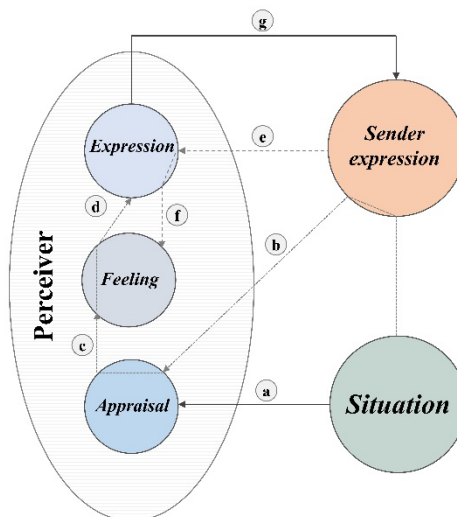


Figure 109: Positive travel emotion curves of fathers, mothers, and children

Moreover, our research revealed that family members



experienced a range of negative emotions throughout their trips, particularly in the pre-and-during travel stages. The study compensates for the previously inadequate exploration of negative emotions within family travel with children using a static view (e.g., Gram et al., 2018; Kelly, 2022). By disclosing negative emotions, triggers, and outcomes within nuclear families, this study broadens the understanding of family travel conflicts. Discussions of negative emotions have cited the need to study family tourism’s “darker sides” (Gram et al., 2018, p. 195). In addition to a social-psychological approach that highlights the positive outcomes of family leisure, this study argues for the necessity of a conflicting paradigm to actively investigate contradictions in family travel and other tourism contexts (Shaw, 1997). Our study echoes the mobility perspective (Cohen & Cohen, 2015). Tourism, instead of being an extraordinary practice, can be perceived as a routine activity that rejects the division of “home” and “away” (Cohen & Cohen, 2019, p. 14). Family tourists often encounter conflicts that are common in everyday life while traveling. However, they make a concerted effort to

address any negative aspects and seek mutual understanding. Families have high expectations for creating memorable travel experiences. Fortunately, these negative aspects do not significantly impact their overall enjoyment of the trip or their intentions for future travel. The findings serve as a reminder of travel's meaning in strengthening family bonds outside of daily life, especially considering the challenges of balancing work and life in nuclear families today.

By integrating SAT, CAT, and PECT, this study further revealed a process linking individual emotions to collective emotions throughout travel from a family system perspective, which was the first attempt in the current study. Family-based and parent-based emotional interactions were disclosed (Figure 11). Emotional convergence occurred as mothers, fathers, and children forged emotional bonds of varying intensity based on their appraisals of personal/family time and emotional mimicry during trips. In addition to being affected by their children, parents mutually influenced one another as spouses. Partners' behavior around family duties facilitated emotional interaction. Wives' actions did not notably induce husbands' emotions, but husbands' behavior informed wives' feelings. This dynamic between partners has scarcely been explored in studies of family tourism emotion. While domestic emotional states, particularly those stemming from inter-parental conflict, often extend to family travel (Pocock, 2015), this study did not explicitly address this phenomenon. Emotional contagion was also observed between parents and children, with parents sometimes feeling happy because their children were happy. Children's happy and desired emotions partially originated from parents' contentment and excitement. Instead of a parent-dyad relationship, family is a social system in which parents and children interact bidirectionally rather than unidirectionally (McGinnis & Wright, 2023). Although family tourism is recognized as a major market segment, its emotional interrelationships and social roles have remained somewhat nebulous (Kelly, 2022). Scholars have otherwise explored family tourists' emotional associations by focusing on parents as a group (Gram et al., 2019). By specifying the role of social appraisals, cognitive appraisals, and emotional mimicry in family travel emotional experiences, this study enhances the understanding of emotional interaction between parents and children as well as between spouses. Psychology and sociology scholars will be inspired to further examine emotional interaction mechanisms among family tourists and other intimate groups, including support groups and close friends.

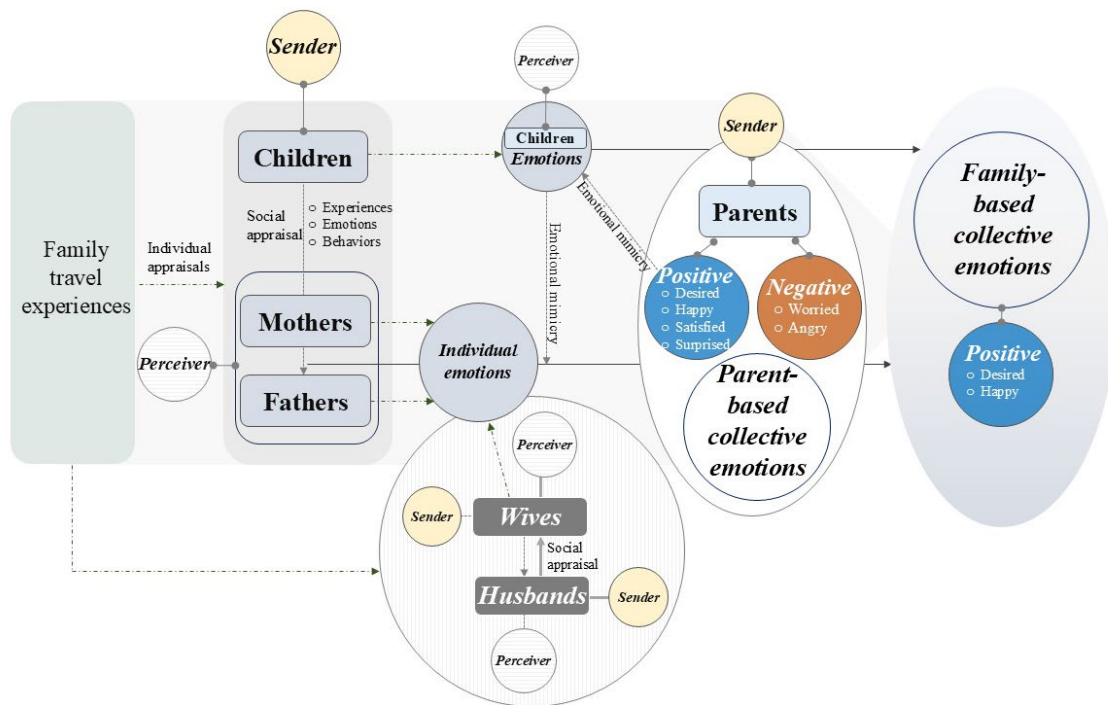


Figure 11: Process linking individual and collective emotions in family tourism

The efforts of scrutinizing family tourists' emotions address the growing need for emotion-oriented perspectives in the sociological study of tourism (Cohen & Cohen, 2019). This approach moves away from disembodied, business-focused analyses (Cohen & Cohen, 2019). Emotional bonds among family members represent some of the closest and most important relationships in human life (Schänzel & Yeoman, 201). This connection fosters human progress and societal development, placing families at the core of human activity (Yeoman, 2008). Further exploration is necessary to understand the power of travel to improve the well-being and emotional bonding of broader family units (e.g., multi-generational families). This research's investigation on the direct interaction within the family system responds to Dann and Cohen's (2013) proposition of a micro-sociological approach in tourism study. Families are characterized by a unique collective consciousness (Schänzel & Smith, 2014), where members share familial goals while pursuing individual interests during travel. By emphasizing the influence of the social environment (e.g., other members' cognitive interpretations of travel events) on family tourists' emotions, this study supplements to an activity-oriented view of the nature of family tourism emotions (Lee & Lee, 2021).

We have described emotional differences with respect to family roles (i.e., fathers, mothers, and children). Fathers' disclosure of their travel emotions is rare in literature. Compared to work by Gram et al. (2018), Kelly (2022), and Lee and Lee (2021), this study amplifies fathers' perspectives alongside those of mothers. This study hence supplements gender-related research in tourism (Figuroa-Domecq et al., 2015). Women have long been framed as consumers and decision makers in many societies. Tourism typifies a configuration of gendered human practices, behaviors, and activities (i.e., in construction, presentation, and consumption; Figuroa-Domecq et al., 2015). A masculine view is similarly vital in tourism research: giving a voice to fathers can highlight their value as children's main entertainers and facilitators of mothers' interests (Schänzel et al., 2012). Children's agency in family consumption continues to be acknowledged (Wang & Li, 2021). This study reinforces advocacy for children-inclusive research (Canosa et al., 2019). Children represent a significant portion of the global population and are growing up in communities affected by

travel. They also play a role in influencing and taking family vacations and beyond (Schänzel & Yang, 2024). Children's travel encounters, emotions, and their effects on parents' experiences and emotions were reported and interpreted, showing promise for recognizing children's diverse lived experiences (Canosa et al., 2019).

Practical implications

This study underscores multiple points of interest for the tourism industry. The finding that family members experience distinct emotional responses based on their personal appraisals holds implications for destination product marketing. Mothers' emotions are closely tied to their childcare roles during travel, and their happiness often stems from seeking personal leisure time. Tourist destinations would be well served by designing products that relieve mothers of heavy caretaking and grant them personal space. For instance, destinations can open childcare service centers for families and playrooms that are exclusive to fathers and children. These spaces can encourage fathers' childcare involvement and ease mothers' burdens. Mothers could then spend more time alone in their favorite places, like spas and shopping centers, to take full advantage of their trips. Creating enjoyable experiences for children is an effective marketing strategy to target family consumers. Our findings revealed that physical activities greatly triggered children's happiness and in turn aroused parents' positive emotions. Therefore, activities and facilities that resonate with children (e.g., beaches, pools, themed hotel rooms) can be underlined.

Tourism operators can also refer to this research to improve family trips by focusing on the positive emotional trajectory that coincides with the travel process. Destination managers should consider improving pre- and post-travel experiences for families. For instance, marketers could create innovative promotional content, such as music-enhanced user-generated videos, to accentuate a destination's unique features. Using popular social media platforms (e.g., TikTok, Little Red Book, Instagram, and Facebook) to showcase these programs can give families positive online pre-trip experiences, thereby strengthening members' travel motivations and intentions. Additionally, destinations might consider offering memory-making services in collaboration with partners (e.g., photography institutions) to enhance families' positive emotions and lasting memories after a trip.

The revelation of interactions in family tourists' emotions offers insights into tourist destinations' operations. We found that parents' emotions were intricately linked with their children's experiences, particularly children's safety, physical health, and adaptability during travel. Therefore, close attention can be paid to elevating the quality and safety of food, accommodation, and transportation, which parents value highly. Destinations can take these elements as selling points and promote them via social media. By doing so, tour operators will relieve parents' worry and foster purchases in the planning stage. High-quality products and services could also enhance family tourists' pleasant travel experiences at destinations and maintain positive memories long after their trips. These tourists tend to revisit destinations that yield happy memories.

According to our evidence-based findings, policymakers can be inspired to draft regulations and initiatives to enhance family travelers' experiences and boost the tourism economy. Family tourism is a happy experience, yet it brings negative emotions, particularly worry related to children's safety. Tourism administrations can advocate child-safe measures in transportation, accommodation, restaurants, and destinations to secure more satisfying travel environments for families, especially children. Also, the family tourists' emotional support system, including helplines and counseling services, can be developed to manage families' emotional distress throughout the travel process. In addition, the government can encourage businesses to establish family-friendly leave policies, such as flexible work arrangements, to give families more opportunities to take family trips. Besides emotional

well-being for families, tourism operators can benefit from these policies to attract family tourists.

6. Limitations and future research

Despite noteworthy contributions, several limitations should be acknowledged. First, although drawing-elicited interviews were conducted among children, parents helped report their children's emotions, potentially introducing bias in understanding children's experiences (Carr, 2011). Future research should consider adopting strategies, including separately interviewing children without parents' intervention, to better capture children's perspectives.

Second, there may be a recency effect in this study; most data were collected after families completed their trips. Emotions are ephemeral, and memory recall may lead to discrepancies between real-time and remembered emotions (Liu et al., 2016). Scholars could employ methods such as smartphone-based experience sampling (Chan et al., 2019) and skin conductance responses (Laine et al., 2009) to track momentary fluctuations in emotions.

Additionally, this study focused on family tourists' verbal expressions of emotions. Non-verbal cues like facial expressions and body language were not included. Exploring these subtle indicators could provide a richer picture of emotional experiences. Some neuroscientific approaches, including functional magnetic resonance imaging, Electroencephalography, and Magnetoencephalography, can also be used to draw detailed emotional properties and evidence within tourists' neural systems (Adolphs, 2017).

Furthermore, this study did not consider discussing family travelers' emotions under different travel contexts (i.e., international and domestic). The uncertainties, risks, and itinerary arrangements are distinctive in international and domestic trips. Families may obtain more complex emotional experiences in their global travels. Future studies should explore emotions within families under different travel modes to generate more insights into family travel experiences.

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Appendix A

Interview protocol-for parents

Structure	Purpose	Contents/questions
Part one		<p>Hello, this interview will take about 45 minutes and mainly focus on your family's travel emotions. If you have any questions during our conversation, feel free to ask. I'll be recording our talk, but the information will only be used for academic research. Everything you share will be kept confidential and anonymous.</p> <p>If you have any concerns, you're welcome to end the conversation. Thank you.</p>
Part two	Demographic information	Please indicate your age, gender, educational level, occupation, monthly salary.
Part three	Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How many kid(s) do you have? 2) What is your kid's age? 3) What is your kid's gender? 4) How many family trips do you usually have in a year? 5) When was the last time you had family travel with your kid(s)? 6) Where did you go on the trip? 7) How long have you travelled?
Part four	Family tourists' emotional experiences: Please think back to your family travel experiences and answer the following questions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Could you please talk about your recent family travel experiences? 2) Could you please show us some memorable photos you took during the trip? 3) Could you please explain the experiences/activities/scenes in the photo? 4) Could you please describe what you did to plan the trip? 5) What did your family members do to plan the trip? 6) How did you feel during the planning? Please describe your specific emotions. 7) What kind of experiences made you feel this way? 8) Did you do anything to face these positive (negative) emotions? 9) How did you feel about the days leading up to the trip? Please describe your specific emotions. 10) How did you feel when you were at the destination? Please describe your specific emotions. 11) What kind of experiences made you feel this way? 12) Did you do anything when facing these positive (negative) emotions? 13) What were the most memorable experiences of your family trips? 14) How did you feel about these memorable travel experiences? Please describe your specific emotions. 15) Were there any experiences that brought you negative emotions? Please describe your specific emotions. 16) What did you do when facing these negative emotions? 17) How would you describe the overall emotional experience of the trip? 18) How did you feel when you came back home from the trip? Please describe your specific emotions. 19) What kind of experiences made you feel this way? 20) Did you expect to have your next family trip when you're back from the destination? Why? 21) Would you do anything different for the next family trip? Why?

Interview protocol-for children

Structure	Purpose	Contents/questions
Part one	Children's emotional experiences: Please think back to your family travel experiences. We invite you to share your drawings and memories of your trips with your parents with us.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Where did you travel with your parents?2) Could you please describe what you drew in the picture?3) How do you feel about the activities/people/experiences in your picture?4) Do you know when your parents were planning this trip?5) How did you feel when you knew you would travel with your parents?6) What did you do when you knew that you were going on a trip?7) How did you feel when you arrived at the destination?8) What kind of experiences/activities made you feel this way?9) Did you draw these experiences/activities in your picture?10) What did you do when you faced these positive (negative) emotions?11) What were the most memorable experiences of your family trips?12) How did you feel about these memorable travel experiences?13) Were there any experiences that make you feel bad?14) What were your feelings about these bad experiences?15) What did you do when you had these bad feelings?16) How would you describe the overall feeling of this family trip?17) How did you feel when you came back home from the trip?18) What kind of experiences made you feel this way?19) Did you expect to travel with your parents when you return from the destination? Why?
