PSIHOLOGIJA

YU ISSN 0048-5705 UDC 159.9 Vol. 55(4) 357–465

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PSIHOLOGIJA, 2022, Vol. 55(4), 357–378
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UDC: 316.613.434-058.8
159.942.072-058.8
DOI: https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI210813010J

As if living in a concentration camp: The experience of intimate partner violence as seen through the eyes of female victims*

Ivana Janković

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš, Serbia

The aim of this paper was to evaluate the understanding of partner violence from the perspective of female victims. This study addresses intimate partner violence from a qualitative paradigm and a social constructivist approach. Data was collected from interviews with 15 female victims of violence, which was used as the basis for thematic analysis. In the contents of the subjects' narratives, four core themes and eight sub-themes stood out. The core themes were: incident-based violence, life in the world of the perpetrator, causes of the violent behavior and justification for it, and victims taking responsibility for the violence. The results of the analysis showed that the violence experienced by these victims could not be reduced to isolated incidents. Still, it was a process that included situations and behaviors that were not subject to punishment, which kept the victim in constant fear, controlled her behavior, and made her a subordinate perpetrator. In contrast, most explanations given (by the victims) for the violent behavior had the function of justifying the perpetrators' behavior and attributing responsibility to other agents – alcohol, mental illness, problems in the family of origin, or an external source of frustration. In certain cases, the women felt that they could be responsible for their own victimization as victims of violence. The results of the research indicate that intimate partner violence should be considered as a crime against identity and freedom, and that persons working with victims of violence should aim to deconstruct the beliefs that lead victims to find excuses for violent partner behavior, as well as to deconstruct beliefs that lead them to feel responsible for their victimization.

Keywords: Intimate partner violence, victims, battered women, qualitative research, Serbia

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Corresponding author: ivana.jankovic@filfak.ni.ac.rs

Acknowledgment. This study was supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia (Contract No. 451-03-68/2022-14/200165). Prepared as a part of the project Applied psychology in the function of the quality of life of an individual in the community, conducted at the University of Niš – Faculty of Philosophy (Teaching & scientific council resolution No. 455/1-1-6-01).

* Please cite as: Janković, I. (2022). As if living in a concentration camp: The experience of intimate partner violence as seen through the eyes of female victims. *Psihologija*, 55(4), 357–378. https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI210813010J

Highlights:

- Victims experience intimate partner violence as a process in which the perpetrator keep the victims in constant fear.
- Explanations of causes of violence by victims tend to separate the violent behavior from the perpetrator's personality and to justify violent behavior.
- Participants stated that victims may sometimes be responsible for their own victimization.

PSIHOLOGIJA, 2022, Vol. 55(4), 379–395
DOI: https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI211107009B
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UDC 177.7:159.9.072

Selfish Genes or Selfish Memes: The Effect of Genetic Relatedness Versus Value Similarity on Altruism*

Aleksandar Baucal** & Aleksandra Lazić***

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Psychology, Serbia

Two preregistered quasi-experiments disentangled the effects of selfish genes and selfish memes on participants' self-reported willingness to help in hypothetical everyday-favor and life-or-death situations. Memes were operationalized as the perceived level of similarity in important attitudes and values between the person participating in the study and a selected target person, assessed and reported by the participant. In Study 1 (N = 761), altruism was highest for siblings, and then for cousins and nonkin; greater memetic similarity was also associated with greater altruism; and the interaction between the factors was not significant. In Study 2 (N = 841), conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, altruism was highest for siblings, but the same for cousins and nonkin; the effect of memetic similarity was replicated; and the interaction term remained insignificant. Both studies controlled for a range of demographic and social relationship characteristics, suggesting a potentially relevant role of future contact probability and emotional closeness. We propose that, similarly to gene selfishness, meme selfishness can also bring about altruism: individuals would rather make

Corresponding author: abaucal@f.bg.ac.rs

Ethics Statement. This project was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Serbia (Protocol Number #2019-58 [Study 1] and #2020-016 [Study 2]).

Data Availability. The data and code are available at the Open Science Framework (https://osf.io/5fgpk [Study 1] and https://osf.io/c4mkv [Study 2]).

Funding. This work was supported, in part, by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia [179018].

Author Contributions. The authors are listed in alphabetical order and contributed equally to this paper. Conceptualization: AB and AL. Data Curation: AL. Formal Analysis: AB and AL. Funding Acquisition: AB and AL. Investigation: AB and AL. Methodology: AB and AL. Project Administration: AB and AL. Resources: AB and AL. Validation: AL. Visualization: AL. Writing - Original Draft Preparation: AL. Writing - Review & Editing: AB and AL.

* Please cite as: Baucal, A., & Lazić, A. (2022). Selfish Genes or Selfish Memes: The Effect of Genetic Relatedness Versus Value Similarity on Altruism. *Psihologija, 55*(4), 379–395. https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI211107009B

** https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7965-7659

*** https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0433-0483

a personal sacrifice to help memetically similar than dissimilar others because similar others have a higher chance of spreading the helper's memes.

Keywords: selfish genes, selfish memes, helping, kin altruism

Highlights:

- Selfish genes and selfish memes were tested simultaneously in two quasi-experimental studies.
- Intention to help was higher for siblings than cousins and acquaintances.
- Intention to help was highest for memetically similar others (in terms of key values).
- No evidence that the memetic similarity effect depended on genetic relatedness.

PSIHOLOGIJA, 2022, Vol. 55(4), 397–413
DOI: https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI211002008H
© 2022 by authors
UDC 159.943.072:159.922.72.072

Motor Learning and Working Memory in Children: The Role of Cognitive-Motor and Motor-Motor Dual-Task Training*

Masoumeh Hoshyari, Esmaeel Saemi, & Mohammadreza Doustan

Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Ahvaz, Iran

The present study aims to examine the effects of two dual-task training methods (motor-motor and cognitive-motor) as well as a single task method on static and dynamic balance and also on the working memory in children. Forty-five children (all male; mean age 8.82 ± 0.83 years) were selected and randomly assigned into three experimental groups. In the pretest, posttest, and retention stages, the participants took static, and dynamic balance tests, as well as an n-back task. In the training stage, the participants practiced selected balance training tasks under dual-task motor-motor and motor-cognitive conditions as well as a single task over a period of four weeks at two sessions per week. The results of the paired samples *t*-test indicated that children in all groups improved their balance performance and working memory ($p \leq .05$). The results of ANCOVA showed that the balance training group under motor-motor dual-task conditions outperformed the other two groups in terms of the dynamic balance scores ($p \leq .05$). An improved performance was also observed for the cognitive-motor dual-task conditions compared to the single-task group ($p \leq .01$). In terms of static balance and working memory, both dual-task groups, regardless of the types of their tasks, outperformed the single task group ($p \leq .05$).

Keywords: dual task, single task, balance training, working memory, children

Highlights:

- Motor-motor dual-task training promotes the dynamic balance performance of children.
- Cognitive-motor dual-task training promotes dynamic balance of children.

Corresponding author: e.saemi@scu.ac.ir

Acknowledgements. We would like to thank all of the participants, their families and the schools who took part in this study.

Author's note. The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

* Please cite as: Hoshyari, M., Saemi, E., & Doustan, M. (2022). Motor Learning and Working Memory in Children: The Role of Cognitive-Motor and Motor-Motor Dual-Task Training. *Psihologija, 55*(4), 397–413. https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI211002008H

- Dual-task training promotes statice balance and working memory of children.
- Children benefit from dual-task balance training regardless of the type of the secondary task.

PSIHOLOGIJA, 2022, Vol. 55(4), 415–426
© 2022 by author
UDC 159.923.072
316.644:2
DOI: https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI210719007S

Are Religions Growing or Declining? Self-Reported Religion and Personality*

Ibrahim Senay

Department of Psychology, Uskudar University, Istanbul, Turkey

It is not clear whether religions are on the rise or fall today. The present study investigated whether personality trait factors can predict the combined growth of religious affiliations and non-affiliations (i.e., the number of people who self-identify with a religion or do not identify with any religion) across socio-cultural contexts through an analysis of online survey data collected from 111 countries and 4,270 individuals. In a multiple-discriminant analysis, religion self-reports constituted three independent dimensions. Religious affiliations and non-affiliations (whether a person identifies as a member of a specific religion or identifies him/herself as an atheist or agnostic) formed separate clusters along one axis, while on the other two, they did not. Across countries, religions' growth rates significantly predicted the trait factor configuration classifying religious affiliations (seeing oneself as a member of a specific religion) differently from non-affiliations (seeing oneself as an atheist or an agnostic). The personality profile grouping affiliations together with non-affiliations had a non-significant relationship with religions' growth rates. In sum, although self-identifying with no religion (i.e., agnosticism and atheism) might not replace affiliating with a religion in the short run, it can show a non-significant trend toward competing with adhering to most popular religions. The results may have implications for understanding the impact of religious pluralism on religions' growth rates and the different growth trends associated with the complexity of religious affiliations.

Keywords: religious affiliation, religious non-affiliation, religion growth rates, personality

Highlights:

- Personality can help classify religious affiliations with non-affiliations.
- Religious non-affiliations might not replace religious affiliations in general.
- Religious non-affiliations may potentially grow with religious affiliations.
- Some religious affiliations may have the potential to grow faster than others.

Corresponding author: ibrahim.senay@uskudar.edu.tr

* Please cite as: Please cite as: Senay, I. (2022). Are Religions Growing or Declining?: Self-Reported Religion and Personality. *Psihologija*, *55*(4), 415–426. https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI210719007S

PSIHOLOGIJA, 2022, Vol. 55(4), 427–442
© 2022 by author
UDC 615.85:364.62
613.86
DOI: https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI210812006N

"I Could Easily Get Professional Help if I Wanted to": Professional Help-Seeking Intentions and the Theory of Planned Behaviour*

Katerina Naumova**

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

This study used path analysis to evaluate the ability of the Theory of planned behaviour to predict professional help-seeking intentions in an adult community sample (N = 470, 51% female, age range: 18–64 years). The results showed that perceived behavioural control was the most significant antecedent of help-seeking intentions, positive attitudes increased the likelihood to seek professional help, however, their effect was small, while subjective norms were not relevant. Past help-seeking had a small direct effect on intentions, yet equally strong as the total indirect effect via attitudes and perceived behavioural control. Psychological distress affected intentions only indirectly. Difficulties with self-disclosure were the only barrier that had a partially mediated effect on intentions through perceived behavioural control. The findings are discussed with respect to the utility of the TPB model, as well as in the wider context of professional help-seeking and interventions to encourage the utilization of mental health services.

Keywords: professional help-seeking, help-seeking intentions, Theory of planned behaviour, perceived barriers, self-disclosure

Highlights:

- Perceived behavioural control is the most significant determinant of intentions.
- Attitudes are a less relevant antecedent, while subjective norms are insignificant.
- Past behaviour has a small direct effect on help-seeking intentions.
- Psychological distress affects intentions only indirectly.
- Self-disclosure difficulties could be an additional explanatory variable.

Corresponding author: knaumova@fzf.ukim.edu.mk

* Please cite as: Naumova, K. (2022). "I Could Easily Get Professional Help if I Wanted to": Professional Help-Seeking Intentions and the Theory of Planned Behaviour. *Psihologija, 55*(4), 427–442. https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI210812006N

** https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0964-9696

PSIHOLOGIJA, 2022, Vol. 55(4), 443–465
© 2022 by authors
UDC 159.922.8.072
316.622-053.6
DOI: https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI200511004S

Why more Competent Adolescents Advance or Regress after Assymetrical Peer Interaction: Studying Dialogue Characteristics that Make a Difference*

Ivana Stepanović Ilić** & Aleksandar Baucal***
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosphy, Department of Psychology, Serbia

This study explores differences between more and less competent peers in joint problem-solving dialogues, related to opposite interaction outcomes of more competent students (progression/regression). Ten asymmetrical peer dyads were selected from 47 dyads participating in the previous study: five in which more competent (MC) student progressed the most, and five in which MC students regressed the most after a post-test. Ten dialogue characteristics were established in 50 conversations of these dyads. Cluster analysis revealed two dialogue types associated with different interaction outcomes of MC students. In the first one, MC students justified correct answers but behaved inconsistently with their higher competences. The second cluster characterizes domination-submissiveness pattern and MC students' unwillingness to justify opinion. All regressing MC students participated in the first dialogue type and 56% of progressing MC students in the second. Qualitative analysis of the conversations typical for extracted clusters implies that although ready to provide arguments to their peers when they can, regressing MC students exhibit uncertainty, thereby losing from interaction. Progressing MC students seem to protect themselves against possible interaction disturbances by dominant attitude and withdrawal from communication.

Keywords: peer interaction, dyads, peer dialogue

Highlights:

- Cluster analysis: 2 dialogue types related to different outcomes of MC students.
- All regressing MC students justified answers but were insecure in their competences.

Corresponding author: istepano@f.bg.ac.rs

* Please cite as: Stepanović Ilić, I. & Baucal, A. (2022). Why more Competent Adolescents Advance or Regress after Assymetrical Peer Interaction: Studying Dialogue Characteristics that Make a Difference. *Psiholgija, 55*(4), 443–465. https://doi.org/10.2298/PSI200511004S

** https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4051-5263

*** https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7965-7659

- 56% of progressing MC students did not justify opinion and show dominant attitude.
- Qualitative analysis brought deeper understanding of peer interaction dynamics.