

'ARE WE TOO DIVIDED TO START ACTING?' THE ROLE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR INTERGENERATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Elisa Bormann; Maren Dischlatis; Auguste Herold; Paula Knop; Deborah Stüken

BACKGROUND

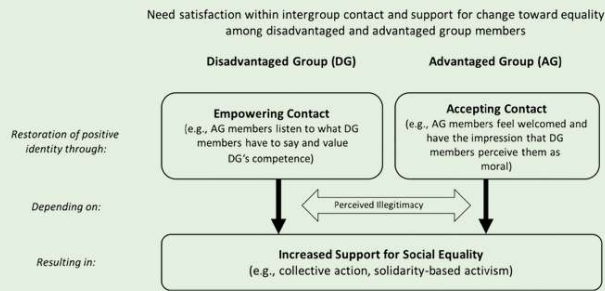


Figure 1: Needs-Based Model Haessler et al. 2022

Hypotheses

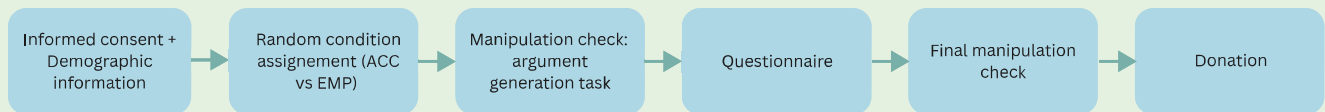
H1: compared to the empowerment condition, older adults in the acceptance condition will report greater willingness to cooperate and lower intergenerational tension, reflecting reduced ambivalence toward younger adults

H2: intergenerational tension will mediate the effect of message type on willingness to cooperate, moderated by perceived illegitimacy and intergenerational contact, such that older adults with high perceived illegitimacy and greater intergenerational contact would show stronger effects on both the a and c' paths (see below) in the acceptance compared to the empowerment condition

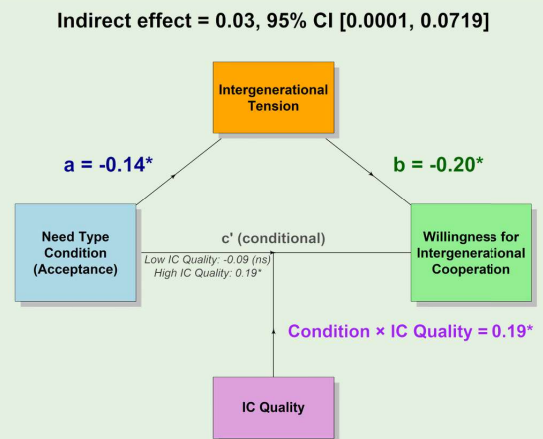
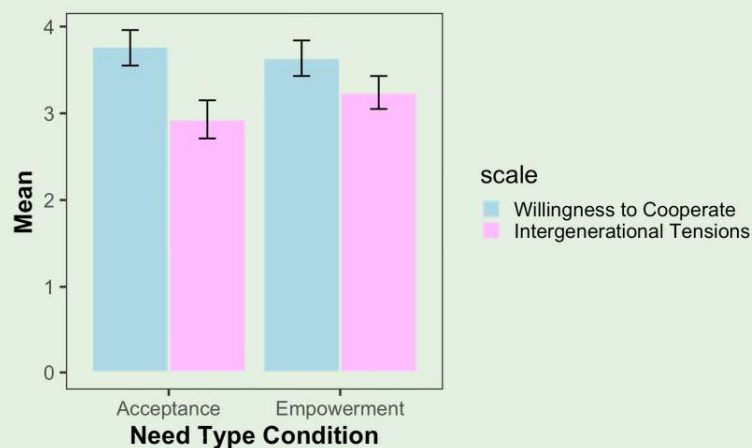
METHODS

Sample: We recruited 128 participants aged 60 years or older (M age = 69.2 years, SD = 6.49)

Design: Single factor design in which Message Type is manipulated between participants (Message Type: Acceptance vs. Empowerment Condition).



RESULTS



DISCUSSION

In line with our predictions, older adults exposed to acceptance messages reported greater willingness to cooperate than those in the empowerment condition. Mediation analysis further suggested that reduced intergenerational tension may partly explain this effect. Moreover, positive intergenerational contact quality was associated with greater openness toward cooperation, consistent with research linking positive intergroup contact to solidarity and supportive action intentions (Özkan et al., 2023)

Limitations:

Some scales showed ceiling effects, reducing variability and potentially limiting the detection of stronger effects. In addition, our sample was relatively homogeneous and highly educated, limiting generalizability. Future research should replicate these findings in more diverse and cross-cultural samples and further investigate the roles of intergenerational contact and tension in promoting cooperation between generations.

References

