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Zúñiga, C.^a, Agostini, M.^b, Louis, W.R.^c, Lemay, E.P., Jr.^d, Bélanger, J.J.^e, Gützkow, B.^b, Jeronimus, B.F.^b, Kreienkamp, J.^b, vanDellen, M.R.^f, Abakoumkin, G.^g, Khaiyom, J.H.A.^h, Ahmed, V.ⁱ, Akkas, H.^j, Almenara, C.A.^k, Atta, M.^l, Bagci, S.C.^m, Basel, S.ⁿ, Kida, E.B.ⁱ, Bernardo, A.B.I.^o, Buttrick, N.R.^p, Chobthamkit, P.^q, Choi, H.-S.^r, Cristea, M.^s, Csaba, S.^t, Damjanović, K.^u, Danyliuk, I.^v, Dash, A.^w, Santo, D.D.^x, Douglas, K.M.^y, Enea, V.^z, Faller, D.G.^{aa}, Fitzsimons, G.^{ab}, Gheorghiu, A.^z, Gómez, Á.^{ac}, Hamaidia, A.^{ad}, Han, Q.^{ae}, Helmy, M.^{af}, Hudiyana, J.^{ag}, Jiang, D.-Y.^{ah}, Jovanović, V.^{ai}, Kamenov, Ž.^{aj}, Kende, A.^t, Keng, S.-L.^{ak}, Kieu, T.T.T.^{al}, Koc, Y.^b, Kovyazina, K.^{am}, Krause, J.^b, Kruglanski, A.W.^d, Kurapov, A.^t, Lantos, N.A.^t, Lesmana, C.B.J.^{an}, Lueders, A.^{ao}, Malik, N.I.^l, Martinez, A.^{ap}, McCabe, K.O.^{aq}, Milla, M.N.^{ag}, Molinario, E.^{ar}, Moyano, M.^{as}, Muhammad, H.^{at}, Mula, S.^x, Muluk, H.^{ag}, Myroniuk, S.^{au}, Najafi, R.^{av}, Nisa, C.F.^{aw}, Nyúl, B.^t, O'Keefe, P.A.^{ax}, Osuna, J.J.O.^{ay}, Osin, E.N.^{az}, Park, J.^{ba}, Pica, G.^{bb}, Pierro, A.^{bc}, Rees, J.^b, Reitsem, A.M.^b, Resta, E.^x, Rullo, M.^{bd}, Ryan, M.K.^{be}, Santtila, P.^{bf}, Schumpe, B.M.^{bg}, Selim, H.A.^{bh}, Stanton, M.V.^{bi}, Sutton, R.M.^{ap}, Tseliou, E.^g, Utsugi, A.^{bj}, Van Lissa, C.J.^{bk}, Van Veen, K.^{bk}, Vázquez, A.^{ac}, Wollast, R.^{bl}, Yeung, V.W.-L.^{bm}, Zand, S.^{bn}, Žeželj, I.L.^{ai}, Zheng, B.^{bo}, Zick, A.^{bp}, Leander, N.P.^{bq}

Prosociality During COVID-19: Pathways Through Affect, Financial Stress, Well-being, and Collective Disempowerment across 39 Countries [Prosocialidad durante COVID-19: Rutas a través del afecto, estrés financiero, bienestar y desempoderamiento colectivo en 39 países]
(2024) *Universitas Psychologica*, 23, pp. 1-21.

DOI: 10.11144/JAVERIANA.UPSY23.PDCP

^a Universidad de Chile, Chile

^b University of Groningen, Netherlands

^c University of Queensland, Australia

^d University of Maryland, College Park, United States

^e Carnegie Mellon University in, Qatar, Qatar

^f Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences, United States

^g University of Thessaly, Greece

^h International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia

ⁱ Pristine University, Serbia

^j Ankara Science University, Turkey

^k Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas, Peru

^l University of Sargodha, Pakistan

^m Sabanci University, Turkey

ⁿ New York University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

^o De La Salle University, Philippines

^p University of Virginia, United States

^q Thammasat University, Thailand

^r Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea

^s Heriot Watt University, United Kingdom

^t ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

^u University of Belgrade, Serbia

^v Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine

^w Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany

^x University "La Sapienza", Rome, Italy

^y University of Kent, United Kingdom

^z Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Romania

^{aa} National University of Singapore, Singapore

^{ab} Duke University, United States

^{ac} Universidad Nacional de Educación, Distancia, Spain

^{ad} Mohamed Lamine Debaghine Setif 2 University, Algeria

^{ae} University of Bristol, United Kingdom

^{af} Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

^{ag} Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia

^{ah} National Chung-Cheng University, Taiwan

- ai University of Novi, Sad, Serbia
- aj University of Zagreb, Croatia
- ak Monash University Malaysia, Malaysia
- al HCMC University of Education, Viet Nam
- am Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan
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- bb University of Camerino, Italy
- bc University of Bielefeld, Germany
- bd University of Siena, Italy
- be The Australian National University, Australia
- bf New York University, Shanghai, China
- bg University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- bh King Saud University, Saudi Arabia
- bi California State University, United States
- bj Nagoya University, Japan
- bk Utrecht University, Netherlands
- bl Université Clermont-Auvergne, France
- bm Lingnan University, Hong Kong
- bn University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy
- bo Peking University, China
- bp Bielefeld University, Germany
- bq Wayne State University, United States

Abstract

Overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in great loss of life worldwide and shook the global economy, required individuals' willingness and ability to behave prosocially. To contribute to the understanding of predictors of prosociality, we used multilevel models to test three previously established pathways to prosocial behavior, which we call the "broaden and build", compensation, and incapacity pathways. We also tested whether these three paths are mediated by general wellbeing, and moderated by collective disempowerment, i.e., individuals' belief that external societal forces have made it harder for people like them to function effectively. Participants from 39 countries (N= 59987) were surveyed on their willingness to engage in prosocial behaviors in the context of the pandemic. The "broaden and build" pathway was supported: positive affect was associated with willingness to engage in prosocial behavior via higher well-being. Two (in)capacity paths were also supported: financial strain and negative affect were both negatively associated with prosociality via lower well-being. A compensation pathway was also observed: Controlling for lower well-being, negative affect was associated with greater prosociality. Finally, differences in disempowerment moderated the affective pathways: higher disempowerment strengthened the positive association of positive affect with prosociality via well-being, and buffered the negative affect incapacity path. © (2024), (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana). All rights reserved.

Author Keywords

afecto; affect; bienestar; collective disempowerment; comportamiento prosocial; COVID-19; COVID-19; desempoderamiento colectivo; prosocial behavior; well-being

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Correspondence Address

Zuniga C.; Universidad de ChileChile; email: cczuniga@u.uchile.cl

Publisher: Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

ISSN: 16579267

Language of Original Document: English; Spanish

Abbreviated Source Title: Univ. Psychol.

2-s2.0-105001384155

Document Type: Article

Publication Stage: Final

Source: Scopus

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