SELF-DETERMINATION THEORY AND INTER-ROLE PERFORMANCE: THE MODERATING EFFECTS OF PERCEIVED AUTONOMOUS SUPPORT

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Abstract

The present study tests the theoretical influence of factors from self-determination theory (SDT) including the three facilitators (global aspirations, global motivation and mindfulness), the three needs satisfaction (autonomy, competence and relatedness), and perceived autonomous support (PAS) towards organizational citizenship behaviours (OCB) of 386 New Zealand managers. The theory suggests that individuals with higher SDT dimensions will achieve greater wellbeing, and we extend this towards inter-role performance. Data was collected at two times, separating predictors (time 1) and outcomes (time 2). Towards OCB Individuals, significant direct effects were found from global motivations; need autonomy satisfaction and need relatedness satisfaction, and PAS. Towards OCB Organization, significant direct effects were found from global motivations, and all three need satisfaction dimensions (autonomy, competence and relatedness), and PAS. In addition to direct effects, we tested PAS as a moderator of the three facilitators and three needs satisfaction and two significant interactions were found towards both OCB Individuals and OCB Organization. The interactions towards OCB Individual showed that high PAS was most beneficial when global aspirations were low, with little difference at higher levels of global aspirations. Towards OCB Organization, high PAS was most beneficial, with consistent levels of OCB Organization at all levels of global motivations. The other interactions towards OCB Individuals and Organization were similar, with high PAS and high needs relatedness satisfaction accounting for the highest levels of OCB. Overall, there is strong and consistent support for SDT dimensions influencing the inter-role performance of New Zealand managers.

Introduction

SDT is a motivation theory based on the premise that people actively seek opportunities to develop their fullest potential. As they seek such opportunities, this enhances individuals well-being (Deci & Ryan, 2000; Greguras & Diefendorff, 2009). SDT maintains development is via autonomous striving to broaden knowledge, connect with people, seek challenges, and to integrate these experiences into an authentic sense of self, and crucially, this motivation is regulated by the self (Ryan & Deci, 2008; Vansteenkiste, Neyrinck, Niemiec, Soenens, De Witte & Van den Broeck, 2007; Sheldon & Kasser, 2001; Greguras & Diefendorff, 2009; Deci & Ryan, 2000). SDT is developed via five separate, yet integrated theories of wellbeing. These theories have been integrated into the ‘whole’ theory of SDT and hence, SDT is referred to as meta-theory for framing motivational studies. The meta theory seeks to explain how each of the antecedents to wellbeing, including, Aspirations – the goals a person pursues; Motivation – the degree to which one is intrinsically or extrinsically motivated to undertake work activities, and Mindfulness – present awareness and focus; facilitate the meeting of SDT’s three basic needs for autonomy, competence and relatedness. Each of these is discussed in detail below.

Aspirations

SDT suggests that the goals a person pursues will either enhance, or detract, from wellbeing (Kasser, et al 2007). Hence, SDT emphasizes that the nature of the aspiration that either supports or detracts from wellbeing. Kasser and Ryan (1993, 1996) distinguished between intrinsic aspirations (growth, affiliation, community contribution), and extrinsic aspirations (wealth, image and fame). The terms intrinsic and extrinsic aspirations are used to highlight that some goals are expected to be more closely linked to the satisfaction of the three basic needs of autonomy, competence and relatedness (as outlined further below) than other goals. Goals that are labeled intrinsic are satisfying in their own right hence they provide direct satisfaction of the three basic needs. In contrast, extrinsic goals have an ‘external’ orientation (Williams, et al., 2000) or a ‘having’ orientation (Fromm, 1976; Van Boven & Gilovich, 2003), which are more related to obtaining contingent approval or external signs of worth, and are therefore concerned with external manifestations of importance, rather than with meeting an internal psychological need satisfaction. Previous research concludes that when people are focused on extrinsic goals, they tend to be more oriented toward interpersonal comparisons (Patrick, Ryan & Pintrich, 1999; Lyubomirsky & Ross, 1997; Sirgy, 1998), acquiring external signs of self-worth (Kasser, Ryan,
Couchman & Sheldon, 2004), and unstable self-esteem (Kernis, Brown & Brody, 2000). Consequently, extrinsic goal pursuits can be associated with poorer wellbeing (Sheldon & Kasser, 2008; Kashden & Breen, 2007), reduced empathy and pro-social behavior (Sheldon & Kasser 2001), and less optimal functioning, than intrinsic goal pursuits (Kasser & Ryan, 1996). Alternatively, intrinsic aspirations have been found to relate positively to work related outcomes such as job satisfaction, flexibility and overall positive adjustment (Vansteenkiste et al., 2007). Overall, research finds that intrinsic goal pursuit supports a sense of psychological wellbeing, whereas extrinsic goal pursuit has detrimental outcomes for the individual (Deckop et al., 2010; Sheldon & Filak, 2008; Sheldon, Ryan, Deci & Kasser, 2004; Kasser & Ryan, 2001; Vansteenkiste et al., 2007).

Intrinsic v Extrinsic Motivation

Intrinsic motivation is defined as the engagement in an activity for its own sake, for the satisfaction and enjoyment experienced from undertaking the activity in itself (Gagne & Deci, 2005). An intrinsically motivated employee is fully interested and engaged in the experiences they gain while working. Alternatively, extrinsic motivation is concerned with undertaking an activity in order to obtain an outcome that is separate to the activity. Hence, extrinsically motivated employees would put effort into their jobs to obtain pay, or better their status, or enhance their own self esteem (Vallerand, 1997; Koestner & Losier, 2002, Baard et al., 2004). Therefore, SDT postulates that intrinsic or extrinsic motivation differ in terms of the underlying regulatory processes and assessments a person makes about goal directed behaviour, and their ability to reach their goals within certain contexts. Intrinsic motivation has been associated with active information seeking (Koestner & Losier, 2002), goal attainment (Sheldon & Elliot, 1998), enhanced performance (Amabile, Goldfarb & Brackfield, 1990; Baard et al., 2004), and increased wellbeing (Iardì et al., 1993). Extrinsic motivation has been associated with inconsistent striving towards goals (Koestner, Losier, Vallerand & Carducci, 1996), vulnerability to persuasion (Koestner & Losier, 2002), and impaired performance and persistence because of concentration difficulties (see Vallerand, 1997 for a review).

Mindfulness

SDT suggests that it is through reflective consideration of a person’s goals and motivations that one can come to accept some and reject goals (Ryan et al., 2008). Therefore, SDT asserts that optimal self-functioning requires one’s actions to be self-endorsed. As such, the ability to act reflectively supports the development of self determination (Ryan & Deci, 2008). Therefore, SDT asserts that if people are to take responsibility for their own autonomous functioning, this is based on the “full endorsement of one’s actions, which are based on the mindful reflections that underlie one’s motivation” (Chirkov et al, in press, p.5). When people are mindful and aware of what is really occurring, they are in a better position to make meaningful choices and to act in an integrated manner. Brown and Ryan (2003) recently began empirically investigating the role of awareness in self determined action, through the concept of mindfulness. Mindfulness has had substantial attention regarding its relationship with wellbeing (e.g. Brown & Ryan, 2003; Weinstein, Brown & Ryan, 2009) and stress reduction (e.g. Grossman, Niemann, Schmidt & Walach, 2004; Shapiro, Astin, Bishop & Cordova, 2005). Jimenez, Niles and Park (2010) found support for the important role of mindfulness on wellbeing. Their findings showed that higher levels of mindfulness were associated with higher levels of positive emotions, mood regulation expectancies, and self-acceptance, which in turn, were all negatively related to depressive symptoms. From an SDT perspective, evidence from recent research underscores the importance of mindfulness in promoting autonomous regulation (Ryan et al, 2008). Brown and Ryan (2003) showed at both within and between person levels of analysis, an association between greater mindfulness and autonomous self regulation was evident. More recently, studies have shown that people who are more mindful embrace more intrinsic (relative to extrinsic) values, and experience less discrepancy between what they have and what they want (Brown & Ryan, 2007).

Three Needs Satisfaction

Within SDT the unifying concept of psychological needs provide the “framework for integrating findings” (Deci & Ryan, 2000, p. 263). Specifically, with SDT, a critical issue in the effects of goal pursuit, motivation and goal attainment, concerns the degree to which people are able to satisfy their psychological needs of autonomy, competence and relatedness (Ryan et al., 2008; Sheldon & Niemiec, 2006; Sheldon & Filak, 2008), as these are considered necessary for optimal functioning. The need for autonomy satisfaction is defined as a desire to act with a sense of freedom, choice and volition, that is, to be the creator of one’s actions and to feel psychologically free from control and others expectations (Deci & Ryan, 2000). The need for competence satisfaction represents the desire to feel capable, master the environment and to bring about desired outcomes (Deci & Ryan, 2000). The need for relatedness satisfaction is conceptualised as the inherent predisposition to feel connected to others. That is, to be a member of a group, and to have significant emotional ties, beyond mere attachment, to others (Baumeister & Leary, 1995, Deci & Ryan, 2000). Therefore, the need for relatedness is satisfied if people experience a sense of unity and maintain close relationships with others. Satisfaction of all three needs is considered essential to wellbeing (Deci & Ryan, 2000). Various studies have confirmed the positive versus negative consequences of the satisfaction versus frustration of the basic psychological needs (Deci & Ryan, 2000). The satisfaction of the needs for autonomy, competence and relatedness has been shown to relate positively to employees’ work related wellbeing in terms of task and job satisfaction, work engagement, learning, affective

**Perceived Autonomy Support (PAS)**

SDT proposes that contexts (as well as individual differences listed above) support the satisfaction of psychological needs and wellbeing (Gagne, 2003; Gagne, Ryan, & Bargmann, 2003) Therefore, according to SDT all people have the capacity to pursue growth and development, but whether they succeed or not, can depend on the features of the context within which they seek these opportunities. Within the workplace, motivation and wellbeing are likely to be satisfied within a workplace environment that supports one’s self-determination, and this is termed autonomy supportive (Ryan & Deci, 2008; Sprietzer et al., 2005).

Deci et al. (1989) showed that training managers to maximize subordinates’ opportunities to take initiative, provide informational feedback (non-controlling), and acknowledge the subordinates’ perspectives, improved subordinates’ attitudes and trust in the corporation and the display of other positive work-related attitudes. The researchers found that the level of managers’ autonomy support increased in the intervention sites relative to the control group sites and, even more importantly, that these changes crossed over to their subordinates, who reported increases in perceptions of the quality of supervision, trust in the organization, and job-related satisfaction. Gagne (2003) showed that the level of perceived autonomy support, in a volunteer work organization, related positively to need satisfaction of the volunteers, which in turn related positively to the amount they volunteered for the activity and negatively to their likelihood of leaving the organization. Baard et al. (2004) found support for a model where management autonomy support was related to the satisfaction of employees’ psychological needs, which was related in turn to employee’s higher performance evaluations, engagement in one’s work, and well-being, in both Bulgarian and American samples. Richer and Vallerand (1995) showed that autonomy-supportive supervisors stimulate autonomy and competence satisfaction, whereas controlling supervisors thwart subordinates’ needs. Lynch, Plant and Ryan (2005) found that when change was introduced staff members who perceived greater PAS from their supervisors, showed greater internalised motivation for implementing the change, than did those who experienced their supervisors as more controlling. Gagne, Koestner and Zuckerman, (2000) found positive differences in acceptance for major organisational change, when led by autonomy supportive versus controlling supervisors. Therefore, providing support that an autonomy supportive environment facilitated acceptance of organisational change. Furthermore, Hagger, Chatzisarantis, Barkoukis, Wang, and Baranowski (2005) found that PAS was significantly related to a number of outcomes including attitudes and intentions, across a number of different sample settings (British, Greek, Polish and Singaporean). Consequently, the direct effects of PAS have been supported in a wide range of national settings.

**Organisational Citizenship Behaviours**

Organizational citizenship behaviours (OCB) is defined as “discretionary behaviours that are not directly or explicitly recognized by the formal reward system and that, in the aggregate, promote the effective functioning of the organization” (Organ, 1988, p. 4). It is the extra role behaviour that goes beyond the directed formal obligations described in job description, which is the behaviour that exceeds one’s basic job (Katz & Kahn, 1978). Such behaviour is thought to include employee willingness to follow rules, persist, volunteer, help, and cooperate (Borman and Motowidlo, 1993). However, because of the high competition rates, the standard of employee recruitment has preferred to employ those that can be expected to go the extra mile in the workplace (Chan, Taylor & Markham, 2008). Organ, Podsakoff and MacKenzie (2005) defined OCB as discretionary employee behaviours performed for the benefit of the organization or co-workers that exceed nominal job requirements and not formally recognized by the organization. In that definition, the concept has been classified into two directions: (1) OCB organization (OCBO) and (2) OCB individual (OCBI). Researchers, such as Salam, Cox and Sims (1996), argued that OCB is really interactive and ‘social’ in nature, and should, therefore, also be viewed as an element of team culture.

OCB Individual included self-disciplined behaviour such as following rules, putting forth effort, demonstrating commitment and motivation, and taking the initiative to solve a problem at work (Calson, Witt, Zivnuska, Kacmar & Grzywacz, 2008). It can also include OCBs towards individuals such as helping others, assisting supervisors, taking time listening to others, helping new employees and passing along information to co-workers (Chen, Niu, Wang, Yang & Tsaur, 2009). OCB Organization is composed of interpersonally oriented behaviours that contribute to organizational accomplishment. It will include behaviours that assist in the building and mending of relationships, putting people at ease, encouraging cooperation, increasing consideration of others and expressing compassion and sensitivity (Carlson et al., 2008). It also includes behaviours such as attending non-required meetings and sharing ideas with others that function to keep workers informed of organizational strategies and to engage them in efforts to improve the organization (Lambert, 2000).

**Hypotheses**

We hypothesize a number of direct positive relationships with OCBs as the outcome variables. We test the potential for global aspirations and motivations (intrinsic aspirations/motivations less extrinsic aspirations/motivations) to enhance OCBs, as well as mindfulness being positively related to OCBs. In this regard, workers who aspire to more intrinsic aspirations than extrinsic are more likely to be willing to engage in work roles beyond
their contract. Similarly, workers who are motivated more by intrinsic aspects than extrinsic are more likely to help the organization and colleagues. Furthermore, workers who are more mindful and aware of the present are also more likely to engage in such behaviours.

This leads to our first set of hypotheses.

Hypothesis 1: Higher global aspirations will be positively related to (a) OCB Individual and (b) OCB Organization.

Hypothesis 2: Higher mindfulness will be positively related to (a) OCB Individual and (b) OCB Organization.

Hypothesis 3: Higher global motivations will be positively related to (a) OCB Individual and (b) OCB Organization.

In addition to the three facilitators of SDT (aspirations, mindfulness and motivations), we also test the influence of the three needs satisfaction towards OCBs, suggesting that workers who have their three needs met, are more likely to willing engagement in extra-role behaviours. For example, workers who feel their need for autonomy and freedom in the workplace is being met, might be able to redirect their energies into helping colleagues and the organization, both as a response to social exchange obligations, but perhaps also through having greater time to spend on activities beyond their immediate job requirements. This leads to the next set of direct hypotheses.

Hypothesis 4: Higher need for autonomy satisfaction will be positively related to (a) OCB Individual and (b) OCB Organization.

Hypothesis 5: Higher need for competence satisfaction will be positively related to (a) OCB Individual and (b) OCB Organization.

Hypothesis 6: Higher need for relatedness satisfaction will be positively related to (a) OCB Individual and (b) OCB Organization.

Interaction Effects

SDT studies have found that managers’ autonomy support led to greater satisfaction of the needs for competence, relatedness, and autonomy and, in turn, to more job satisfaction, higher performance evaluations, greater persistence, greater acceptance of organizational change, and better psychological adjustment (Baard et al., 2004; Deci et al., 2001; Gagne’, Koestner & Zuckerman 2000; Ilardi, Leone, Kasser, & Ryan, 1993; Kasser, Davey, & Ryan, 1992; Gange & Deci, 2005). Taken together, studies in organizations have provided support for the propositions that autonomy supportive (rather than controlling) work environments and managerial methods that enhance such, promote basic need satisfaction (explained above), and a number of positive outcomes for organisations such as reduced turnover, effort, commitment, engagement and performance. We suggest that perceived autonomy support (PAS) will moderate the effects of the three facilitators and the three needs satisfaction through enhancing the benefits towards OCBs.

Hypothesis 7: PAS will moderate (enhance) the effects of the three facilitators (a) aspirations, (b) mindfulness, and (c) motivations, towards OCBs.

Hypothesis 8: PAS will moderate (enhance) the effects of the three needs satisfaction (a) autonomy, (b) competence, and (c) relatedness, towards OCBs.

Method

Sample and Procedure

Data were collected from over 250 organizations, spread across a wide regional location in New Zealand. Supervisors and managers were the target of this survey, and a question was included in the front of the survey to confirm they were in a position of authority (supervisor or manager). A total of 418 surveys (from 600) were returned for a response rate of 69.7%. Survey one included items relating to the three facilitators, three needs satisfaction, PAS, as well as demographic variables. Two weeks later survey two was administrated to the same participants (containing the OCB measures) and this was completed by 386 respondents, for an overall response rate of 64.3%. On average, the participants were 37.4 years old (SD=13), 58% were male, married (59%), parents (54%), and union members (12%). Respondents worked 39.7 hours per week (SD=13.4), had job tenure of 5.7 years (SD=6.6) and organizational tenure of 9 years (SD=9.3).

Aspirations were assessed using 30-item Aspirations Index by Kasser (2002), coded 1=not at all, 5=very. Questions followed the stem “Please circle the number that best represents your opinion relating to the following goals or aspirations that you hope to accomplish over the course of your life”. These items relate to six dimensions, which relate to intrinsic aspirations (meaningful relationships, personal growth, and community contributions) and extrinsic aspirations (wealth, fame, and image). Global Aspirations were calculated by subtracting extrinsic aspirations scores from intrinsic aspirations scores. Similarly, Global Motivations were calculated using 18-items by Tremblay, Blanchard, Taylor, Pelletier and Villeneuve (2009), coded 1=does not correspond at all, 5=corresponds exactly. Using the same approach, extrinsic motivations scores were subtracted from intrinsic motivations scores.

Mindfulness was measured using the 15-items of Brown and Ryan (2003), coded 1=never, 5=all of the time. All 15 items are reverse scored to produce a score where the higher score indicates greater mindfulness and awareness of the present.

The three needs satisfaction was measured using 21-items by Deci, Ryan, Gagné, Leone, Usunov, and Kornazheva (2004), coded 1=not at all true, 5=very true. Questions followed the stem “How important is the following to
you…” and items were spread amongst the three needs. Need for Autonomy Satisfaction was measured using 7-items, a sample item is “I feel like I can make a lot of inputs to deciding how my job gets done” (α = .65). Need for Competence Satisfaction was measured using 5-items, a sample item is “People at work tell me I am good at what I do” (α = .63). The item “I have been able to learn interesting new skills on my job” was dropped because it dragged the reliability down too low otherwise (if included α = .52). Need for Relatedness Satisfaction was measured using 8-items, a sample item is “People at work tell me I am good at others who have be

Perceived Autonomous Support was measured by six items by Baard, et al (2004) coded 1=strongly disagree, 5=strongly agree. A sample item is “My manager listens to how I would like to do things” (α = .92). A higher score indicates employees perceive greater support for autonomy.

OCB Individual (OCB Individual) and OCB Organization (OCB Organization) was measured using 8-items each from Lee and Allen (2002). Sample items are “Help others who have been absent” (Individual) and “Offer ideas to improve the functioning of the organization” (Organization), coded 1=never, 5=always.

Analysis

Hierarchical regression analysis was used to analyze the data with OCB Individual and OCB Organization as the criterion variables. Control variables were entered in Step 1 (age, gender, union member, marital status and education) and Step 2 had the three facilitators (global aspirations, mindfulness and global motivations). Step 3 held the three needs satisfaction dimensions (autonomy, competence and relatedness). The potential moderator (PAS) was entered in Step 4, and the interactions between PAS and the six predictor variables (3 facilitators and 3 needs satisfaction) were entered in Step 5. To address issues of multi-collinearity, mean centering of the interaction terms was undertaken (Aiken & West, 1991).

Results

Results of the hierarchical regression for Hypotheses 1 to 8 are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Plots of the interaction terms for OCB Individual (Figures 1 and 2) shows that when global aspirations are low, there is a major difference between respondents, with respondents with high PAS reporting highest OCB Individual levels. This benefit is nullified at high levels of global aspirations. Towards relatedness satisfaction, high levels of PAS are most advantageous at low and high levels of relatedness satisfaction, with highest OCB Individual levels reported at high PAS and high relatedness satisfaction. Plots of the interaction terms for OCB Organization (Figures 3 and 4) shows that at high levels of PAS, the highest OCB Organization levels are achieved at both low and high levels of global motivations. Towards relatedness satisfaction, high levels of PAS are most advantageous at low and high levels of relatedness satisfaction, with highest OCB Organization levels reported at high PAS and high relatedness satisfaction. Overall, these findings provide some support for Hypotheses 7 and 8.

Discussion

The present study is one of the few SDT studies to incorporate the majority of dimensions from the literature, namely the three facilitators, three needs...

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satisfaction, and perceived autonomous support. Overall, the seven SDT dimensions were all significantly correlated with OCB Organization and all but mindfulness were significantly correlated with OCB Individual. This highlights the importance of testing a wider range of SDT predictors than say a single dimension (e.g. motivation). The regression analysis showed that of the three facilitators, only global; motivations was a consistent predictor of OCB behaviour. This supports the links between employees who are more intrinsically motivated engaging in more helpful behaviours, towards both co-workers and the organization at large. There was much stronger support for the three needs satisfaction, with both autonomy and relatedness being significant predictors of both OCB behaviours, while competence was also related to OCB Organization. From the amount of variance accounted for, we can also see the three needs satisfaction dimensions were stronger at predicting OCBs than the three facilitators, although these were fairly close towards OCB Organization. Overall, there was strong support for the direct effects of SDT dimensions towards OCBs.

In addition to the direct effects, the direct effects of perceived autonomous support (PAS) were also support, with this SDT dimension directly influencing OCBs at similar levels of influence (variance) as the three facilitators. In addition to the direct effects of PAS, its potential moderating influence on the other SDT dimensions was tested and found to significantly influence both forms of OCBs. Towards OCB Individual, PAS was only advantageous for workers with low levels of global aspirations, while PAS was beneficial for workers at all levels of relatedness satisfaction, indicating the greatest levels of OCB Individual were achieved by workers perceiving high support for autonomy and having high relatedness satisfaction. The benefits of relatedness satisfaction and PAS is replicated towards OCB Organization, while PAS also benefits global motivations, providing higher OCB Organization at all levels of global motivations. Overall, there is strong support for PAS moderating and enhancing the influence of SDT dimensions towards OCB outcomes. This provides strong support for the SDT literature and supports the testing of PAS as a moderator of other SDT dimensions (specifically the three facilitators and the three needs satisfaction).

Conclusion

Despite the positive findings there are some limitations, including the lack of strong reliability in the needs satisfaction measures, although this seems standard to this particular measure (e.g. Greguras & Diefendorff, 2009). However, overall we have a large sample and the separation of variables (predictors and outcomes) at two distinct time periods reduces the chances for common method variance, as does testing moderating effects of PAS. Furthermore, our wide sample of organizations and leaders enhances the generalizability of our findings, although these are limited to managers only. Future research might seek to explore these effects on employees at all levels of an organization. Overall the present study finds that SDT influences OCBs as expected, and that PAS can have additive benefits through enhancing the direct effects of other SDT dimensions.

References


Table 1. Hierarchical Moderated Regression Analysis for OCB Individual

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† p< .1, * p< .05, ** p< .01, *** p< .001. Standardized regression coefficients. All significance tests were single-tailed.
### Table 2. Hierarchical Moderated Regression Analysis for OCB Organization

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<td>.08***</td>
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<td>Total R²</td>
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<td>4.392****</td>
<td>6.502***</td>
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<td>6.615***</td>
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† p<.1, * p<.05, ** p<.01, *** p<.001. Standardized regression coefficients. All significance tests were single-tailed.
Figure 1. Interaction between Global Aspirations and Perceived Autonomy Support with OCB Individual as Dependent Variable

Figure 2. Interaction between Relatedness Satisfaction and Perceived Autonomy Support with OCB Individual as Dependent Variable
Figure 3. Interaction between Global Motivations and Perceived Autonomy Support with OCB Organization as Dependent Variable

![Graph showing interaction between Global Motivations and Perceived Autonomy Support with OCB Organization as Dependent Variable.]

Figure 4. Interaction between Relatedness Satisfaction and Perceived Autonomy Support with OCB Organization as Dependent Variable

![Graph showing interaction between Relatedness Satisfaction and Perceived Autonomy Support with OCB Organization as Dependent Variable.]

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