

# AUTHORITARIANISM

# AND SOCIAL DOMINANCE AS DIFFERENTIAL PREDICTORS OF COLLECTIVE VIOLENCE BELIEFS IN LEBANON

## AUTHORS

Ramzi Abou-Ismaïl (r.abou-ismail@kent.ac.uk)  
Co-authors: Aleksandra Cichočka, Joseph Phillips, and Nikhil Sengupta

## AFFILIATION

School of Psychology, University of Kent

## RESULTS

- In study 1, SDO predicted an increase in diffuse collective violence (.34  $p < .001$ ) while both SDO and RWA predicted a decrease in targeted collective violence (-.16,  $P < .001$ ; -.17  $p < .001$ ).
- In study 2, both SDO and RWA predicted an increase in diffuse collective violence (.16  $p < .001$ ; .18  $p < .001$ ), while RWA predicted a decrease in targeted collective violence (-.26  $p < .001$ ).

## INTRODUCTION

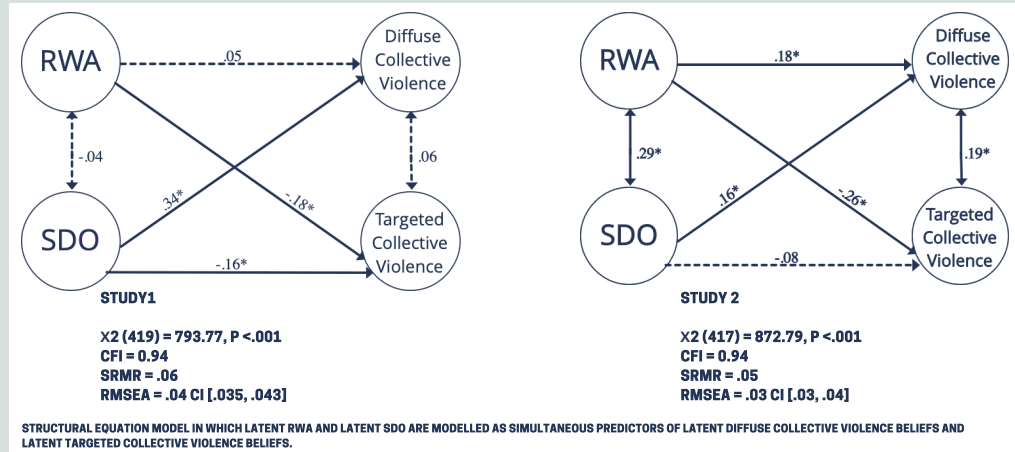
- RWA and SDO are among the most robust predictors of intergroup hostility identified in the political psychology literature. However, WEIRD samples are over-represented. As a result, intergroup phenomena that are less common in WEIRD countries – such as collective violence – remain understudied (Winiewski & Bulska, 2020).
- Moreover, extant research on collective violence is limited to being contextually specific or treating violence as unidimensional.
- We draw on the qualitative differences between RWA and SDO to identify distinct motivational paths that shape support vs opposition to two different forms of collective violence – violence against outgroup members (diffuse) and against outgroup leaders (targeted). (Abou-Ismaïl et al., 2022)

## OBJECTIVE

- This study examines the degree to which RWA and SDO as differential predictors (Duckitt, 2001) predicted support for two different forms of collective violence in Lebanon – diffuse collective violence and targeted collective violence.

## METHODOLOGY

- We surveyed two large, diverse, community samples, broadly representative of Lebanon ( $n = 596$  and  $n = 1035$ ).
- Using SEM, we tested the simultaneous effects of RWA, SDO and demographic covariates, on diffuse and targeted collective violence beliefs, while adjusting for the residual covariance between the two outcomes.



## DISCUSSION

- In line with theorising that RWA connotes support for authority structures, RWA was negatively associated with targeted collective violence in both studies but positively associated with diffuse collective violence in Study 2.
- In contrast, SDO was positively associated with diffuse collective violence in both studies and negatively related to targeted collective violence in Study 1. This suggests RWA and SDO have different implications for collective violence, depending on its nature.

## FUTURE RESEARCH

- Future research that can account for relative ingroup status, the two dimensions of SDO, as well as the two dimensions of collective violence, would help shed light on when the motivation for dominance results in collective violence and when it does not.
- Future research can also extend these findings into new contexts especially if the motivation for conformity and support for authority as indexed in RWA can lead to atypical intergroup outcomes (if the social norms are egalitarian).

## REFERENCES

- Duckitt, J. (2001). A dual-process cognitive-motivational theory of ideology and prejudice. In *Advances in experimental social psychology* (Vol. 33, pp. 41-113). Academic Press.
- Winiewski, M., & Bulska, D. (2020). Beat, Ignore, Force to Conform: Development and Initial Validation of a Multidimensional Scale of Acceptance of Collective Violence. *International Journal of Conflict & Violence*, 14(1).
- Abou-Ismaïl, R., Phillips, J. B., & Sengupta, N. (2022). Developing a New Scale to Measure Individuals' Support for Collective Violence. *PsyArXiv*, April, 7.