

THE ROLE OF CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL IN THE PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL COLLECTIVE ACTION MODEL

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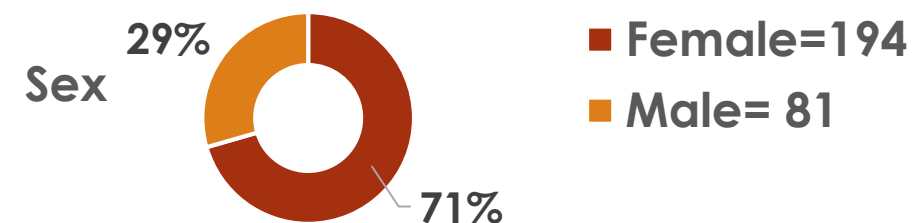
Background

Although climate change has been scientifically proven, this fact is continued to be rejected and preventive actions are not enough. In the present study, the role of climate change denial as a legitimization mechanism on pro-environmental collective action was investigated by modifying the model proposed by the collective action researchers (e.g., van Zomeren, Saguy, & Schellhaas, 2013). Because, we observe that despite climate changes, only a small amount of people initiates campaigns and protests against this. Therefore, we assumed that when people deny climate change, they would not feel the responsibility to eradicate that, and consequently the climate change denial would decrease the efficacy perceptions. Then, we assumed that the extent to participate in pro-environmentalist collective actions would increase when identification with environmentalists increase. Thus, a two-staged mediation model was developed.



Method

The study included 275 Turkish participants aged between 18 and 78 years ($M_{age} = 28.57$; $SD = 10.36$). The participants were asked to complete the scales of Environmentalist Identity and Pro-environmental Collective Action adapted from Gezici Yalçın, Uluğ, and Çakal (2017). In addition, the scales of Individual/Participative-Collective Efficacy adapted from van Zomeren et al. (2013) and Climate Change Denial (Häkkinen & Akrami, 2014) were applied online.



Results

Path analysis was run by AMOS 23 (IBM, 2015). According to fit indices, the hypothesized model fit in the data well ($\chi^2 = 2.819$, $df = 1$, $p = .093$; $CMIN/DF = 2.82$, $GFI = .99$, $CFI = .99$, $RMSEA = .08$, $SRMR = .008$). Results indicated that climate change denial predicted collective efficacy ($\beta = -.19$, $p < .01$), but not individual/participative efficacy. Whereas collective efficacy beliefs predicted pro-environmentalist collective action via environmentalist identity, individual/participative efficacy beliefs had indirect (via environmentalist identity) and direct effect ($\beta = .17$, $p < .01$) on pro-environmentalist collective action (both participation in protests and in petition campaigns).

Discussion

The results concur with the findings of van Zomeren et al. (2013) that believing in “making difference” to collective efforts is a unique predictor of pro-environmentalist collective action.

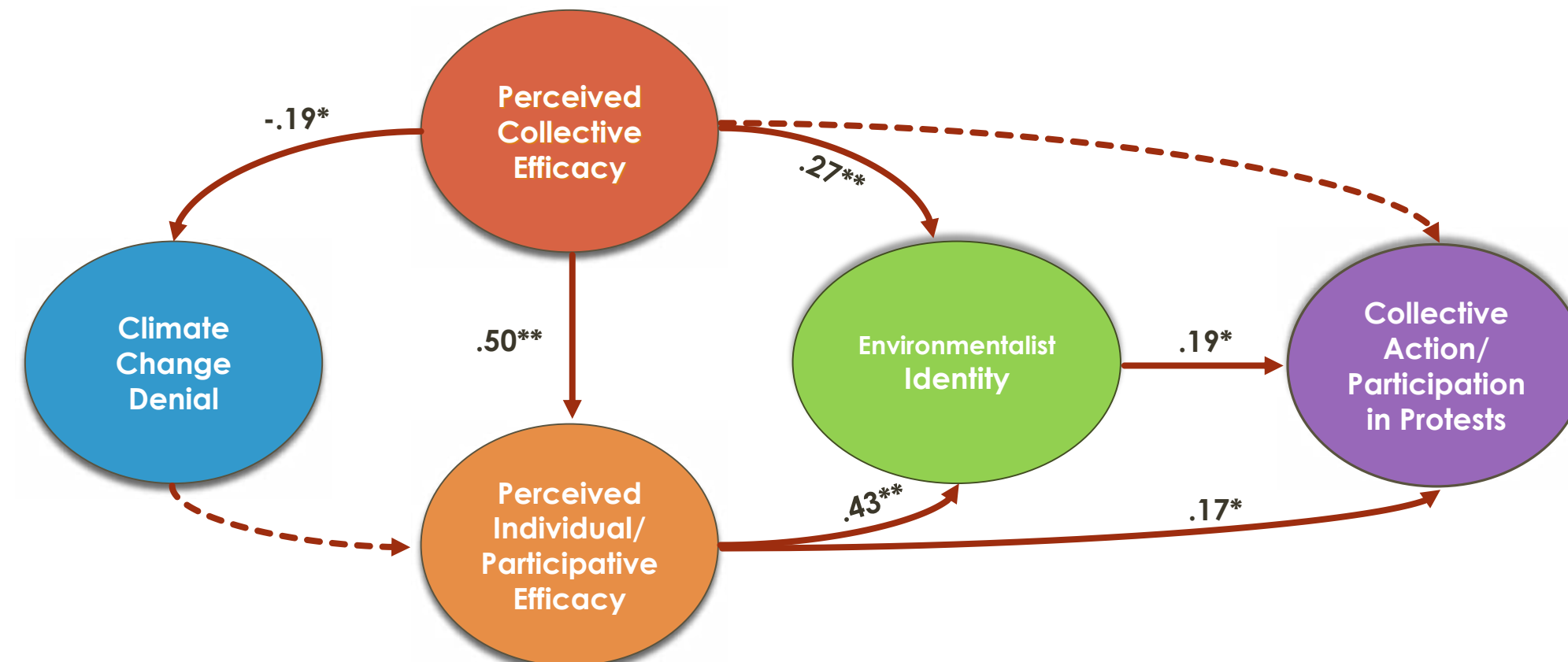


Figure 1

Standardized regression coefficients for the predictors of participation in protests ($N = 275$); * $p < .01$, ** $p < .001$

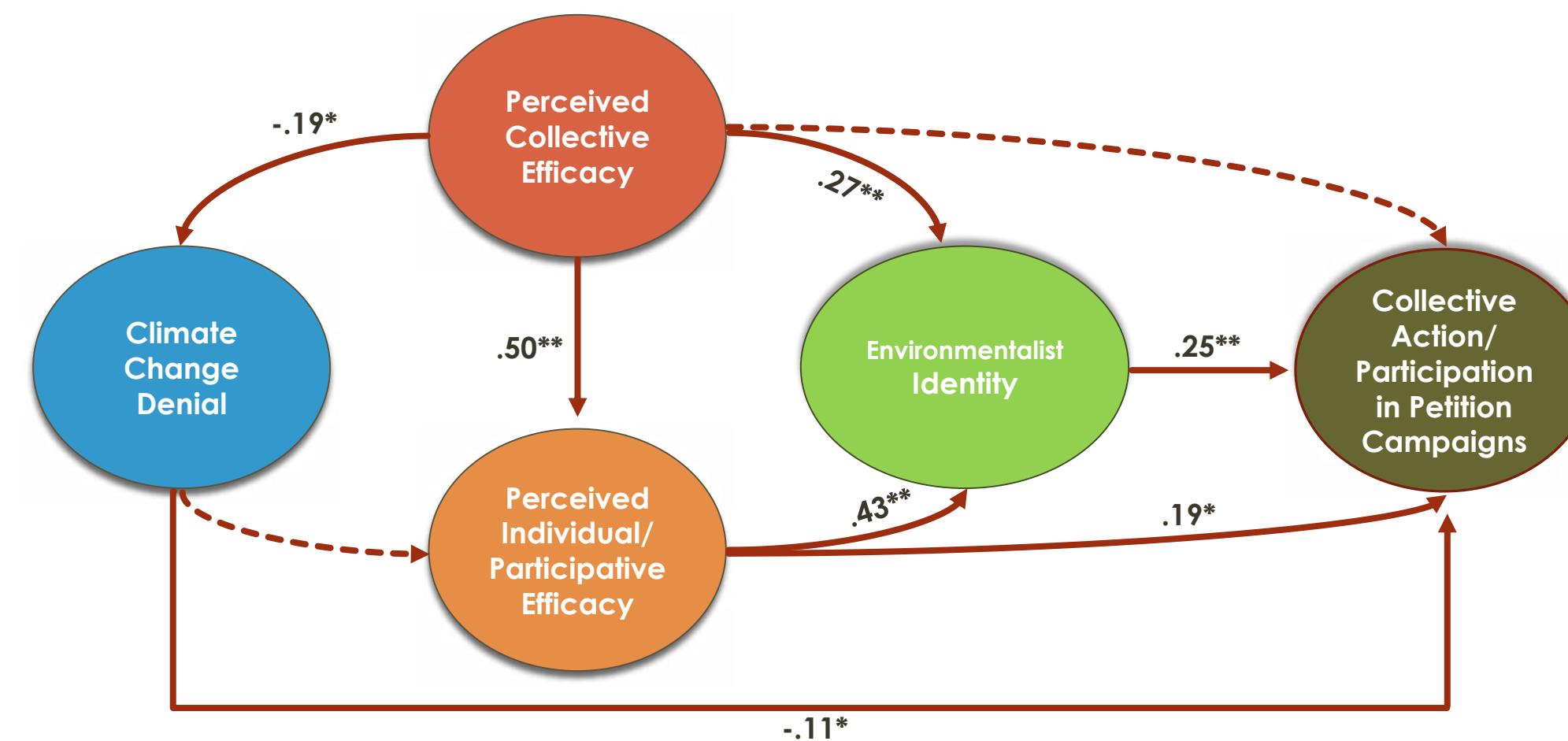


Figure 2

Standardized regression coefficients for the predictors of signing a petition ($N = 275$); * $p < .01$, ** $p < .001$

References

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- Van Zomeren M, Saguy T, & Schellhaas F.M.H. (2013). Believing in “making a difference” to collective efforts: participative efficacy beliefs as a unique predictor of collective action. *Group Process and Intergroup Relations*, 16, 618– 634.

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