

# Relationship between Social Dominance Orientation and Empathic Preoccupation in Adolescence Empathic Concern in Adolescence

José Pablo Pezoa Sandoval<sup>1,2</sup>, Paula Luengo Kanacri<sup>3</sup>  
Pontifical Catholic University of Chile

Poster presented at the X Annual Congress of the Chilean Scientific Society of Psychology, organized by the Universidad de La Frontera, Campus Pucón, Chile, November 13-15, 2024.

¿Do more empathic people tend to have greater equality orientation? Although the longitudinal relationship between empathic concern (PE) and social dominance orientation (SDO) has been studied previously, there are no conclusive results regarding the directionality of the relationship. While evidence shows that PE predicts lower levels of SDO (e.g., Sidanius et al., 2013), others find that the relationship is positive (e.g., Trifiletti et al., 2019).

The present study uses a cross-lagged model to explore the longitudinal cross-lagged relationship between PE and SDO in second cycle elementary school students ( $N_{t1} = 214$ ;  $M_{age\ t1} = 12.2$ ) measured in three waves six months apart. The results show that PE has a longitudinally invariant effect for both periods on the proegalitarian dimension of SDO ( $B = -.155$ ,  $p = .001$ ). Inversely SDO, does not have an effect on PE over time, beyond the stability of the constructs and their cross-sectional association. Probably, the socialization processes that characterize adolescence make it easier for those who care more about others to have less hedonistic social goals, which allows them to know in more detail the situation of people in lower hierarchical positions, and to support to a lesser extent the dominance of certain groups over others. These results will be discussed in light of the development of interventions to decrease SDO through the promotion of empathy. Considering the stability of these constructs, such interventions may contribute to an increase in prosocial behaviors and a decrease in the generalized prejudice of the intervened persons in the long term.

Keywords: Social Dominance Orientation, SDO, Empathic Concern.

---

<sup>1</sup> [jppezoa@uc.cl](mailto:jppezoa@uc.cl)

<sup>2</sup> The support of the Doctoral Program in Psychology of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile is acknowledged.

<sup>3</sup> [bluengo@uc.cl](mailto:bluengo@uc.cl)