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The role of identification strength and sense of community in Asian American's participation in resistance against racism

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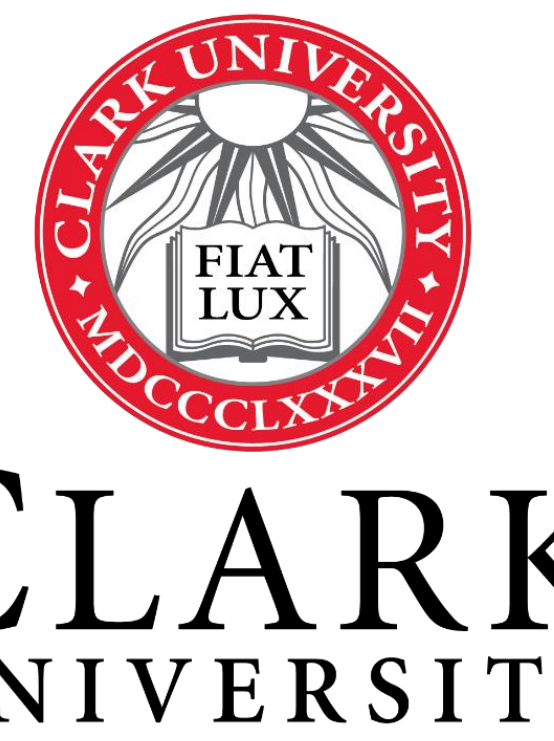
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The Role of Identification Strength When efficacy is a mediating effect in Asian American's Participation in Resistance Against Racism

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Introduction

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the hate crime against Asian people dramatically increased. According to the AP-NORC survey, 60 percent of Americans reported that discrimination against Asians has increased compared to the previous years (Knapp, 2021). Existing research suggests that under the influence of a crisis such as a natural disaster or a war, social injustice is highlighted, leading to the creation of collective emotions and, at the same time, the formation of group identity. This new identity often feeds into the oppressed people's beliefs about collective efficacy and leads them to engage in large-scale group resistance (Vestergren, & Uysal 2022). Resistance to collective victimization, such as racism, is any act that undermines the oppressors' goals (which is to maintain the current power structure; (Vollhardt et al., 2020). Group identity influences group resistance by facilitating group efficacy, while group identity also directly promotes group resistance activity. (van Zomeren, Leach & Spears., 2012)

Based on this framework, the current survey research attempts to investigate a) whether resistance among Asian Americans could be predicted by group efficacy and strength of group identity during the wave of anti-Asian hate crimes during the pandemic and b) whether the effect of collective identity strength on resistance would be mediated by collective efficacy belief. In addition, the current survey examined two types of resistance: everyday resistance and organized resistance. Everyday resistance refers to those acts of resistance that occur in daily activities that do not seemingly subvert the existing power structures but covertly challenge the dominant narratives (Rosales & Langhout, 2019). Organized resistance refers to coordinated movements that are visible (e.g., protests). We aimed to examine the effects of our independent variables on both everyday resistance and organized resistance.



Method

The data was collected through Prolific (an online data collection platform) from November 2021 to January 2022.

Participants: 220 Asian Americans ($M_{age} = 33.17$, $SD = 10.08$, 108 female, 110 male, 2 other); 77 Chinese, 32 Vietnamese, 22 Koreans, 20 Filipinos, 16 Indians, 16 Japanese, 14 Taiwanese, 7 Pakistani, 2 Indonesians, 1 Khmer, 1 Malaysian, 1 Thai, 1 Tibetan, 11 mixed; 165 participants were US citizens at birth (2 refused to report).

Measures: *Identification strength* (e.g., "How much do you feel a sense of belonging with other Asian Americans?"), *collective efficacy* (e.g., "We, as Asian Americans, can successfully fight to achieve our goal of overcoming oppression."); *organized resistance* (e.g., "I am willing to participate in a political event (e.g., talk, march) specific to the Asian community."); *everyday resistance* (e.g., "I publicly respond to other's online postings about racial discrimination against Asian Americans."); *control variables* (age, political orientations, education and income level)

Discussion

This survey demonstrated the strength of identification among Asian Americans predicts both organized and everyday resistance. However, the current results failed to show the mediating role of collective efficacy. social identity has a direct effect on both organized and everyday resistance. This may be due to the presence of additional factors that affect resistance, such as anger or a sense of loss (van Zomeren, Leach & Spears., 2012). The effect of collective efficacy alone might not have been strong enough to mediate the effect of identity strength on resistance.

Regardless, the results showed that identification strength and collective efficacy are important predictors of different types of resistance. Future research should pay more attention to whether there are additional mediating variables between resistance and social identity. Also, more insight would be gained by obtaining cross-sectional comparisons, which examine the difference between ethnic groups and other cultural and environmental factors.

Results

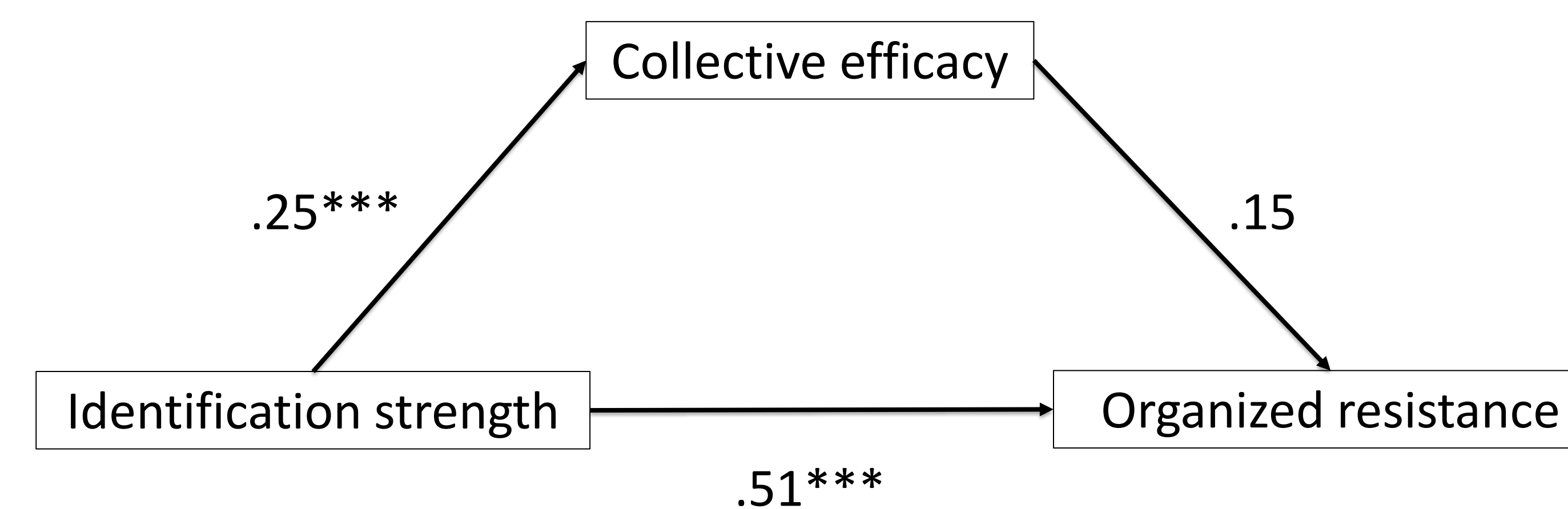


Figure 1. Standardized regression coefficients for the relationship between identification strength and organized resistance as mediated by collective efficacy. Indirect effect = .04 was not significant: 95% CL [-.0238, .1058]. *** $p < .001$. ** $p < .01$. * $p < .05$.

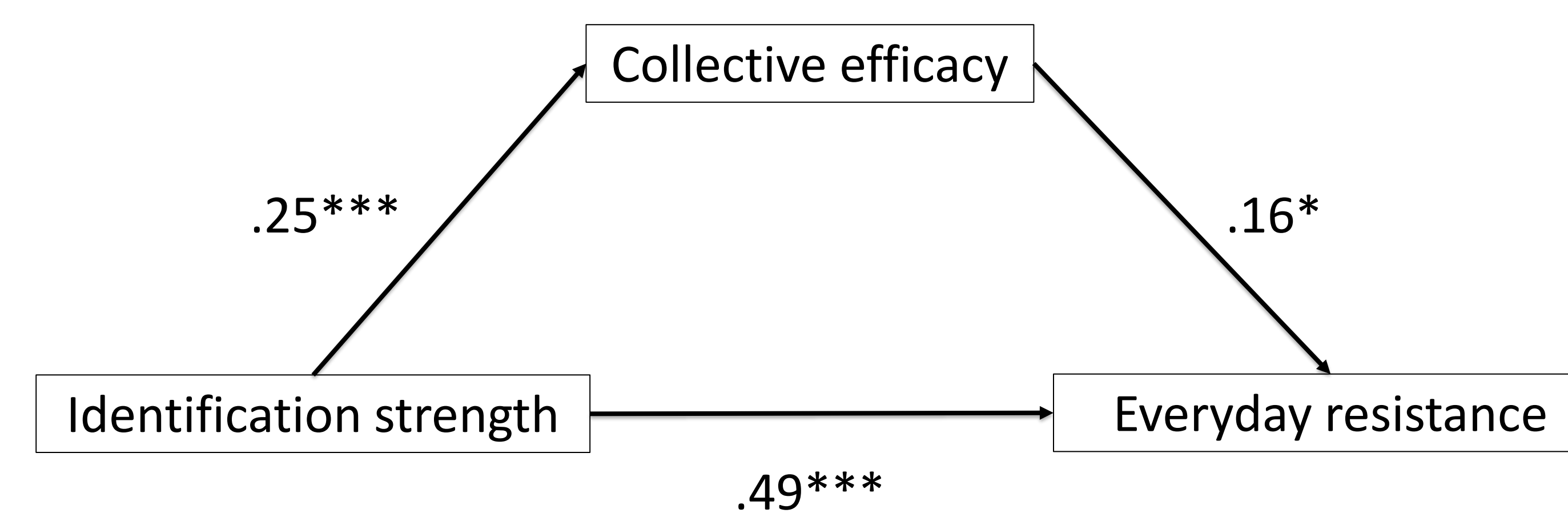


Figure 2. Standardized regression coefficients for the relationship between identification strength and everyday resistance as mediated by collective efficacy. Indirect effect = .04 was not significant: 95% CL [-.0084, -.0984]. *** $p < .001$. ** $p < .01$. * $p < .05$.

Reference

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