

Abstract for review

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Immigrant charitable volunteering: The effect of public service motivation

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Abstract:

Scholars have examined the behavioral implications of public service motivation (PSM) and converged their arguments that individuals with a higher level of PSM have a stronger tendency to serve others and engage in the production of public goods both inside and outside of organizational context (Perry & Wise, 1996; Brewer 2003; Houston, 2006). PSM is essentially altruistic and disengaged from self-interested behavior driven by a sense of duty or moral binding that manifests in individuals as a strong feeling toward helping others. As such, the behavioral outcomes of PSM are comprehensive ranging from sector choice, job satisfaction, performance, organizational effectiveness, and prosocial behavior.

Although the behavioral consequences of PSM are well documented in the literature, examining the association between PSM and prosocial behavior such as volunteering is a recent research endeavor. Particularly, the influence of PSM on distinctive volunteering practices by immigrants formal volunteering versus informal volunteering are understudied. This study empirically investigates whether and how PSM affects immigrant volunteering. It focuses on three primary dimensions of PSM, including rational, normative, and civic duty, and relates their

respective influences on formal volunteering vis-à-vis informal volunteering. Although both formal and informal volunteer activities are based upon the predisposition to help others, these activities are distinct by formality. While formal volunteering refers to any donation of unpaid time to any organizations and established entities, informal volunteering indicates any assistance made directly to non-household individuals, including neighbor and friends (Lee & Brudney, 2012). Based on data from the Korean-American Philanthropic Survey, a bivariate probit regression model is constructed to estimate the influence of PSM on immigrant volunteering practices. This regression method was used to estimate these two types of volunteering simultaneously by using the correlation parameter ρ . The use of two binary probit models that estimate two single equations for two decisions ignores the possible correlation between error terms in the two equations (Greene, 2007).

The empirical results showed some positive behavioral consequences of PSM on volunteering. However, the effects differed by the dimensions of PSM and formality of volunteering. To detail, civic duty is a strong predictor for both formal volunteering and informal volu

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