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Negative Appraisals and Experiences of Thriving and Burnout at Work and School During the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Moderating Effect of Embeddedness

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NEGATIVE APPRAISALS AND EXPERIENCES OF THRIVING AND BURNOUT AT
WORK AND SCHOOL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE MODERATING
EFFECT OF EMBEDDEDNESS

by

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B.S. May 2019, University of Utah

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ABSTRACT

NEGATIVE APPRAISALS AND EXPERIENCES OF THRIVING AND BURNOUT AT WORK AND SCHOOL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE MODERATING EFFECT OF EMBEDDEDNESS

Kate Noel Warnock
Old Dominion University, 2022
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The current study examines the effects of negative appraisals of COVID-19 on thriving and burnout, and whether embeddedness moderates these effects. Specifically, I examined whether negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work and school are related to less thriving and more burnout in the respective domains, and whether the predicted effects of negative appraisals of COVID-19 on thriving and burnout were stronger among those who reported more embeddedness in their job or major compared to those who are less embedded. Additionally, I investigate potential spillover effects of negative COVID-19 appraisals in one domain into the thriving and burnout in the other domain. Survey data from employed college students were used to test the hypotheses. I expected negative appraisals of COVID-19 to negatively impact one's ability to thrive in both the work and school domains, and to be related to higher rates of burnout in both domains. It was also expected that employed students who are well embedded in their job or major would be protected against these effects, such that they would experience more thriving and less burnout in spite of their negative appraisals of COVID-19. I also expected to see spillover effects of negative appraisals of COVID-19 from one domain onto the outcomes in the other domain. Results showed support for the matching- and cross-domain hypotheses; negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work and school showed negative relationships with thriving and positive relationships with burnout in both domains. However, the moderating effects of major

embeddedness were not significant, and the moderating effect of job embeddedness was positive rather than negative, as hypothesized. This suggests that the association between negative appraisals of COVID-19 and thriving at work was strengthened by job embeddedness. University administrators and organizational leaders should focus on reducing demands and increasing resources for students or employees, especially while the pandemic continues, to promote thriving and prevent burnout. Further, additional attention should be paid to highly embedded employees, as they may require even more resources during times of high demand.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (2020) pronounced the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus a pandemic. Following this announcement, colleges and universities across the United States responded by closing campuses (*COVID-19: Higher Education Resource Center – Entangled Solutions*, 2020), and cancelling classes or moving classes online (*COVID-19 Data Dashboard*, n.d.). In fact, nearly 73% of students enrolled at a college or university took their courses partially or fully online following campus closures - a drastic change from 2019, during which almost the same percentage of students (63%) did not take any online classes (Lederman, 2021). These institutional responses presented challenges and changed the academic experience for many college students. For example, many students were forced to delay their graduation, withdraw from classes, or change their major (Aucejo et al., 2020). Additionally, students faced challenges with adapting to different teaching and assessment methods used in virtual learning, discontinued support services from the college or university, and restrictions on travel limiting participation in conferences, competitions, or overseas study programs (Sahu, 2020).

Although researchers have begun to investigate the psychological impacts of these changes on the motivation and well-being of college students at large (Browning et al., 2021; Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium, 2020; Son et al., 2020; Usher et al., 2020), research has yet to understand the unique challenges that working college students are facing during the pandemic. Among both full- and part-time college students, close to 70% hold a job while in school (Carnevale & Smith, 2018). The circumstances and experiences of dual-role students are especially important to examine during the COVID-19 pandemic, as their involvement in two

domains of daily life (i.e., school and work) that are heavily impacted by the pandemic puts them at increased risk for disruptions to their motivation and well-being (Bakker & van Wingerden, 2021). For example, the pandemic may impact students' ability to form relationships with their peers, instructors, and advisors at school (Vaterlaus et al., 2021), and their supervisors and coworkers at work (Paychex, 2020). The pandemic may also threaten students' financial aid or scholarships (Smalley, 2021) or their pay, benefits, or job security at work (Adisa et al., 2021; Parker et al., 2020).

Current research on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on college students has shown that many students reported decreases to their motivation and ability to focus on schoolwork, and thus had lower confidence in their academic abilities (Usher et al., 2020). Additionally, the pandemic has had significant impacts on the mental health of college students, with several reports indicating that students have experienced higher-than-normal levels of stress, anxiety, and loneliness (Browning et al., 2021; Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium, 2020; Son et al., 2020). Further, students have also reported negative changes to their sleeping and eating patterns (Son et al., 2020), decreases in physical activity (Browning et al., 2021), as well as increases in consumption of alcohol (Buckner et al., 2021) since the pandemic was declared.

The working world faced similar disruptions due to COVID-19. During the pandemic, telework became the "new normal" for many employees, with 50% of organizations reporting that at least 81% of their employees were working from home, and this rapid transition to remote work disrupted work life through changes to work-life balance, leadership, and teamwork and coworker interactions (Baker, 2020). Further, for many, working conditions deteriorated due to the shift to telework, including issues such as limited work space, poor internet connectivity, and

syndrome comprised of emotional exhaustion, cynicism, and negative self-evaluation (Leiter & Maslach, 2018). Emotional exhaustion, defined as a feeling that one is no longer able to provide psychological effort, represents the core dimension of burnout (Maslach & Jackson, 1981), and as such, this dimension will be the focus of the current study. Burnout has not only been found to occur in the work domain (Maslach et al., 2001), but also in the school domain (Schaufeli et al., 2002; Schramer et al., 2020).

Additionally, the JD-R model outlines the positive association between job resources and motivation. Job resources are defined as physical, psychological, social, or organizational factors related to the job that aid to achieve goals, reduce job demands, and stimulate growth, learning, and development (Bakker & Demerouti, 2017). Motivation is most often operationalized as work engagement (Schaufeli & Taris, 2014), but can also be operationalized as other motivational outcomes such as commitment and flourishing (Bakker & Demerouti, 2017).

One motivational outcome that has yet to be tested in the JD-R framework is thriving at work. Thriving at work is defined as a feeling of both vitality and continual learning at work that stimulates growth and development (Spreitzer et al., 2005). This construct fits well within the motivational path of JD-R because it relates conceptually and empirically with work engagement (Kleine et al., 2019), but goes beyond the scope of work engagement by including the aspect of learning in addition to subjective vitality (Spreitzer et al., 2005). While work engagement has been previously found to apply to university students (Schaufeli et al., 2002), the current study will uniquely extend the application of thriving to the school domain. Further, grounded in the JD-R framework and drawing upon Lazarus and Folkman's (1987) transactional model of stress and coping, the current study will examine how negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work and school relate to working students' thriving and burnout in both their work and school lives.

major embeddedness would moderate these relationships, such that job and major embeddedness would weaken the relationships between negative appraisals of COVID-19 and thriving at burnout. And finally, I expected that spillover effects would be present, such that negative appraisals of COVID-19 in one domain (i.e., work or school) would be negatively related to thriving and positively related to burnout in the other domain. The proposed relationships are modeled in Figure 1 below.

To test the proposed hypotheses, I used archival survey data that I collected in April of 2021 from 216 working students at a large, public university in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. Zero-order correlations were examined, and path analyses were conducted to evaluate the main and moderating effects within the proposed model.

There are several potential theoretical contributions of the current study. First, this study attempted to understand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of working college students, an underrepresented population in the COVID-19 literature, by examining how the extent to which working college students appraise the COVID-19 pandemic as threatening and harmful to their work and academics can impact their ability to thrive and their likelihood to experience burnout in both their student and employee roles. Second, this study represented a first attempt to incorporate thriving as a motivational outcome into the broader JD-R framework. Further, this study was the first to test thriving in the school context. Third, this study also examined job and major embeddedness as resources that can buffer the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student motivation and well-being. The construct of embeddedness has been described as an amalgam of resources (Hobfoll, 2014; Wheeler et al., 2012), but has not yet been tested within the JD-R framework. Finally, the study was uniquely positioned to uncover potential spillover effects that may have added additional burden to working college students as

and mastery, allowing for between-person variance in this thriving dimension. The definition of learning through mastery and growth as presented in the thriving at work model (Spreitzer et al., 2005) is a distinct concept from simply gaining information, because it implies that what is learned feeds back into the task to improve performance over time (Dweck, 1986). Therefore, even though a student may be completing coursework, they may still lack a sense of growth and development, and rather feel that they are only checking off boxes toward the completion of a degree. It is thus the perception that the knowledge and skills one is mastering are leading to progress and development that will foster a sense of thriving (Spreitzer et al., 2005).

The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed new academic demands and threatened resources for university students and has likely compromised thriving at school for many students. Specifically, the pandemic created hindrance demands for university students including unclear instruction in online courses and isolation (Tasso et al., 2021), increased concerns about academic performance (Son et al., 2020), decreased instructional quality and communication (Usher et al., 2020), limited access to library services, technology, and counseling services, and limited interactions with peers and instructors (Zhou & Zhang, 2021). The proposed study seeks to examine how students' appraisals of these COVID-19-related threats and harms to school life and academics affect their thriving at school.

BURNOUT

Job Burnout

Burnout is defined as a psychological syndrome in response to chronic job stressors, characterized by emotional exhaustion, feelings of cynicism toward work, and a sense of reduced professional efficacy (Maslach & Jackson, 1981). Emotional exhaustion is the central facet of burnout (Maslach et al., 2001), and is defined as a feeling of being strained mentally and/or

often reported by those experiencing burnout (Maslach et al., 2001). For these reasons, emotional exhaustion is the most frequently analyzed dimension of burnout (Maslach et al., 2001).

Consequently, the current study will focus on the emotional exhaustion dimension of burnout in working college students.

School Burnout

Burnout is a syndrome that is also relevant to university students (Schaufeli, Martínez, et al., 2002), and school burnout has been shown to have a similar nomological network as job burnout (Moneta, 2011). Burnout at school would entail becoming emotionally exhausted, cynical, and pessimistic about one's performance in response to school stressors. In line with job burnout, school burnout is also a predictor of student turnover intention (Moneta, 2011), and academic workload is a commonly reported antecedent of school burnout for students (Cushman & West, 2006; Jacobs & Dodd, 2003). Other factors such as daily hassles (Shankland et al., 2019) and instructor attitudes and behaviors (Cushman & West, 2006) have also been shown to be associated with higher levels of burnout in college students. Additionally, personal characteristics of students have also been linked to school burnout. Some of these identified personal characteristics include negative temperament (Jacobs & Dodd, 2003), verbal aggression (Yaratan & Uludag, 2012), mental and physical health, and lack of personal motivation (Cushman & West, 2006).

Research has also identified numerous internal and external factors that are preventative of school burnout. In regard to internal factors, need for achievement (Moneta, 2011), coping flexibility (Gan et al., 2007), and self-efficacy (Capri et al., 2012) have been linked to decreases in school burnout. External factors such as social support (Jacobs & Dodd, 2003; Kim et al., 2018), teacher support for autonomy (Ljubin-Golub et al., 2020), and participation in

extracurricular activities (Jacobs & Dodd, 2003) have been identified as protective factors against school burnout.

THE JOB DEMANDS-RESOURCES MODEL

Since its inception, the job demands-resources (JD-R) model has inspired hundreds of empirical studies (Bakker & Demerouti, 2017). The JD-R model (Demerouti et al., 2001) was originally proposed as a model of burnout, asserting that burnout could occur in any profession when the job demands are high and the job resources are low, because job demands deplete one's energy, and lack of resources hinder one's motivation. This model of burnout differs from the prominent conceptualization of burnout proposed by Maslach and Jackson (1981) in that it specifies the unique contributions of job demands and resources to the development of burnout, while also maintaining a broad conceptualization of job demands and resources in order to allow the model to be applied to any occupation (Demerouti et al., 2001).

The model was expanded to include work engagement in addition to burnout as an outcome of job demands and job resources (Schaufeli & Bakker, 2004). This expanded model proposed that work engagement acted as a counterpart to burnout, following from reduced job demands and increased job resources (Schaufeli & Taris, 2014). Additionally, the expanded model positioned burnout and work engagement as mediators between job demands and job resources and the negative and positive outcomes of health problems and decreased turnover intentions, respectively (Schaufeli & Bakker, 2004). This expansion of the JD-R model put a positive psychology twist on the original model and acted as the basis upon which additional expansions were built.

The next version of the JD-R model organized the components in two dual pathways that ultimately impacted organizational outcomes: the health-impairment pathway and the motivation

performance as an organizational outcome dependent on the motivation and health-impairment pathways (Bakker et al., 2014). The most current version of the JD-R model maintains most of the previous model, only adding self-undermining as the mediating construct between strain and job demands in the feedback loop of the health-impairment pathway (Bakker & Demerouti, 2017). Recent meta-analyses have found that JD-R is an excellent theoretical basis through which to evaluate employee well-being (Lesener et al., 2019), and that the additive model proposed through JD-R (i.e., job demands and resources have unique, non-interactive main effects on strain) fit the meta-analytic data of over 141,000 individuals better than multiplicative models suggested by theories such as the job demands-control model (Gonzalez-Mulé et al., 2020; Karasek, 1979).

Job Demands

Job demands are defined as physical, psychological, and social aspects of a job that lead to sustained physical or psychological effort (Bakker & Demerouti, 2017). Job demands can include job characteristics such as work overload, risks and hazards, and job complexity (Schaufeli & Taris, 2014). Job demands can be characterized as either challenges or hindrances. Challenge demands, while perceived as pressuring and straining, are also seen to be rewarding and worth the effort to overcome, and thus can positively impact employee motivation while also increasing strain (Crawford et al., 2010). Challenge stressors can include demands such as time pressure, high levels of responsibility, and high workload. Conversely, hindrance demands are those which mainly impose restraints and unnecessary difficulty on one's tasks and impede goal accomplishment, without leading to any sense of growth or achievement, thus only increasing strain (Cavanaugh et al., 2000; Crawford et al., 2010). Examples of hindrance stressors include role conflict and ambiguity, daily hassles, and organizational bureaucracy and politics (Crawford

et al., 2010). As mentioned previously, the COVID-19 pandemic created demands in the workplace that were excessive and hindered the completion of previous and newly-imposed responsibilities (Ipsen et al., 2020). Thus, the demands brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic are likely to act as hindrance stressors for many workers, and thus contribute to increased strain and decreased motivation.

Job Resources

Job resources are defined as job aspects that aid in achieving work goals and stimulate learning and growth (Bakker & Demerouti, 2017). Job resources can include performance feedback, job control, and supervisor support (Demerouti et al., 2001). In the JD-R model, job resources serve two purposes. First, job resources begin the motivation process, which suggests that abundant job resources lead to motivation, often operationalized as work engagement, which in turn impact organizational outcomes such as performance and organizational commitment (Schaufeli & Taris, 2014). Second, job resources can also act as a buffer to excessive job demands, protecting against psychological strain, such as burnout (Bakker et al., 2005).

Burnout within the JD-R Model

The original JD-R model (Demerouti et al., 2001) was a model of burnout, indicating that job demands were most highly correlated with the emotional exhaustion dimension of burnout, and low job resources associated with cynicism (Bakker & Demerouti, 2017). Later, the model was further defined to include two processes—the health-impairment process and the motivational process (Bakker et al., 2003). Burnout was then positioned as the outcome of the health-impairment process as an indicator of the strain that results from high job demands that exhaust mental and physical resources (Bakker et al., 2005). Further, recent a meta-analysis has

enthusiasm about their tasks, and absorption in their job or school work, respectively (Schaufeli, Martínez, et al., 2002; Schaufeli & Bakker, 2003). Thriving, which is made up of vitality and learning, is similar to engagement in that they both contain an aspect of high energy—in engagement this is labeled as vigor, and in thriving this is named vitality. However, engagement lacks the aspect of learning that makes up the second dimension of thriving. This is an important distinction because individuals can be engaged in their tasks, energized in the moment by their job or school work, but still not see themselves as learning (Porath et al., 2012). Thriving is a sense of progress or development that leads one to grow (Spreitzer et al., 2005). Thus, while thriving is similar to engagement and other constructs that fit in the motivation pathway of JD-R (e.g., commitment, flourishing, etc.; Bakker & Demerouti, 2017; Spreitzer et al., 2005) due to its consideration of vitality and positive relationship with resources, it is different in its focus on the combination of both energy *and* growth.

THE TRANSACTIONAL THEORY OF STRESS AND COPING

The transactional theory of stress and coping (Lazarus & Folkman, 1987) posits a two-part appraisal process that is applied to the experience of significant events before they are deemed as either stressful or not stressful. First, the encounter is evaluated for its relevance to the individual's well-being. Primary appraisal can take three forms: harm (something is already lost), threat (expected future harm), and challenge (opportunity for gain). Secondary appraisal includes evaluating if the individual possesses enough resources to cope with the event. Stress, finally, is experienced when the change is perceived in the primary appraisal as a harm or threat, and when, in the secondary appraisal, the resources for possible coping strategies are deemed insufficient.

This theory pairs well with the JD-R model, as it describes the appraisal process that delineates how workplace attributes are appraised as demands. Additionally, in line with

H8: Major embeddedness will moderate the positive relationship between negative appraisals of COVID-19 at school and school burnout, such that the effects of negative appraisals of COVID-19 at school on school burnout will be weaker for those who are more embedded in their majors.

SPILOVER

Spillover is the within-person passing of strain from one domain of life to another (Bakker & Demerouti, 2018). Spillover occurs when stressors from one domain impact outcomes in a different domain (Bakker & Demerouti, 2012). According to the work-home resource model, demands in one domain affect outcomes in another domain by reducing personal resources (ten Brummelhuis & Bakker, 2012). However, the influence of stressors on outcomes in different domains is not as strong as the influence of stressors on outcomes within the same domain (Amstad et al., 2011). While spillover is usually studied in the context of work-home conflict (Eby et al., 2005), ten Brummelhuis and Bakker (2012) advocate for the utility of the work-home resource model in other non-work contexts, especially the school context. Hence, for the current study, I will examine the spillover effects of stressors on motivation and strain between the domains of work and school. More specifically, I aim to investigate how negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work are related to thriving at school and school burnout, and, also, how negative appraisals of COVID-19 at school affect thriving at work and job burnout.

Work-to-School Spillover Hypotheses. Work-to-school spillover occurs when work demands begin to impact school outcomes (ten Brummelhuis & Bakker, 2012). The experience of demands at work depletes personal resources, such as time, energy, and affect (ten Brummelhuis & Bakker, 2012), and this depletion of personal resources creates difficulty for the individual in managing additional demands, including those in different domains, such as school

Work/Study Hours. Meta-analytic findings indicated that number of work hours could be one of the most significant predictors of burnout (Lim et al., 2010). As such, many empirical studies have examined the relationship between work hours and burnout (e.g., Bergeron et al., 2014; Beschoner et al., 2020; Deng et al., 2017; Gabbe et al., 2008; Gingras et al., 2010). For this reason, the current study included a question that asked participants for the number of hours they typically worked per week. Additionally, a question asking participants to indicate the number of hours typically spent on schoolwork per week was also included to address the commonly-reported relationship between school workload and burnout in students (Cushman & West, 2006; Jacobs & Dodd, 2003).

Neuroticism. Neuroticism was measured as a potential covariate in the study because previous work has found neuroticism to account for a significant amount of variance in burnout above and beyond work stress and relationships (Goddard et al., 2004). Additionally, emotional stability (i.e., reverse-coded neuroticism) has been shown to impact thriving at work (Ren et al., 2015). For these reasons, the current study included four items measuring neuroticism from Donnellan et al.'s (2006) mini-IPIP scales. The Cronbach's alpha value for the neuroticism scale with the current sample was .52.

Data Quality Check

One data quality check item was included in the survey, specifically within the job embeddedness scale. The item read, "*For data quality purposes, please select 'Strongly disagree' for this item.*" Participants who did not select "strongly disagree" on this item [$N = 44$] were further examined for potential response sets or careless responding. Four of these cases were identified as including careless responses, and these cases were excluded from the analyses.

non-working students) were removed. This new data set was saved as a tab delimited file, excluding the variable names, so it could be used in Mplus. Mplus syntax was used to create variable names with eight or fewer characters and specify values of -999 as missing values.

Prior to conducting the path analysis, the potential covariates to be used in each path analysis (i.e., age, gender, average work hours per week, average schoolwork hours per week, and neuroticism) were identified based on their zero-order correlations with the dependent variables (see Table 1). To maintain model parsimony and adequate statistical power, only the variables that were significantly correlated with the dependent variables in the current sample were included as covariates in each tested model (Becker, 2005).

Additionally, I also examined model identification prior to path analysis. This is necessary to determine the degrees of freedom of the model, which indicates whether there are enough observations to estimate the parameters (Clavel, 2014). The path models that were tested in the proposed study were just-identified, because there were just enough observations to estimate the necessary parameters, leaving zero degrees of freedom (Clavel, 2014). Thus, only the path coefficients were examined, and model fit was not investigated as the models fit the data perfectly (Klem, 1995). Overall, I tested six path models.

Matching-Domain Main Effect Results

Work Domain. Hypotheses 1 and 2 predicted a negative main effect of negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work on thriving at work, and a positive main effect on job burnout. As expected, negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work displayed a negative zero-order correlation with thriving at work ($r = -.29, p < .001$) and a positive zero-order correlation with job burnout ($r = .42, p < .001$, see Table 1). These findings were consistent with Path Model 1 results displayed in Figure 2. Negative appraisal of COVID-19 at work was negatively related to

thriving at work ($B = -0.26, p < .001$) and positively related to job burnout ($B = 0.36, p < .001$) while controlling for neuroticism, work hours, and age, supporting Hypotheses 1 and 2. These findings suggest that working students who appraised COVID-19 as more harmful and threatening to their work lives also reported less thriving and more burnout at work.

Additionally, neuroticism was negatively related to thriving at work ($B = -0.15, p = .022$) and positively related to job burnout ($B = 0.15, p = .017$). Age was positively related to thriving at work ($B = 0.15, p = .036$), and hours worked per week was positively related to job burnout ($B = 0.20, p = .003$). Finally, there was a significant negative correlation between job burnout and thriving at work ($B = -0.44, p < .001$). Overall, the model explained 13% of the variance of thriving at work ($R^2 = .13, p = .003$) and 23% of the variance of job burnout ($R^2 = .23, p < .001$).

Hypothesis 6 was not supported. Overall, the model explained 58% of the variance of thriving at work ($R^2 = .58, p < .001$), and 35% of the variance of job burnout ($R^2 = .35, p < .001$).

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many obstacles and caused many challenges for university students and employees alike. For students, the pandemic brought on difficulties related to reduced access to university resources and services (Sahu, 2020), threats to financial aid (Smalley, 2021), and limited opportunities to form academic relationships (Vaterlaus et al., 2021). Employees faced their own set of hardships, including deteriorations in working conditions (Kniffin et al., 2021), increases in work-family conflict (Vaziri et al., 2020), and threats to pay and benefits (Jacobs & Ohinmaa, 2020). Working students have been at increased risk for the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic due to their participation in both of these domains (Bakker & van Wingerden, 2021). And yet, research has largely failed to examine and understand working students' unique circumstances during the pandemic. The current study addressed this gap by investigating the within- and cross-domain impacts of negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work and school on working students' thriving and burnout in both domains. Additionally, job and major embeddedness were examined as moderators in these relationships within the work and school domains, respectively.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Matching-Domain Main Effects Results

Work Domain. The results showed that working students who appraised the COVID-19 pandemic as more harmful or threatening to their work lives also reported lower levels of thriving at work and higher levels of job burnout, while controlling for neuroticism, work hours per week, and age. These results support the classification of the COVID-19 pandemic as a hindrance demand for working students in their working domain by revealing a negative

and gender. That is, working students who appraised COVID-19 as more harmful and threatening to their working lives also reported less thriving and more burnout at school. The cross-domain relationship from negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work to school burnout was significantly weaker than the matching domain (i.e., from negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work to job burnout; $Z = 1.82, p = .034$), which is consistent with past research (Amstad et al., 2011). However, for thriving, while the standardized coefficient for the matching domain (i.e., from negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work to thriving at work) was higher than the cross-domain coefficient (i.e., from negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work to thriving at school), these coefficients were not significantly different from one another ($Z = -.84, p = .201$). The main effect results support previous findings regarding the impacts of demands in the working domain on outcomes in the school domain (Barling et al., 1995; Benner & Curl, 2018; Cinamon, 2016, 2018; da Luz et al., 2012; Markel & Frone, 1998; Soliz & Terry Long, 2016; Steinberg et al., 1981).

School-to-Work. Spillover may also be present in the school-to-work direction given the results of this study. Specifically, negative appraisals of COVID-19 at school were negatively related to thriving at work and positively related to school burnout while controlling for neuroticism, work hours per week, and age. The cross-domain effect of negative appraisals of COVID-19 at school on thriving at work was weaker than the corresponding matching domain effects (i.e., from negative appraisals of COVID-19 at school to thriving at school; $Z = -3.18, p < .001$), which is again consistent with past research (Amstad et al., 2011). However, for burnout, the standardized coefficient for the matching domain (i.e., from negative appraisals of COVID-19 at school to school burnout) was higher than that of the cross domain (i.e., from negative

perceived the pandemic as a demand that they could overcome and that would be worth overcoming, and thus experienced increased motivation (i.e., thriving) in response to this stressor.

Finally, the adapted scales used in the current study—thriving at school, school burnout, and negative appraisals of COVID-19 at work and school—all performed well psychometrically with the current sample, and thus may be useful and applicable in future research with similar aims.

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

This study also has important practical implications. First, this study's findings echo the insights provided by two decades of research using JD-R theory—motivation can be protected, and strain avoided, by ensuring that resources are protected against events or situations that are perceived as threatening and/or harmful. Thus, during the pandemic, organizational leaders should focus on enhancing resources, such as promoting positive relationships with supervisors and coworkers, providing acceptable working conditions, ensuring job security, and providing developmental opportunities (Fugate et al., 2008). Likewise, school administrators and instructors should also aim to improve students' resources, by offering financial aid and scholarships, providing academic opportunities, ensuring campus safety, and encouraging positive relationships with professors, classmates, and academic advisors.

Second, the implications of the spillover effects found in the current study can also be used by universities and organizations to protect working students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The current study found that excessive demands in one domain can impact the motivation and well-being experienced in another domain. Thus, by providing student workers the support needed to manage excessive demands in their other domains of life, such as by

between job demands and motivational outcomes, as found in the current study, could help tease apart the complex role of job embeddedness in this relationship. Finally, as this is the first study, to my knowledge, that has found support for school-to-work spillover, this relationship between the school and work domains should be tested again, especially using longitudinal data, to provide more robust support.

CONCLUSION

The current study examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on working students' work and school lives. The appraisal of the COVID-19 pandemic as a threat or harm to resources was associated with less thriving and more burnout in both the work and school domains. Additionally, negative appraisals of COVID-19 in one domain were related to outcomes in the other domain and being embedded in one's job could make it even more difficult to thrive at work in the face of negative appraisals of COVID-19. This study extends research in support of the job demands-resources, spillover-crossover, and embeddedness theories, as well as presents practical insights for employers and university faculty and administrators who care to improve the motivation and well-being of working college students as they continue to navigate their dual roles during the pandemic.

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APPENDIX A
INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Project Title: The Role of Embeddedness and Thriving on Student Well-Being and Performance

Purpose of the Study:

The purpose of this study is to identify the needs and challenges of ODU students during COVID-19 pandemic and offer ODU recommendations for high-quality programs and services. We are reaching out to you because we believe that your perspective is very important for future improvements. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in this study.

Researchers:

Principal Investigator: Dr. Konstantin Cigularov, PhD, Associate Professor, College of Sciences,
Department of Psychology

Co-Investigator: Kate Warnock, BS, Doctoral Student, College of Sciences, Department of
Psychology

What will be done:

We would like to invite you to participate in this anonymous, internet-based survey, which will require about 15-20 minutes of your time. This survey includes questions about your school and work experiences, challenges, and needs during this time. Several demographic questions are also included so that the characteristics of the final sample can be accurately described. Approximately 1,000 college students will be participating in this study.

At the beginning of the survey, you will be asked to generate a unique code that will be used to

link your responses to future surveys and still preserve your anonymity. Upon completion of the survey, you will be redirected to a separate website where you can enter your email address if you are willing to assist with a second survey in fall 2021 semester. This information will not be linked to your survey responses, thus guaranteeing your anonymity.

Benefits of this Study:

There are no direct benefits for you; however, you will be contributing to a unique base of knowledge regarding college students' experiences during a pandemic and helping researchers and administrators to identify areas for improvement.

What are the risks to me?

The risks of this study are minimal and limited to the potential inconvenience of taking the survey. If you feel uncomfortable with a question in the survey, you can skip it. You can also withdraw from the study at any time.

What about my privacy?

Your responses will be anonymous. No names will be collected at any time during this study. In other words, no one (not even me, the researcher) will be able to link your responses back to you. I would like to make sure that you feel safe to respond freely and honestly to the questions.

Voluntary participation:

It is your choice to participate in this research and you may withdraw from this study at any time. If you decide to quit before you have finished the survey, however, your answers will NOT

be recorded. Because we can only make use of fully completed surveys, we greatly appreciate your full participation.

How will the data be used?

When we write about the study to share it with other researchers and/ community organizations, we will write about the combined information gathered. We may present or publish the results of this study; however, you will not be identified in any written materials.

Contact information:

If you have questions about the survey and research project, please contact Dr. Konstantin Cigularov at kcigular@odu.edu. If at any time you feel pressured to participate, or if you have any questions about your rights or this form, then you should call Dr. Tancy Vandecar-Burdin, the current IRB chair, at 757-683-3802, or the Old Dominion University Office of Research, at 757-683-3460.

By clicking on the arrow below, you are telling the researchers YES, that you agree to participate in this study.

Thank you greatly for your participation and support for this project!

Sincerely,

Konstantin Cigularov, Ph.D., Principal Investigator

Kate Warnock, B.S., Co-Investigator

Old Dominion University

APPENDIX B

MEASURES

THRIVING AT WORK SCALE

Using the scale below, please answer the following questions in relation to your current experience at WORK. If you are not currently working, think about these questions with reference to your most recent job.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Agree	Agree
Strongly		Slightly		Slightly		Strongly

At work...

1. As an employee, I feel alive and vital.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. As an employee, I am really thriving.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. As an employee, I have energy and spirit.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. As an employee, I am looking forward to each new day.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. As an employee, I continue to learn more and more as time goes by.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. As an employee, I do not feel very energetic.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. As an employee, I am not learning.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. As an employee, I have developed a lot as a person.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. As an employee, I feel alert and awake.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. As an employee, I find myself learning often.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. As an employee, I see myself continually improving.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

THRIVING AT SCHOOL SCALE

Using the scale below, please answer the following questions in relation to your current experience at SCHOOL. If you are not currently taking classes, think about these questions with reference to your most recent school experience.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Agree	Agree
Strongly		Slightly		Slightly		Strongly

At school

1. As an ODU student, I feel alive and vital.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. As an ODU student, I am really thriving.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. As an ODU student, I have energy and spirit.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. As an ODU student, I am looking forward to each new day.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. As an ODU student, I continue to learn more and more as time goes by.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. As an ODU student, I do not feel very energetic.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. As an ODU student, I am not learning.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. As an ODU student, I have developed a lot as a person.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. As an ODU student, I feel alert and awake.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. As an ODU student, I find myself learning often.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. As an ODU student, I see myself continually improving.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

JOB BURNOUT SCALE—EMOTIONAL EXHAUSTION SUB-SCALE

1. I feel frustrated by my job.
2. I feel emotionally drained from my work.
3. I feel burned out from my work.

SCHOOL BURNOUT SCALE—EMOTIONAL EXHAUSTION SUB-SCALE

1. I feel frustrated by my schoolwork.
2. I feel emotionally drained from my schoolwork.
3. I feel burned out from my schoolwork.

NEGATIVE APPRAISALS AT WORK SCALES

Threat Appraisal

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to what extent do you feel that each of the following at work is threatened (there is a possibility that it will get worse in the future)?

1. Pay and benefits
2. General work conditions
3. Job security
4. Personal job opportunities
5. Job resources

Harm Appraisal

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to what extent do you feel that each of the following aspects of your work life were harmed (got worse than they were)?

1. Relationships with your supervisor
2. Ability to perform your job
3. Relationships with coworkers
4. Desirability of your job
5. Motivation to perform your job

NEGATIVE APPRAISALS AT SCHOOL SCALES

Threat Appraisal

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to what extent do you feel that each of the following at school is threatened (there is a possibility that it will get worse in the future)?

1. Financial aid and scholarships
2. Your GPA
3. Your graduation
4. Campus safety
5. Personal academic opportunities
6. Personal financial security
7. Access to school services and resources
8. Career opportunities

Harm Appraisal

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to what extent do you feel that each of the following aspects of your school life were harmed (got worse than they were)?

1. Relationships with your advisor
2. Ability to perform well academically
3. Relationships with classmates
4. Desirability of your major
5. Relationships with professors/instructors
6. Motivation to perform well academically

JOB EMBEDDEDNESS SCALE

Fit

1. My job utilizes my skills and talents well.
2. I feel like I am a good match for this organization.
3. I feel personally valued at work.
4. I like my work schedule (e.g., flextime, shift).
5. I fit with this organization's culture.
6. I like the authority and responsibility I have at this company.

Sacrifice

1. I have a lot of freedom on this job to decide how to pursue my goals.
2. The perks of this job are outstanding.
3. I feel that people at work respect me a great deal.
4. I would incur very few costs if I left this organization (R)
5. I would sacrifice a lot if I left this job.
6. My promotional opportunities are excellent here.
7. I am well compensated for my level of performance.
8. The benefits are good on this job.
9. I believe the prospects for continuing employment with this company are excellent.

Links

1. How long have you been in your present position? (years)
2. How long have you worked for this organization?
3. How long have you worked in this industry? (years)
4. How many coworkers do you interact with regularly?

5. How many coworkers are highly dependent on you?
6. How many work teams are you on?
7. How many work committees are you on?

MAJOR EMBEDDEDNESS SCALE

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Fit

1. My major is my passion.
2. The way I think fits well with my major.
3. I have the right skills and abilities for my major.
4. I am well suited for my major.
5. I thrive on the challenge my major offers.

Links

1. I feel well understood by other students in my major.
2. My professors make me feel more connected to my field.
3. I enjoy being around other students in my major.
4. I like that people in my major think the same way I do.
5. I try to bring other people into the community of the field of my major.

Sacrifice

1. Because of my major, I am likely to have a good career.
2. I take a great deal of pride in being a student of my major.
3. I've invested a great deal in my major.
4. I stand out from others because of my major.

VITA

Kate Noel Warnock

Education

- Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Old Dominion University, Department of Psychology. MGB 250, Norfolk, VA, 23529-0267. Expected graduation May 2025
- Honors Bachelor of Sciences in Psychology, University of Utah, Graduated May 2019

Experience

- Researcher: L.E.A.D. Lab, Old Dominion University, Aug. 2020 – Present
 - Lead research projects
 - Collect data for research projects
 - Mentor undergraduate students
 - Write manuscripts and prepare presentations of research findings
- Project coordinator, Early Experiences Lab, University of Utah, June 2019 – Aug. 2020
 - Supervised and trained research assistants
 - Oversaw data collection and management
 - Managed IRB applications
 - Recruited and scheduled participants for lab visits
- Data manager, Early Experiences Lab, University of Utah, Jan. 2018 – Aug. 2020
 - Collected data for research projects
 - Designed and managed data entry process
 - Supervised research assistants
 - Prepared data sets for analyses and conducted analyses

Research

- Jimenez, W. P., Cigularov, K. P., Warnock, K. N., Katz, I. M., & Bonvie, J. (2022, March 7–11). Leading helm and hull: A review of Navy leadership [Poster presentation]. International Military Testing Association Conference, Raleigh, NC, United States.
- Warnock, K. N., Jimenez, W. P., Cigularov, K. P., Katz, I. M., & Bonvie, J. (2022, March 7–11). Taking a deep dive into US Navy EOD leadership [Poster presentation]. International Military Testing Association Conference, Raleigh, NC, United States.
- Katz, I. M., Rauvola, S. R., Lavigne, K.L., Palmer, S. N., & Warnock, K. N. (April, 2021). *Organizational identification: A meta-analysis and meta-regression*. [Poster presentation]. Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Frazier, J. F., Warnock, K. N., & Cigularov, K. P. (March, 2021). *The effect of employment status on university students' perceived threat and harm during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Presentation to be given at the Examining the Past, Embracing the Present, Innovating the Future: WMSURE Undergraduate Research Conference, Williamsburg, VA.
- Terry, J. D., Cigularov, K. P., Dillulio, P., Maverick, M., & Warnock, K. N. (2020, October). *Your email didn't find me well: Employee perceptions of work and feeling safe during COVID-19*. Presentation delivered at the 2020 River Cities I-O (RCIO) Psychology Conference, Chattanooga, TN.
- Warnock, K. N. (2019). *The effect of stereotype threat on stereotype activation*. Poster presented at the University of Utah Undergraduate Research Symposium, Salt Lake City, Utah.