Driven by the future

*Future time perspective across life domains and cultures*

Andre, L.

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Contemplating about the future is inevitable for our life and goal strivings. Consequently, Future Time Perspective (FTP) – individuals’ attitudes towards the future as a motivator for attitudes and behaviors – has been researched across disciplines and life domains. However, little is known about the universality of FTP as a motivator and about personality and situational characteristics related to FTP and its outcomes in crucial life domains.

To illuminate the FTP field, I ask: Are people’s present motivation, intentions, and behaviors in education, work, and health affected by their FTP? Next, I integrate FTP with Regulatory Focus (RF) theory – that distinguishes individuals’ orientation to achievements and advancements or to safety and security – to see what causes people to reflect on their FTP. Finally, I cross-culturally test the motivational relevance of adolescents’ RF and FTP.

The results of this dissertation show that FTP is an important driver for human attitudes and behaviors in the education, work and health domains, and across different countries. Moreover, this dissertation confirms that adolescents’ RF strategies and the RF strategies of their parents are determinants of adolescents’ FTP and education and career-planning. Also, I demonstrate that adolescents across different countries are motivated by RF and FTP in the pursuit of their goals and suggest that RF and FTP may function as coping mechanisms for adolescents in countries that face difficult circumstances. These findings may have important implications for FTP and RF theories and for the development of motivational programs in education, work, and health and across countries.

Invitation

We are happy to invite you to attend the public defense of the dissertation entitled:
Driven by the future: Future time perspective across life domains and cultures
by Lucija Andre.
The defence will take place Friday June 1, 2018, at 10 a.m. in the Agnietenkapel, Oudezijds Voorburgwal 229 – 231, Amsterdam.

Following the defence you are welcome at a reception in the Agnietenkapel.
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Driven by the future: Future time perspective across life domains and cultures

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ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
prof. dr. ir. K.I.J. Maex
ten overstaan van een door het College voor Promoties ingestelde
commissie, in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Agnietenkapel
op vrijdag 1 juni 2018 te 10.00 uur

door Lucija Andre
geboren te Novi Sad, Servië
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I am tomorrow, or some future day, what I establish today. I am today what I established yesterday or some previous day.

James Joyce (1882–1941)
PREFACE

When I was about seven, I used to climb the big walnut tree in our backyard. I liked to sit on it and dream about reaching the highest branches on the top when I grow up, and be able to see further than the neighbor’s yard. Today, although the tree is not there anymore, I think I can reach the highest peaks of any tree or mountain, and see much more; I only have to climb it.