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THE MEDIATED EFFECT
OF CLIMATE ANXIETY ON
PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL
BEHAVIORS: A
REGISTERED REPORT
REPLICATION AND
EXTENSION OF
VLASCEANU ET AL.
(2024)

Human-induced environmental change has led to the Anthropocene, an era marked by profound climatic changes and urgent mitigation challenges. While large-scale policy action is essential, individual pro-environmental behaviors help to complement systemic effort. Yet, efficient ways to motivate such behaviors remain unclear, as heterogeneity across studies and limited attention to behavioral mechanisms hinder understanding. In particular, climate anxiety is a behavioral response to climate change that is increasingly considered as an influencing factor. To investigate this relationship, we directly replicate a finding from an expert-crowdsourced intervention and extend it using a between-subject causal mediation experimental design. We randomly expose [2600] representative U.S. participants to a Negative Emotion intervention or an active control, among which some watch short videos aimed at increasing climate anxiety through rumination. [To be modified at stage-2] The results reveal a [positive/negative] effect of the intervention on pro-environmental behaviors and [support/do not support] a direct replication of the original study. The mediation analysis [shows/does not show] that an increase in climate anxiety [positively influences/negatively influences/does not influence] pro-environmental behaviors, thereby [confirming/ruling out] climate anxiety as a behavioral driver of pro-environmental behaviors.

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