




Moral Disengagement and Aggression: The Mediating Role of Empathy Deficits

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The paragraph discussing Bandura's concept of moral disengagement lacks citation of the original foundational source. While Hernández (2025) is cited, Bandura (1991, 1996) should be acknowledged directly to ground the conceptual origin.

When stating, "...abnormalities in these brain regions contribute to both moral disengagement and empathy deficits," the specific functions of the prefrontal cortex and amygdala in moral cognition and empathy could be more explicitly detailed to strengthen the neuropsychological argument.

The paragraph on sociocultural factors (e.g., "...collectivist societies...") is compelling but underdeveloped. The authors should consider integrating empirical studies comparing Eastern vs. Western cultures to better contextualize the Taiwanese sample.

While stating "females tend to score higher on measures of empathy," it would be beneficial to mention whether this study observed similar trends within its sample and whether gender was examined as a moderating variable.

The authors assert, "few studies have empirically tested an integrated model..." This strong claim needs more direct citation support or systematic review reference to justify this research novelty.

The statement “...psychological pathways...may be universal” is speculative. It would be more scientifically sound to phrase this as a hypothesis for future research rather than a conclusive remark.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “The dual structure of empathy—affective and cognitive—adds complexity...” should elaborate further on how these subtypes differentially influence aggression. Consider referencing findings from Heym et al. (2019) more directly to support this claim.

The statement “...all within the acceptable range of ± 2 ” for skewness/kurtosis is correct, but no visual confirmation (e.g., histograms) or formal test (e.g., Shapiro-Wilk) is referenced. Including these would enhance rigor.

While correlations are significant, the article does not comment on possible multicollinearity between moral disengagement and empathy deficits ($r = .59$). This deserves a cautionary interpretation or discussion in the SEM analysis.

The structural model figure lacks standardized beta weights and does not indicate significance levels. Including these would aid visual interpretation and align with APA reporting standards.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.