Sorry, not Sorry: The Interplay of Apologies and Honor in the Mediterranean





and relationship focus

(positive relationships, family reputation, respect, community)

Apologies: communicative acts to acknowledge their responsibility for wrongdoing, express remorse, and seek reconciliation

So why might people not apologize?

- Low Concern for Victim
- Threat to Self-Image
- Hindering Beliefs about Apologies
- Culture

Apologies can clash with concerns for toughness

May be seen as increasing risk for further threats

May be less favored than apology refusal



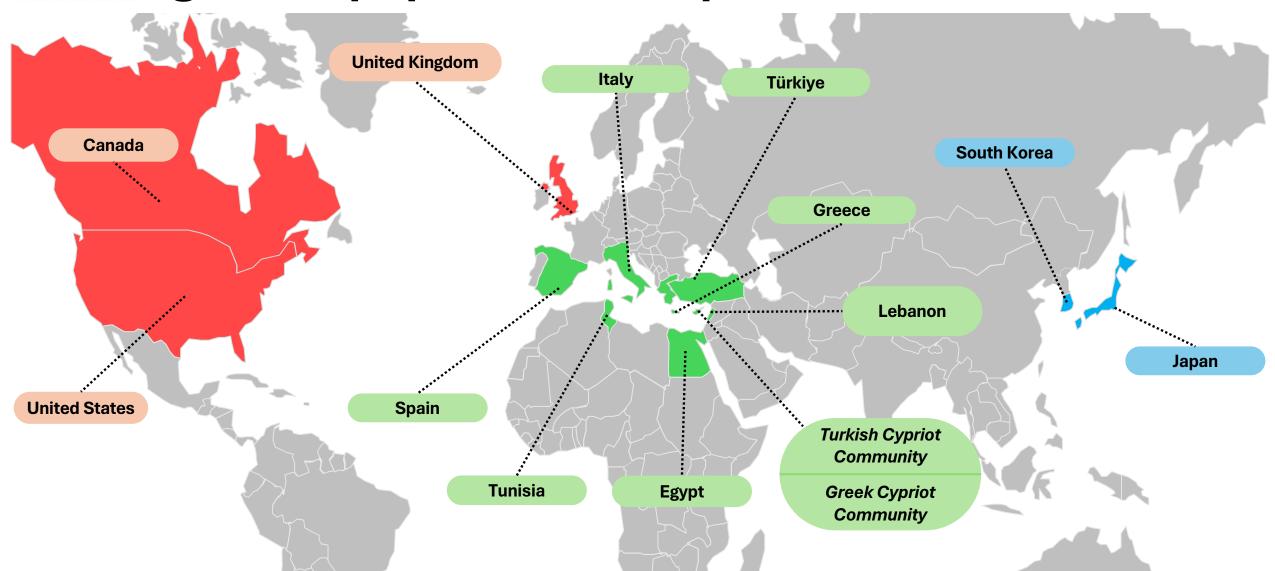
Apologies may align with morality and relational concerns

May prevent escalation of conflict

May be expressed less directly and to other related parties



Multinational survey study (N = 5,471) with general population samples



Exploratory

Replication / Extension

Paper #1

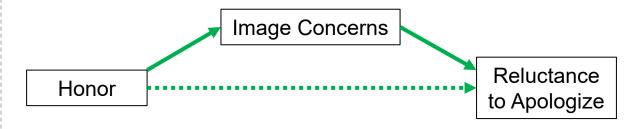
What beliefs of apologies contribute to offering apologies in honor cultures?

- Assess beliefs of morality, effectiveness, and responsibility
- Predict willingness to apologize and past apology behavior
- Examine interactions with honor norms

Paper #2

Do concerns about self-image and social image hinder apologies in honor cultures?

- Link honor endorsement and apologies across societies
- Examine mediating role of selfimage and social-image concerns



Paper #1

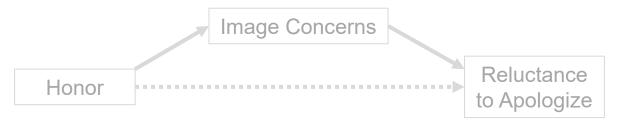
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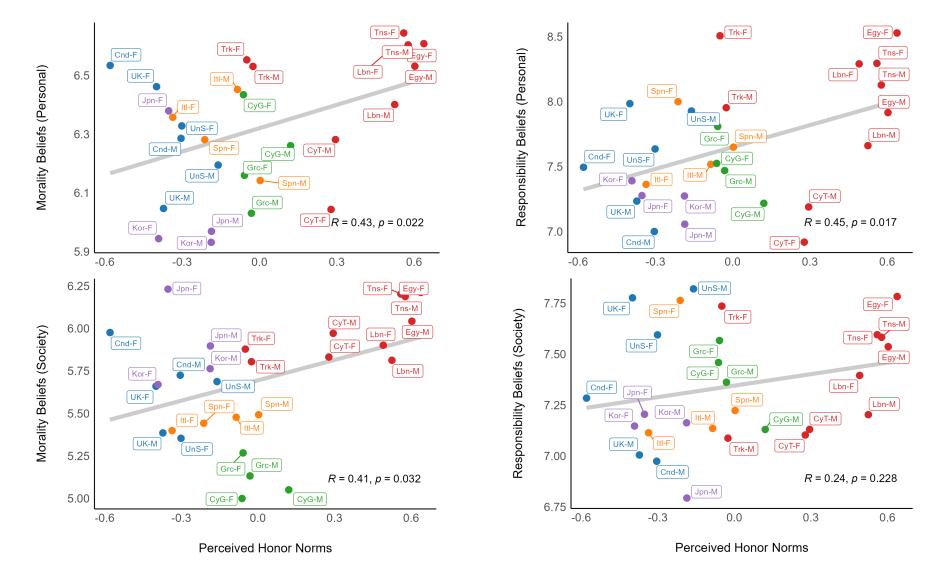
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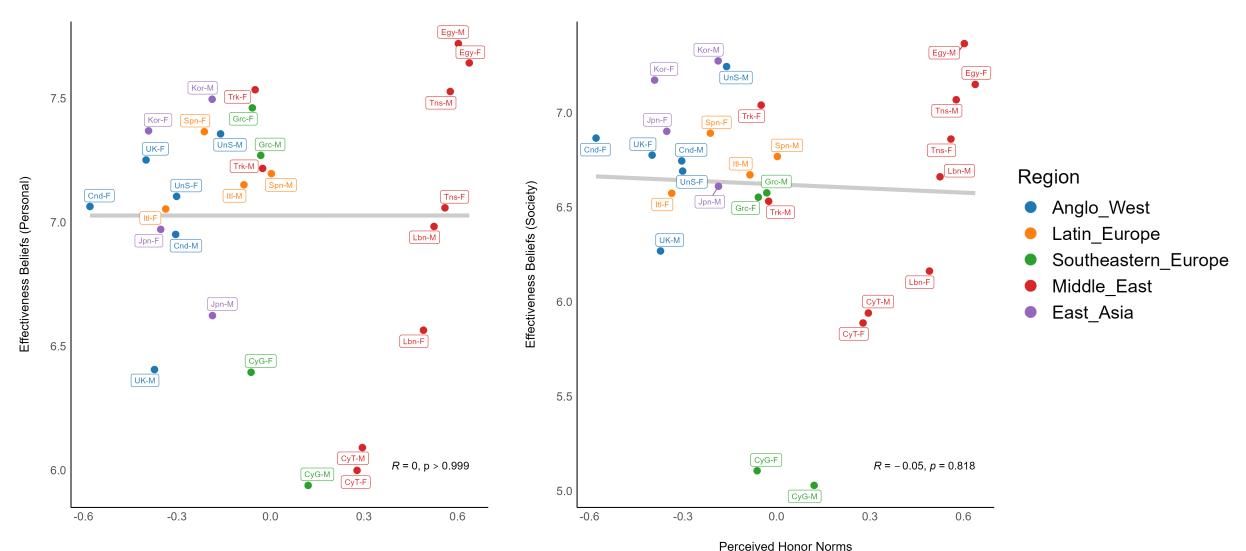
Beliefs about morality and admitted responsibility correlate with honor norms, but not beliefs about effectiveness



Region

- Anglo_West
- Latin_Europe
- Southeastern_Europe
- Middle_East
- East_Asia

Beliefs about morality and admitted responsibility correlate with honor norms, but not beliefs about effectiveness



Most personal and perceived-societal beliefs predict apology outcomes, regardless of honor norms

	Willingness to apologize (Attitude)	Past offered apologies (Past situation)
Morality (Personal)	+*	+
Effectiveness (Personal)	+*	+
Morality (Society)	+	+
Effectiveness (Society)	_*	n.s.
Responsibility (Personal)	+	+
Responsibility (Society)	+	+

^{*} Honor norms moderated these effects in ways that dampened the strength of the relationship (i.e. less positive and less negative, respectively).

Exploratory

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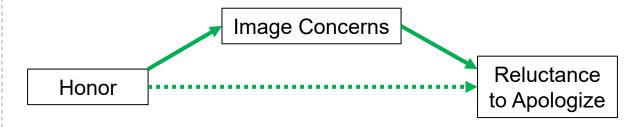
What perceptions of apologies contribute to offering apologies in honor cultures?

- Assess perceptions of morality, effectiveness, and responsibility
- Predict willingness to apologize and past apology behavior
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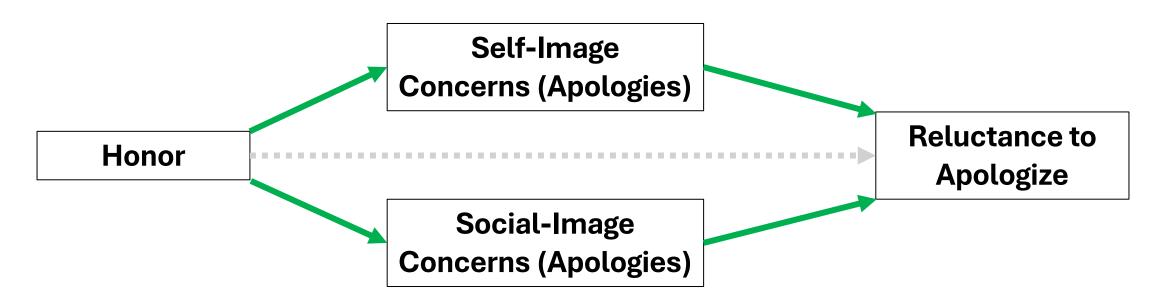
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Do concerns about self-image and social image hinder apologies in honor cultures?

- Link honor endorsement and apologies across societies
- Examine mediating role of selfimage and social-image concerns



Self-image and social-image concerns mediate the link between honor and apology outcomes at the societal level

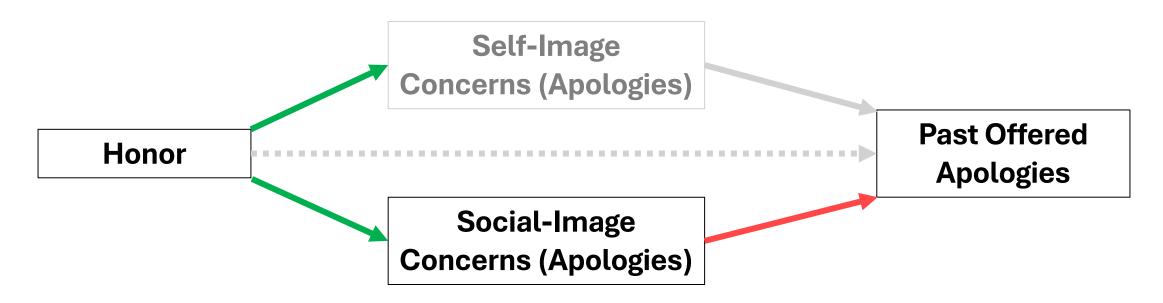


Culture-Level (*N* = 28 Country-Gender-Groups)

Individual-Level (*N* = 5,471 Participants)

Self-Image

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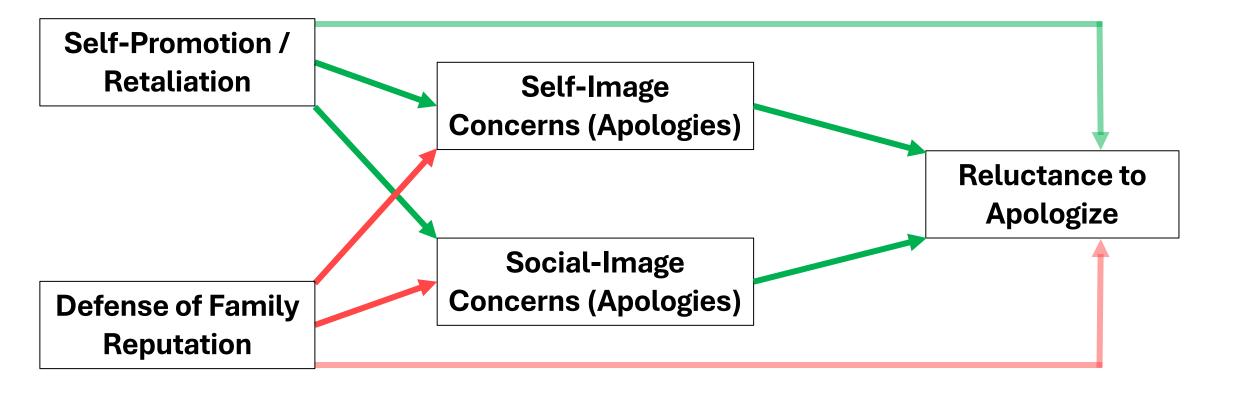
Individual-Level (*N* = 5,471 Participants)

Self-Image

Different facets of honor show different patterns for apology outcomes at the individual level

Culture-Level (*N* = 28 Country-Gender-Groups)

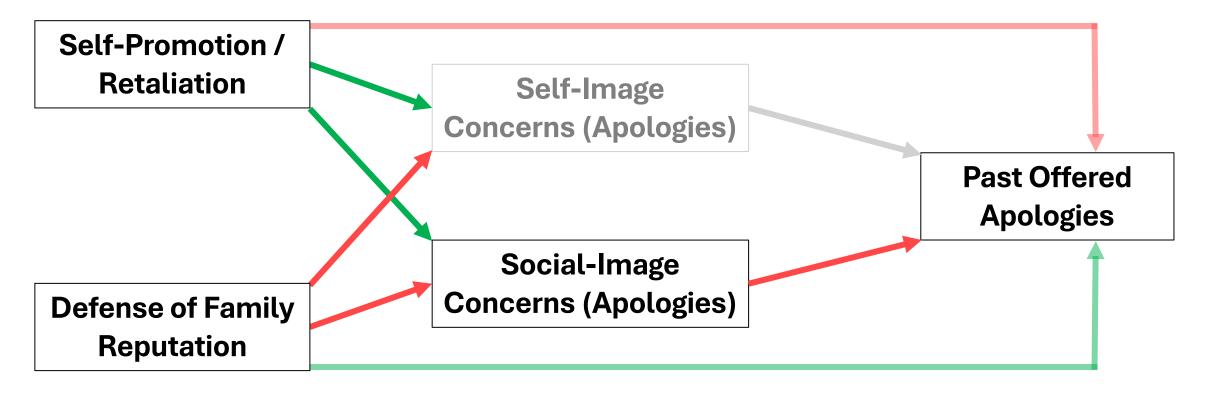
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Different facets of honor show different patterns for apology outcomes at the individual level

Culture-Level (*N* = 28 Country-Gender-Groups)

Individual-Level (*N* = 5,471 Participants)



Southeastern European and Middle Eastern cultures are more likely to use alternative approaches that include others

Region	% Apology offered	Alternative Reconciliatory Behavior			
		I didn't do anything*	Nice gesture	Asked for outside help*	Apologized to another person*
Anglo-West	80.2%	53.7 %	20.2%	13.3%	6.0%
Mediterranean					
Latin Europe	79.1%	48.7%	27.9%	12.3%	7.8%
Southeastern Europe	72.0%	41.9%	28.7%	11.4%	13.8%
Middle East	72.7%	45.2%	27.1%	18.3%	7.6%
East Asia	55.3%	66.1%	21.2%	8.1%	3.3%

^{*} Significant overall effects in frequencies.

The relationship between honor and apologies is complex.

Apology beliefs highlighted commonalities and differences in the interplay between honor norms and apologies.

Both reputation and self-perception concerns appear to play some role in apology reluctance in honor cultures (but reputation more robustly so).

Members of honor cultures may seek reconciliation in alternative ways, involving other parties in the process.

Thank you for your attention!















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Activities for People with

Disabilities



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