

NFC and burnout in teachers - A replication and extension study

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Abstract

The prevalence of burnout has been rising for years, not just due to the increasing demands during the Covid-19 pandemic. While it is known that burnout primarily affects employees in social jobs, less is known about the personality traits that promote or protect against burnout. One of these traits is Need for Cognition (NFC), the stable intrinsic motivation to seek out and enjoy effortful cognitive activities. In the present study, we analyzed questionnaire data of $N = 180$ teachers that had been collected in spring of 2020. Firstly, we aimed to replicate results by Grass et al. (2018), who showed that the association of NFC and the burnout aspect of reduced personal efficacy was mediated by habitual use of reappraisal, but not by habitual suppression or self-control. With our data, self-control became a significant mediator when teaching experience was being taken into account, but neither reappraisal nor suppression mediated between NFC and reduced personal efficacy. Secondly, we computed a structural equation model to investigate whether NFC and burnout were associated via different ratios of demands and personal resources, and included other variables in an exploratory approach. The results indicated that teachers with higher NFC and more self-control have lower burnout because they experience their resources as fitting to the demands.

Keywords: mediation, resources, demands, structural equation modelling, Covid-19

Word count: X

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Introduction

Need for Cognition (NFC) is a stable intrinsic motivation to seek out and especially to enjoy effortful cognitive activities (Cacioppo & Petty, 1982). As it bridges the gap between cognition and motivation, NFC is considered to be an investment trait (Stumm & Ackerman, 2013), and has come to the fore of psychological research in the last years. NFC can easily be assessed using the Need for Cognition Scale (NCS), a self-report questionnaire with 18 to 34 items (Cacioppo et al., 1984; Cacioppo & Petty, 1982). While many studies have found positive associations of NFC with academic performance (Cazan & Indreica, 2014; Elias & Loomis, 2002; Grass et al., 2017; Lavrijsen et al., 2021; Zheng et al., 2020), recent investigations have also looked at NFC as a personal resource in academic and work contexts. Individuals high in NFC have more positive emotions at the end of the work day (Rosen et al., 2020), higher work motivation, perceive their roles as less ambiguous (Nowlin et al., 2017), are less likely to drop out of college (Grass et al., 2017; Klaczynski & Fauth, 1996), and have less anxiety regarding their course work (Karagiannopoulou et al., 2020). These findings suggest that individuals high in NFC might be less prone to experience adverse effects of work stress, which range from physical (Dragano et al., 2017; Steptoe & Kivimäki, 2013) to psychological (Madsen et al., 2017; Maslach & Leiter, 2016; Wiesner et al., 2005).

One of these psychological consequences is burnout, a state of exhaustion and cynicism caused by long-term overstimulation in the workplace, which results in employees being dissatisfied, being sick more often, and performing poorly (Schaufeli & Salanova, 2014). Burnout is especially prevalent in social jobs such as healthcare or teaching because the worker is always in conflict between advocating for their client and meeting the goals set by the employer (Gray-Stanley & Muramatsu, 2011; Lloyd et al., 2002). Lackritz (2004) found that university teachers' burnout scores were higher the more students they had, the

higher their teaching load was, and the more time they spent grading students' work. Burnout is most often assessed using the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) (Maslach et al., 1997), a self-report questionnaire with three subscales: Emotional exhaustion, depersonalisation, and reduced personal efficacy.

Individuals with high burnout scores are often passive copers, high in neuroticism, low in self-esteem, and have an external locus of control (Schaufeli & Salanova, 2014). NFC on the other hand is negatively associated with those variables (Double & Birney, 2016; Fleischhauer et al., 2019; Ghorbani et al., 2004; Grass et al., 2018; Osberg, 1987), suggesting that people high in NFC are less prone to experience burnout. This is supported by the findings that NFC is negatively associated with burnout scores in adults (Fleischhauer et al., 2019), students (Fleischhauer et al., 2019; Naderi et al., 2018), and teacher trainees (Grass et al., 2018). However, the associations of NFC with the sum score and the subscales of the MBI are not always consistent between these studies. This is likely not caused by inaccurate measurement, since the validity of both NCS (Bless et al., 1994; Osberg, 1987; Tolentino et al., 1990) and MBI (Brady et al., 2021; Kantas & Vassilaki, 1997; Schaufeli et al., 2001; Valdivia Vázquez et al., 2021) has been demonstrated in multiple studies. What is more likely is the influence of one or more other variables, moderating or mediating the association of NFC and burnout. Grass et al. (2018) investigated such a mediation and found that the relation of NFC and the MBI subscale reduced personal-efficacy was fully mediated by reappraisal, active and passive coping, but not by suppression or self-control. Reappraisal and suppression are two emotion regulation strategies, which refer to the cognitive reassessment of a stressor and the inhibition of emotional reactions, respectively (Gross, 1998). The findings by Grass et al. (2018) suggest that individuals high in NFC experience a weaker decline in personal efficacy in response to long-term stress because they actively reassess the situation in a way that reinforces their sense of self-efficacy and don't avoid dealing with the stressor. One goal of this paper was to replicate the findings of Grass et al. (2018) using a multiple mediation model on

cross-sectional self-report data of teachers. We expected NFC to be negatively associated with reduced personal efficacy via higher reappraisal scores, but not via suppression, via self-control, or directly.

Furthermore, we extended the analysis to other possible mediators. These mediators were motivated by our own recent survey of the literature on NFC and wellbeing, which suggested that individuals high in NFC might not only have a high level of personal resources but also overestimate their own resources to a certain degree (Zerna et al., 2021). Only a balance of resources and demands results in personal wellbeing, while an imbalance threatens wellbeing, regardless of whether this imbalance is in favour of resources or demands (Dodge et al., 2012). Following the framework of Hobfoll (1989), resources can be objects with practical or status purpose, conditions like marriage or tenure, personality aspects like coping style, and energies such as time, money, or knowledge. In the case of NFC, resources are from the categories personality and energies: Personality, because NFC is a trait, encompassing a curious, analytic, and passionate approach to challenges, and energies, because individuals high in NFC have been coping actively all their life, which enriches their level of experience and knowledge in approaching challenges (Cacioppo et al., 1996). These personal resources matter with regards to stress assessment (how the situation is appraised) and with regards to both coping and recovery (Salanova et al., 2006). We therefore investigated whether the association of NFC and burnout was mediated by different ratios of demands and resources; demands that are too high to be dealt with using one's personal resources (DTH), demands that are too low for one's personal resources (DTL), and a balanced fit of demands and resources (DRF). Using the same data as for the replication, we computed a structural equation model (SEM) to assess the influence of these mediators. Since individuals high in NFC are confident in their abilities (Bye & Pushkar, 2009; Ghorbani et al., 2004; Heppner et al., 1983; Klaczynski & Fauth, 1996), we expected NFC to be negatively associated with DTH, positively associated with DTL, and positively associated with DRF. And since burnout results from

constant unpleasant activation by high demands, we expected it to be positively associated with DTH and negatively associated with DRF. However, we had no hypothesis regarding the association of DTL and burnout, because even though DTL is akin to the concept of boredom and the consequences of boredom and burnout are very similar, burnout is a state with even lower activation and even more negative affect than boredom (Schaufeli & Salanova, 2014). It has already been shown that the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the rising prevalence of burnout (Fröbe & Franco, 2021), so we incorporated the degree of feeling burdened by the pandemic in an exploratory approach.

Methods

We report how we determined our sample size, all data exclusions (if any), all manipulations, and all measures in the study (Simmons et al., 2012). Our preregistration, the data, and the R Markdown document used to analyze the data and write this manuscript are available at <https://osf.io/36ep9/>.

Participants

Teachers were recruited via social media, emails to colleagues of N.E., and to Saxon schools with the request to pass on the information. All teachers were eligible, no payment was issued. Of the $N = 278$ participants, who started filling out the online survey, $N = 180$ (72.20% female, aged 20 to 67 years) data sets were complete and those participants indicated to have answered truthfully. All of them were currently teaching at a primary, secondary, comprehensive, or vocational school. Data was collected between the 12th of June and the 24th of July 2020. At this point, schools had been switching between digital and hybrid forms of teaching for at least three months due to the Covid-19 pandemic, causing additional stress for many teachers.

Material

All questionnaires were used in their German form. Burnout was assessed using the 21-item Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) (Büssing & Perrar, 1992), NFC using the 16-item Need for Cognition Scale (NCS) (Bless et al., 1994), self-control using the 13-item Self-Control Scale (SCS) (Bertrams & Dickhäuser, 2009), reappraisal and suppression using the 10-item Emotion Regulation Questionnaire (ERQ) (Abler & Kessler, 2009), and work satisfaction using the Allgemeine Arbeitszufriedenheit questionnaire (Fischer & Lück, 2014). Eleven items were created to assess each participant's current burden by the Covid-19 pandemic, such as whether they belong to a risk group or whether they currently had a higher workload. The Covid-19 items can be found in the *Supplementary Material S1*. The survey also included the Subjective Wellbeing Index of the World Health Organization (Brähler et al., 2007), which we will not analyze. Due to a technical error during survey setup, the coping style data of the Erfurter Belastungsinventar (Böhm-Kasper et al., 2001) cannot be used, so we cannot replicate the mediation of NFC and burnout by active and passive coping.

Procedure

The questionnaires were provided online using SoSci Survey (Leiner, 2019). Participants were informed about aims and duration of the study and data security, then they provided demographic information, answered the questionnaires, and could optionally enter their email address to be informed about the results of the analysis of N.E.'s thesis.

Data analysis

We used *R Studio* (R Core Team, 2020; RStudio Team, 2020) with the main packages *lavaan* (Rosseel, 2012) and *psych* (Revelle, 2021) for all our analyses. Data were checked for multivariate normality using Mardia's coefficient. To account for non-linear

relationships, correlations were computed using Spearman's rank coefficient rather than Pearson's product moment correlation. Internal consistencies were assessed with Cronbach's Alpha and MacDonald's Omega. Since Cronbach's Alpha has been criticized for being insensitive to violations of internal consistency (Dunn et al., 2014; Taber, 2018), the additional computation of MacDonald's Omega has the purpose of ensuring a more reliable estimation.

Replication of Grass et al. (2018). Items were reverse coded according to the scale manuals. NFC and self-control were computed as the sum scores of the NCS and the SCS, respectively. Reduced personal efficacy was computed using the sum of the MBI subscale, and reappraisal and suppression were computed using the sum of each ERQ subscale. NFC was entered as the independent variable, having a direct and multiple indirect effects on MBI via self-control, reappraisal, and suppression as mediators. Following Grass et al. (2018), the results of the model were appraised by using $N = 2,000$ bootstrap samples for confidence intervals. Multiple indices were used to evaluate model fit as recommended by Hu and Bentler (1999): the Chi-square test statistic, which measures the fit compared to a saturated model, the Comparative Fit Index (CFI), which compares the fit to the baseline model, the Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR), which compares the residuals of the observed and predicted covariance matrix, and the Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA), which does the same as the latter but takes degrees of freedom and model complexity into account.

Demand-resource-ratio model. All items, apart from those making up the demand-resource-ratios, were reverse coded according to the scale manuals. The latent factor NFC was computed by subjecting the NCS items to a parcelling procedure following Grass et al. (2019), a method that is used in SEM when only relations between but not within constructs are of interest. Principal component analysis was used to determine the factor loadings of each NCS item onto the first component. Then, the items were randomly divided into four parcels and the average item loading per parcel was computed. This was

repeated 10,000 times to find the parcelling choice with the smallest difference in average item loadings between parcels. The latent factor MBI was computed using the three subscales as indicators. For the demand-resource-ratios, we used three items from the work satisfaction scale each. The latent factor DTH was indicated by items 4, 8, and 9, DTL by the recoded items 12, 26, and 27, and DRF by items 17, 22, and 24. The items can be translated as follows: 4) “There is too much pressure on me.” 8) “There is often too much being demanded of us at work.” 9) “I often feel tired and weary because of my work.” 12) “I can realize my ideas here.” 17) “I take pleasure in my work.” 22) “Does your place of work give you the opportunity to do what you do best?” 24) “Does your place of work give you enough opportunities to use your skills?” 26) “Are you happy with your promotion prospects?” and 27) “Are you happy with your position when comparing it to your skills?” Model parameters were estimated using the maximum likelihood method with robust standard errors. Model fit was evaluated by looking at the Chi-square test statistic, CFI, SRMR, and RMSEA.

Exploratory analyses. We preregistered two exploratory analyses. Firstly, we repeated the SEM with the subscale reduced personal efficacy in place of the MBI score, since this subscale has shown higher correlations with NFC than the other subscales (Grass et al., 2018; Naderi et al., 2018). And secondly, we included a Covid-19 burden score into the SEM, computed as the sum of the Covid-19 items.

Results

During visual inspection of correlation plots we noticed an unexpected outlier with very high MBI scores and very low NFC scores. A Q-Q-plot contrasting Mahalanobis D^2 against expected Chi Square values confirmed the outlier. To adhere to the preregistration, we report the results containing the outlier in this section and the results excluding the outlier in the *Supplementary Material S2*.

Descriptive statistics

Basic metric descriptives of the questionnaire scores and subscales are listed in Table 1. Only the ERQ sum score and its Reappraisal subscale followed a multivariate normal distribution, so the results of the models should be interpreted with some caution and with a focus on indices that are robust against violation of normality, such as the Satorra-Bentler or Yuan-Bentler-scaled test statistics (Rosseel, 2012).

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD	Normality	Skewness	Kurtosis
MBI	27	101	52.93	13.06	No	0.35	0.02
MBI EE	12	52	27.99	8.87	No	0.19	-0.59
MBI DP	5	24	9.72	3.26	No	0.82	0.86
MBI RPE	7	28	15.22	3.43	No	0.42	1.11
ERQ	16	63	39.18	7.82	Yes	-0.16	0.45
ERQ S	4	26	12.59	4.85	No	0.14	-0.73
ERQ R	9	42	26.59	6.29	Yes	-0.05	0.01
SCS	-19	23	7.79	8.42	No	-0.39	-0.22
NFC	-34	48	20.37	14.04	No	-0.59	0.56
DTH	-6	6	0.49	2.65	No	-0.15	-0.56
DTL	-6	6	-2.22	2.24	No	0.46	0.28
DRF	-4	6	3.63	1.79	No	-0.91	1.75
COV	14	33	24.53	4.28	No	-0.14	-0.70

Note: MBI = Maslach Burnout Inventory, MBI EE = Emotional exhaustion subscale, MBI DP = Depersonalisation subscale, MBI RPE = Reduced personal efficacy subscale, ERQ = Emotion Regulation Questionnaire, ERQ S = Suppression subscale, ERQ R = Reappraisal subscale, SCS = Self-Control Scale, NFC = Need for Cognition, DTH = Demands Too High, DTL = Demands Too Low, DRF = Demand-Resource-Fit, COV = Covid-19 Burden, SD = Standard deviation. $N = 180$.

Correlations and internal consistencies are displayed in Table 2. For this descriptive analysis, the variables DTH, DTL, and DRF were computed as a sum of their item scores, not weighted as in the structural equation model. Using traditional cut-off values (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994), the Cronbach's Alpha of the three demand-resource-ratios can be considered *acceptable*. The more robust MacDonald's Omega (Dunn et al., 2014) did not deviate much from Cronbach's Alpha and indicated *acceptable* to *good* internal consistency.

216 As expected, the MBI score was positively correlated with DTH () and negatively with
217 DRF (), large associations according the classification scheme by Gignac and Szodorai
218 (2016). Surprisingly, the correlation between the MBI score and DTL was positive and also
219 large (). The NFC score correlated negatively with the MBI sum score and about equally
220 with all subscales, contrary to some previous observations in other studies.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. MBI	0.90(0.91)												
2. MBI EE	0.925***	0.91(0.92)											
3. MBI DP	0.748***	0.535***	0.68(0.69)										
4. MBI RPE	0.669***	0.434***	0.480***	0.79(0.79)									
5. ERQ	-0.058	-0.059	0.043	-0.099	0.73(0.62)								
6. ERQ S	0.053	-0.000	0.166*	0.076	0.592***	0.75(0.79)							
7. ERQ R	-0.101	-0.058	-0.061	-0.197**	0.715***	-0.075	0.84(0.84)						
8. SCS	-0.342***	-0.283***	-0.368***	-0.185*	-0.034	-0.121	0.050	0.85(0.86)					
9. NFC	-0.248***	-0.196**	-0.219**	-0.213**	-0.008	-0.176*	0.158*	0.216**	0.89(0.89)				
10. DTH	0.665***	0.722***	0.348***	0.365***	0.029	0.054	-0.006	-0.207**	-0.148*	0.73(0.73)			
11. DTL	0.444***	0.358***	0.379***	0.431***	0.007	0.158*	-0.136	-0.191*	-0.162*	0.409***	0.73(0.75)		
12. DRF	-0.545***	-0.457***	-0.410***	-0.531***	-0.005	-0.096	0.097	0.177*	0.241**	-0.420***	-0.561***	0.77(0.77)	
13. COV	0.241**	0.324***	0.083	0.016	-0.028	0.019	-0.065	-0.040	0.125	0.447***	0.095	-0.130	0.77(0.81)

Note: MBI = Maslach Burnout Inventory, MBI EE = Emotional exhaustion subscale, MBI DP = Depersonalisation subscale, MBI RPE = Reduced personal efficacy subscale, ERQ = Emotion Regulation Questionnaire, ERQ S = Suppression subscale, ERQ R = Reappraisal subscale, SCS = Self-Control Scale, NFC = Need for Cognition, DTH = Demands Too High, DTL = Demands Too Low, DRF = Demand-Resource-Fit, COV = Covid-19 Burden. $N = 180$. * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$. Diagonal is Cronbach's Alpha and (in brackets) MacDonald's Omega.

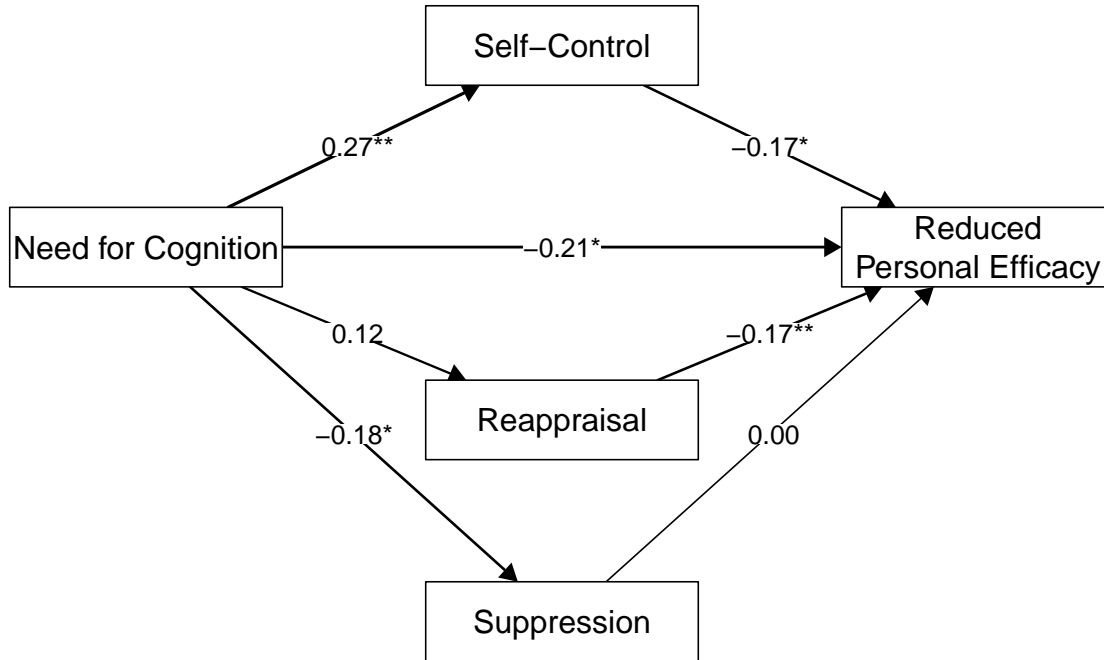


Figure 1. Replication of Grass et al. (2018)

Replication of Grass et al. (2018)

In order to replicate findings by Grass et al. (2018) we computed a multiple mediation model to investigate whether the association of NFC and reduced personal efficacy was partially mediated by self-control and habitual use of reappraisal and suppression, respectively. The baseline model did not fit the data ($\chi^2(10, N = 180) = 49.64, p < .001$). Applying the cutoffs by Hu and Bentler (1999) to the fit indices of $CFI = 1, TLI = 1.14, SRMR = 0.02$, and $RMSEA = 0.00$, 95% $CI [0, 0.09]$, suggested good fit of the proposed model throughout all indices. Standardized estimates are displayed in Figure 1, total, direct, and indirect effects are listed in Table 3. We could replicate a positive association of NFC and self control ($\beta = 0.27, p = 0.00$), and a negative association of habitual reappraisal and reduced personal efficacy ($\beta = -0.17, p = 0.01$).

However, we could neither replicate the effect of NFC on reappraisal ($\beta = -0.17, p = 0.02$), nor the indirect effect of NFC on reduced personal efficacy via reappraisal ($\beta = -0.02, p = 0.15$). Furthermore, even though NFC and self control and reduced personal efficacy and self control were associated, the indirect effect of NFC on reduced personal efficacy via self control did not reach significance ($\beta = -0.05, p = 0.09$). Additionally, NFC was negatively associated with habitual use of suppression ($\beta = -0.18, p = 0.01$), which was not the case in the study by Grass et al. (2018).

Path	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>z</i> -value	<i>p</i> -value	CI Lower	CI Upper	β
Direct Effects							
NFC on Self Control	0.162	0.051	3.154	0.002	0.055	0.258	0.271
NFC on Reappraisal	0.055	0.034	1.619	0.105	-0.011	0.120	0.123
NFC on Suppression	-0.063	0.025	-2.524	0.012	-0.113	-0.017	-0.182
Self Control on RPE	-0.069	0.030	-2.318	0.020	-0.126	-0.009	-0.169
Reappraisal on RPE	-0.094	0.036	-2.652	0.008	-0.159	-0.023	-0.173
Suppression on RPE	0.002	0.051	0.043	0.966	-0.094	0.106	0.003
NFC on RPE	-0.051	0.021	-2.473	0.013	-0.089	-0.008	-0.208
Indirect Effects							
NFC on RPE via Self Control	-0.011	0.007	-1.695	0.090	-0.026	-0.001	-0.046
NFC on RPE via Reappraisal	-0.005	0.004	-1.429	0.153	-0.013	0.001	-0.021
NFC on RPE via Suppression	0.000	0.004	-0.039	0.969	-0.008	0.006	-0.001
Total Effect							
Total Effect	-0.067	0.023	-2.957	0.003	-0.111	-0.021	-0.276

Note: *B* = unstandardized regression coefficient, *beta* = standardized regression coefficient, CI = confidence interval, NFC = Need for Cognition, RPE = reduced personal efficacy subscale of the Maslach Burnout Inventory, *SE* = standard error.

Grass et al. (2018) controlled for age and a-level grade in their analysis, which we did not consider when preregistering this analysis. Since grade was not assessed in this sample, and age was assessed as a categorical variable, we instead incorporated how many years each participant had spent teaching at the point of assessment. We placed this variable as an independent variable influencing self control, as the latter was the only variable in the model that showed a partial correlation with years spent teaching. As it was not preregistered, this was an exploratory analysis. Again, the baseline model did not fit the data ($\chi^2(14, N = 180) = 60.41, p < .001$), and the fit indices of $CFI = 1, TLI = 1.19$,

247 $SRMR = 0.02$, and $RMSEA = 0.00$, 95% $CI [0,0.04]$, suggested good fit of the proposed
 248 model throughout all indices. Standardized estimates, total, direct, and indirect effects are
 249 displayed and listed in *Supplementary Material S3*. The associations between NFC, self
 250 control, reappraisal, suppression, and reduced personal efficacy were almost identical to the
 251 model first model. However, because of the positive association of years spent teaching and
 252 self control ($\beta = 0.22$, $p < .001$), the indirect path leading from NFC and years spent
 253 teaching via self control to reduced personal efficacy reached significance in this model
 254 ($\beta = -0.09$, $p = 0.05$). Therefore, the total effect also increased slightly, compared to the
 255 first model ($\beta = -0.32$, $p = 0.00$).

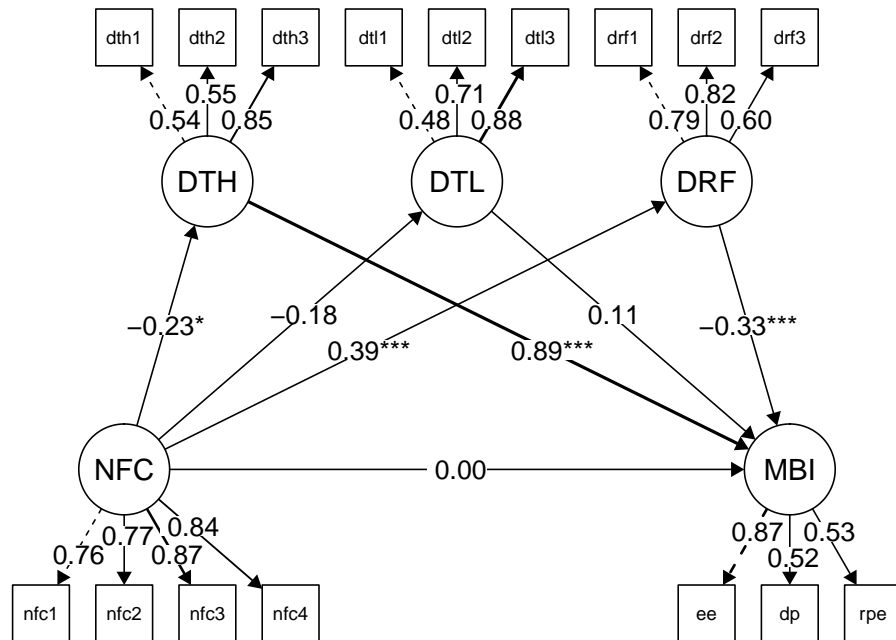


Figure 2. Mediation of NFC and burnout by demand-resource-ratios

Demand-Resource Model

Next we looked at how different ratios of subjective demands and resources affect the association of NFC and burnout. The parcelling procedure for the indicators of the latent factor NFC resulted in four parcels with a summed difference in average loadings of 0.00. The first parcel contained item 4, 6, 8, and 9, the second parcel item 2, 14, 15, and 16, the third parcel item 7, 11, 12, and 13, and the fourth parcel item 1, 3, 5, and 10. Standardized path coefficients of the demand-resource model are illustrated in Figure 2, total, direct, and indirect effects are listed in Table 4. The robust Chi-square statistic of $\chi^2 = 399.08$ ($p < .001$) did not indicate good model fit. However, since it was in the range of $4 * df < \chi^2 < 5 * df$ the lack of good fit might have been due to the underlying assumption of multivariate normality (Hu & Bentler, 1999; Schumacker & Lomax, 2012), which was violated here. This also held true for the CFI of 0.78, the SRMR of 0.17, and the RMSEA of 0.13, 95% *CI* [0.12,0.14]. Overall, the fit indices did not support the proposed model, and not all proposed paths were significant. NFC showed no direct association with the MBI score ($\beta = 0$, $p = 0.99$), even though it was negatively correlated with the sum score and all subscales. Instead, NFC showed indirect negative associations with the MBI score via lower scores in the latent variable DTH ($\beta = -0.20$, $p = 0.03$) and via higher scores in the latent variable DRF ($\beta = -0.13$, $p = 0.03$). The latent variable DTL was neither related to NFC ($\beta = -0.18$, $p = 0.13$) nor to the MBI score ($\beta = 0.11$, $p = 0.20$).

c("NFC on DTH," "NFC on DTL," "NFC on DRF," "NFC on MBI," "DTH on MBI," "DTL on MBI," "DRF on MBI," "NFC on MBI via DTH," "NFC on MBI via DTL," "NFC on MBI via DRF," "Total Effect"), c("-0.042," "-0.023," "0.070," "0.002," "10.624," "1.838," "-4.036," "-0.451," "-0.042," "-0.284," "-0.775"), c("0.020," "0.015," "0.020," "0.144," "2.229," "1.428," "1.080," "0.203," "0.033," "0.127," "0.258"), c("-2.154," "-1.522," "3.488," "0.014," "4.767," "1.287," "-3.736," "-2.221," "-1.270," "-2.236," "-3.003"),


```

282 c("0.031","0.128","0.000","0.989","0.000","0.198","0.000","0.026","0.204","0.025","0.003"),
283 c("-0.081","-0.052"," 0.031","-0.281","
284 6.256","-0.960","-6.153","-0.848","-0.107","-0.533","-1.280"), c("-0.004"," 0.007"," 0.110","
285 0.285","14.991"," 4.637","-1.918","-0.053"," 0.023","-0.035","-0.269"), c("-0.228","-0.180","
286 0.386"," 0.001"," 0.892"," 0.106","-0.332","-0.203","-0.019","-0.128","-0.349")

287 ## lavaan 0.6-9 ended normally after 125 iterations
288 ##
289 ##      Estimator                      ML
290 ##      Optimization method          NLMINB
291 ##      Number of model parameters          34
292 ##
293 ##      Number of observations          180
294 ##
295 ## Model Test User Model:
296 ##                                Standard      Robust
297 ##      Test Statistic          250.937      247.820
298 ##      Degrees of freedom          71          71
299 ##      P-value (Chi-square)          0.000      0.000
300 ##      Scaling correction factor          1.013
301 ##      Yuan-Bentler correction (Mplus variant)
302 ##
303 ## Model Test Baseline Model:
304 ##
305 ##      Test statistic          1161.800      1112.062
306 ##      Degrees of freedom          91          91
307 ##      P-value          0.000      0.000
308 ##      Scaling correction factor          1.045

```

```

309 ##
310 ## User Model versus Baseline Model:
311 ##
312 ## Comparative Fit Index (CFI) 0.832 0.827
313 ## Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI) 0.785 0.778
314 ##
315 ## Robust Comparative Fit Index (CFI) 0.832
316 ## Robust Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI) 0.785
317 ##
318 ## Loglikelihood and Information Criteria:
319 ##
320 ## Loglikelihood user model (H0) -4173.205 -4173.205
321 ## Scaling correction factor 1.224
322 ## for the MLR correction
323 ## Loglikelihood unrestricted model (H1) -4047.737 -4047.737
324 ## Scaling correction factor 1.081
325 ## for the MLR correction
326 ##
327 ## Akaike (AIC) 8414.410 8414.410
328 ## Bayesian (BIC) 8522.971 8522.971
329 ## Sample-size adjusted Bayesian (BIC) 8415.293 8415.293
330 ##
331 ## Root Mean Square Error of Approximation:
332 ##
333 ## RMSEA 0.119 0.118
334 ## 90 Percent confidence interval - lower 0.103 0.102
335 ## 90 Percent confidence interval - upper 0.135 0.134

```

```

336 ## P-value RMSEA <= 0.05 0.000 0.000
337 ##
338 ## Robust RMSEA 0.118
339 ## 90 Percent confidence interval - lower 0.103
340 ## 90 Percent confidence interval - upper 0.135
341 ##
342 ## Standardized Root Mean Square Residual:
343 ##
344 ## SRMR 0.165 0.165
345 ##
346 ## Parameter Estimates:
347 ##
348 ## Standard errors Sandwich
349 ## Information bread Observed
350 ## Observed information based on Hessian
351 ##
352 ## Latent Variables:
353 ## Estimate Std.Err z-value P(>|z|) ci.lower ci.upper
354 ## NFC =~
355 ## nfc1 1.000 1.000 1.000
356 ## nfc2 1.013 0.112 9.043 0.000 0.793 1.232
357 ## nfc3 1.062 0.087 12.179 0.000 0.891 1.232
358 ## nfc4 1.045 0.104 10.045 0.000 0.841 1.249
359 ## DTH =~
360 ## dth1 1.000 1.000 1.000
361 ## dth2 1.016 0.159 6.405 0.000 0.705 1.326
362 ## dth3 0.857 0.132 6.511 0.000 0.599 1.115

```

363	##	DTL =~						
364	##	dtl1	1.000				1.000	1.000
365	##	dtl2	1.759	0.327	5.377	0.000	1.118	2.401
366	##	dtl3	1.836	0.333	5.514	0.000	1.183	2.488
367	##	DRF =~						
368	##	drf1	1.000				1.000	1.000
369	##	drf2	0.878	0.126	6.987	0.000	0.632	1.124
370	##	drf3	0.776	0.124	6.243	0.000	0.532	1.020
371	##	RPE =~						
372	##	mbi_rpe	1.000				1.000	1.000
373	##	Std.lv	Std.all					
374	##							
375	##	3.195	0.755					
376	##	3.236	0.775					
377	##	3.392	0.867					
378	##	3.338	0.841					
379	##							
380	##	0.785	0.709					
381	##	0.797	0.805					
382	##	0.672	0.571					
383	##							
384	##	0.424	0.500					
385	##	0.745	0.738					
386	##	0.778	0.845					
387	##							
388	##	0.590	0.796					
389	##	0.518	0.817					

```

390 ##      0.458      0.591
391 ##
392 ##      3.297      1.000
393 ##
394 ## Regressions:
395 ##              Estimate Std.Err  z-value  P(>|z|)  ci.lower ci.upper
396 ## DTH ~
397 ##   NFC      (a1)  -0.054    0.024   -2.245    0.025   -0.101   -0.007
398 ## DTL ~
399 ##   NFC      (a2)  -0.025    0.015   -1.637    0.102   -0.055    0.005
400 ## DRF ~
401 ##   NFC      (a3)   0.071    0.020    3.564    0.000    0.032    0.110
402 ## RPE ~
403 ##   NFC      (c)  -0.051    0.085   -0.597    0.551   -0.218    0.116
404 ##   DTH      (b1)   0.497    0.366    1.357    0.175   -0.221    1.214
405 ##   DTL      (b2)   0.845    0.653    1.293    0.196   -0.436    2.125
406 ##   DRF      (b3)  -3.161    0.439   -7.196    0.000   -4.022   -2.300
407 ## Std.lv Std.all
408 ##
409 ##   -0.220   -0.220
410 ##
411 ##   -0.189   -0.189
412 ##
413 ##   0.385    0.385
414 ##
415 ##   -0.049   -0.049
416 ##   0.118    0.118

```

417 ## 0.109 0.109

418 ## -0.566 -0.566

419 ##

420 ## Variances:

421 ## Estimate Std.Err z-value P(>|z|) ci.lower ci.upper

422 ## .nfc1 7.709 1.135 6.793 0.000 5.485 9.934

423 ## .nfc2 6.974 0.930 7.498 0.000 5.151 8.797

424 ## .nfc3 3.815 0.741 5.148 0.000 2.363 5.268

425 ## .nfc4 4.597 0.973 4.723 0.000 2.689 6.504

426 ## .dth1 0.608 0.113 5.374 0.000 0.386 0.830

427 ## .dth2 0.345 0.105 3.289 0.001 0.140 0.551

428 ## .dth3 0.933 0.123 7.613 0.000 0.693 1.174

429 ## .dtl1 0.537 0.092 5.845 0.000 0.357 0.717

430 ## .dtl2 0.464 0.077 5.990 0.000 0.312 0.615

431 ## .dtl3 0.242 0.075 3.241 0.001 0.096 0.388

432 ## .drf1 0.201 0.040 5.021 0.000 0.123 0.280

433 ## .drf2 0.133 0.032 4.209 0.000 0.071 0.195

434 ## .drf3 0.391 0.059 6.605 0.000 0.275 0.508

435 ## .mbi_rpe 0.000 0.000 0.000

436 ## NFC 10.210 2.189 4.665 0.000 5.920 14.500

437 ## .DTH 0.586 0.128 4.583 0.000 0.336 0.837

438 ## .DTL 0.173 0.058 2.998 0.003 0.060 0.286

439 ## .DRF 0.297 0.077 3.868 0.000 0.146 0.447

440 ## .RPE 6.568 0.876 7.498 0.000 4.852 8.285

441 ## Std.lv Std.all

442 ## 7.709 0.430

443 ## 6.974 0.400

444	##	3.815	0.249
445	##	4.597	0.292
446	##	0.608	0.497
447	##	0.345	0.352
448	##	0.933	0.674
449	##	0.537	0.750
450	##	0.464	0.455
451	##	0.242	0.286
452	##	0.201	0.366
453	##	0.133	0.332
454	##	0.391	0.651
455	##	0.000	0.000
456	##	1.000	1.000
457	##	0.952	0.952
458	##	0.964	0.964
459	##	0.852	0.852
460	##	0.604	0.604
461	##		
462	##	R-Square:	
463	##	Estimate	
464	##	nfc1	0.570
465	##	nfc2	0.600
466	##	nfc3	0.751
467	##	nfc4	0.708
468	##	dth1	0.503
469	##	dth2	0.648
470	##	dth3	0.326

```

471 ##      dtl1      0.250
472 ##      dtl2      0.545
473 ##      dtl3      0.714
474 ##      drf1      0.634
475 ##      drf2      0.668
476 ##      drf3      0.349
477 ##      mbi_rpe    1.000
478 ##      DTH        0.048
479 ##      DTL        0.036
480 ##      DRF        0.148
481 ##      RPE        0.396

```

```

482 ##

```

```

483 ## Defined Parameters:

```

```

484 ##              Estimate Std.Err  z-value  P(>|z|)  ci.lower ci.upper
485 ##      Indirect1    -0.027   0.023   -1.167   0.243   -0.072   0.018
486 ##      Indirect2    -0.021   0.022   -0.985   0.325   -0.063   0.021
487 ##      Indirect3    -0.225   0.071   -3.152   0.002   -0.365  -0.085
488 ##      Contrast      0.219   0.078    2.812   0.005    0.066   0.372
489 ##      Total        -0.324   0.107   -3.032   0.002   -0.533  -0.115
490 ##      Std.lv   Std.all
491 ##      -0.026   -0.026
492 ##      -0.021   -0.021
493 ##      -0.218   -0.218
494 ##      0.212    0.212
495 ##      -0.314   -0.314

```


Exploratory analyses

The first exploratory analysis concerned a modification of the demand-resource-model in which the subscale reduced personal efficacy would be used in place of the MBI sum score. Path coefficients, total, direct, and indirect effects are displayed and listed in *Supplementary Material S4*. Similar to the previous model, this model's indices did not indicate good fit, with a Chi-square statistic of $\chi^2 = 247.82$ ($p < .001$), a CFI of 0.83, a SRMR of 0.17, and a RMSEA of 0.12, 95% *CI* [0.10,0.13]. NFC showed no direct association with reduced personal efficacy ($\beta = -0.05$, $p = 0.55$), but an indirect one via higher scores in the latent variable DRF ($\beta = -0.22$, $p = 0.00$). And again, NFC was associated with lower scores in the latent variable DTH ($\beta = -0.22$, $p = 0.03$), but the latter did not mediate the relationship between NFC and reduced personal efficacy ($\beta = -0.03$, $p = 0.24$) as it did with the MBI score in the previous model. The latent variable DTL was neither related to NFC ($\beta = -0.19$, $p = 0.10$) nor to the MBI score ($\beta = 0.11$, $p = 0.20$).

```
## lavaan 0.6-9 ended normally after 154 iterations
```

```
##
```

```
## Estimator ML
```

```
## Optimization method NLMINB
```

```
## Number of model parameters 46
```

```
##
```

```
## Number of observations 180
```

```
##
```

```
## Model Test User Model:
```

```
## Standard Robust
```

```
## Test Statistic 133.181 130.126
```

```
## Degrees of freedom 74 74
```

```
## P-value (Chi-square) 0.000 0.000
```

522	##	Scaling correction factor		1.023
523	##	Yuan-Bentler correction (Mplus variant)		
524	##			
525	##	Model Test Baseline Model:		
526	##			
527	##	Test statistic	1240.327	1186.218
528	##	Degrees of freedom	105	105
529	##	P-value	0.000	0.000
530	##	Scaling correction factor		1.046
531	##			
532	##	User Model versus Baseline Model:		
533	##			
534	##	Comparative Fit Index (CFI)	0.948	0.948
535	##	Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI)	0.926	0.926
536	##			
537	##	Robust Comparative Fit Index (CFI)		0.949
538	##	Robust Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI)		0.928
539	##			
540	##	Loglikelihood and Information Criteria:		
541	##			
542	##	Loglikelihood user model (H0)	-5871.805	-5871.805
543	##	Scaling correction factor		1.108
544	##	for the MLR correction		
545	##	Loglikelihood unrestricted model (H1)	-5805.215	-5805.215
546	##	Scaling correction factor		1.056
547	##	for the MLR correction		
548	##			

```

549 ## Akaike (AIC) 11835.610 11835.610
550 ## Bayesian (BIC) 11982.486 11982.486
551 ## Sample-size adjusted Bayesian (BIC) 11836.804 11836.804
552 ##
553 ## Root Mean Square Error of Approximation:
554 ##
555 ## RMSEA 0.067 0.065
556 ## 90 Percent confidence interval - lower 0.048 0.046
557 ## 90 Percent confidence interval - upper 0.085 0.083
558 ## P-value RMSEA <= 0.05 0.068 0.090
559 ##
560 ## Robust RMSEA 0.066
561 ## 90 Percent confidence interval - lower 0.047
562 ## 90 Percent confidence interval - upper 0.084
563 ##
564 ## Standardized Root Mean Square Residual:
565 ##
566 ## SRMR 0.058 0.058
567 ##
568 ## Parameter Estimates:
569 ##
570 ## Standard errors Sandwich
571 ## Information bread Observed
572 ## Observed information based on Hessian
573 ##
574 ## Latent Variables:
575 ## Estimate Std.Err z-value P(>|z|) ci.lower ci.upper

```

576	##	NFC =~					
577	##	nfc1	1.000			1.000	1.000
578	##	nfc2	0.994	0.112	8.869	0.000	0.774 1.213
579	##	nfc3	1.046	0.087	12.010	0.000	0.875 1.216
580	##	nfc4	1.040	0.107	9.730	0.000	0.830 1.249
581	##	DTH =~					
582	##	dth1	1.000			1.000	1.000
583	##	dth2	0.854	0.113	7.535	0.000	0.632 1.076
584	##	dth3	1.617	0.224	7.222	0.000	1.178 2.055
585	##	DRF =~					
586	##	drf1	1.000			1.000	1.000
587	##	drf2	0.746	0.094	7.974	0.000	0.563 0.930
588	##	drf3	0.698	0.115	6.054	0.000	0.472 0.924
589	##	Std.lv	Std.all				
590	##						
591	##	3.249	0.765				
592	##	3.228	0.770				
593	##	3.397	0.865				
594	##	3.378	0.848				
595	##						
596	##	0.582	0.530				
597	##	0.497	0.505				
598	##	0.940	0.813				
599	##						
600	##	0.555	0.748				
601	##	0.414	0.653				
602	##	0.387	0.499				

```

603 ##
604 ## Regressions:
605 ##           Estimate Std.Err  z-value  P(>|z|)  ci.lower ci.upper
606 ##  covb ~
607 ##    years    (yc)    0.055    0.024    2.327    0.020    0.009    0.102
608 ##  scs ~
609 ##    years    (ys)    0.137    0.045    3.037    0.002    0.049    0.226
610 ##  DTH ~
611 ##    covb    (cdth)    0.061    0.014    4.352    0.000    0.034    0.089
612 ##    scs    (sdth)   -0.015    0.005   -3.069    0.002   -0.025   -0.005
613 ##    NFC    (ndth)   -0.038    0.014   -2.646    0.008   -0.065   -0.010
614 ##  DRF ~
615 ##    scs    (sdrf)    0.015    0.006    2.540    0.011    0.003    0.026
616 ##    NFC    (ndrf)    0.057    0.018    3.162    0.002    0.022    0.093
617 ##  mbi_ee ~
618 ##    DTH    (dthe)   14.985    2.111    7.098    0.000   10.847   19.124
619 ##    covb    (ce)   -0.294    0.136   -2.161    0.031   -0.560   -0.027
620 ##  mbi_rpe ~
621 ##    DRF    (drfr)   -4.686    0.634   -7.387    0.000   -5.930   -3.443
622 ##  Std.lv  Std.all
623 ##
624 ##    0.055    0.168
625 ##
626 ##    0.137    0.212
627 ##
628 ##    0.105    0.449
629 ##   -0.026   -0.217

```

630 ## -0.210 -0.210

631 ##

632 ## 0.027 0.223

633 ## 0.336 0.336

634 ##

635 ## 8.716 1.004

636 ## -0.294 -0.144

637 ##

638 ## -2.601 -0.760

639 ##

640 ## Covariances:

641 ## Estimate Std.Err z-value P(>|z|) ci.lower ci.upper

642 ## NFC ~~

643 ## .scs 8.247 3.094 2.665 0.008 2.182 14.312

644 ## .covb 2.660 1.129 2.356 0.018 0.447 4.872

645 ## .DTH ~~

646 ## .DRF -0.152 0.036 -4.184 0.000 -0.223 -0.081

647 ## .mbi_ee ~~

648 ## .mbi_rpe -0.153 1.283 -0.119 0.905 -2.668 2.361

649 ## NFC ~~

650 ## years -1.179 3.315 -0.356 0.722 -7.675 5.318

651 ## .dth1 ~~

652 ## .dth2 0.329 0.068 4.808 0.000 0.195 0.463

653 ## .dth3 -0.044 0.056 -0.780 0.435 -0.155 0.067

654 ## .dth2 ~~

655 ## .dth3 0.026 0.056 0.459 0.646 -0.085 0.136

656 ## .drf1 ~~

657	##	.drf2	0.070	0.036	1.939	0.052	-0.001	0.141
658	##	.drf3	0.053	0.041	1.292	0.196	-0.027	0.133
659	##	.drf2 ~~						
660	##	.drf3	0.097	0.033	2.941	0.003	0.032	0.161
661	##	Std.lv Std.all						
662	##							
663	##	2.538	0.309					
664	##	0.819	0.194					
665	##							
666	##	-0.620	-0.620					
667	##							
668	##	-0.153	-0.027					
669	##							
670	##	-0.363	-0.028					
671	##							
672	##	0.329	0.416					
673	##	-0.044	-0.070					
674	##							
675	##	0.026	0.045					
676	##							
677	##	0.070	0.296					
678	##	0.053	0.160					
679	##							
680	##	0.097	0.299					
681	##							
682	##	Variances:						
683	##		Estimate	Std.Err	z-value	P(> z)	ci.lower	ci.upper

684	##	.nfc1	7.476	1.131	6.612	0.000	5.260	9.692
685	##	.nfc2	7.136	0.943	7.570	0.000	5.288	8.983
686	##	.nfc3	3.901	0.750	5.204	0.000	2.432	5.370
687	##	.nfc4	4.454	0.960	4.641	0.000	2.573	6.335
688	##	.dth1	0.867	0.096	9.022	0.000	0.679	1.055
689	##	.dth2	0.721	0.081	8.870	0.000	0.561	0.880
690	##	.dth3	0.452	0.068	6.638	0.000	0.319	0.586
691	##	.drf1	0.243	0.047	5.123	0.000	0.150	0.336
692	##	.drf2	0.231	0.039	5.849	0.000	0.153	0.308
693	##	.drf3	0.452	0.069	6.558	0.000	0.317	0.587
694	##	.covb	17.737	1.533	11.572	0.000	14.733	20.741
695	##	.scs	67.391	6.947	9.701	0.000	53.776	81.006
696	##	.mbi_ee	6.638	5.116	1.298	0.194	-3.389	16.665
697	##	.mbi_rpe	4.964	0.904	5.491	0.000	3.192	6.736
698	##	years	168.062	9.433	17.817	0.000	149.574	186.549
699	##	NFC	10.556	2.268	4.654	0.000	6.110	15.001
700	##	.DTH	0.244	0.060	4.055	0.000	0.126	0.362
701	##	.DRF	0.244	0.059	4.165	0.000	0.129	0.359
702	##	Std.lv	Std.all					
703	##	7.476	0.415					
704	##	7.136	0.406					
705	##	3.901	0.253					
706	##	4.454	0.281					
707	##	0.867	0.719					
708	##	0.721	0.745					
709	##	0.452	0.338					
710	##	0.243	0.441					

711	##	0.231	0.574
712	##	0.452	0.751
713	##	17.737	0.972
714	##	67.391	0.955
715	##	6.638	0.088
716	##	4.964	0.423
717	##	168.062	1.000
718	##	1.000	1.000
719	##	0.722	0.722
720	##	0.793	0.793
721	##		
722	##	R-Square:	
723	##		Estimate
724	##	nfc1	0.585
725	##	nfc2	0.594
726	##	nfc3	0.747
727	##	nfc4	0.719
728	##	dth1	0.281
729	##	dth2	0.255
730	##	dth3	0.662
731	##	drf1	0.559
732	##	drf2	0.426
733	##	drf3	0.249
734	##	covb	0.028
735	##	scs	0.045
736	##	mbi_ee	0.912
737	##	mbi_rpe	0.577

738 ## DTH 0.278

739 ## DRF 0.207

740 ##

741 ## Defined Parameters:

742 ## Estimate Std.Err z-value P(>|z|) ci.lower ci.upper

743 ## Indirect1 -0.279 0.084 -3.319 0.001 -0.443 -0.114

744 ## Indirect2 -0.543 0.206 -2.633 0.008 -0.947 -0.139

745 ## Contrast 0.264 0.184 1.439 0.150 -0.096 0.624

746 ## Total -0.821 0.256 -3.212 0.001 -1.322 -0.320

747 ## Std.lv Std.all

748 ## -0.884 -0.291

749 ## -1.808 -0.181

750 ## 0.924 -0.110

751 ## -2.691 -0.472

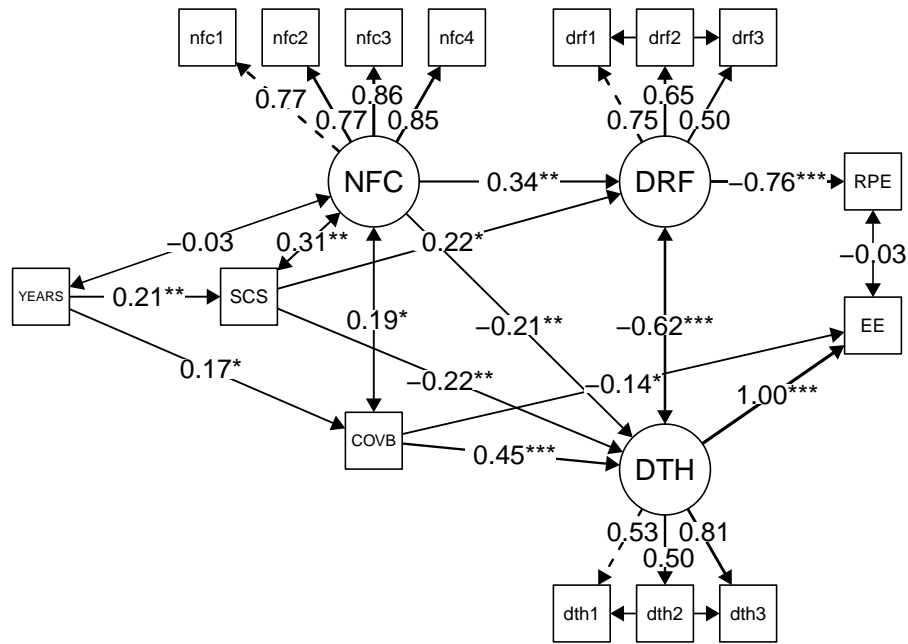


Figure 3. Exploratory analysis of variable relations

The second exploratory analysis concerned the incorporation of the Covid burden score into the model. We based the development of this model on the partial correlations of all variables, which provide an indication of how closely or remotely related variables might be in a path model. Then we modified the structure of the model in order to increase the goodness-of-fit indices within the framework of contentually meaningful variable relationships. The final model is illustrated in Figure 3, the total, direct, and indirect effects are listed in *Supplementary Material S5*. All fit indices suggest that the proposed model has good fit while the baseline model does not ($\chi^2 = 130.13$ ($p < .001$), $CFI = 0.95$, $RMSEA = 0.07$ (95% CI [0.05,0.08]), $SRMR = 0.06$). Neither the ERQ sum score, nor its subscales, nor the depersonalisation subscale of the MBI contributed significantly to the explained variance and were therefore not included in the final model. Years spent teaching

was associated with higher self control ($\beta = 0.21, p = 0.00$) and higher Covid burden ($\beta = 0.17, p = 0.02$) but not with NFC. NFC covaried with self control ($\sigma_{NFC,scs} = 0.31, p = 0.01$) and Covid burden ($\sigma_{NFC,covb} = 0.19, p = 0.02$), but not with years spent teaching ($p = 0.72$). In turn, NFC was associated with higher DRF scores ($\beta = 0.34, p = 0.00$) and lower DTH scores ($\beta = -0.21, p = 0.01$) but not directly with any of the two MBI subscales. DRF scores fully mediated the negative association of NFC and self control with reduced personal efficacy (indirect effect $\beta = -0.29, p = 0.00$), which was also true for DTH scores and emotional exhaustion, but DTH also partially mediated between Covid burden and emotional exhaustion (indirect effect $\beta = -0.18, p = 0.01$). Covid burden was not associated with DRF or reduced personal efficacy.

Discussion

The present study aimed to replicate findings of mediators between Need for Cognition and burnout in teachers, as well as to extend the analysis to the role of different ratios of demands and resources in burnout using latent variable models. In an exploratory approach, we investigated the influence of the burden that the Covid-19 pandemic has placed on teachers. Previous studies have indicated a protective effect of NFC against burnout, but the associations with the burnout subscales were inconsistent, suggesting that there are more variables influencing this relationship.

Replication of Grass et al. (2018)

While the mediation model had good fit, not all patterns were similar to the original study: NFC and self-control were positively associated, and reappraisal and reduced personal efficacy were negatively related, but there was no association between NFC and reappraisal. There was, however, a positive association between self-control and reduced personal efficacy, and a negative one between NFC and suppression.

NFC had a direct and negative effect on reduced personal efficacy, but this relationship was not mediated by any other variable. Only when the amount of teaching experience was included as a predictor of self-control next to NFC, an indirect effect via self-control reached significance, indicating that teachers with high NFC and more years of teaching experience have higher self-control and, consequently, lower reduced personal efficacy. The higher self-control that comes with more teaching experience is in line with findings of fluctuations in self-control in young adults, reaching a low point between the age of 15 and 19 (Oliva et al., 2019). The participants in the study by Grass et al. (2018) were teacher trainees with a mean age of 25.5 years, while the majority of the current sample was between 40 and 59 years old. Therefore, it is likely that not only the teaching experience itself but also higher age might be associated with higher self-control. However, one could argue that more experience provides the teacher with a bigger repertoire of coping strategies to enable an efficient exertion of self-control, especially for teachers high in NFC who are intrinsically motivated to find and apply such strategies.

We could replicate the relation between the two emotion regulation strategies reappraisal and suppression with reduced personal efficacy, but not their association with NFC. There is ample evidence that reappraisal is associated with positive outcomes for students (Haga et al., 2007; Levine et al., 2012; Schmidt et al., 2010) and teachers alike (Jiang et al., 2016; Moè & Katz, 2020; Tsouloupas et al., 2010), so it is surprising that reappraisal did not mediate between NFC and reduced personal efficacy. Reappraisal did correlate with NFC, as it should appease the preference for cognitive effort in individuals with high NFC, but it was not a mediator in this model. One possible explanation could be that the ways by which reappraisal can be achieved, such as taking the role of an uninvolved observer, are less feasible for teachers in retaining their sense of efficacy in the classroom than the self-control needed to structurally manage students and situations. Hence, the mediation of NFC and reduced personal efficacy by self-control when taking the years spent teaching into account.

Demand-resource-ratio model

Despite not having good fit indices, the model suggested a complete mediation of NFC and burnout via DTH and DRF but not DTL. Specifically, individuals with higher NFC had lower burnout scores through perceiving demands as fitting to and not exceeding their own resources. Interestingly, the correlation between NFC and burnout, which can be classified as medium according to Gignac and Szodorai (2016), disappeared in the context of the demand-resource-ratios as mediators. The mediator that did not reach significance was the perception of own resources exceeding the job demands. As this latent variable was conceptualized as boredom at work, we could not confirm the positive association of boredom and burnout found by Reijseger et al. (2013.). The fact that the items that make up the demand-resource-ratios were about the subjective perception and not about objective measures, supports the idea that the individual appraisal of one's own circumstances plays a crucial role in the development of burnout. This individual appraisal has been emphasized as the cause for the ambiguous impact of demands on psychological well-being before, in the form of challenge demands and hindrance demands (Lazarus & Folkman, 1984; Lepine et al., 2005; Podsakoff et al., 2007). Challenge demands such as time pressure, responsibility, and workload (Podsakoff et al., 2007) are being positively valued due to their potential to increase personal growth, positive affect, and problem-focused coping (Lepine et al., 2005). In contrast, hindrance demands such as inadequate resources, role conflict, and organisational politics (Podsakoff et al., 2007) are perceived as negative because they harm personal growth, trigger negative emotions, and increase passive coping (Lepine et al., 2005). Ventura et al. (2015) found that hindrance but not challenge demands were positively related to burnout in teachers, and teachers who reported high challenge and low hindrance demands also reported higher engagement. Whether and to what extent a circumstance is perceived as a challenge or hindrance demand is highly influenced by a person's level of self-efficacy (Bandura, 1997), so much so that a reduction in self-efficacy is considered to be a precursor of burnout, not necessarily a

symptom (Cherniss, 1993; M. Vera et al., 2012). Self-efficacy and self-control are closely entwined (Przepiórka et al., 2019; E. M. Vera et al., 2004; Yang et al., 2019) and both are positively associated with NFC (Bertrams & Dickhäuser, 2012; Holch & Marwood, 2020; Naderi et al., 2018; Xu & Cheng, 2021). Cacioppo et al. (Cacioppo et al., 1996) even proposed that higher levels of NFC might develop as a result of a high need for structure or control in those who have the skill, ability, and inclination to do so. These associations would imply that teachers with high levels of NFC report lower levels of burnout because their higher (desire for) self-control motivates them to appraise demands as a chance for personal growth, thereby meeting their passion for thinking and problem-solving. Nevertheless, appraisal is no universal remedy for circumstances that threaten well-being, as there certainly are circumstances that one cannot get any benefit out of. It remains an open question whether a high desire for control and high NFC might cloud one's judgement in this case, by encouraging to invest one's own insufficient resources in order to meet these high external demands. Such behavioural tendencies would threaten personal well-being in the long term, as the demands cannot be met, self-efficacy declines, and stress increases.

Exploratory analyses

Demand-resource-ratio model with subscale. The demand-resource-ratio model with the subscale reduced personal efficacy in place of the MBI score did not have good fit indices. Compared to the confirmatory demand-resource-ratio model, the mediation of NFC and reduced personal efficacy via DTH did not reach significance, but both the mediation via DRF and the total effect remained significant. Overall, this pattern does not resemble those from previous studies in which NFC had the strongest relation with this subscale of the MBI (Grass et al., 2018; Naderi et al., 2018). Teachers with high NFC appear to retain their sense of personal efficacy to a higher degree, because they experience a fit of demands and resources, which allows them to complete tasks and reinforce their self-efficacy in return. However, while this association was similar in the

confirmatory and the exploratory demand-resource-ratio model, the mediation via DTH was not significant with this subscale, suggesting that the large association of DTH and MBI in the confirmatory model was driven by a different subscale. To explore this, we built a second exploratory model, based on partial correlations and suggestions to improve fit indices by the *lavaan* package.

Structural equation model with Covid burden. Due to the complete freedom in setting up the structure of this model, it had good fit indices. Interestingly, the third MBI subscale depersonalisation and the latent variable DTL did not explain any variance in the model, so they were removed. Once again, NFC and self-control were positively related, but NFC was also positively related to Covid burden. One possible explanation is that teachers with higher NFC show higher consideration of the consequences and progression of the pandemic, thereby anticipating that it will take a long time until normal teaching can resume, which heightens their feeling of being burdened. Although NFC has been shown to be related to more reflective thinking and unrelated to rumination, which are considered healthy and unhealthy thinking styles, respectively (Nishiguchi et al., 2018; Vannucci & Chiorri, 2018), a higher perceived Covid burden itself cannot indicate whether it stems from a realistic view on the pandemic or a feeling of being overwhelmed. Teachers with more years of experience also reported higher Covid burden, presumably because older people are less comfortable with technology (Hauk et al., 2018) and therefore stressed by the prospect of online teaching. Teachers with higher self-control and higher NFC reported a stronger fit of demands and resources, which was associated with a strong decrease in reduced personal efficacy. Higher self-control, higher NFC, and lower Covid burden was in turn associated with a lower DTH score, so teachers with those characteristics felt less overwhelmed and consequently less emotionally exhausted. The degree of association between DTH and emotional exhaustion indeed suggested a congruence between the two, indicating that emotional exhaustion in burnout is caused by excessive demands that cannot be met with one's resources, while reduced personal efficacy

in burnout is caused by a lack of opportunities to utilize one's resources at work. Curiously, higher Covid burden also showed a small negative association with emotional exhaustion. It could be that for some teachers, remote teaching was experienced as a relief from the strain of dealing with a group of over twenty students each day, who are more likely to misbehave in a classroom setting than when they are home alone. So while those teachers did feel the pandemic burden, they also felt less emotionally exhausted.

Limitations and future implications

The data used in this study had been collected for another purpose, so there were several aspects that would have improved the investigation of our research questions but were not feasible. Firstly, collecting coping style data would have enabled a full replication of the mediation model of Grass et al. (2018). Secondly, longitudinal data would have facilitated more definitive conclusions about causal relations, as well as about inter-individual differences in the perception of demands and resources as the pandemic progresses. Furthermore, the latent variables for the demand-resource-ratios were item groups chosen from the work satisfaction questionnaire and had not been validated for this use before. However, as two of them showed meaningful relations with self-control, NFC, and two of the three MBI subscales, pursuing this concept further seems promising. Especially because we worked with pre-existing data, we preregistered all analyses and clearly differentiated between confirmatory and exploratory models in order to make the results as reliable as possible. Applied to real-life teaching practise, our results suggest that a healthy work environment should offer ample opportunities to make use of one's abilities, without creating demands that are too high. As a consequence, experiences and sense of self-efficacy will increase, which in turn heightens confidence in one's skills to deal with future demands that are higher, preventing loss of personal efficacy and burnout in the long term.

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Supplementary Material

S1: Items used to assess Covid burden

1. How burdened do you currently feel by the measures associated with Covid-19?
2. Are you in a Covid-19 risk group?
3. Do you have or have you had a Covid-19 infection?
4. Are or were family members or other people close to you infected with Covid-19?
5. Do you feel more burdened at work?
6. Are your worried more?
7. Do you feel restricted in your current day-to-day life?
8. Do you currently have additional responsibilities?
9. How much time do you currently spend on leisure activities?
10. Do you currently spend more/less time on work-related activities (e.g. preparing lessons, reading literature, attending trainings for digital teaching)?
11. Did the current demands within your job change?

For each response scale, please refer to Excel file with the full list of items and response types on OSF <https://osf.io/36ep9/>.

1237 **S2: Results when excluding the outlier with very high MBI scores and very low**
1238 **NFC scores**

1239 **S3: Replication of Grass et al. (2018) when including years spent teaching**

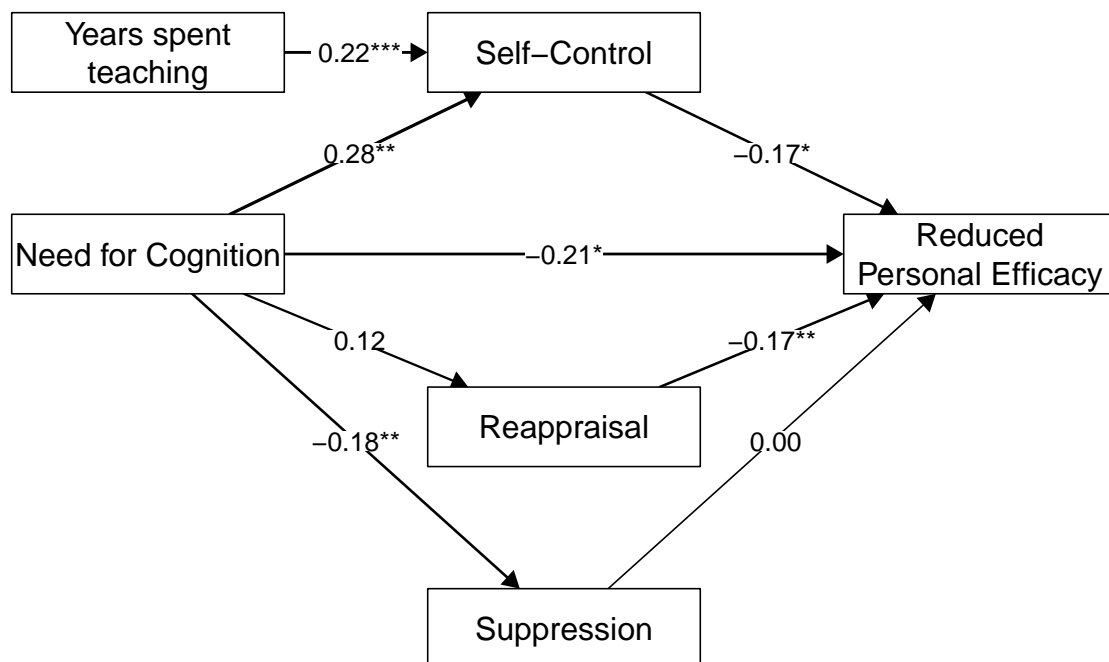


Figure 4. Replication of Grass et al. (2018) when including years spent teaching

Path	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>z</i> -value	<i>p</i> -value	CI Lower
Direct Effects					
NFC on Self Control	0.168	0.052	3.258	0.001	0.064
Years spent teaching on Self Control	0.145	0.044	3.299	0.001	0.054
NFC on Reappraisal	0.055	0.036	1.519	0.129	-0.016
NFC on Suppression	-0.063	0.024	-2.602	0.009	-0.109
Self Control on RPE	-0.069	0.030	-2.271	0.023	-0.127
Reappraisal on RPE	-0.094	0.036	-2.618	0.009	-0.164
Suppression on RPE	0.002	0.049	0.044	0.965	-0.093
NFC on RPE	-0.051	0.020	-2.491	0.013	-0.089
Indirect Effects					
NFC and years spent teaching on RPE via Self Control	-0.021	0.011	-1.965	0.049	-0.045
NFC on RPE via Reappraisal	-0.005	0.004	-1.325	0.185	-0.014
NFC on RPE via Suppression	0.000	0.003	-0.041	0.968	-0.008
Total Effect					
Total Effect	-0.078	0.025	-3.164	0.002	-0.124

Note: *B* = unstandardized regression coefficient, *beta* = standardized regression coefficient, CI = confidence interval, NFC = Need for Cognition, RPE = reduced personal efficacy subscale of the Maslach Burnout Inventory, *SE* = standard error.

S4: Demand-resource-ratio model with the MBI subscale reduced personal efficacy

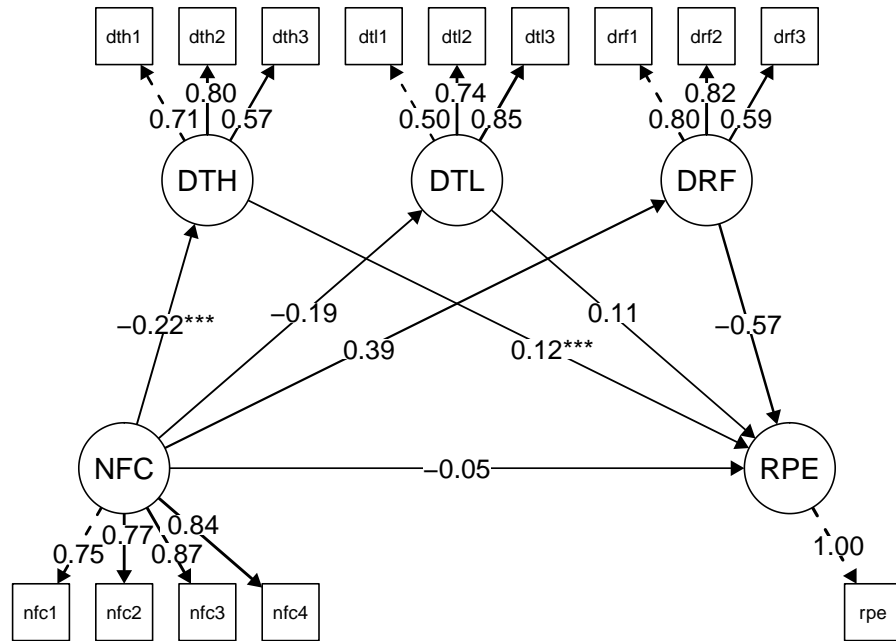


Figure 5. Demand-resource-ratio model with the MBI subscale reduced personal efficacy

S5: Exploratory model with all relevant variables

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10 = 18, 11 = 15, 12 = 15, 13 = 16, 14 = 16, 15 = 5, 16 = 6, 17 = 16, 18 = 6, 19 = 16,
20 = 17, 21 = 17, 22 = 5, 23 = 18, 24 = 10, 25 = 16, 26 = 7, 27 = 7, 28 = 8, 29 = 11, 30
= 11, 31 = 12, 131 = 6, 141 = 5, 201 = 18, 241 = 14, 251 = 15, 261 = 8, 271 = 9, 281 =
9, 291 = 12, 301 = 13, 311 = 13), to = c(1 = 1, 2 = 2, 3 = 3, 4 = 4, 5 = 7, 6 = 8, 7 = 9,
8 = 11, 9 = 12, 10 = 13, 11 = 5, 12 = 6, 13 = 6, 14 = 5, 15 = 17, 16 = 17, 17 = 17, 18 =
18, 19 = 18, 20 = 18, 21 = 10, 22 = 10, 23 = 14, 24 = 14, 25 = 15, 26 = 8, 27 = 9, 28 =
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1250 9, 29 = 12, 30 = 13, 31 = 13, 131 = 16, 141 = 16, 201 = 17, 241 = 10, 251 = 16, 261 = 7,
1251 271 = 7, 281 = 8, 291 = 11, 301 = 11, 311 = 12), weight = c(1 = 0.765117083957365, 2 =
1252 0.770427553639367, 3 = 0.864508155909885, 4 = 0.848081912182323, 5 =
1253 0.529781603337093, 6 = 0.504932520195565, 7 = 0.813348836632098, 8 =
1254 0.747932753598039, 9 = 0.653039739742471, 10 = 0.499322955326272, 11 =
1255 0.167539254719309, 12 = 0.211669315795431, 13 = 0.309221625443844, 14 =
1256 0.194365908847026, 15 = 0.449018521503672, 16 = -0.217437958379701, 17 =
1257 -0.209637147215044, 18 = 0.222755284856987, 19 = 0.336047786889391, 20 =
1258 -0.620227269421329, 21 = 1.00384819599275, 22 = -0.144464046234454, 23 =
1259 -0.75950418464954, 24 = -0.0266750169881012, 25 = -0.027984453616643, 26 =
1260 0.415994603583517, 27 = -0.070318278914166, 28 = 0.0452764016216723, 29 =
1261 0.295924265479812, 30 = 0.159963758171839, 31 = 0.29945973155572, 131 =
1262 0.309221625443844, 141 = 0.194365908847026, 201 = -0.620227269421329, 241 =
1263 -0.0266750169881012, 251 = -0.027984453616643, 261 = 0.415994603583517, 271 =
1264 -0.070318278914166, 281 = 0.0452764016216723, 291 = 0.295924265479812, 301 =
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1266 TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE,
1267 TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE,
1268 TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE,
1269 TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE), bidirectional = c(FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,
1270 FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, TRUE,
1271 TRUE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, TRUE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,
1272 TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE,
1273 TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE)), list(labels = c("nfc1,"
1274 "nfc2," "nfc3," "nfc4," "COVB," "SCS," "dth1," "dth2," "dth3," "EE," "drf1," "drf2,"
1275 "drf3," "RPE," "YEARS," "NFC," "DTH," "DRF")), bidirectional = c(FALSE, FALSE,
1276 FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,

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[illegible]

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1306 aspect = FALSE, CircleEdgeEnd = c(FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,
1307 FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,
1308 FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,
1309 FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,
1310 FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,
1311 FALSE), curveScale = TRUE, bars = list(NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL,
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1313 NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL), barSide = c(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1,
1314 1, 1, 1, 1), barColor =
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1317 = c(NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA,
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1322 NA, NA, NA, NA, NA), fade = FALSE, esize = 2, edge.label.position = c(0.6,
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1326 posCol = "black", negCol = "black", input = c(16, 16, 16, 16, 17, 17, 17, 18, 18,
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1328 18, 14, 15, 8, 9, 9, 12, 13, 13, 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 5, 6, 6, 5, 17, 17, 17,
1329 18, 18, 18, 10, 10, 14, 14, 15, 8, 9, 9, 12, 13, 13, 16, 16, 17, 10, 16, 7, 7, 8, 11,
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```
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1334 0.309221625443844, 0.194365908847026, 0.449018521503672,  
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1336 0.336047786889391, -0.620227269421329, 1.00384819599275,  
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1341 -0.620227269421329, -0.0266750169881012, -0.027984453616643,  
1342 0.415994603583517, -0.070318278914166, 0.0452764016216723,  
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1348 open = FALSE, curvePivot = FALSE, curveShape = -1, curveScale = TRUE,  
1349 curveScaleNodeCorrection = TRUE, curvePivotShape = 0.25, label.scale =  
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[illegible]

[illegible]

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1431 labels = c(" 0.77"," 0.77"," 0.86"," 0.85"," 0.53"," 0.50"," 0.81"," 0.75","
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1456   1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1), edge.label.position =
1457   c(0.6, 0.3, 0.6, 0.3, 0.3, 0.6, 0.3, 0.3, 0.6, 0.3, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5,
1458   0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5),
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1460   FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,
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1462   FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,
1463   FALSE, FALSE, FALSE), CircleEdgeEnd = c(FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,
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1465   FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE,

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