

Collaboration engagement form

Cross-national Study on Democracy, Basic Psychological Needs, and Well-being across the World

Research focus

Over the past century, global human development has advanced significantly, with reductions in poverty, economic growth, increased safety, but also expanded democracy, endorsed by institutions as the United Nations to be the political system most supportive of citizens' long-term well-being. Yet, recent reports highlight a democratic decline, as more people question their country's democratic integrity and even consider autocratic alternatives. If democracy truly fosters optimal governance and well-being, why are people increasingly turning away from it?

Relying on SDT, this study aims to explore the relation between democratic and autocratic regimes and adult well-being through experiences of individual and collective need satisfaction and frustration. We aim to examine whether variation in countries' adherence to democratic principles predicts variation in citizens' well-being through the explanatory role of the basic psychological needs for autonomy, competence, and relatedness.

Goal

We aim to recruit a highly diverse set of countries and regions that differ in their level of democracy and autocracy and test the proposed model – rather ambitiously – at an inter-continental level.

Collaboration expectations

If you agree to contribute to this project, your tasks as a collaborator would be the following:

- **Participant recruitment:** You would take the lead in the recruitment of participants within your country, aiming for a diverse sociodemographic representation of citizens in your country or region.
- **Measures:** You are asked to follow a standardized protocol to recruit participants, which complete a set of measure measuring key constructs under investigation.
- **Authorship and acknowledgment:** In exchange for your role in the recruitment process and given that you read over a final version of a contribution to provide your inputs, you will be credited as a co-author. You will be involved during several online meetings throughout the entire process during which you can provide inputs on the conceptual model, measurement and data-analytical phase. The main authors will take the lead in this process.

Timing

This invitation is part of a proposal for funding to support this project. The project is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2025, with data collection planned for the fall of 2025 and winter of 2026. Please consider this timeline when deciding on your involvement.

We kindly ask that you confirm your interest by November 25, 2024.

Researcher information

- **Name:** Irma Eloff
- **Institution:** University of Pretoria
- **Country:** South Africa
- **Email Address:** irma.eloff@up.ac.za

Additional comments or questions

- Please include any additional comments, concerns, or requests for clarification regarding your role or the project:

Please indicate whether you plan to contribute to this unique, worldwide project:

- Yes ☒
- Perhaps ☐
- No ☐

Signature: *Irma Eloff*

Date: 22 November 2024