October 5th, 2021

Dear Editors,

This is a pre-submission enquiry for a registered replication article of Valdesolo and DeSteno's 2007 paper "Moral Hypocrisy: Social Groups and the Flexibility of Virtue," originally published in *Psychological Science*. We believe this paper is an excellent candidate for replication, it has been cited almost 300 times since 2007, situating the paper as a core finding in the field of moral psychology.

This paper examined moral hypocrisy through an intergroup lens and found that people judge both themselves and their in-group members as behaving more fairly after a moral transgression compared to out-group members. The findings on intergroup moral hypocrisy from this study laid theoretical groundwork for several fundamental and oft-debated theories in social psychology such as self-deception (Von Hippel & Trivers, 2011) and the role of cognitive control in moral judgement (Greene et al. 2008).

Furthermore, 14 years later the findings have not lost relevance, with almost a third of the citations occurring in the last four years, especially in moral psychology (Ellmers et al., 2018; Bocian et al., 2021). The work on intergroup moral hypocrisy has also been cited in neuroscience, (Tang et al. 2017), business (Spielmann, 2020; Goswami, 2018), and politics (Hahl et al., 2018; Bar-Tal, 2017). Therefore, the importance of replicating these findings could improve our understanding of moral hypocrisy across multiple disciplines.

Valdesolo & DeSteno's research design is elegant, but the paper has a small sample size by contemporary standards (albeit normative for the period in which the work was conducted). Therefore, in our replication, we propose the following improvements to the methodology: (1) significantly increasing the sample size and statistical power, (2) adding new explanatory analyses, and (3) replicating the finding in real-world groups to evaluate external validity and generalizability.

A review of these citations on Google Scholar, as well as the Registered Report repository on OSF, confirms that there has been no replication of this paper thus far. We hope you agree that this replication is an excellent fit for *Psychological Science*. We are also open to any suggestions you may have about how to maximize the fit and overall contribution of this proposed work. We will make our pre-registration, analysis code, research material, and data publicly available upon publication.

We can recommend the following reviewers (in addition to the original authors):

Mark Brandt, Michigan State University
Darryl Cameron, Penn State University
Matt Baldwin, University of Florida

Thank you for your consideration.