



22. DANI PSIHOLOGIJE U ZADRU
22nd PSYCHOLOGY DAYS IN ZADAR

KNJIGA SAŽETAKA
BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**Odjel za psihologiju
Sveučilište u Zadru**

**Department of Psychology
University of Zadar**

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MILITANT EXTREMIST MINDSET PREDICTS HIGHER SOCIAL DISTANCE TOWARDS ADVERSARIAL ETHNIC GROUPS

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Radicalization and violent extremism have been operationalized through three-dimensional Militant-Extremist Mindset (MEM), including Pro-violence (PV) – acceptance, justification, and advocacy of the use of violence, Vile World (VW) – the belief there is something wrong with the world we live in, and that the present-day world is vile and miserable, and Divine Power (DP) – beliefs in heaven and God, the role of martyrdom, and afterlife. This construct proved to be predictive for a variety of socially relevant outcomes. The present study explores the predictive power of MEM for social distance toward four ethnic groups – Bosniaks, Croats, Albanians, and Roma – the groups with which Serbs share difficult history or are stigmatized in Serbian society. A total of 173 Belgrade high schoolers between 15 and 18 years of age ($M=16.54$, $SD=0.63$; 70.5% females) completed a 24-item version of the MEM scale along with the adapted four-item measure of social distance for each of the groups. We observed the most pronounced social distance toward Albanians and Roma ($p<.001$), followed by Croats ($p<.001$), while the lowest social distance was observed for Bosniaks ($p<.001$) [$F(3,516)=88.65$, $p<.001$, $\eta^2=.34$]. Social distance measures toward four ethnic groups showed to be moderately to highly correlated ($r=.518-.718$, $p<.001$). Regression analyses showed that three factors of MEM accounted for 15.3% of the variance of social distance toward Bosniaks [$F(3,169)=10.19$, $p<.001$; significant predictors PV ($\beta=.314$, $p<.001$), DP ($\beta=.200$, $p=.006$)], 20.8% of the variance of social distance toward Albanians [$F(3,169)=14.77$, $p<.001$; significant predictors PV ($\beta=.268$, $p<.001$), DP ($\beta=.339$, $p<.001$)], 21.4% for Croats [$F(3,169)=15.38$, $p<.001$; significant predictors PV ($\beta=.329$, $p<.001$), DP ($\beta=.325$, $p<.001$)], and 15.7% of the variance of social distance toward Roma [$F(3,169)=10.48$, $p<.001$; significant predictors PV ($\beta=.250$, $p=.001$), DP ($\beta=.279$, $p<.001$)]. In sum, two out of three factors of militant extremist mindset – apologetic attitude towards violent acts and trust in divine power – proved to be significantly related to more distance towards adversarial ethnic groups, whilst, somewhat unexpectedly, belief in vile world was unrelated to it. If MEM is seen as a more dispositional measure, these findings go to show its' usefulness in predicting very specific intergroup outcomes.

Ključne riječi / Keywords: Militant-Extremist Mindset (MEM); proviolence; divine power; social distance; ethnic minorities

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