

Paper #3

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Title: *Communicating anger as the signal of power: A cross-cultural investigation of individualism and victim sensitivity*

Abstract: Victim sensitivity (VS), the angry reaction to unfair treatment by others, was counted as a deadly sin opposite to pro-social concerns in previous stereotypes. However, the evolutionary adaptiveness of VS remains unclear, in which anger could be informative in social exchange (signaling power of the communicator and limits of the opponent) and instrumental in social motivation (e.g., fighting for resource retribution). In this evolutionary perspective, two studies were designed to examine the relationship of VS to individualism and justice motive. As expected, high individualistic participants were motivated to express strong VS, and this effect was more evident among Chinese with robust general belief in a just world (GBJW, in which individuals are motivated to believe that good people get rewarded and bad people get punished), than Russian with weak GBJW (Study 1). Further, high individualists were repeatedly found to hold strong VS, and GBJW interplayed the function between VS and individualism (Study 2). Considered together, the present findings demonstrate the VS of individualists, suggesting that anger would help individualists signal power in social exchange, especially when they have a strong justice motive.