



PROCEEDING

รายงานการนำเสนอผลงานวิจัยในการประชุมวิชาการระดับนานาชาติ
International conference on “Implications of Research in Business,
Economics, Management Social Science and Humanities
(IRBEMH-MAY-2017)”

.....

เรื่อง

“The Effects of Perceived Threat on Attitudes toward
Government : A Case Study of Myanmar Migrant Workers
in Thailand.”

โดย

อาจารย์หทัยพันธ์์ สุนทรพิพิธ
วิทยาลัยนวัตกรรมการจัดการ

ได้รับงบประมาณสนับสนุนจากกองทุนพัฒนาบุคลากร
มหาวิทยาลัยราชภัฏสวนสุนันทา ประจำปีงบประมาณ พ.ศ.2561



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เรื่อง

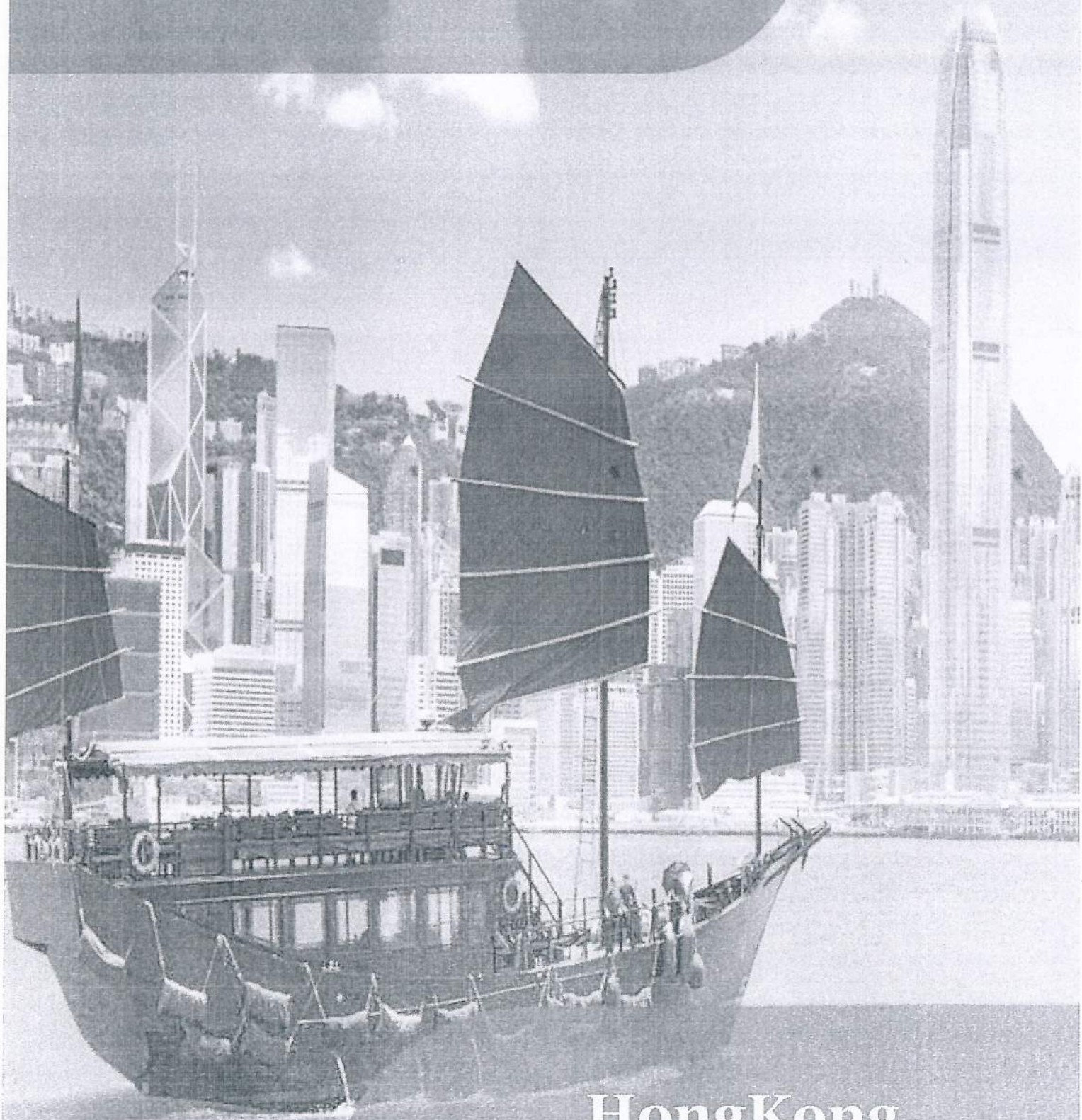
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18th International Conference on
Management, Business, Social and
Humanities Research (MBSHR)
(MBSHR-MARCH-2018)



HongKong

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*18th International Conference
on Management, Business,
Social and Humanities
Research
(MBSHR-MARCH-2018)*

Venue: Hotel Jen Hong Kong 508 Queen's Road West,
Hong Kong

Theme: Promoting research and developmental
Activities through Social Sciences innovation

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- Educational and Communication Studies
- Economics, Finance & Accounting
- Business and Management Studies

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A Guideline for increasing Transportation Efficiency: A case study ABC Co.,Ltd.....

The Effects of Perceived Threat on Attitudes toward Government:.....

CONFERENCE CHAIR MESSAGE

Dr. Vincent

International Conference of Akademika Nusa Internasional Association of Social Sciences and Humanities} is a platform that thrives to support the worldwide scholarly community to analyze the role played by the multidisciplinary innovations for the betterment of human societies. It also encourages academicians, practitioners, scientists, and scholars from various disciplines to come together and share their ideas about how they can make all the disciplines interact in an innovative way and to sort out the way to minimize the effect of challenges faced by the society. All the research work presented in this conference is truly exceptional, promising, and effective. These researches are designed to target the challenges that are faced by various sub-domains of the social sciences and applied sciences.

I would like to thank our honorable scientific and review committee for giving their precious time to the review process covering the papers presented in this conference. I am also highly obliged to the participants for being a part of our efforts to promote knowledge sharing and learning. We as scholars make an integral part of the leading educated class of the society that is responsible for benefitting the society with their knowledge. Let's get over all sorts of discrimination and take a look at the wider picture. Let's work together for the welfare of humanity for making the world a harmonious place to live and making it flourish in every aspect. Stay blessed.

Thank you.

Dr. Vincent

Conference Chair

Email: conference.chair@anish.com

CONFERENCE SECHDULE

ANISSH-2018

Venue: Hotel Jen Hong Kong 508 Queens Road West, Hong Kong

Time: Registration & Kit Distribution (09:00 - 09:10 am)

Day: Wednesday

Date: March 14, 2018

Venue: Room 1

09:10 am - 09:20 am	Introduction of Participants
09:20 am - 09:30 am	Inauguration and Opening address
09:30 am - 09:40 am	Grand Networking Session

Tea/Coffee Break (09:40 - 10:00 am)

ANIS

DAY 01 (March 14, 2018)

First Presentation Session (10:00 am - 12:00 pm)

Venue: Room 1

Session Chair: Dr. Vincent

Track A: Business, Economics, Social Sciences and Humanities

Presenter Name	Manuscript Title	Paper ID
Saiwimon Wongwilai	Study Demand of Public Transportation in Phutthamonthon District, Nakornpatom Province	MBSHR-038-ANI101
Ms Natthakan Roothamnong	The Study on Development of Criterion And Indices for the Approval of Non-Spectrum Television Licenses	MBSHR-038-ANI102
Chatrarat Hotrawaisaya	Study Affecting Factors of Rail Transportation in Hualampong Station	MBSHR-038-ANI103
Preecha Wararatchai	Economic Value Added Toward Beverage Business Using A Backhaul Process of Reused Bottles	MBSHR-038-ANI106
Ruengrawee Malijaroenwong	A Guideline For Increasing Transportation Efficiency: A Case Study Abc Co.,Ltd	MBSHR-038-ANI107
Hathaipun Soonthornpipit	The Effects of Perceived Threat on Attitudes Toward Government	MBSHR-038-ANI108
Suchart Tripopsakul	Entrepreneurial Orientations and Intention Of Undergraduates: The Evidence from Thailand	MBSHR-038-ANI109
Ng Tuan Hock	Product Life Cycle Sustainability: A Framework for Electronic Waste (e-waste) Prevention	HKS-338-102

Lunch Break (12:00 pm - 01:00 pm)



DAY 01 (March 14, 2018)

Second Presentation Session (01:00 am - 02:30 pm)

Venue: Room 1

Session Chair: Dr. Vincent

Track A: Business, Economics, Social Sciences and Humanities

Presenter Name	Manuscript Title	Paper ID
Siriwan Khongtung	The Constructional Materials Purchasing Problems in the ABC Company	MBSHR-038-ANI110
Patcharee Pakawanit	The Impact Factors of Transport Selection in the Dynamic Transport Co., Ltd	MBSHR-038-ANI111
Wissawa Aunyawong	The Use of Line App as A Channel of Internal Communication: Its Effects on Employee Engagement	MBSHR-038-ANI112
Issawat Dulyawaysasuk	Inventory planning for ready-made shop: A Case Study Clothes shop (Studio22)	MBSHR-038-ANI115
Eli Cohen	The importance of Country of Origin for wine consumers in Hong Kong	HORBM-MARCH-H

Track B: Medical Medicine and Health Study

Wong Yoke Rung	A Cadaveric Study of Synovial Fluid Kinematics at the Scapholunate Joint	HKM-338-101
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Closing Ceremony

ANES

Conference Day 02 (March 15, 2018)

Second day of conference will be specified for touristy. Relevant expenses are borne by Individual him/herself.

AND

The Effects of Perceived Threats on Trust in Government: A Case Study of Myanmar Migrant Workers in Thailand

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Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, College of Innovation and Management, Thailand

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Abstract. This article sought to investigate whether the Integrated Threat Theory (ITT; Stephan & Stephan, 1996, 2000) explains Myanmar migrant workers' attitudes toward Thai government officials in Ranong province, Thailand. According to the ITT, negative attitudes toward members of an outgroup arise from the perception of four threats pertaining to that outgroup: realistic threats, symbolic threats, inter-group anxiety, and negative stereotypes. In this study, the ITT model was tested using structural equation modeling on data collected with a sample of 310 Myanmar migrant workers. Findings indicated that realistic threats, symbolic threats, inter-group anxiety, and negative stereotypes predicted attitudes toward Thai government officials to a large extent. The data show a good fit with the model in which the perception of four threats are considered as critical variables that are necessary for explaining migrants' attitudes and behaviors. The significance of these findings for ITT are discussed in the context of recent theoretical developments in the study of political psychology context and beyond.

Keywords— Integrated Threat Theory, Trust in Government, Migrant Workers, Myanmar, Thailand

INTRODUCTION

For several decades, Myanmar migrant workers have crossed the border to work in Thailand. Recent political and economic reform in Myanmar has brought changes to the development of the country. As Myanmar emerges from decades of military rule, international labor migration is increasingly viewed, by migrants and policymakers alike, as a means of economic development at both the household and national level. Buoyed by thawing international relations and increasing regional integration within the Southeast Asian economic bloc, particularly since the ascension of Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy (NLD) to power in March 2016, Myanmar has experienced a rise in labor migration (Ma, 2017). Historically, Thailand has been the largest recipient of Burmese labor, enabled by a porous 1,300-mile shared border. An estimated 1.9 million to 3 million Burmese live and work in Thailand, a large proportion of whom are unregistered. Initial outflows from Myanmar began in the mid-to late 1980s in response to economic and political unrest as well as efforts by the Thai government to import foreign labor to fuel economic growth in the service sectors, predominantly located in Bangkok, as well as to key manufacturing hubs such as Mae Sot near the Myanmar-Thailand border. Together, this mix of economic and conflict-driven migration accounts for much of the Burmese population in Thailand. In 2017, it is estimated that around 4 million legal and 1 million illegal Myanmar workers are reportedly working in Thailand (Mekong Migration Network, 2017).

However, according to Human Rights Watch (2018), Migrant workers from Myanmar vulnerable to physical abuses, indefinite detention, and extortion by Thai authorities; severe labor rights abuses and exploitation by employers; and violence and human trafficking by criminals, sometimes in collaboration with corrupt officials. As a result, the government declared combating human trafficking to be a "national priority," including by enforcing the Human Trafficking Criminal Procedure Act. Moreover, on May 31, 2017, Prime Minister Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha emphasized the importance of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. He said: "The government is determined to push business operations in Thailand to be fully in line with the three pillars of the UN Guiding Principles regarding protection [of human rights], respect [for human rights], and reparation [for damage from abuse]... The government has undertaken actions, including enforcing a labor protection legislation that ensures fair treatment of workers and protects them from abuse and mistreatment" (Human Rights Watch, 2018). Nevertheless, whether the migrant workers are able to trust the government's commitment and willingness to resolve human rights abuse problems are in question. Hence, understanding the factors that are associated with trust in government for the protection of human rights is important for both practical and theoretical reasons. Practically, such an understanding is crucial for preventing the negative consequences of intergroup conflicts and discrimination. Theoretically, the increasing number of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand offers an appropriate lens through which to test the effects of integrated threat theory (ITT) (Stephan & Stephan, 1993; 1996) on the trust of the host government in protecting human rights. Therefore, to contribute to the existing literature, the study investigated the applicability of the ITT to the domain of politics by examining its underlying relationship with trust in government among Myanmar migrant workers in Ranong Province, Thailand.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Trust in Government

Generally speaking, trusting people are confident that they will not suffer damage or may even achieve a positive return from a relationship of trust. The willingness to trust can be attributable to several impulses. According to Misztal (1996), "motivation to trust seems to be a result of either strong positive personal bonds or affects for the object of trust, or a consequence of our belief that we have 'good rational reasons' [...] to trust, or a result of our belief that trust enhances our interests or, more often, a result of a combination of all". Theoretically, trust in government or political trust connotes the expectation that political actors will not misuse their power, even if they are not being constantly scrutinized (Gamson,

1968). According to Levi (1997), "the more trustworthy citizens perceive government to be, the more likely they are to contingently consent to its policies". Thus, trust in government is a resource to be used by the authorities to make and implement binding decisions. A reserve of support such as political trust helps governments to implement authoritative decisions, even if not all demands are satisfied (Easton, 1957). From the citizens' perspective, trust facilitates consent to governmental decisions, even if their consequences are perceived as risky or disadvantageous (Gabriel & Trüdinger, 2011).

Trust is a concept that has proven to be difficult to define. According to Sandro Castaldo (2008), there are many discrepancies between the definitions of trust used in social science. As a result, the concept of trust, although used in many analyses and research, have received confusingly differing definitions. When defining political trust in this study, the researcher followed the example of Hetherington (1998), Rothstein & Stolle (2008), and (Marien, 2011), that defined political trust on the basis of people's evaluations of their government's performance in relation to their expectations. It is important to remember that trust in government can be defined differently depending on the focus of the research. In this study the focus will only be on the trust in government for the protection of human rights among Myanmar migrant workers.

2.2 Intergrated Threat Theory

"Integrated Threat Theory" (Stephan & Stephan, 1993; 1996; 2000) is derived from the field of social psychology and proposes an integrated framework for analyzing difficult intergroup relations, drawing on practical examples of tensions between two groups who come into regular contact. It was developed in an attempt to pull together previous competing single-factor theories of threat into a broader framework. Stephan and others have found that intergroup threats (realistic threats, symbolic threats, negative stereotypes, and intergroup anxiety) are strong predictors of negative attitudes toward groups (Bizman & Yinon, 2001; Stephan, Ybarra, & Bachman, 1999).

The original formulation of the Integrated Threat Theory asserted that there are four major components of the threat felt by one group in respect of another:

- "Realistic threats" are those that endanger the material safety and well-being of the group and might include fear of harm or a decline in quality of life.
- "Symbolic threats" are those that are perceived as threatening the group's culture or place in the wider society, particularly by challenging or undermining accepted norms.
- "Negative stereotyping" are those ingrained attitudes and responses to members of another group (out-group) that mediate contact, set expectations and that can hamper the process of individuation.
- "Inter-group anxiety" occurs when two groups come into contact and relates to fears over the ability to communicate positively and effectively.

Realistic threats can be conceptualized in economic, physical, and political terms. In general, conflicts between groups and negative group reactions are often rooted in a clash of interests. The core issue here is (perceived) competition over scarce resources, such as houses and jobs, and the perception that these resources are threatened by outsiders. The desire to protect the in-group interests is considered the underlying motivation responsible for negative attitudes and discriminatory behavior. There are studies that reported the blaming of minority or immigrant groups for economic problems. Such belief leads to increased distrust of minority or immigrant groups (e.g., Croucher, 2008; Laurence & Vaisse, 2006).

Symbolic threats, on the other hand, are based on perceived group differences in values, norms, and beliefs. Out-groups that have a different world view can be seen as threatening the cultural identity of the in-group. New norms, beliefs, and symbols can be considered as opposite to what one values leading to the fear that other cultures will override the in-group's way of life. Multiple studies have shown that perceived threats to in-group values by immigrants and minorities are related to more negative attitudes towards these groups (e.g., Sniderman & Hagendoorn, 2007).

Stereotypes is extensive and many different conceptualizations have been proposed. Stephan et al. (1998) recognize that stereotypes are not usually conceptualized as threats, but they argue that stereotypes serve as a basis for expectations about out-groups and that those expectations often lead to prejudice. When people hold negative stereotypes about an out-group (e.g. as being violent, hostile, and arrogant) they will expect out-group members to have negative and threatening characteristics. Several research has shown that negative out-group stereotypes are associated with feelings of threat and fear (Verkuyten, 1997), whereas positive stereotypes (warmth) are associated with reduced feelings of fear and anger (e.g., Cuddy, Fiske, & Glick, 2007).

Inter-group anxiety is a fear people have when interacting with out-group members. In other word, intergroup anxiety refers to the experience of being personally threatened while interacting socially with out-group members, because of "concerns about negative outcomes for the self such as being rejected embarrassed and ridiculed" (Stephan and Stephan, 1985). Research has shown that prejudice increases as intergroup anxiety increases. Moreover, several studies have demonstrated a relationship between intergroup anxiety and prejudice dependent upon antagonism, prior contact (Islam & Hewstone, 1993) and dissimilarity (Stephan & Stephan, 1992).

METHODOLOGY

Complete data were collected from 340 Myanmar migrant workers in Ranong province, Thailand. Of the 310 Myanmar migrant workers, 162 were male and 178 female. The mean age of the migrant workers was 38.66 years (SD = 9.983). Ranong province was selected as a research site due to the fact that a large percentage of the migrant workers that were employed in the area- most of them are illegal, which made them vulnerable to exploitation. According to Ranong’s Labour Situation Report (Ministry of Labour, 2017), 99.84 percent of migrant workers in Ranong province are Myanmar (19,398 out of 19,430). Specifically, the scales used in this study to measure realistic threat, symbolic threat, inter-group anxiety, and negative stereotypes were similar to the scales used in the studies by Stephan et al. (2002), Stephan et al. (1999) a and Stephan et al. (2000). Realistic threat was assessed using two items, also adapted from Stephan and colleagues. The items were: “Because of the presence of Thais, Myanmar people have more difficulties in finding a job”; and “Thais influence Myanmar politics more than they should”. The response options ranged from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5) on 5-points scale. A higher score indicates stronger feelings of realistic threat and a Cronbach’s α is .94. Symbolic threat was measured using items that were similar to the scales used by Stephan and colleagues (1999, 2000, 2002). Participants were presented with the following three statements: “Myanmar identity is being threatened because there are too many Thais”; “Myanmar norms and values are being threatened because of the presence of Thais”; and “Thais are a threat to the Myanmar culture”. The response options ranged from strongly agree (1) to strongly disagree (5) on 5-points scale. Higher scores indicate stronger feelings of symbolic threat and Cronbach’s α for this scale is .85. Negative stereotypes were measured by using three trait adjectives: unfriendly; dishonest; and greedy. Participants were asked to indicate whether they thought these characteristics described Thais living in Ranong province, Thailand. Each item was rated using a 5-point scale ranging from “no, absolutely not” (1) to “yes, certainly” (5). A higher score indicates more negative stereotypes about Thaus. Cronbach’s α is .92. The inter-group anxiety scale was used to evaluate the feelings people experienced during social interaction with out-group members. The scale was adapted from Stephan and Stephan (1985) and the participants were asked rated awkwardness, worried, threatened, and nervous on a 9-point Likert scale how they felt when interacting with members of the out-group (Thais in this case). The response options ranged from 1-“not at all” to 9-“extremely”. Cronbach’s α for this scale was 0.94. The measure of trust in government was based on a question designed to determine whether people trusted three different institutions—the government, the legal system, and the police. The participants were asked rated “How much do you personally trust each of the following state institutions in Thailand? the government? ... the legal system? ... the police?”, using a 9-point scale ranging from “no, absolutely not” (1) to “yes, certainly” (9). The reliability of this measure was good with a Cronbach’s α of 0.94, thus supporting the idea that trust in a set of particular institutions is a general orientation towards the political system (Marien, 2011). These three institutions are important measures because, the government, reflecting existing majorities in parliament, can be considered as a representative institution. It is involved in political conflicts and required to be a partisan actor (Rothstein & Stolle, 2008). The legal system and the police are administrative institutions serving as guardians of the rule of law. They are expected to maintain order and resolve conflicts.

RESULTS

The analyses were conducted using Lisrel structural equation modeling software version 8.8. We tested the models using the maximum likelihood procedure. The descriptive statistics and correlations were computed for all variables, prior to running the path analyses. The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Correlations matrix for all variables considered in the path analyses, means and standard deviations

	1	2	3	4	5	M	SD
1. Realistic threat	1					3.34	1.06
2. Symbolic threat	-.14	1				3.55	2.23
3. Stereotypes	.18	.11	1			2.59	1.18
4. Inter-group Anxiety	.14	-.30	-.09	1		7.01	1.91
5. Trust in government	-.10	-.04	-.46	.14	1	7.19	1.05

4.1 Measurement Model

Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) tested the adequacy of the measurement model. This test is recommended as an initial step in testing latent variable models (e.g., Anderson & Gerbing, 1988). The measurement model included the 5 latent variables and we allowed all latent variables to correlate. The results indicated acceptable fit for the measurement model, $\chi^2(75, N = 340) = 121.01, p < .001, \chi^2/df = 1.21, CFI = .99, GFI = .95, AGFI = .93, NFI = .97, IFI = .99, RMSEA = .043, 90\% CI for RMSEA = .028-.056$, suggesting that indicator variables loaded adequately on the expected constructs.

4.2 Structural Model

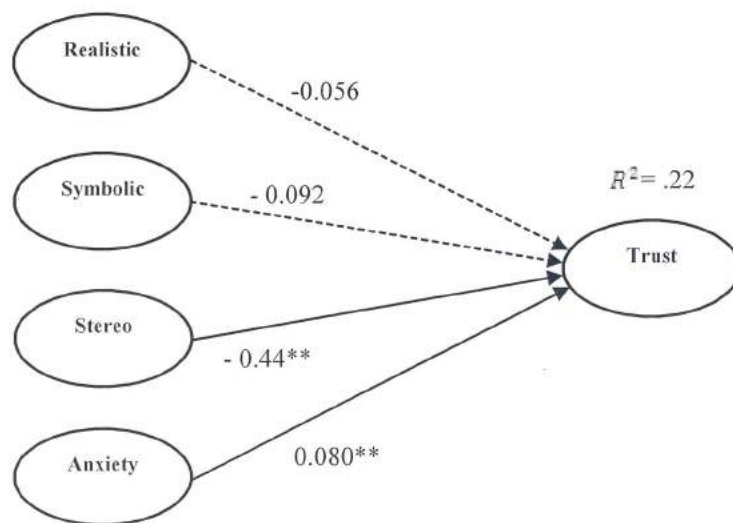
The initial analysis indicated good fit, $\chi^2(75, N = 340) = 119.73, p < .001, \chi^2:df = 1.59, CFI = .99, GFI = .96, AGFI = .93, NFI = .97, IFI = .99, RMSEA = .043, 90\% CI for RMSEA = .027-.056$. Minor modifications, allowing for correlations between symbolic threats and negative stereotypes, and between symbolic threat and inter-group anxiety errors, improved the model considerably, $\chi^2(74, N = 340) = 105.74, p < .001, \chi^2:df = 1.42, CFI = .99, GFI = .96, AGFI = .94, NFI = .98, IFI = .99, RMSEA = .036, 90\% CI for RMSEA = .018-.050$. Hence, as shown in Table 2, the fit indices satisfied the requirements of a good model fit as established by researchers (Bagozzi & Yi, 2012).

Table 2. Fit Indices of the Measurement and Structural Model (N=320)

Fit indices	χ^2	RMSEA	CFI	GFI	AGFI	NFI	IFI
Measurement Model	121.01(75)	.043	.99	.95	.93	.97	.99
	<i>p</i> <.001						
Structural Model	105.74(74)	.036	.99	.96	.94	.98	.99
	<i>p</i> <.001						

RMSEA: Root mean square error of approximation; CFI: Comparative fit index; GFI: Goodness of fit index; AGFI: Absolute goodness of fit index;; NFI: Normed fit index; IFI: Incremental fit index.

Thus, the proposed model is appropriate for explaining the relationship between the variables. As shown in Figure 1, the path coefficients of realistic threat is negative and not significant. Also, the symbolic threat is positive and not significant as well. On the other hand, the pat coefficient of negative stereotypes to trust in government is negative and significant. Moreover, the inter-group anxiety is positive and significant. Thus, higher negative stereotypes and more inter-group anxiety are associated with less trust in government in protecting human rights, whereas the perception of realistic and symbolic threat are not related to trust in government.



Fit indices: $\chi^2(74) = 105.74, p = 0.009, RMSEA = 0.067, CFI = 0.99, GFI = 0.96, AGFI = 0.94, NFI = 0.98, IFI = 0.99$

Notes:

χ^2 = Chi-square; RMSEA = root mean-square error of approximation, CFI = comparative fit index, GFI = goodness-of-fit index, AGFI = adjusted goodness-of-fit, NFI = Normed fit index, IFI = incremental fit index

* $p < .01$; ** $p < .001$

Figure 1. The Tested Structural Equation Model with β Coefficients and R^2 Values.

CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

The findings support Integrated Threat Theory (ITT) in different ways. First, ITT is a general theoretical model for understanding perceived threats reactions to out-groups. The theory has been tested for various target groups but not in relation to Myanmar migrant workers. In support of the ITT the full model explained a very substantial part of the variance in trust in government in protecting human rights. Second, the measurement model confirmed that a distinction between the different constructs could be made. Perceptions of realistic and symbolic threat posed by Thais differ from negative stereotypes as expectations about Thais are unfriendly, dishonest, and greedy. This finding shows that Myanmar migrant workers were not threatened economically and politically by Thais. Also, Myanmar migrant workers do not think that their identity, norms and values, and culture are being threatened because of the presence of Thais. However, whenever interacted, Myanmar migrant workers felt awkwardness, worried, threatened, and nervous toward Thais. As a result, negative stereotypes and inter-group anxiety are the main two factors that associated with trust in government on human rights protection. In conclusion, the shows that ITT offers a useful framework for studying trust towards government by Myanmar migrant workers. The theory and the findings contribute to a better understanding of the processes involved in the development of negative attitudes towards host government. The findings may also be helpful in trying to develop interventions aimed at reducing negative feelings towards host government. Increased contact in the form of contact frequency, number of persons involved and indirect or extended contact is an important possibility for intervention. Positive effects are especially likely when there is a supportive social atmosphere surrounding contact. Educational and community relations sectors can try to establish such an atmosphere. Moreover, an emphasis on cultural diversity and multicultural recognition is another promising avenue for improving people's attitudes..

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