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The Additive Value of Positive Psychological Capital in Predicting Work Attitudes and Behaviors

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Conventional wisdom and recent research have supported the importance of employee positivity. However, empirical analysis has not yet demonstrated potential added value of recently recognized psychological capital over the more established positive traits in predicting work attitudes and behaviors. This study found that psychological capital was positively related to extrarole organizational citizenship behaviors (OCBs) and negatively to organizational cynicism, intentions to quit, and counterproductive workplace behaviors. With one exception, psychological capital also predicted unique variance in these outcomes beyond demographics, self-evaluation, personality, and person–organization and person–job fit. The article concludes with implications for future research and practical application.

Keywords: *psychological capital; core self-evaluations; organizational citizenship behaviors; organizational cynicism; counterproductive workplace behaviors*

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The concept of positive organizational behavior (POB) was introduced several years ago (see Luthans, 2002a, 2002b; Wright, 2003) as a way to focus on bringing positive psychology (Seligman & Csikszentmihalyi, 2000) to the workplace (see Luthans & Avolio, 2009, and Luthans & Youssef, 2007, which trace the development and meaning of POB and provide an overall comprehensive literature review of POB, respectively). It has been defined as “the study and application of positively oriented human resource strengths and psychological capacities that can be measured, developed, and effectively managed for performance improvement” (Luthans, 2002b, p. 59; also see Wright, 2003). Using positivity, theoretical foundation, valid measurement, statelike developmental potential, and performance impact as their criteria for inclusion, Luthans and colleagues (see Luthans, 2002a; Luthans & Youssef, 2007; Luthans, Youssef, & Avolio, 2007) identified from the positive psychology literature *efficacy*, *hope*, *resilience*, and *optimism* as being especially (but not exclusively) relevant to POB (also see Stajkovic, 2006, which also focuses on these four constructs in a core-confidence theoretical model).

Although each of these psychological resources has differing theoretical perspectives and definitions, efficacy is defined here as “one’s conviction (or confidence) about his or her abilities to mobilize the motivation, cognitive resources, and courses of action needed to successfully execute a specific task within a given context” (Stajkovic & Luthans, 1998b, p. 66). Hope is defined as “a positive motivational state that is based on an interactively derived sense of successful (a) agency (goal-directed energy) and (b) pathways (planning to meet goals)” (Snyder, Irving, & Anderson, 1991, p. 287). Optimism is both a positivity-oriented future expectation (Carver & Scheier, 2002) and an attributional style that interprets specific positive events through personal, permanent, and pervasive causes and negative events through external, temporary, and situation-specific ones (Seligman, 1998). Resiliency is “the capacity to rebound or bounce back from adversity, conflict, failure, or even positive events, progress, and increased responsibility” (Luthans, 2002a, p. 702). Taken together, these four have been theoretically developed and empirically tested as a statelike positive core construct termed *psychological capital* (PsyCap; Luthans, Avolio, Avey, & Norman, 2007; Luthans, Youssef, et al., 2007). Specifically, PsyCap is defined here as:

An individual’s positive psychological state of development that is characterized by: (1) having confidence (self efficacy) to take on and put in the necessary effort to succeed at challenging tasks; (2) making a positive attribution (optimism) about succeeding now and in the future; (3) persevering toward goals and, when necessary, redirecting paths to goals (hope) in order to succeed; and (4) when beset by problems and adversity, sustaining and bouncing back and even beyond (resilience) to attain success. (Luthans, Youssef, et al., 2007, p. 3)

Following the lead of positive psychology, considerable attention has recently been devoted to POB in general (e.g., see the review article in the *Journal of Management*, Luthans & Youssef, 2007, and two special issues in *Journal of Organizational Behavior* edited by Bakker & Schaufeli, 2008, and Wright & Quick, 2009) and PsyCap in particular (e.g., see Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007; Luthans, Youssef, et al., 2007). Even though the field of organizational behavior has probably given relatively more attention over the years to positive constructs than has psychology, there is a recent renewed focus on POB (Luthans & Avolio, 2009).

However, at this stage in the development of POB, empirical analysis is needed to assess whether recently emerging constructs such as PsyCap add value to the already established positive trait constructs such as self-evaluation, Big Five personality dimensions, and person-job or -organization fit in predicting important, yet to date untested, work behaviors and attitudes, such as desired organizational citizenship and undesired cynicism, intentions to quit, and counterproductive actions.

Overarching Theoretical Framework

Positive psychology claims neither discovery nor monopoly of positivity, only a shift and reemphasis that may necessitate a different lens or perspective (Seligman & Csikszentmihalyi, 2000). Similarly, Luthans and Avolio (2009) recently noted that POB is sometimes accused of being old wine in a new bottle. Reacting to the old-wine metaphor, they asserted that POB is at minimum being served in a new restaurant. This metaphor refers to the changing environment facing today's organizations (e.g., globalization, advanced technology), the relative novelty of some of the constructs (e.g., hope, optimism, and resiliency) to the field of organizational behavior, and the changing expectations of employers (e.g., organizational citizenship behaviors (OCBs) vs. just in-role performance) and employees (e.g., lifelong development and alternative career paths vs. employment based on seniority security and a paycheck).

This new context in which positivity research (and practice) currently takes place may not readily lend itself to conventional wisdom nor traditional conceptual models. Although POB includes the scientific process for its foundation and inclusion criteria, the outlook of positive conceptual frameworks, although deeply grounded in the wealth of existing theories and empirical findings to date, may be relatively unique. For example, a primary emphasis on organizational efficiency goals (e.g., financial and subjectively rated employee performance) may need to be integrated with meeting the needs of the organization's other important assets, namely, its leaders and associates, for jobs and careers that provide identity, meaning, and fulfillment, and organizations that are caring, compassionate, and virtuous (e.g., Youssef & Luthans, 2008; also see Wright & Goodstein, 2007; Wright & Huang, 2008). Although important and significant in their own right, many human-oriented organizational initiatives are not recognized or given credibility because of the inherent difficulties in justifying them in quantifiable, return-on-investment terms. PsyCap aligns the pursuit of positivity, flourishing, and human fulfillment at work, with the bottom-line-oriented measures required for adequate resource allocation within the realities of today's competitive environment. This need for a new perspective has recently stimulated the development of an integrated conceptual model characterized by balanced and multilevel perspectives and a broad set of outcomes (see Youssef & Luthans, in press) and can be used as a theoretical framework for this study.

A Balanced Perspective

Although more positively oriented than mainstream and especially clinical psychology, organizational behavior research tends to focus on one side of the (positive-to-negative)

continuum, often to the exclusion of the other (e.g., stress, not *eustress*, or satisfaction, not dissatisfaction). Specialization has led many researchers to emphasize their areas of expertise (which may focus on positive, neutral, or negative constructs), with limited, if any, attention given to the other side. If POB does not adopt a balanced perspective from its beginnings, it can easily take a similarly myopic perspective. In other words, *positive* organizational behavior may be shortsighted and hampered if it adopts an advocacy perspective and an exclusive bias toward positive constructs. Instead, Luthans and Avolio (2009) have argued that integration and a positive inquiry mode should be the aim of POB. This is especially true for constructs and contexts in which the positive and the negative may represent qualitatively different, but at the same time potentially coexisting, phenomena rather than opposite, mutually exclusive ends of a single continuum (e.g., optimism vs. pessimism, see Peterson & Chang, 2002; also see Hackman, 2009; Lazarus, 2003).

A Multilevel Perspective

Because POB draws some of its uniqueness from the new realities of today's workplace (i.e., the new restaurant), it is unlikely that an isolated emphasis on the individual level of analysis without considering contextual factors will yield meaningful findings. In fact, one of the major criticisms of the positivity literature is its preoccupation with individual-level variables, whereas it is the cross-level interactions among individuals, groups, and the organizational and cultural context within which they relate that shape most of the outcomes (Hackman, 2009). Although we believe that most individual-level, feel-good ideas tend to come from the popular self-help literature, we assert the importance of considering multiple levels of analysis in organizational behavior research in general and POB in particular.

Early on in the conceptualization of POB, Luthans and Avolio's (2003) authentic leadership model viewed the interaction of individual life experiences and a positive organizational context as critical antecedents for the development of leaders' PsyCap. Similarly, Youssef and Luthans's (2009) recent integrative model also takes into consideration organizational-level factors such as organizational strategy, structure, culture, and recent changes, as well as individual-level factors such as personality traits and previous life experiences, as antecedents for PsyCap. In this integrative model, the interaction between the individual and the organizational context is operationalized through the person–organization (PO) and person–job (PJ) fit. Moreover, not only are individual-level outcomes of positivity considered, but also short-term organizational efficiency (e.g., return on investment, stock value) and long-term organizational effectiveness (e.g., long-term growth, increased market share, innovation, social responsibility).

A Broader Set of Outcomes

Besides balance and multilevel perspectives, Youssef and Luthans's (in press; also see Youssef & Luthans, 2008) model also proposes a more holistic perspective that necessitates the integration of work-related attitudes, behavioral intentions, and actual behaviors. For

example, in the context of ethical decision making, Jones (1991) supported the need for integrating attitudes and intentions in predicting positive ethical behaviors. Parallels can be drawn between this ethical process and the impact of PsyCap. One such parallel is that the impact of PsyCap may go beyond enhanced *in-role* performance to also include positive attitudes, intentions, and *contextual* behaviors that can ultimately lead to desirable outcomes such as ethical performance. In line with the need for this more holistic perspective is the impact that positivity may have on various employee attitudinal and behavioral outcomes in today's workplace. It is important that this integrative model proposes that there is a need to examine the impact of PsyCap on both desirable and undesirable behaviors and attitudes.

As with any domain, we acknowledge that it would be challenging to expect every study that investigates the role of positivity in the workplace to comprehensively incorporate the full breadth of individual and contextual factors, as well as the attitudinal, intentional, behavioral, and performance outcomes related to positivity. However, given the nature of positivity in the workplace and the need for an integrated framework and a holistic perspective, we suggest that research is needed that at least analyzes a representative sample of these different categories of variables. We also suggest that taking positivity out of its broader context of antecedents, covariates, and outcomes without accounting (or at least controlling) for a critical mass of these variables may be unrealistic.

The purpose of this study is to begin to test an integrated conceptual model of POB (Youssef & Luthans, 2009) and also heed Hackman's (in press) concerns about positivity research's preoccupation with only positive, individual-level variables, which may be of limited direct economic value to organizations. We now turn our focus to the more specific theoretical and research grounding for the recently emerging core construct of PsyCap.

PsyCap

PsyCap attempts to integrate and advance the positive approach to organizational behavior in several ways. In addition to the POB inclusion criteria of being positive, theoretically based, measurable, developmental, and performance related, PsyCap as defined in the introductory comments is conceptualized, measured, and developed in terms of a statelike positive core construct, to which each of the individual resources of efficacy, hope, optimism, and resiliency synergistically contributes. Several foundational characteristics of this PsyCap core construct require added emphasis before the study hypotheses are set forth.

PsyCap as a Statelike Construct

In terms of developmental potential, it is important to note that PsyCap, as well as each of its constituent resources or capacities, is considered statelike, as found in the positive psychological literature (e.g., for efficacy, see Bandura, 1997; hope, Snyder, 2002; resilience, Masten & Reed, 2002; optimism, Carver & Scheier, 2002, and Seligman, 1998), rather than just a fixed trait. Although positive traits and states do share some common characteristics, both conceptually (e.g., positivity) and empirically (e.g., positive correlations, common correlates, and related outcomes), recent theory-building and empirical research also supports

their distinctiveness and discriminant validity. For example, Luthans and Youssef (2007) made the case for a trait–state continuum that encompasses the following:

- Pure positive traits: These are at one extreme of the continuum and are characterized by stability over time and across situations, including traits that are believed to be “hardwired,” such as intelligence or hereditary characteristics.
- Traitlike constructs: These are closer to the trait end of the continuum and refer to relatively stable psychological characteristics such as conscientiousness, extroversion, and core self-evaluations (CSEs).
- Statelike psychological resources: These are closer to the opposite (state) end of the continuum and include PsyCap and its constituents of efficacy, hope, optimism, and resiliency (the focus of this study), which tend to be malleable and thus open to development and are particularly relevant to the workplace.
- Positive states: These are at the other extreme of the continuum and include momentary and highly variable states such as moods and emotions (for related discussion, see also Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007; Luthans, Youssef, et al., 2007; Youssef & Luthans, 2007).

Several cognitive, affective, and social mechanisms warrant the conceptual distinction between PsyCap and other, related organizational behavior constructs that may share some, but not all, of PsyCap’s characteristics and thus occupy varying locations on the trait–state continuum described above. For example, Hannah and Luthans’s (2008) recent cognitive affective processing system provides a theoretical framework that can help elucidate some of these mechanisms. In this model, PsyCap is specifically proposed to result from dynamic processes that activate the adaptive encoding of cognitive categories, expectancies, goals, values, affects, and self-regulatory plans. These processes are selectively activated and context specific. On the other hand, traits and traitlike characteristics are more global in nature, are exhibited based on the chronic activation of certain sets of cognitive affective processing units, and represent habitual or programmed responses that can be primed through exposure to predetermined stimuli.

For example, although some people may exhibit generalized efficacy (a traitlike, not statelike, construct as conceptualized by Bandura, 1997), which may cause them to come across as confident individuals over time and across situations, others may seem to lack this confidence. On the other hand, self-efficacy (a statelike capacity as conceptualized by Bandura, 1997, and a key component of PsyCap) is more domain-specific and can be developed for a specific set of tasks (e.g., a job) through mastery experiences, modeling, social persuasion, and physiological and psychological arousal (Bandura, 1997). These developmental components as conceptualized by PsyCap can create positive expectancies, trigger the creation of goals with an approach orientation (rather than avoidance or complacency), and motivate self-regulatory mechanisms that increase the probability of perseverance and success in a particular situation.

Similarly, each of PsyCap’s other identified capacities possesses this developmental and contextualized nature (e.g., hope requires effectively setting specific goals and the determination and pathways to achieve them, optimism requires active causal attributions for specific events, and resiliency requires successful bouncing back from specific setbacks). PsyCap’s foundation also draws from social cognitive theory (Bandura, 1997), which establishes

reciprocal interactions among the person, the environment, and past behavior. This theory provides added support for the distinction between general personality traits or traitlike characteristics such as found in the Big Five dimensions and the more contextualized and malleable PsyCap construct.

On the other hand, statelike PsyCap is not as transient and momentary as the more extreme states such as moods or emotions. For example, unlike emotions, whose at-the-moment meaning and intensity may be constructed through subjectively negotiated appraisal processes for more effective coping (Lazarus, 2003), PsyCap capacities share a cognitive agentic component that needs to reach and maintain a certain threshold of intensity and endurance in order to result in measurable success and tangible goal achievement. Although positive emotions may exist as a by-product of the accomplishment of more concrete goals and objectives, the *performance impact* inclusion criterion of POB and PsyCap goes far beyond “emotion focused coping” (a more benign reappraisal of a harmful or threatening situation; Lazarus, 2003, p. 95) and even “problem focused coping” (a more action-oriented initiative to change the situation, Lazarus, 2003, p. 95).

Empirically, the distinction between traits and states has been supported by very high test-retest correlations for recognized traits such as personality (e.g., Conley, 1984) and highly significant but still relatively lower correlations for statelike constructs such as PsyCap (e.g., see Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007). Relatively short training interventions have also been successfully implemented to develop PsyCap (Luthans, Avey, Avolio, Norman, & Combs, 2006; Luthans, Avey, & Patera, 2008). Based on such empirical findings and others, Wright (1997) emphasized the importance of time as a main effect variable in organizational behavior research, and proposed stability over 6 months as an operationalization of the temporal distinction between traits and states.

PsyCap as a Core Construct

The integration of hope, efficacy, resilience, and optimism represents the core construct of PsyCap. This PsyCap can be considered a multidimensional construct identified by these four positive psychological resources. To address theoretical rationale and construct validity of PsyCap, two important aspects need to be especially emphasized: (a) the convergent and discriminant validity between PsyCap and other positive constructs and (b) the convergent and discriminant validity between PsyCap’s constituent capacities. We addressed parts of the first point earlier by clarifying some of the subtle but important differences between PsyCap as a statelike construct and other similar capacities that lie at different points of a trait–state continuum. Elsewhere (e.g., see Luthans, Youssef, et al., 2007), a wide variety of positive psychological constructs, such as wisdom, courage, and emotional intelligence, have been assessed for their fit with the identified POB inclusion criteria. However, to date, efficacy, hope, optimism, and resilience continue to offer the best-fitting resource components for PsyCap (see Luthans, Youssef, et al., 2007). For example, many constructs from the positivity literature may be of terminal value (valuable in their own right, e.g., compassion) but not necessarily because of their measurable performance impact. Others may be traitlike (or at least closer to the trait end of the continuum) and thus lend themselves only to lifelong development

rather than to the short developmental interventions commonly utilized in the workplace. Still others may be intuitively appealing but lack theoretical support or valid measurement (e.g., much of the popular personal development literature).

By the same token, PsyCap converges with several more established and relevant positive constructs. For example, a similar, but traitlike, multidimensional construct is CSEs, which include self-esteem, generalized self-efficacy, locus of control, and emotional stability. CSEs are fundamental, subconscious self-appraisals that generally affect individuals' evaluations of themselves, the world, and others and have been found to globally influence their appraisals and behaviors across situations (Judge & Bono, 2001). Conceptual similarities appear evident between the components of PsyCap and CSEs (e.g., general and specific efficacy, locus of control and an optimistic explanatory style, emotional stability and resilience). Similar to PsyCap, research supports self-evaluations as a core construct to which the four traitlike characteristics contribute (Judge & Bono, 2001). To date, empirical findings support convergent ($r = .6$) and discriminant validity between PsyCap and CSEs (Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007).

Concerning the second point on PsyCap's being a multidimensional core construct, the convergent and discriminant validity between PsyCap's four component capacities have also been supported by previous research (Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007). In other words, despite the apparent conceptual similarities and overlap between hope, resiliency, optimism, and efficacy, each of these positive constructs has conceptually and empirically been analyzed and demonstrated to have construct validity. For example, conceptually, efficacy and hope share the components of internalized motivation and energy, or the positive expectation of success for the reason of belief in one's individual abilities. Highly efficacious and hopeful employees both set challenging goals for themselves and self-select into challenging assignments with motivation and tenacious effort toward success. However, the pathways component, which constitutes *waypower*, or the ability to generate alternative pathways toward specific goals, is unique to hope. A hopeful individual's propensity to develop alternative, contingency, or backup plans for accomplishing the same goal constitutes what Snyder (1994) referred to as fallibility insurance, whereby people remain hopeful in goal accomplishment because there will always be an alternative route to pursue. Hopeful individuals are never out of options; they sustain hope of eventual success. Thus, hope can provide added substance, namely, more pathways to consider, for the internalized motivation, energy, and perseverance of an efficacious person.

As another example, efficacy, hope, and optimism all share positive expectancies about the future. However, optimism may be more general in nature and may constitute a global positive expectation of success, whereas hope and self-efficacy tend to be more specific to a particular goal or domain. Thus, optimism about the future can be capitalized on in domains in which efficacy or hope has not been previously built. Furthermore, unlike efficacy and hope, in which positive expectancies are internalized and attributed to one's effort and motivation, an optimistic explanatory style may use other people or situational factors as referents, especially when externalizing negative events. Similarly, resiliency is not limited to an internalized, agentic perspective but expands the circle of influence to include social support and other organizational-level resources and buffering mechanisms. This perspective goes beyond the modeling and vicarious learning contribution of others in building efficacy to incorporate other resources from the environmental context that may be drawn on when

internal resources are lacking, depleted, or otherwise inadequate or to buffer the influence of risk factors that may be beyond the individual's capacity to handle. Examples of buffering mechanisms from the organizational context include organizational *sensemaking*, organizational learning, and collective schemata or mental models development.

In addition, whereas efficacy, hope, and optimism tend to be proactive in nature, resilience is most often expressed in a reactive mode, as a response to a setback. However, resilience shares several interesting characteristics with efficacy, hope, and optimism. Both efficacy and resilience have an underlying perseverance component that motivates endurance in the face of obstacles. Although the context of the setbacks may be different (characterized by pursuit of specific self-set goals that is proactive in the context of efficacy but reactive in resilience), both capacities motivate persistence and a keeping-at-it outlook.

Hope and resilience also share a process orientation, in which the mechanisms that link the person to the desired outcomes are most critical for success. According to Masten and Reed (2002), resilience is comprised of adaptational processes, which are mechanisms developed by highly resilient individuals to effectively employ their available assets (e.g., cognitive, affective, social, financial, and other positive characteristics, skills, and resources) to mitigate the impact of their risk factors (e.g., weaknesses, deficiencies, and other negative factors that have the potential to amplify setbacks). Resilience is manifested when appropriate adaptational processes are used to draw on the right assets to withstand or recover from setbacks fueled by risk factors. In the same way that the process of generating alternative pathways is integral for the sustenance of hope, the effectiveness of one's adaptational processes may be more critical for resilience than the simple additive sum of existing assets and risk factors.

As indicated in the introductory definition and noted by Luthans, Avolio, et al. (2007), the underlying common agentic capacity running through the four components of PsyCap is the "positive appraisal of circumstances and probability for success based on motivated effort and perseverance" (p. 550). In other words, in addition to meeting the POB inclusion criteria, the common denominator for the convergence of PsyCap's four constituent psychological capacities is represented by a core factor of internalized agency, motivation, perseverance, and success expectancies. On the other hand, the extent and nature of environmental influences, and the adaptational mechanisms and goal achievement processes, vary across the four capacities, making each capacity's contribution unique to the multidimensionality of PsyCap.

Other explanatory frameworks for integrating these four positive psychological resources were described by Hobfoll (2002) in his review of various psychological resource theories and by Stajkovic (2006), who theoretically linked these four constructs into a *core-confidence model*. Law, Wong, and Mobley (1998) also proposed that a second-order factor comprising four indicators such as PsyCap is best considered as composed of the shared variance between each component. This second-order core factor of PsyCap, consisting of the shared variance of hope, efficacy, optimism, and resilience, has recently been empirically demonstrated (Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007). It is important that this previous research, which used a competing measurement models analysis, found PsyCap was best measured as a second-order factor, whereby each of the four dimensions loads onto the overall core factor (PsyCap), and usefulness analysis indicated PsyCap was more consistently related to both performance and satisfaction than each of the individual components by themselves (Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007).

Considerable empirical findings have demonstrated both convergent and discriminant validity of the four positive constructs that make up PsyCap (e.g., see Bryant & Cvenegros, 2004; Carifio & Rhodes, 2002; Magaletta & Oliver, 1999), including when analyzed with employee samples (Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007). Overall, this conceptual and empirical analysis provides considerable support for PsyCap as a core construct made up of the four identified positive resources.

PsyCap and Workplace Outcomes

As indicated, the overarching theoretical framework for this study makes the case that examining in-role performance should be supplemented with a balanced combination of desirable and undesirable attitudinal and behavioral outcomes (see Youssef & Luthans, in press). Because the relationships between PsyCap and desirable attitudinal outcomes such as job satisfaction, job satisfaction and organizational commitment, and organizational commitment have already been empirically supported (Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007; Luthans, Norman, Avolio, & Avey, 2008), this study expands the boundaries of positivity research by investigating the negative attitude of cynicism relevant to today's workplace (for the role cynicism may play in positive organizational change, see Avey, Wernsing, & Luthans, 2008).

Organizational participants with higher PsyCap are likely to experience lower levels of cynicism, for several reasons. First, as discussed earlier, higher levels of PsyCap capacities such as hope and optimism have been shown to trigger positive emotions (Snyder, Harris, et al., 1991) as a by-product of positive appraisals and increased probabilities of success and goal accomplishment. Second, PsyCap's agentic thinking has a motivating impact that can enhance internalization, determination, and pathways thinking, which contrast with the giving up and despair associated with cynicism. Third, hopeful people also experience fewer negative emotions, even when faced with obstacles, primarily because of their waypower (Snyder, Ilardi, Michael, & Cheavens, 2000). Together, increased positive emotions, motivated agentic cognitions, and decreased negative emotions can help activate more positive cognitive affective processing system units (e.g., positive expectancies, approach rather than avoidance goals; see Hannah & Luthans, 2008) that can help reduce cynicism. On the other hand, Snyder, Harris, et al. (1991: 571) argued that when hope is low, "analysis of insufficient agency and pathways in a given goal setting should lead to perceptions of relatively low probability of goal attainment, a focus on failure rather than success, a sense of ambivalence, and a relatively negative emotional state during goal related activities," that is, cynicism. Thus, we hypothesize the following:

Hypothesis 1: PsyCap will be negatively related to organizational cynicism.

Individuals who are higher in PsyCap are likely to have lower turnover intentions, for several reasons. Their higher levels of optimism regarding the future and confidence in their ability to succeed in their current job will motivate them to take charge of their own destinies (Seligman, 1998), self-select into challenging endeavors (Bandura, 1997), engage the necessary efforts and resources, and persevere in the face of obstacles (Stajkovic & Luthans,

1998a), rather than become quitters. In addition, because of higher levels of resilience, even when they experience negative events in the workplace, high-PsyCap individuals are more likely to positively adapt and bounce back from those events, preventing the escalation and development of intentions to quit. Finally, those higher in the hope capacity are more able to derive multiple pathways to be successful in the present job, further reducing the perceived need to leave the organization.

Although for some, a viable pathway might be changing jobs (turnover), high hope tends to motivate approach goals, in which a person chooses to actively pursue positive outcomes, rather than avoidance goals, in which negative or threatening situations are simply shunned. Moreover, turnover intentions have been conceptualized as a function of job satisfaction and future expectancies in current versus alternative jobs, which in turn are based on economic and labor market conditions (Mobley, Griffeth, Hand, & Meglino, 1979). Given the support to date for a positive relationship between PsyCap and job satisfaction (Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007), it follows that high PsyCap would be a negative, rather than a positive, predictor of turnover intentions, especially given the negativity of the recent economic environment. Based on the above, the following is hypothesized for this study:

Hypothesis 2: PsyCap will be negatively related to intentions to quit the organization.

PsyCap is expected to be related not only to work attitudes and behavioral intentions but also to extrarole behaviors in organizations. As cited earlier, both theory and empirical findings are emerging that support the positive relationships between PsyCap and desirable behaviors leading to performance and negative relationships with undesirable behaviors such as absenteeism. This study expands the boundaries of the existing POB literature by concurrently investigating both desirable and undesirable *contextual performance* indicators, operationalized as OCBs and *counterproductive work behaviors* (CWBs)

OCBs are those desirable behaviors that are not prescribed by or enforced in the existing job role but may be practiced at the option of the individual employee. Lee and Allen (2002) noted that OCBs can be separated into two distinct referents. First, individual-oriented OCBs are those that use others as the referent. This may include staying late on the job to help a coworker or supporting a newcomer to the group. The second referent for OCBs is the organization. Organizationally oriented OCBs are those behaviors that support the organization. This may include attending organizational events that are not required or doing volunteer work in the community to indicate support from the employer. The extrarole, above-and-beyond nature of OCBs is particularly relevant to a broader, holistic, integrated outcome from positivity. This is especially true given the narrowness and short-term orientation of most performance appraisal and reward systems in today's organizations.

Opposing the positive OCBs are the negatively oriented CWBs. Bennett and Robinson (1995) defined these as "voluntary behavior that violates significant organizational norms, and in doing so threatens the well-being of an organization, its members, or both" (p. 556; also see Bennett & Robinson, 2000). CWBs can be expressed in the form of interpersonally deviant behaviors, such as harassment of, violence against, gossip about, or theft from a coworker. They can also take the form of organizationally deviant behaviors, such as intentionally working at a slower rate, sabotaging company property, or sharing confidential

company information (Robinson & Bennett, 1995). However, interpersonal and organizational deviance are highly correlated, and the distinction between them has been critiqued recently (Berry, Ones, & Sackett, 2007). Recent empirical studies have indicated that momentary negative emotions (discussed earlier as a component of cynicism) are positively related, and job satisfaction is negatively related, to CWBs (Judge, Scott, & Ilies, 2006).

Despite the significant (negative) correlation between OCBs and CWBs, recent empirical findings support OCBs and CWBs as two distinct constructs, with different correlates and consequences, rather than opposite ends of a single continuum (Sackett, Berry, Wiemann, & Laczko, 2006), making them particularly relevant for the balanced perspective of outcomes proposed for this study. Moreover, despite some overlap, the behavioral expressions of OCBs and CWBs are conceptually distinct. For example, although refusing to help a coworker constitutes a counterproductive behavior, an OCB may go beyond just extending the help that the coworker asks for to also doing so without expecting any material rewards, recognition, or reciprocation, and even encouraging the coworker to ask for help again in the future.

Individuals higher in PsyCap would seem to be more likely to engage in OCBs than would those with lower PsyCap, for several reasons. In general, employees who are more positive would seem to exhibit more OCBs than employees who tend to be negative. Several relevant mechanisms could provide support for the conceptualization of this relationship. For example, Fredrickson's (2003) model supports a broadening contribution of positive emotions, in which people experiencing those emotions use broader thought-action repertoires, increasing the potential for proactive extrarole behaviors such as sharing creative ideas or making suggestions for improvement. There are also recent organizationally based studies that have used this broaden-and-build model to test the role of positively oriented psychological well-being as a moderator of both the relationship between job satisfaction–job performance (Wright, Cropanzano, & Bonett, 2007) and job satisfaction–employee turnover (Wright & Bonett, 2007). Besides this research support for the role of positive well-being for both in-role performance and turnover behaviors, the specific characteristics of the positive psychological resources that constitute PsyCap—namely, hope, resilience, optimism, and efficacy—may, we propose, lead to more frequent engagement in extrarole (i.e., broaden-and-build) OCBs.

To understand a negative relationship between PsyCap and CWBs, an examination of the source of CWBs seems important. Specifically, Fox and Spector (1999) advanced the argument that workplace constraints, acting as stressors, are the primary cause of CWBs. First, employees are exposed to stressors (e.g., having to rely on incompetent colleagues in order to personally succeed) and then respond with CWBs (e.g., failing to help a coworker or sabotage). An important mechanism in the relationship may be that individuals higher in PsyCap are less susceptible to the negative influence of stressors and thus exhibit fewer CWBs. Specifically, those high in PsyCap may be more resilient to stressful events, stressors, and setbacks (Masten & Reed, 2002) and do not experience the negative repercussions as strongly. In addition, when exposed to stressors, instead of responding with CWBs, individuals high in PsyCap would be expected to remain optimistic that the situation will improve (Carver & Scheier, 2002), generate plans and pathways to change the situation for the better (Snyder et al., 2000), and feel efficacious in their own abilities to persevere in the situation and continue being successful despite the adversity (Bandura, 1997). Thus, instead of responding to stressors with CWBs, those higher in PsyCap respond by positively

adapting to the situation and becoming successful. Based on the above, the final two study hypotheses are as follows:

Hypothesis 3: PsyCap will be positively related to OCBs.

Hypothesis 4: PsyCap will be negatively related to CWBs.

Control Variables

In this study, we offer that given the statelike, developable nature of PsyCap (Luthans, Avey, et al., 2006; Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007; Luthans et al., 2008), the value-added contribution of PsyCap to workplace outcomes can be better understood and assessed when controlling for dispositional, stable, traitlike characteristics. Based on the overarching conceptual framework discussed earlier, in addition to traditional demographic control variables, we have selected the Big Five personality traits of conscientiousness and extroversion, as well as CSE traits, as control variables. These widely recognized positive traits have been shown to have significant impact on performance (e.g., Barrick & Mount, 1991; Judge & Bono, 2001). It follows that they should be accounted for when attempting to study the added value of PsyCap, especially given the conceptual similarities between them. For example, conscientiousness, which has one of the strongest reported relationships with work performance across various jobs and industries, includes responsibility, self-discipline, hard work, and persistence. These traitlike characteristics may overlap with PsyCap in terms of the more statelike resources of efficacy's motivated hard work, hope's willpower, optimism's internalized attributions, or resiliency's perseverance. Similarly, extroverts may be more able to reach out to others, building more of the social assets that can contribute to their resiliency, and tend to use external referents when making attributions in their optimistic explanatory style.

Despite the primarily cognitive nature of PsyCap, it is not devoid of emotions, which tend to be a by-product of positive cognitive processing of the personal and situational factors at hand (see earlier discussion and Hannah & Luthans, 2008). Thus, controlling for the CSE trait of emotional stability (or neuroticism) would factor out the traitlike affective component that may confound the contribution of PsyCap, by accounting for an individual's disposition toward being calm, secure, or generally unworried, instead of having built efficacy or created effective pathways for hope. Recent meta-analytic findings also support emotional stability as the strongest of the Big Five personality traits in predicting turnover intentions, followed by conscientiousness and extroversion (Zimmerman, 2008). Because turnover intentions are among the outcome variables investigated in this study, it is important to analyze the contribution of PsyCap over and above such traits.

Besides controlling for established positive traits, in line with the overarching conceptual framework driving this study, we also recognize the critical role that the organizational context may play in enhancing or hindering the development of PsyCap, as well as in facilitating or hindering its impact on employee outcomes. We posit that the role of the organizational context is often inseparable when attempting to understand workplace human variables in general and PsyCap development and management in particular. Hannah and Luthans (2008) also conceptualized PsyCap in terms of the in situ dynamic activation of cognitive affective processing system units and based the fit between the person's self-construct

and perceived situational demands. Drawing from Youssef and Luthans's (in press) conceptual model, this study specifically examines the role of PO fit and PJ fit due to their integration of individual and organizational variables, as well as the potential reciprocal relationships between those variables. PO fit can be defined as the degree of congruence or complementary relationship between individuals and their organizations in terms of goals, needs, supplies (capabilities, resources), values, norms, or behaviors (Chatman, 1989; Kristof, 1996).

PJ fit refers to the compatibility or match between a person's traits, needs, knowledge, skills, and abilities, on one hand, and the demands of the job (Caldwell & O'Reilly, 1990). Person-situation fit in general has established relationships with desirable performance and attitudinal outcomes. For example, the Gallup studies supported that people who are placed in jobs that match their talents, and who work for strengths-based organizations that develop them along the individuals' areas of strength, tend to experience higher engagement and well-being, resulting in higher performance (Harter, Schmidt, & Hayes, 2002). Because PO and PJ fit can contribute to performance and attitudinal outcomes in their own right (e.g., Kristof-Brown, Zimmerman, & Johnson, 2005), as well as indirectly through providing a supportive environment for the development of PsyCap that can in turn enhance those desirable outcomes, it is important to account for the contribution of PO and PJ fit in order to realistically assess the added contribution of PsyCap.

Method

This study used a sample of 336 employees, from a wide cross section of organizations and jobs, who agreed to participate in a large midwestern university-sponsored research project on leadership and motivation. Of the participants, 60% were in nonmanagement positions, and approximately 38% were in positions that included supervision (from first-level manager to CEO or owner). Participants had an average age of 32 years and average job tenure of 12 years. Approximately 88% were White, 3% Asian, 1% African American, and a very small percentage Hispanic and Native American. Overall, 7% of participants did not list ethnicity. One third reported having obtained an undergraduate degree.

Measures

To assess PsyCap, the recently developed (see Luthans, Youssef, et al., 2007) and psychometrically analyzed (see Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007) 24-item PsyCap Questionnaire (PCQ) was used. This instrument has adapted 6 items each from published hope (Snyder et al., 1996), efficacy (Parker, 1998), resilience (Wagnild & Young, 1993), and optimism (Scheier & Carver, 1985) scales. The entire PCQ can be seen in Luthans, Youssef, et al. (2007, pp. 237-238), and free permission can be obtained for research purposes at www.mindgarden.com. Sample items include, "I feel confident helping to set targets/goals in my work area" (self-efficacy); "Right now I see myself as being pretty successful at work" (hope agency); "If I should find myself in a jam at work, I could think of many ways to get out of it" (hope pathways); "When I have a setback at work, I have trouble recovering from it, moving on" (reverse scored resiliency); and "I always look on the bright side of things regarding my job" (optimism).

In this study, each subscale (efficacy = .92, hope = .87, resilience = .83, optimism = .78) and the overall PCQ (.95) demonstrated adequate internal reliability. In addition to internal reliability, using MPlus, a confirmatory factor analysis, conducted with maximum likelihood techniques, replicated the second-order factor structure previously reported by Luthans, Avolio, et al. (2007). Specifically, this analysis conducted confirmatory factor analytic model comparisons to determine the statistically best performing measurement model. To this end, the four components were each modeled (a) as individual factors, (b) as subfactors of the PsyCap latent factor, and (c) with all 24 items loading onto a single latent factor. Using χ^2 difference tests, this analysis found that the hypothesized model (Model 2), in which the dimensions were distinct and represented as indicators of a core underlying factor (PsyCap), emerged as the superior model in terms of model fit (see Luthans, Avolio, et al., 2007, p. 559). In terms of the present confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), Hu and Bentler (1999) described the combinatorial rule that if the standardized root mean square residual (SRMR) meets the cutoff criteria and the comparative fit index (CFI) or root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) meets the criteria, then there is satisfactory model fit. Hu and Bentler noted the recommended cutoffs are CFI < .95, RMSEA < .08, and SRMR < .06. Accordingly, this CFA revealed adequate factor analytic fit (SRMR = .05, RMSEA = .05, CFI = .96.). Item loadings for the 24 items ranged from .67 to .95, and there were no significant cross-loaded items. In addition, each dimension loaded on the overall PsyCap factor as follows: efficacy = .87, hope = .95, resilience = .88, and optimism = .84.

In addition to the PsyCap measure, all the other measures used in this study were existing published instruments and revealed adequate internal reliability ($\alpha \geq .70$), as seen in the diagonals of Table 1. Personality traits were conscientiousness and extroversion (the most commonly used two of the Big Five personality traits and, as discussed earlier, most relevant to this study). They were each measured with 10-item instruments developed by Goldberg et al. (1999; 2006). Each scale includes 5 positive and 5 reverse-coded items. Example items from the extroversion scale are "I make friends easily" and "I keep in the background." Example items from the conscientiousness scale are "I am always prepared" and "I find it difficult to get down to work." CSE traits (CSETs; $\alpha = .86$) were measured using Judge and colleagues' (Judge & Bono, 2001; Judge, Erez, Bono, & Thoresen, 2003) 12-item instrument. Items were on a scale from 1 to 6, ranging from *strongly disagree* to *strongly agree*. An example item is "I get the success in life I deserve."

Cynicism was measured using a 12-item instrument developed by Wanous, Reichers, and Austin (2000). A sample item from this scale is "Most of the programs that are supposed to solve problems around here won't do much good." Intentions to quit were measured with Bluedorn's (1982) instrument, which asks individuals to rate the chances that they will be employed with the organization in 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years. Ratings for the PCQ, CSET, personality, and cynicism were based on a 6-point Likert-type scale ranging from *strongly disagree* to *strongly agree*.

CWBs were measured using 10 items from Fox and Spector's (1999) CWBs scale, which has demonstrated strong psychometric properties. Example items are "purposely ignored your boss" and "failed to help a co-worker." Ratings were on a 6-point Likert-type scale ranging from *hardly, if ever* to *frequently, if not always*. From this instrument, 10 items were chosen to reduce scale length. The chosen items represented 5 interpersonal deviance items and 5 organizational deviance items. The specific items selected from each dimension were the ones with the highest reported frequency in Fox and Spector's work.

Table 1
Means, Standard Deviations and Correlations

Study Variables	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. PsyCap	4.63	0.67	(.95)										
2. Self Evaluations	4.49	0.66	.72	(.86)									
3. Extraversion	4.46	0.84	.59	.60	(.72)								
4. Conscientiousness	4.77	0.77	.54	.56	.35	(.70)							
5. Person-Organization Fit	4.31	1.11	.54	.38	.43	.23	(.95)						
6. Person-Job Fit	4.39	0.94	.52	.42	.37	.27	.86	(.90)					
7. Cynicism	2.90	1.06	-.44	-.40	-.34	-.17	-.41	-.38	(.94)				
8. Intentions to Quit	2.67	1.38	-.42	-.38	-.28	-.23	-.51	-.57	.51	(.90)			
9. OCB-Individual	4.10	1.02	.40	.40	.38	.35	.42	.50	-.29	-.25	(.90)		
10. OCB-Organization	4.04	1.18	.58	.47	.51	.35	.64	.58	-.52	-.50	.56	(.94)	
11. Counter Productive Work Behaviors	1.71	0.71	-.50	-.35	-.28	-.38	-.32	-.34	.40	.31	-.33	-.31	(.89)

N = 336

All correlations significant at $p < .01$

Numbers in diagonal are internal reliabilities

OCBs were measured with Lee and Allen's (2002) OCB instrument, which uses eight items for individual and eight items for organizational OCBs. Example items are "I go out of my way to make new employees feel welcome in the work group" and "I offer ideas to improve the functioning of the organization."

PO and PJ fit were measured using Saks and Ashforth's (1997) instruments, which include four items for each type of fit. Example items are "To what extent does your personality match the personality or image of the organization?" (PO fit) and "To what extent do your knowledge, skills, and abilities match the requirements of your job?" (PJ fit).

Procedure

Online data collection from participants who consented to participate was separated into two time sessions separated by 7-14 days to help reduce common method bias (Podsakoff, MacKenzie, Lee, & Podsakoff, 2003). At Time 1, participants completed the independent, demographic, and other control variable instruments (PsyCap, CSEs, extroversion, conscientiousness, PO fit, and PJ fit). At Time 2, they completed the second portion of the surveys, which included the dependant variables (cynicism, intentions to quit, OCBs, and CWBs).

Results

The means, standard deviations, and correlations for all study variables are presented in Table 1. Hypotheses 1 and 2 were supported as PsyCap was negatively related to cynicism ($r = -.44$, $p < .01$) and intentions to quit ($r = -.42$, $p < .01$). Hypotheses 3 and 4 were also supported as PsyCap was positively related to both individual OCBs ($r = .40$, $p < .01$) and organizational OCBs ($r = .58$, $p < .01$) and negatively related to CWBs ($r = -.50$, $p < .01$).

Multivariate tests were conducted using regression analyses. In Step 1 of the regression model, the control variables of age, gender, tenure, annual salary, job level, and level of education, as well as extroversion, conscientiousness, CSEs, PO fit, and PJ fit, were entered. In Step 2, PsyCap was added to determine the extent to which PsyCap predicted variance in the dependent variables above and beyond that of the control variables. As shown in Table 2, PsyCap added significant unique variance to each of the dependent variables of cynicism ($\Delta R^2 = .05, p < .05$), intentions to quit ($\Delta R^2 = .02, p < .05$), organizational OCBs ($\Delta R^2 = .02, p < .05$), and CWBs ($\Delta R^2 = .03, p < .05$). However, PsyCap did not add significant variance to the outcome of individual OCBs, the variance in which was mostly accounted for by extroversion and PJ fit. Thus, in addition to being related to the dependent variables in the hypothesized direction, PsyCap predicted unique variance in all the outcomes except individual OCBs beyond the demographics, CSEs, extroversion, conscientiousness, PO fit, and PJ fit.

Discussion

The purpose of this study was to test the relationships of the newly emerging positive core construct of PsyCap within an overarching theoretical framework. This framework incorporates a balance of positive (e.g., organizational citizenship) and negative (e.g., cynicism, intentions to quit, and counterproductive) attitudes and behavior, takes into consideration contextual factors and individual difference antecedents, and integrates a broader range of outcomes within a holistic perspective that would be relevant for the study of positivity. The results generally support the hypothesized relationships. Another important contribution of this study was that PsyCap was also shown to add variance over and above several widely recognized positive personality and self-evaluation traits, as well as PO and PJ fit.

Obviously there are a host of other contextual factors and individual differences, as well as other work-related outcomes, that need to be examined in future research to provide still better understanding of the unique contribution of PsyCap. However, this study contributes support to the relationship of PsyCap to desirable and undesirable employee behaviors and attitudes and the added value of PsyCap over and above established traitlike positive constructs in organizational behavior in predicting these behaviors and attitudes.

The study results also provide several specific implications for both research and practice. First, PsyCap was negatively related to organizational cynicism. Thus, it is possible that those higher in PsyCap will be more supportive of organizational change, more flexible in the change process, and adapt to change better than those lower in PsyCap. Given that cynicism regarding organizational change can stifle organizational initiatives, development of employee PsyCap emerges as a potential human resource management strategy to counteract cynicism and promote positive change in organizations (Avey et al., 2008). Future research should expand the boundaries of PsyCap by testing its development and management in settings where various types of change (e.g., evolutionary, revolutionary, structural, cultural) are under way.

Second, PsyCap was negatively related to intention to quit. Given that intention to quit has been demonstrated to predict turnover (Crossley, Bennet, Jex, & Burnfield, 2007), developing PsyCap may be an effective way to at least indirectly reduce turnover. Future research can also

Table 2
Regression Analyses with PsyCap, Outcomes and Covariates

Study Variables	Cynicism		Intentions to Quit		OCB-Individual		OCB-Organizational		CWB	
	Step 1	Step 2	Step 1	Step 2	Step 1	Step 2	Step 1	Step 2	Step 1	Step 2
	Age	.08	.06	-.07	-.08	-.04	-.03	-.07	-.06	-.01
Gender	-.12	-.09	-.10	-.08	.12	.10	.08	.07	-.19*	-.16
Tenure	.02	.06	-.09	-.06	.12	.01	.13	.10	-.10	-.06
Job Level	-.15	-.14	-.01	-.01	-.17	-.18	.11	.10	-.04	-.04
Salary	.16	.22*	-.04	.01	-.11	-.14	-.06	-.09	.21*	.25*
Education	-.17	-.17	-.15	-.15	.06	.06	.14	.14	.03	.03
Extraversion	.01	.05	.19*	.22*	.13	.11	.14	.12	-.16	-.13
Conscientiousness	.01	.05	-.08	-.05	.07	.05	.04	.02	-.15	-.12
Self Evaluations	-.20	.01	-.18	-.05	.15	.06	.11	-.02	-.21	-.05
Person-Job Fit	-.08	-.08	-.44*	-.44*	.54*	.54*	.06	.06	-.17	-.17
Person-Organization Fit	-.18	-.10	.01	.04	-.21	-.24	.37*	.33*	.01	.07
PsyCap		-.42*		-.27*		.17		.22*		-.32*
Total R ²	.26*	.32*	.36*	.38*	.37*	.38*	.47*	.49*	.27*	.29*
Δ in R ²		.05*		.02*		.01		.02*		.03*

N = 336
 * $p < .05$

further investigate the mechanisms through which PsyCap contributes to turnover intentions and actual turnover (e.g., main effects, partial or full mediation, interactions).

Third, PsyCap was found to be positively related to OCBs, suggesting that those higher in PsyCap are more likely to engage in highly desirable extrarole behaviors that are so beneficial to today's organizations. Results also suggest that those who are higher in PsyCap engage in not only more desirable behaviors (OCBs) but also fewer undesirable CWBs.

Future research and practice can capitalize on these findings in several ways. First, the results can contribute empirically based input to the expanded framework for the wide range of outcomes of positivity, both positive and negative. This can provide better understanding of the nature of these outcomes, that is, whether they represent opposite ends of a single continuum or two independent continua. The results can also contribute to better operationalization of performance. They provide insights into going beyond in-role performance that is too often narrowly defined by outdated job descriptions and measured through short-term-oriented performance appraisal systems to include significant, but often overlooked, behaviors that matter in terms of long-term organizational effectiveness.

Some potential limitations of the study should be noted. First, although data collection for the independent and dependent variables was separated over time to help reduce common method bias, the data were collected in a cross-sectional research design. Although Podsakoff et al. (2003) argued that this time separation procedure can help minimize the potential bias, it still must be acknowledged that the potential for common method bias and bias due to social desirability in the data, which may artificially inflate correlations and regression weights, remains a problem when interpreting the results of this study.

Second, although this study includes a sample of antecedents, positive statelike capacities, and positive and negative outcomes that range from attitudes to intentions to behaviors as depicted in the overarching theoretical model that framed this study, there are many other relevant variables that need to be included in future research before any generalized conclusions can be drawn (see Youssef & Luthans, in press, for the comprehensive conceptual framework). Some examples of variables drawn from the Youssef and Luthans (in press) framework for future research include antecedents such as life experiences, positive psychological resources such as wisdom and psychological well-being and negative states such as stress and learned helplessness, attitudinal outcomes such as positive work happiness and negative disengagement, behavioral intentions such as those concerned with morality, and behavioral outcomes such as those concerned with positive ethics and actual turnover (negative).

Third, the additional variance explained by PsyCap ranged from 2% to 5%, which, although statistically significant for four of the five outcome variables, may still be questioned. On the other hand, applying utility analysis and other related methodologies to actual archival data as well as a PsyCap intervention in a large aerospace firm indicates that such levels of explained variance can potentially explain substantial revenues (in the millions of dollars in large, medium, and even smaller firms; see Luthans, Youssef, et al., 2007, pp. 217-223) and a very high (more than 200%) return on investment (see Luthans et al., 2006; Luthans, Youssef, et al., 2007; Youssef & Luthans, 2007).

Conclusion

To conclude, a positive profile of participants high in PsyCap emerges from this study. On average, they tend to be less cynical and exhibit fewer CWBs, are good organizational citizens, and intend to remain in the organization in the foreseeable future. Importantly, this positive profile seems to go beyond the traditionally recognized positive traits of desirable employees and, because it is statelike, is open to further development and have potential performance impact. Previous research has demonstrated that PsyCap can be developed and is related to performance, and in this study it is also shown to be positively related to desirable behaviors (OCBs) and negatively to undesirable behaviors and attitudes (cynicism, CWBs, and intention to quit). It is important that employees' PsyCap may go beyond their demographics, positive traits, PO fit and PJ fit. Investing in and developing and managing the PsyCap of organizational leaders and human resources may provide a competitive advantage in meeting the growing challenges facing organizations today and certainly in the future.

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