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8-6-2020

Simulation Game Outcomes: A Multilevel Examination of Knowledge Sharing Norms, Transactive Memory Systems, and Individual Learning Goal Orientations

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Recommended Citation

Super, J. F., Betts, T. K., Keller, H., & Humphreys, J. R. (2020). Simulation Game Outcomes: A Multilevel Examination of Knowledge Sharing Norms, Transactive Memory Systems, and Individual Learning Goal Orientations. *Simulation & Gaming*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1046878120943255>

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Simulation & Gaming

Simulation Game Outcomes: A Multilevel Examination of Knowledge Sharing Norms, Transactive Memory Systems, and Individual Learning Goal Orientations

Journal:	<i>Simulation & Gaming</i>
Manuscript ID	SG-19-022.R3
Manuscript Type:	Research Article
Keywords:	computer simulation < simulation/gaming, educational games < simulation/gaming, educational < Field
Abstract:	<p>Background: Because computer-based simulation games are widely used in university classrooms, it is important to investigate factors which can lead to effective student team performance and positive individual outcomes.</p> <p>Aim: This correlational study aimed to examine the effects of knowledge sharing norms, transactive memory systems, and individual learning goal orientations on game outcomes.</p> <p>Method: The setting for this study was an undergraduate logistics and supply chain class. The class uses a serious simulation game which is designed to realistically mimic the business transactions within an enterprise resource planning system (ERP). Cross-sectional surveys captured individual learning goal orientations. After multiple rounds of simulation game play, subsequent surveys captured student reactions, perceptions of knowledge sharing behaviors, and transactive memory systems.</p> <p>Results: Two sets of analyses were conducted using a sample of 100 undergraduates performing in 42 teams. At the group-level, OLS regression results suggest that, while there was no effect on objective team performance, knowledge sharing norms enhanced perceptions of team performance, and this effect was mediated through the development of transactive memory systems. For individual-level outcomes, multilevel results suggest that knowledge sharing norms were positively related to satisfaction with the team, but not satisfaction with the task. However, transactive memory systems were positively related both satisfaction with the team and satisfaction with the task. Individual learning goal orientation was positively related to satisfaction with the task but not satisfaction with the team.</p> <p>Conclusion: Our findings suggest that learning goal orientations and norms for knowledge sharing are linked to positive outcomes of team-based simulation game learning activities. Because learning goal orientations are malleable and norms for knowledge sharing can be encouraged, these factors are within the influence of the instructor. As such, they should be nurtured and developed through the active encouragement of experimentation, exploration, and communication between team members.</p>

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Abstract

Background: Because **computer-based simulation games** are widely used in university classrooms, it is important to investigate factors which can lead to effective student team performance and positive individual outcomes.

Aim: This correlational study aimed to examine the effects of **knowledge sharing norms**, **transactive memory systems**, and individual **learning goal orientations** on game outcomes.

Method: The setting for this study was an undergraduate logistics and supply chain class. The class uses a serious simulation game which is designed to realistically mimic the business transactions within an enterprise resource planning system (ERP). Cross-sectional surveys captured individual **learning goal orientations**. After multiple rounds of **simulation game** play, subsequent surveys captured student **reactions**, perceptions of **knowledge sharing** behaviors, and **transactive memory systems**.

Results: Two sets of analyses were conducted using a sample of 100 undergraduates performing in 42 teams. At the group-level, OLS regression results suggest that, while there was no effect on objective **team performance**, **knowledge sharing norms** enhanced **perceptions of team performance**, and this effect was mediated through the development of **transactive memory systems**. For individual-level outcomes, multilevel results suggest that **knowledge sharing norms** were positively related to **satisfaction with the team**, but not **satisfaction with the task**. However, **transactive memory systems** were positively related both **satisfaction with the team** and **satisfaction with the task**. Individual **learning goal orientation** was positively related to **satisfaction with the task** but not **satisfaction with the team**.

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3 23 Conclusion: Our findings suggest that **learning goal orientations** and norms for
4
5 24 **knowledge sharing** are linked to positive outcomes of team-based **simulation game** learning
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8 25 activities. Because **learning goal orientations** are malleable and norms for **knowledge sharing**
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10 26 can be encouraged, these factors are within the influence of the instructor. As such, they should
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12 27 be nurtured and developed through the active encouragement of experimentation, exploration,
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14 28 and **communication** between team members.
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19 30 **Keywords:** computer-based simulation games, knowledge sharing, team cognitions, transactive
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21 31 memory systems, affective reactions.
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3 32 Simulation Game Outcomes: A Multilevel Examination of Knowledge Sharing Norms,
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5 33 Transactive Memory Systems, and Individual Learning Goal Orientations
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10 35 Computer simulation games have long been a staple in high-stakes training environments,
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12 36 such as military teams, surgical units, and emergency first responders (Hays, 2005). These
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14 37 sophisticated simulation tools provide a realistic, yet safe, learning environment; one in which
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16 38 mistakes can be made without incurring expensive equipment loss or endangering human life
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18 39 (Bell, Kanar, & Kozlowski, 2008). As the popularity of video gaming has exploded, business
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20 40 educators have also seen the merit of incorporating instructional content into an interactive
21
22 41 simulation framework, thereby capitalizing on the entertainment value inherent in games.
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24 42 Indeed, as technology has evolved and cost barriers have lowered, simulation-based training
25
26 43 (SBT) tools have become ubiquitous in workplace training and university settings (Bell &
27
28 44 Kozlowski, 2008; Faria, Hutchinson, Wellington, & Gold, 2009; Faria & Wellington, 2004).
29
30 45 Often delivered in the form of computer-based simulation games, the power of SBT lies in its
31
32 46 ability to mimic reality. In the field of workforce training, this aspect of SBT is invaluable, as it
33
34 47 enables individuals to become proficient at their job without risk to themselves or others.
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36 48 Consequently, one particularly promising approach to SBT training has been to view the
37
38 49 individual as an active participant in the learning process. In this context, the focus is on
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40 50 achievement motivation and self-regulatory learning behaviors as people explore and experiment
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42 51 with the simulation game, learning through trial and error (Bell & Kozlowski, 2009).
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49 52 In addition to individual learning, computer-based simulations are also conducive to
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51 53 developing the cognitive structures and relational interfaces necessary for effective team
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53 54 functioning (Kozlowski & DeShon, 2004). We live in an era of technology, and most jobs are
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3 55 positioned within the realm of a knowledge economy. As such, work has become increasingly
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5 56 complex. This complexity requires people to work together, interact with each other, share
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8 57 information, and commit their combined talents and energies to the accomplishment of a single
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10 58 goal (Kozlowski & Bell, 2013). Learning resides within an individual. However, people who
11
12 59 work closely and intensively with each other will often develop special group-level cognitions
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14 60 whereby they share understandings and mental representations of the team's task environment
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16
17 61 (Klimoski & Mohammed, 1994; Lewis, Lange, & Gillis, 2005). Group level cognitions reduce
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19 62 the mental load on any one member of the team. This is particularly beneficial in situations with
20
21 63 intense informational demands. Consequently, when team coordination is highly developed,
22
23 64 team cognitions can ultimately improve team performance (DeChurch & Mesmer-Magnus,
24
25 65 2010). In terms of development, these team-level cognitive properties "emerge" as individuals
26
27 66 within the group interact with each other over time. This is a complex evolution that requires
28
29 67 multilevel theoretical conceptualizations (Kozlowski & Klein, 2000; Kozlowski & Bell, 2008).
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31 68 As a result of this complexity, the way in which team interactions develop and unfold is still not
32
33 69 well understood (Salas, Shuffler, Thayer, Bedwell, & Lazzara, 2015).

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38 70 Moreover, while a large body of research has been devoted to understanding the role of
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40 71 computer-based simulation games in the training of dynamic decision-making teams (Kozlowski
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42 72 & DeShon, 2004; Salas, Rosen, Held, & Weissmuller, 2009), less emphasis has been paid on
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44 73 effective ways to incorporate these learning tools into the university setting (Salas, Wildman, &
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46 74 Piccolo, 2009). The university classroom is unique in that students must complete a core
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48 75 curriculum, (e.g., management, accounting, finance, and logistics). While this battery of
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50 76 coursework is beneficial for an individual's overall understanding of the business environment, it
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52 77 may contain certain classes that can be challenging or even intimidating for some students. In
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3 78 these situations, simulation games, with their ability to provide a realistic, yet harmless, learning
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5 79 environment, can be a powerful learning aide to help students master difficult material and
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8 80 develop critical thinking skills (Lovelace, Eggers, & Dyck, 2016; Salas, Wildman, & Piccolo,
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10 81 2009). However, in addition to delivering task-relevant material, the simulation gaming
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12 82 environment can also be leveraged to develop some of the softer skills needed for teamwork and
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14 83 collaborative problem-solving (Marlow, Salas, Landon, & Presnell, 2016). An educational tool
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16 84 that could help simultaneously develop task and team competencies within the undergraduate
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18 85 curriculum would fulfill a pressing need. To illustrate, a recent report from the National
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20 86 Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE: 2016) indicated that, while employers consider
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22 87 critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and collaboration to be essential, there continues to
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24 88 be a significant deficit in recent new hire proficiencies and readiness. Indeed, this has been a
25
26 89 consistent and troubling trend over the last few years as educators, employers, and researchers
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28 90 have noted the need to incorporate interpersonal, collaborative, and team-based skills into the
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30 91 business curriculum (Bedwell, Fiore, & Salas, 2014; Chen, Donahue, & Klimoski, 2004; Ritter,
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32 92 Small, Mortimer, & Doll, 2018). As a teaching and learning tool, simulation games can provide
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34 93 the relevant instructional content which promotes learning while also fostering collaborative,
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36 94 team-based behaviors. However, while simulation games hold much promise, there remains a
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38 95 lack of research on the specific motivational mechanisms, group interactions, and causal
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40 96 pathways through which these dual outcomes can be fostered (Marlow et al., 2016).

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42 97 In this study, we examine the impact of individual achievement motivation and team
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44 98 knowledge sharing behaviors on satisfaction variables and team performance outcomes in the
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46 99 context of a complex and serious simulation game. Our goal is to advance an understanding of
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48 100 determinants of student success in computer-based simulation games, at the individual and team
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3 101 levels. We recognize that the repetitive rounds of play inherent in computer-based simulation
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5 102 games allow for team formation and team processing. This corresponds to the general
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7 103 framework of the IMOI (input-mediator-output-input) model of teamwork (Ilgen, Hollenbeck,
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9 104 Johnson, & Jundt, 2005). Within IMOI frame, we look at individual learning goal orientation
10
11 105 and group-level knowledge sharing norms as our input variables. To understand our group-level,
12
13 106 mediating variable, we base our thinking in the foundations of social exchange theory (SET) and
14
15 107 the premise of reciprocity (Cropanzano & Mitchell, 2005). SET predicts that high-quality
16
17 108 knowledge exchange and interpersonal communications will result in the formation of team
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19 109 cognitive structures such as team mental models or transactive memory systems and that these
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21 110 team-level cognitions result in positive team and individual outcomes (Fiore, Salas, & Cannon-
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23 111 Bowers, 2001; Bachrach et al., 2019). Therefore, congruent with the concepts of social
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25 112 exchange, we expect that reciprocal knowledge sharing interactions will result in the formation
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27 113 of transactive memory systems. Furthermore, we expect that these transactive memory systems
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29 114 will enhance team performance and positively influence individual reactions to the game.
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35 115 **Theoretical Background**

36
37 116 As technology has become more advanced, business simulation games have emerged as a
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39 117 popular learning tool. A survey from the late 1990s found that over 97% of business schools
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41 118 used simulation games (Faria, 1998), while a later survey found that a substantial number of
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43 119 faculty in AACSB institutions had used a business simulation game in the classroom at least
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45 120 once (Faria & Wellington, 2004). The current generation of business simulation games provides
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47 121 an interactive and experiential learning environment where students and trainees can be
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49 122 immersed in a realistic situation and learn from the consequences of their decisions. Cognitive
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51 123 structure refers to memory and knowledge bases, while affective structures involve motivations
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3 124 and attitudes. Simulation games can be effective training tools because, through an interaction of
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5 125 external and internal mechanisms, they target both cognitive and affective structures (Sitzmann,
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7 126 2011; Tennyson & Jorczak, 2008). Although research has typically focused on individual
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9 127 learner outcomes, an understudied aspect of simulation games is their potential to encourage
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11 128 teamwork and cooperative behaviors such as knowledge sharing (Marlow et al., 2016).

12 129 **Knowledge Sharing in Teams**

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15 130 Work has become complicated and dependent on technology, thereby making it difficult
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17 131 for an individual to function alone. As such, companies depend on teams to solve problems and
18
19 132 deal with sudden and unexpected contingencies and events (Kozlowski & Bell, 2013). Because
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21 133 of this increasing complexity, teams are being thought of, not merely as vehicles to perform
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23 134 tasks, but as information processing units (Hinsz, Tindale, & Vollrath, 1997). Effective teams
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25 135 develop through the emergence and coalescence of individual knowledge, goals, efficacy, and
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27 136 skill (DeShon, Kozlowski, Schmidt, Milner, & Wiechmann, 2004; Kozlowski & Bell, 2013).
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29 137 When teams effectively share and combine information and knowledge, they are able to achieve
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31 138 superior outcomes (Mesmer-Magnus & DeChurch, 2009).

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33 139 **Outcomes of team knowledge sharing behaviors.** Knowledge and time are valuable
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35 140 commodities, and, unless there is a compelling reason, people are often reluctant to take the time
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37 141 and make an effort to share what they know. Yet we know that, over time, people who work
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39 142 together in teams often develop highly cohesive bonds, and that these relationships, which are
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41 143 built on trust and mutual liking, can result in team synergies which are beneficial to the
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43 144 organization (Mathieu, Hollenbeck, van Knippenberg, & Ilgen, 2017). One explanation for the
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45 145 development of team cohesion lies in the reciprocity rules that are at the heart of positive social
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47 146 exchange (Cropanzano & Mitchell, 2005). Reciprocity is conceptualized as a series of
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3 147 interdependent exchanges whereby an action on the part of one person leads to a response by the
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5 148 other. If these exchanges are positive in nature, quality relationships develop over time, which
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7 149 can facilitate knowledge sharing and ultimately enhance performance (Bartol, Liu, Zeng, & Wu,
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9 150 2009; Quigley, Tesluk, Locke, & Bartol, 2007). The nature of reciprocal response can be
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11 151 thought of as both behavioral and relational (Cropanzano et al., 2017). Positive individual
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13 152 outcomes such as organizational citizenship behaviors and trust have been examined in
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15 153 conjunction with relational, reciprocal exchange (Eisenberger, Armeli, Rexwinkel, Lynch, &
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17 154 Rhoades, 2001; Dirks & Ferrin, 2001; Molm, Takahashi, & Peterson, 2000). Since knowledge
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19 155 sharing is an activity based on reciprocity and an integral part of team functioning, we would
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21 156 expect knowledge sharing norms and reciprocal exchanges to encourage an overall positive
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23 157 climate and an environment for cooperation. As a result, team members should have a better
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25 158 social experience, and this enhanced social experience should make members happier and more
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27 159 satisfied with their respective teammates.
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33 160 However, the establishment of knowledge sharing norms should have positive effects
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35 161 beyond affective reactions to others on the team. Knowledge is often shared in the form of
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37 162 information, and there is a rich body of research that looks at the patterns, effects, and outcomes
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39 163 of information sharing in groups (De Dreu, Nijstad, & van Knippenberg, 2008; Stasser & Titus,
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41 164 1985, 1987). The original assumption was that the quality of decision-making was a
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43 165 mathematical function of the way in which information was distributed amongst group members
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45 166 (Stasser & Titus, 1985, 1987; Wittenbaum, Hollingshead, & Botero, 2004). Later, researchers
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47 167 began to acknowledge that the quality of information exchange was also a function of member
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49 168 motivations: in particular, epistemic and social motivations (Nijstad & De Dreu, 2012). In these
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51 169 models of group information sharing, the group members' motivation to learn and acquire a deep
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3 170 understanding of the task at hand, along with their willingness to cooperate with others, has a
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5 171 significant impact on the quality of information exchange and group decision-making (De Dreu,
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7 172 Nijstad, & van Knippenberg, 2008). So, in team settings, research findings suggest that such
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9 173 factors as the prosocial proclivities, perceived expertise, and social status of group members; the
10
11 174 quality of leadership exchanges; and the type of team communications have a significant effect
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13 175 on performance outcomes (De Dreu, Nijstad, & van Knippenberg, 2008; Marlow, Lacerenza,
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15 176 Paoletti, Burke, & Salas, 2018; Mohammed & Dumville, 2001). In terms of performance
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17 177 outcomes, the effects of information and knowledge sharing have been shown to affect both the
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19 178 task and socio-emotional functioning of the team (Mesmer-Magnus & DeChurch, 2009;
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21 179 Wittenbaum, Hollingshead, & Botero, 2004). In other words, members who share knowledge
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23 180 are not only happier with each other; the information exchange also boosts task satisfaction and
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25 181 actual task performance. Therefore, in this study, we would expect knowledge sharing norms to
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27 182 affect team and task satisfaction, as well as the overall performance outcomes of the team.
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33 183 *Hypothesis 1a: Knowledge sharing norms will be positively related to a) satisfaction*
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35 184 *with the team and b) satisfaction with the task.*
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37 185 *Hypothesis 1b: Knowledge sharing norms will be positively related to a) perceived team*
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39 186 *performance and b) actual team performance.*
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42 187 **Knowledge sharing norms and the development of transactive memory systems.**

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44 188 When people are working closely together on a task, they will often develop special cognitive
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46 189 structures to achieve their common goals. In general, these cognitive structures are labeled team
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48 190 cognitions, and they are usually conceptualized in two different ways: team mental models and
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50 191 transactive memory systems (Ilgen et al., 2005; Fiore, Salas, & Cannon-Bowers, 2001). Team
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52 192 mental models (TMM) refer to shared cognitions, where knowledge is communal and redundant.
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3 193 TMM is particularly useful in dynamic situations where coordination and backup behaviors are
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5 194 essential (e.g., emergency response teams and military units) (Cannon-Bowers, Salas, &
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7 195 Converse, 1993; Klimoski & Mohammed, 1994). The second type of team cognition,
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9 196 transactive memory systems (TMS), describes the development and utilization of individual team
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11 197 member expertise. Initially conceived as a type of specialized team cognitive strategy, TMS
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13 198 explains how group members can, together, achieve a complex task that would be difficult, if not
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15 199 impossible, for one person, working alone (Ren & Argote, 2011).
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19 200 In essence, TMS involves two components: a group level memory structure, (who knows
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21 201 what) and transactive processes to utilize that structure (Ren & Argote, 2011). Since the concept
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23 202 was first proposed, TMSs have been observed and studied in a wide variety of laboratory and
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25 203 field settings (Hollingshead, 1998; Lewis, 2004). In terms of antecedents, studies have examined
26
27 204 the attributes of team members and have found such personal characteristics as critical team
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29 205 member assertiveness to be instrumental in the formation of TMS (Pearsall & Ellis, 2006).
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31 206 Through laboratory studies, we know that TMSs will naturally occur when people are trained
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33 207 together on a specific task (Lewis et al., 2005; Liang, Moreland, & Argote, 1995). Cooperative
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35 208 group behaviors, such as communication have also been connected to the development of
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37 209 transactive memory systems. For example, Kanawattahanchai and Yoo (2007) found that task-
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39 210 oriented communication led, not only to expertise location, but also to cognition-based trust in
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41 211 virtual teams. He, Butler, and King (2007) found that communication in the form of calls or
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43 212 face-to-face meetings led to the formation of specialized team cognitions, but email exchanges
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45 213 did not.
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51 214 By definition, a team that has established a group norm for knowledge sharing is
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53 215 engaging in cooperative behaviors. These positive and reciprocal behaviors should result in
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3 216 high-quality relationships, marked by a sense of mutual respect and liking (Blau, 1964; Molm et
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5 217 al., 2000). Moreover, in training situations, when everyone is a novice and in the initial stages of
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7 218 learning, where roles are differentiated, and informational requirements are complex, the
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9 219 establishment of knowledge sharing norms should result in two outcomes: first, individual team
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11 220 members will volunteer to acquire specialized knowledge, and, second, team members trust each
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13 221 other enough to allow that specialization to occur (Marlow et al., 2016). In other words, the
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15 222 team should develop a transactive memory system.
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19 223 **Outcomes of transactive memory systems.** Transactive memory systems represent a
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21 224 division of cognitive labor, thereby reducing the mental load on individual team members (Lewis
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23 225 & Herndon, 2011). Teams with a well-developed TMS are able to locate and take advantage of
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25 226 individual talent and expertise. Hence, teams who develop these specialized structures generally
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27 227 perform better on complex, interdependent tasks (Bachrach et al., 2019). In laboratory studies,
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29 228 teams who take advantage of group member expertise perform better on experimental tasks (He,
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31 229 Butler, King, 2007; Lewis, Lange, & Gillis, 2005; Pearsall & Ellis, 2006). Generalizing to a
32
33 230 broader base, studies looking at the effects of TMS have been conducted in a variety of settings
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35 231 from knowledge workers in consulting and product development teams (Akgün, Byrne, Keskin,
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37 232 Lynn, & Imamoglu, 2005; Lewis, 2004) to national security teams and EMTs (Jarvenpaa &
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39 233 Majchrzak, 2008), with an overall consensus that groups who can develop and maintain effective
40
41 234 TMSs achieve superior performance outcomes (DeChurch & Mesmer-Magnus, 2010; Lewis et
42
43 235 al., 2005). This positive effect extends to a variety of performance outcomes, including
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45 236 perceived team performance (Bachrach et al., 2019; Zhang, Hempel, Han, & Tjosvold, 2007).
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47 237 Therefore, since we expect the high-quality relationships that develop from knowledge sharing to
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49 238 result in the formation of transactive memory systems, it would follow that these TMSs would
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3 239 result in improved team performance outcomes. Consequently, we expect transactive memory
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5 240 systems will mediate the relationship between knowledge sharing norms and team performance
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8 241 outcomes.

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10 242 *Hypothesis 2: Transactive memory systems will mediate the relationship between (a)*
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12 243 *knowledge sharing norms and actual team performance and between (b)*
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14 244 *knowledge sharing norms and perceived team performance.*

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17 245 Moreover, being in an environment where information is efficiently and effectively
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19 246 flowing between team members should have benefits beyond those of team performance. People
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21 247 who are part of such a reciprocal exchange should feel a sense of inclusion; they should derive a
22
23 248 certain sense of self-worth as they find themselves actively contributing to the success of their
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25 249 team. Indeed, this is consistent with prior research findings, where we see that informational
26
27 250 diversity is positively related to satisfaction levels when group differences and conflicts are
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29 251 minimized (Jehn, Northcraft, & Neale, 1999), when information flows are efficient (Janz,
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31 252 Colquitt, & Noe, 1997), and when goals are reached as complex, interdependent tasks are
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33 253 competently planned and executed (Saavedra, Earley, & Van Dyne, 1993).

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37 254 Research findings continue to support the notion that participating in a specialized
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39 255 knowledge network lends itself to a certain sense of satisfaction. For example, in a recent
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41 256 metaanalysis, Bachrach and colleagues (2019) found that well-developed transactive memory
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43 257 systems have beneficial effects on the affective aspects of team performance. In particular,
44
45 258 teams with a developed TMS tend to have a more positive assessment of the team's future
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47 259 viability (Lewis, 2004). Transactive memory systems have been shown to bolster the effects of
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49 260 positive intangible team factors. For example, when engaged in knowledge-intensive tasks, trust
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51 261 is positively related to team member satisfaction; this relationship flows through the
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3 262 development of a transactive memory system (Gockel, Robertson, & Brauner, 2013). Other
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5 263 studies have shown transactive memory systems to be a mediator between leadership behaviors
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7 264 and team satisfaction, as transactive memory systems mediate the relationship between critical
8
9 265 team member characteristics and satisfaction levels (Pearsall Ellis, 2006). In a field study
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11 266 looking at nurse and physician anesthetists who were working under pressure and time
12
13 267 constraints, transactive memory had a positive effect on work attitudes, such as job satisfaction
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15 268 and team identification (Michinov, Olivier-Chiron, Rusch, & Chiron, 2008).

16
17 269 These findings make intuitive sense. Since transactive memory systems bolster goal
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19 270 attainment, we would expect team members to experience more satisfaction when they are part
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21 271 of a specialized team and reap the benefits of that specialization. Consequently, because team
22
23 272 cognitions originate from reciprocal knowledge exchange, we would expect transactive memory
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25 273 systems to mediate the relationship between knowledge sharing norms and affective team
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27 274 outcomes.

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29 275 *Hypothesis 3: Transactive memory systems will mediate the relationship between (a)*
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31 276 *knowledge sharing norms and satisfaction with the team and between (b)*
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33 277 *knowledge sharing norms and satisfaction with the task.*

34 278 **Achievement Motivation and Learning Goal Orientations**

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36 279 One of the most useful concepts in understanding how people perform during the
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38 280 learning process is that of goal orientation. Goal orientation refers to the way in which people
39
40 281 view and approach learning and performance in achievement situations. Its earliest conception
41
42 282 came from educational psychology, where researchers noted differences in the way children
43
44 283 would approach educational achievements (Dweck, 1986). In certain situations, some children
45
46 284 would take a deep approach to learning, wanting to internalize and gain personal mastery over
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3 285 the material; whereas, other children were more interested in obtaining the external approval of
4
5 286 others, (e.g., the teacher or parent). Educational psychologists began to refer to these
6
7 287 differences as goal orientations. The people who viewed learning as a way to acquire or increase
8
9 288 personal competence were considered to have learning goal orientations; whereas, the people
10
11 289 who were more concerned with demonstrating competence and meeting performance
12
13 290 expectations were considered to have performance goal orientations (Dweck, 1986).
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17 291 Goal orientation, although malleable, can be viewed as a stable, individual difference,
18
19 292 much like personality (Dierdorff, Surface, Harman, Kemp Ellington, & Watson, 2018; Porter,
20
21 293 2012; Steele-Johnson, Beauregard, Hoover, & Schmidt, 2000). Since the concept of goal
22
23 294 orientation was introduced into the organizational literature in the 1990s, researchers have
24
25 295 examined its effect in multiple areas such as job performance, evaluation, and feedback seeking
26
27 296 (VandeWalle, 1997); training effectiveness and trainee reactions (Bell & Kozlowski, 2002); team
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29 297 cohesiveness and cooperative behaviors (Dierdorff & Ellington, 2012); and leadership
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31 298 effectiveness (Dragoni, 2005; Porter, Franklin, Swider, & Yu, 2016). The overwhelming
32
33 299 consensus from all this research suggests that learning goals are correlated with positive adaptive
34
35 300 behaviors, such as goal establishment, self-monitoring, and persistence in the face of failure
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37 301 (Payne, Youngcourt, & Beaubien, 2007).
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42 302 Overall, research findings suggest that higher levels of learning goal orientations are
43
44 303 linked to a motivation to absorb instructional material and gain proficiencies at a given task. For
45
46 304 example, people with higher levels of learning goal orientation are more likely to stay focused on
47
48 305 the task at hand and persevere when encountering difficulties (Brown, 2001; Fisher & Ford,
49
50 306 1998). Higher levels of learning goal orientations are linked to an increased use of learning
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52 307 strategies and increased use of self-regulatory mechanisms, such as metacognition (Dierdorff &
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3 308 Ellington, 2012; Payne et al., 2007). In a classroom setting, learning goal orientations were
4
5 309 linked to higher motivations to learn, which, in turn, were linked to more positive course
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7 310 outcomes, such as grades and satisfaction (Klein, Noe, & Wang, 2006).
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10 311 Because people with learning or mastery goal orientations are intent on improvement,
11
12 312 they are likely to invest in resources that will optimize their outcomes. In today's environment,
13
14 313 where work is complex and interdependent, it is reasonable to think that people with mastery
15
16 314 goal orientations would see their peers as a valuable source of assistance. In line with the
17
18 315 rationale that people view coworkers, colleagues, and peers as assets, scholars have surmised that
19
20 316 people with mastery goals are likely to invest in exchange relationships, see the value of
21
22 317 reciprocal norms, and seek out avenues to gain and integrate new sources of information
23
24 318 (Poortvliet & Darnon, 2010). Because people with higher learning goal orientations are intently
25
26 319 focused on learning the material and gaining mastery of the task, learning goal orientations
27
28 320 should be positively related to task satisfaction. Moreover, when working on a complex,
29
30 321 interdependent task, people with mastery orientations are likely to recognize the difficulties of
31
32 322 operating alone. As a result, they are likely to seek out and form positive alliances with their
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34 323 teammates (Poortvliet & Darnon, 2010). Therefore, we would expect levels of trait learning goal
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36 324 orientation to have an effect on their reactions to an instructional tool, as well as their
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38 325 perceptions of the people assigned to work with them.
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44 326 *Hypothesis 4: Individual learning goal orientations will be positively related to a)*

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47 327 *satisfaction with the task and b) satisfaction with the team.*
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51 329 Insert Figure 1 about here

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3 331 **Method**

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5 332 **Participants and Procedure**

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8 333 Approval for this correlational study to examine student reactions to computer-based
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10 334 simulation games was obtained from our university's Institutional Review Board. Participants
11
12 335 were students enrolled in an undergraduate logistics and supply chain class in a medium-sized
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14 336 public university in the southeastern part of the United States, and data were collected in a total
15
16
17 337 of 5 classrooms, across two semesters. The team-based simulation game for this study mimics
18
19 338 the functionality of operations management software, (e.g., enterprise resource planning, or ERP,
20
21 339 systems). Large companies typically rely on these sophisticated and expensive computer
22
23 340 systems to manage their business. Available from ERPsimLab HEC Montreal (Léger, Robert,
24
25 341 Babin, Pellerin & Wagner, 2007), the game was developed under the auspices of SAP.
26
27 342 SAP provides software to 80% of the Fortune 500 companies. This particular simulation game is
28
29 343 utilized both in university classrooms, and also in businesses, to teach the conceptual foundations
30
31 344 of the ERP and to provide specific training on how to use the system. The game is designed to
32
33 345 be played by teams of two to four participants. Because the system is complex and requirements
34
35 346 differentiated, if team members specialize in certain areas, team performance should improve
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37
38 347 (Léger et al, 2010).

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42 348 Standard instructions were generated and utilized when introducing the simulation to the
43
44 349 students. In the introduction and just before each round of play, students were reminded that it
45
46 350 was okay to make errors during the learning process. Consequently, there were no grades linked
47
48 351 to actual performance in the simulation. Instead, students received an individual
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50 352 participation grade for being present the day of the simulation play. Moreover, team members
51
52 353 did not evaluate each other in any way. During the simulation, students were placed into teams
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3 354 and introduced to the enterprise resource planning software in a set of rounds. All three rounds
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5 355 of the simulation utilize the same market environment. Each round of play became increasingly
6
7 356 more complex. Initially, students conducted pricing and marketing within a market. In the
8
9 357 second round, students were required to continually restock via a purchasing function. The
10
11 358 students needed to work together to correctly sell product, but not run out before their reordered
12
13 359 product arrived. In the third round students also used the SAP system to complete materials
14
15 360 requirements planning which, if completed correctly, signaled to purchasing that more product
16
17 361 needs to be ordered. In total, students interacted with five different SAP screens to correctly
18
19 362 complete the planning process, procurement process and sales process. Furthermore, students
20
21 363 had to obtain information from 6 reports to understand their market environment, sell at a profit,
22
23 364 and remain stocked with the products that best match the market. So, the game is complex, it
24
25 365 simulates customer and vendor behaviors, as well as the passage of time. This is a serious
26
27 366 business simulation, without an entertainment aspect, and requires the students to engage in
28
29 367 strategic decision making and dynamic problem-solving.
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35 368 Data collection for this study occurred at two distinct time points. The variables that
36
37 369 were chosen for this analysis are a subset of a larger survey. This is the sole study resulting from
38
39 370 that survey. At the start of the semester, a survey was conducted, collecting information about
40
41 371 trait learning goal orientations. At this time, students were randomly assigned to work together
42
43 372 in teams. Then, toward the latter part of the semester, the simulation game was introduced.
44
45 373 Approximately three weeks of class time was reserved for the students to work together and
46
47 374 engage in repetitive rounds of play. After the final round was completed, another survey was
48
49 375 administered; this time asking about impressions of knowledge sharing behaviors, transactive
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51 376 memory systems, individual satisfaction levels, and perceived team performance. A total of 131
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3 377 students participated in the final round of play. Out of that 131, seven students declined
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5 378 permission for their data to be used in the analysis and six records were list-wise deleted because
6
7
8 379 of missing data. This left a total of 118 complete responses. Because of absenteeism, 18 of
9
10 380 these 118 students participated in the game alone. This left 100 students working together in 42
11
12 381 teams as the basis for our analysis.

14 382 **Measures**

16
17 383 **Learning goal orientation.** Learning goal orientation was assessed using 4 items adapted
18
19 384 from VandeWalle, 1997. Sample items include: "I enjoy challenging and difficult tasks where
20
21 385 I'll learn new skills," and "I often look for opportunities to develop new skills and knowledge."
22
23 386 Items were rated on a six-point scale ranging from 1 = "Strongly Disagree" to 6 = "Strongly
24
25 387 Agree". The internal reliability coefficient for learning goal orientation was 0.78.

26
27 388 **Knowledge sharing norms.** Knowledge sharing norms was assessed using 10 items
28
29 389 adapted from Quigley et al., 2007. Items were rated on a seven-point scale ranging from 1 =
30
31 390 "Almost Never True" to 7 = "Almost Always True." When asked the extent it seemed that "*you*
32
33 391 *and your teammates developed a mutual understanding that each other on the team would...*",
34
35 392 students responded to such sample questions as: "share information on hints when you thought it
36
37 393 might help the others on the team," "share information on strategies that seemed to work well,"
38
39 394 and "go out of your way to help the others on the team with a problem or question." The internal
40
41 395 reliability for this measure was 0.96.

42
43 396 **Transactive memory systems.** Transactive memory systems (TMSs) was adapted from
44
45 397 Lewis, 2003. Using 15 items, rated on a 5 point scale ranging from 1 = "Strongly disagree" to 5
46
47 398 = "Strongly agree," sample questions include: "Different team members were responsible for
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49 399 expertise in different team areas," and "I have knowledge about an aspect of the exercise that no
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3 400 other team member has.” The measure includes dimensions of team specialization,
4
5 401 coordination, and credibility. Internal reliability was 0.85.

6
7 402 **Satisfaction with the team.** Team satisfaction was adapted from Spector, 1994. Using 4
8
9 403 items, rated on a 7 point scale ranging from 1 =”Disagree very much” to 7 = “Agree very much,”
10
11 404 sample questions include: “I liked the people I worked with,” and “I found I had to work harder
12
13 405 because of the incompetence of the people I worked with (reverse scored).” The internal
14
15 406 reliability for this measure was 0.72.

16
17 407 **Satisfaction with the task.** Task satisfaction was adapted from Spector, 1994. Using 5
18
19 408 items, rated on a 7 point scale ranging from 1 =”Disagree very much” to 7 = “Agree very much,”
20
21 409 sample questions include: “I liked doing the things I did on the simulation game exercise,” “The
22
23 410 simulation game exercise was enjoyable,” and “I felt the simulation game exercise was
24
25 411 meaningless (reversed scored).” The internal reliability for this measure was 0.91.

26
27 412 **Perceived team performance.** Perceived team performance was assessed using 3 items,
28
29 413 rated on a 6 point scale ranging from 1 = “Disagree very much” to 6 = “Agree very much.”
30
31 414 Sample questions include: “My team performed very effectively on this exercise,” and “My team
32
33 415 made a quality decision.” The internal reliability for this measure was 0.95.

34
35 416 **Actual team performance.** *Actual team performance* is a calculated variable, generated
36
37 417 by the ERPsim game. The game simulates revenue and costs based on player decisions.
38
39 418 Throughout the game, the players see the financial impact of their actions. At conclusion of each
40
41 419 round, a set of financial metrics, such as total sales and gross margin, are calculated and
42
43 420 displayed. We chose the natural logarithm of cumulative net income as our performance metric,
44
45 421 but the variable remained non-normally distributed with *skewness* = -1.45 and *kurtosis* = 0.20.

422 **Analyses**

423 **Aggregation and measurement analyses**

424 To justify aggregating our individual response data to the team level, we examined
425 proportions of within and between group variance, as well as indicators of rater reliability. We
426 calculated ICC variables to check on the proportion of between and within group variance. The
427 ICC(1) indicates the proportion of variance that is attributable to group membership, while the
428 ICC(2) indicates the reliability of group means (Hox, 2002; Bliese, 2000). To ensure that team
429 member assessments were similar, we computed interrater reliability scores (LeBreton and
430 Senter, 2008). Using the tool from Biemann, Cole, and Voelpel (2012), we calculated the
431 multiple-item estimator of $r_{wg(j)}$ with a uniform distribution, as well as measure specific
432 distributions.

433 Table 1 contains the results of our analyses, which yielded support for our aggregation
434 decisions. For example, with knowledge sharing norms, we found the following: mean $r_{wg(j)}$,
435 $r_{wg(j), \text{uniform}} = .87$; $r_{wg(j), \text{slight skew}} = .81$; $ICC(1) = .30$; $ICC(2) = .50$, with an F ratio = 2.02, $p < .01$. For
436 transactive memory systems, we found a mean $r_{wg(j), \text{uniform}} = .95$; $r_{wg(j), \text{normal}} = .69$; $ICC(1) = .29$;
437 $ICC(2) = .49$, with an F ratio = 1.95, $p < .05$. Finally, for perceived team performance, we found
438 the mean $r_{wg(j), \text{uniform}} = .78$; $r_{wg(j), \text{slight skew}} = .69$; $ICC(1) = .36$; $ICC(2) = .57$, with an F ratio =
439 2.32, $p < .01$.

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441 Insert Table 1 about here
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443 Our ICC(2) results were generally below .60, which is considered on the low side. Our
444 average team size was small at 2.38. Low ICC(2) values can be attributed to small team sizes
445 and, while low ICC(2)s might adversely affect statistical power, they do not preclude the use of

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3 446 multilevel analytical techniques (Bliese, Maltarich, & Hendricks, 2018). However, as an
4
5 447 additional precaution, we conducted an $r_{wg(j)}$ sensitivity analysis to make sure these variables
6
7 448 truly represent group constructs (Beimann et al., 2012). We eliminated four teams with low $r_{wg(j)}$
8
9 449 uniform scores and reran our analysis. We found little impact on the results and nothing that would
10
11 450 alter our substantive conclusions. Consequently, we aggregated data and created our team-level
12
13 451 variables.
14

15 452 **Analytical strategy**

16
17 453 Our research question involves outcomes at two levels of analysis. At the lowest level,
18
19 454 we are interested in the effects of trait learning goal orientations on individual perceptions of
20
21 455 team and task satisfaction, (i.e., satisfaction with the team and satisfaction with the task). At the
22
23 456 group level, we are interested in the effects of knowledge sharing norms and transactive memory
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25 457 systems on perceptions of team performance and actual team performance, as well as their effect
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27 458 on individual (level-one) perceptions, (i.e., satisfaction with the team and satisfaction with the
28
29 459 task). Since our sample size is small, with just 100 observations, we opted to analyze our data in
30
31 460 two parts. To analyze our group level variables, we conducted an OLS regression using SAS
32
33 461 PROC REG and assessed the mediated, or indirect, effects using PROCESS (Hayes, 2017). To
34
35 462 examine our individual level outcomes, we conducted random coefficients modeling using SAS
36
37 463 PROC MIXED (Bliese, 2002; Singer, 1998). Our multilevel model contains a second-level
38
39 464 mediator. Consequently, we use MSEM and MPLUS version 8 (Muthén & Muthén, 1998-2017)
40
41 465 to assess our mediation paths, as this technique allows for higher level outcome variables
42
43 466 (Preacher, Zyphur, & Zhang, 2010). We used a Monte Carlo Method for Assessing Mediation
44
45 467 (MCMAM) to create confidence intervals for the indirect effects (Selig & Preacher, 2008). Prior
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47 468 to conducting our multilevel analysis, we needed to determine the best fitting model, so we
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3 469 followed the build-up procedure from Hox (2002). Using this method, we looked to see if the
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5 470 predictors, random intercepts, random slopes, and/or cross-level interactions were helpful with
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7
8 471 model fit. After this analysis, we determined that, for both satisfaction with the team and
9
10 472 satisfaction with the task, our best fitting multilevel model, as written below, has a single level-1
11
12 473 predictor, random intercepts, two level-2 predictors and fixed slopes.

$$474 \quad Y_{ij} = \beta_{0j} + \beta_{1j}(TMLGO) + e_{ij}$$

$$475 \quad \beta_{0j} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{01}(KSNorms) + \gamma_{02}(TMS) + u_{0j}$$

$$476 \quad \beta_{1j} = \gamma_{10}$$

477
478 *Simplified model:*

$$479 \quad Y_{ij} = \gamma_{00} + \gamma_{01}(KSNorms) + \gamma_{02}(TMS) + \gamma_{10}(TMLGO) + e_{ij} + u_{0j}$$

480 Our model does not include cross-level interactions, and we are not assessing an
481 individual's standing relative to his or her group. As such, we opted against group-mean
482 centering. However, to facilitate interpretation of the intercepts, we did grand-mean center our
483 predictor variables.

484 Results

485 Table 2 provides the means, standard deviations, reliabilities and correlations for the
486 study variables. The information in 2.1 pertains to the individual level of analysis. The
487 information in 2.2 pertains to the team-level variables.

488 -----
489 Insert Table 2 about here
490 -----

491 Multilevel examination of individual outcome variables

492 In order to test our hypotheses, we first had to ensure that significant team variance in in
493 our dependent variables existed. Two null models were evaluated. The interclass correlation
494 (ICC) for team satisfaction indicated that the 34% of the variance is between teams and 66%

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3 495 within teams. The interclass correlation (ICC) for task satisfaction indicated that the 33% of the
4
5 496 variance is between teams and 67% within teams. Both ICCs provide strong support for
6
7 497 continuing with our multilevel analyses (Hox, 2002; Bliese, 2000).
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9

10 498 -----
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12 499 Insert Table 3 about here
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15 500 -----
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17 501 As depicted in Table 3, the first model presents information about the null model. The
18
19 502 second model presents the impact of adding our individual-level predictor, trait learning goal
20
21 503 orientation. Model 3 of this table includes the individual-level predictor and both team-level
22
23 504 predictors, knowledge sharing norms and transactive memory systems. Model 3 was employed
24
25
26 505 to test our hypotheses.
27

28 506 According to hypothesis 1a, we expect to find a positive relationship between knowledge
29
30 507 sharing norms and both the satisfaction variables. Looking first at the fixed effects, we see that
31
32 508 the relationship between knowledge sharing norms and satisfaction with the team is positive and
33
34 509 significant ($\hat{\gamma} = .33, p < .01$), but the relationship between knowledge sharing norms and
35
36 510 satisfaction with the task is not significant ($\hat{\gamma} = .09, n.s.$). The relationship between transactive
37
38 511 memory systems and satisfaction with the team is significant and positive ($\hat{\gamma} = .57, p < .01$). as is
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40
41 512 the relationship between transactive memory systems and satisfaction with the task ($\hat{\gamma} = 1.43,$
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43
44 513 $p < .01$). Hypotheses 4 states that individual trait learning goal orientation would be positively
45
46 514 related to both satisfaction with the task and satisfaction with the team. The relationship between
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48
49 515 learning goal orientation and satisfaction with the task is positive and significant ($\hat{\gamma} = .49,$
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51
52 516 $p < .05$). However, the relationship between trait learning goal orientation and satisfaction with
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54
55 517 the team is not significant ($\hat{\gamma} = .01, n.s.$). Therefore, hypothesis 4 is only partially supported.
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3 518 Looking at the random part of our model, for team satisfaction we find that knowledge
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5 519 sharing norms and transactive memory systems explains the variance in team intercepts, ICC =
6
7 520 0.00. The combination of individual trait learning goal orientation, team knowledge sharing
8
9 521 norms, and team transactive memory systems explains most of the intercept variance in task
10
11 522 satisfaction, ICC = 0.04. However, a significant amount of variance remains unexplained within
12
13 523 teams for both outcomes. The level-1 variance for satisfaction with the team is ($\sigma^2 = .40, p < .01$).
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15 524 The level-1 variance for satisfaction with the task is ($\sigma^2 = 1.26, p < .01$). This makes sense, as
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17 525 other factors, such as individual differences, might affect an individual's satisfaction level.
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22 526 To evaluate the overall impact of including the level-2 predictors, we looked at the
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24 527 analysis from a model fit perspective. We evaluated the difference in -2 Log Likelihood between
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26 528 the model with the individual predictor only and the final model, which included our two team
27
28 529 level predictors. For the satisfaction with the team variable, we found a significant decrease in
29
30 530 deviance for the final model (χ^2 statistics 35.1, $p < .01$). A similar result was noted for satisfaction
31
32 531 with the task, with an overall significant improvement in model fit (χ^2 statistics 20.6, $p < .01$).
33
34 532 These results indicate that our level-2 predictors explain a significant amount of variance in our
35
36 533 model.
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40 534 According to hypotheses 3, we expected team transactive memory systems to mediate the
41
42 535 positive relationships between knowledge sharing norms and our level-1 satisfaction outcome
43
44 536 variables. To assess our mediation paths, we used MPLUS version 8 (Muthén & Muthén, 1998-
45
46 537 2017) and used a Monte Carlo Method for Assessing Mediation (MCMAM) to create confidence
47
48 538 intervals for the indirect effects (Selig & Preacher, 2008). Confidence intervals were set to 95%
49
50 539 and bootstrapping was conducted 20,000 times. Results indicate a positive relationship between
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52 540 knowledge sharing norms and satisfaction with the team; this relationship is mediated by
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3 541 transactive memory systems [$\beta = 0.07, p < 0.05, (CI\ 95\%: 0.019, 0.129)$]. However, the
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5 542 mediated relationship between knowledge sharing norms, transactive memory systems and
6
7 543 satisfaction with the task is not significant [$\beta = 0.07, n.s., (CI\ 95\%: -0.005, 0.149)$], therefore
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9 544 hypothesis 1a and hypothesis 3 are only partially supported.

12 545 **Analysis of group level variables**

14 546 To assess the relationships between our team-level variables, we used a regression-based
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16 547 path analysis known as conditional process modeling (Hayes, 2017). This technique employs
17
18 548 nonlinear bootstrapping (Preacher, Rucker, & Hayes, 2007) to evaluate the effect of a causal
19
20 549 variable on an outcome through one or more intermediary variables, (i.e., an indirect or mediated
21
22 550 effect). In this part of our analysis, we examine the indirect effects of knowledge sharing norms
23
24 551 on perceived team performance and actual team performance through the development of
25
26 552 specialized team cognitions, (i.e., transactive memory systems). Because we hypothesized that
27
28 553 transactive memory systems are the result of knowledge sharing norms, in step one we examine
29
30 554 the direct effect of knowledge sharing norms on transactive memory systems. In step two, we
31
32 555 assess the direct effect of knowledge sharing norms on the team performance variables. In the
33
34 556 third step, we enter in the effects of transactive memory systems and assess the mediation paths.
35
36 557 After each step, we assess model fit using F -values and R^2 . Results from steps 1 through 3 are
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38 558 shown in Table 4.

44 559 -----
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46 560 Insert Table 4 about here
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51 562 In step 1, overall model fit results were acceptable at ($F(1,40) = 17.05, p < .01$) with 30%
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53 563 of the variance in transactive memory systems explained. Knowledge sharing norms are a

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2
3 564 significant predictor of transactive memory systems, with ($\beta = .55, p < .01$). In step 2, looking at
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5 565 perceived team performance, model fit results were also acceptable at ($F(1,40) = 19.37, p < .01$)
6
7 566 with 33% of the variance in perceived team performance explained. Knowledge sharing norms
8
9 567 was a significant predictor of perceived team performance, with ($\beta = .57, p < .01$). However, also
10
11 568 in step 2, looking at actual team performance, model fit results were poor at ($F(1,40) = .09, n.s.$)
12
13 569 with none of the variance in actual team performance explained. Knowledge sharing norms was
14
15 570 not a significant predictor, with ($\beta = .05, n.s.$). In step 3, looking at perceived team performance,
16
17 571 model fit results remain at acceptable levels with ($F(2,39) = 29.32, p < .01$) with 60% of the
18
19 572 variance in perceived team performance explained. In this step, transactive memory systems was
20
21 573 a significant predictor, with ($\beta = .63, p < .01$), while knowledge sharing norms approached, but
22
23 574 did not reach statistical significance with ($\beta = .23, p < .10$). For actual team performance, model
24
25 575 fit results were again very poor at ($F(2,39) = 1.00, n.s.$) with only 5% of the variance in actual
26
27 576 team performance explained. Neither of the predictors were significant, with knowledge sharing
28
29 577 norms at ($\beta = -0.09, n.s.$), and transactive memory systems at ($\beta = .26, n.s.$).
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35 578 After running the basic regression models, we employed process modeling and
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37 579 bootstrapping techniques to assess the conditional indirect paths. Because we did not find
38
39 580 statistical significance with our actual team performance variable, we focused on perceived team
40
41 581 performance. Bootstrapping was invoked 5,000 times. Using p -values and biased-corrected
42
43 582 bootstrapped confidence intervals less than .05 as our guide, results indicate that the transactive
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45 583 memory systems variable serves as statistically significant mediating mechanism between the
46
47 584 focal predictor (knowledge sharing norms) and the outcome variable (perceived team
48
49 585 performance). The mediated pathway from knowledge sharing norms to perceived team
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51 586 performance via transactive memory systems was significant with [$B = 0.34, p < .05$]; ($CI = 0.19,$
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3 587 0.51)]. Because we did not find statistical significance with our actual team performance
4
5 588 variable, these results lend partial support to hypothesis 1b, which states that knowledge sharing
6
7 589 norms will be positively related to a) perceived team performance and b) actual team
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9
10 590 performance. The results also lend partial support to hypothesis 3, which states that transactive
11
12 591 memory systems will mediate the relationship between knowledge sharing norms and a)
13
14 592 perceived team performance and b) actual team performance.
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17 593 In sum, our results indicate that, at the individual level, trait learning goal orientation is
18
19 594 related to satisfaction with the task, but not to satisfaction with the team. At the team level,
20
21 595 knowledge sharing norms is positively and significantly related to satisfaction with the team, but
22
23 596 not satisfaction with the task, while transactive memory systems has a significant and positive
24
25 597 effect on both satisfaction with the team and satisfaction with the task. Transactive memory
26
27 598 systems partially mediate the relationship between knowledge sharing norms and satisfaction
28
29 599 with the team and fully mediate the relationship between knowledge sharing norms and
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31 600 perceived team performance. We found no significant predictive relationships to actual team
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33 601 performance.
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37 602 **Discussion**

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40 603 Our results reveal an interesting pattern of outcomes. Drawing on the framework from
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42 604 the IMOJ model, we see that, as an input variable, higher levels of learning goal orientation led
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44 605 to higher levels of satisfaction with the task. This makes sense, as a person intent on mastering
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46 606 the material would embrace the challenge of the simulation game, and see the exercise as a way
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48 607 to build personal competencies. This finding is congruent with other studies utilizing computer-
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50 608 based simulation games. For example, researchers looking at ways to enhance learning in
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52 609 workforce training have adopted an active learning approach. In this methodology, instructional
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3 610 design components specifically encourage trainees to adopt mastery orientations. Errors are
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5 611 framed as learning opportunities, and trainees are encouraged to explore and experiment with the
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7 612 computerized task. Although immediate performance suffers, deeper learning patterns are
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9 613 achieved through this technique and that deeper learning transfers more readily to the job (Bell &
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11 614 Kozlowski, 2009). While individual learning goal orientation had a positive effect on
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13 615 satisfaction with the task, we found no statistically significant effect between learning goal
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15 616 orientations and satisfaction with the team. In other words, while the students focused on
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17 617 mastering the material enjoyed the simulation game more, the positive effect did not extend to
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19 618 their teammates. Perhaps, these students were engrossed in their own cognitions and not as
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21 619 engaged in team-related communications. This was not expected and would be a fruitful area for
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23 620 more research.

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28 621 The variables that had the most explanatory effect in our model were related to social
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30 622 exchange and interactions between teammates. In our model, we cannot explain the origin of
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32 623 knowledge sharing behaviors. Those were not explicitly encouraged during the exercise.
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34 624 However, consistent with the predictions of social exchange theory (Cropanzano et al., 2017),
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36 625 when teams engaged in reciprocal knowledge exchange behaviors and established norms for
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38 626 knowledge sharing, the students were happier with their teammates. Moreover, and again
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40 627 consistent with the IMOI model and social exchange (Cropanzano et al., 2017; Ilgen et al.,
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42 628 2005), through repetitive iterations of team processing, these knowledge-sharing norms led to the
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44 629 establishment of transactive memory systems. As transactive memory systems were developed,
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46 630 the team thought they performed better, they liked the simulation game more, and they
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48 631 appreciated each other more. While we did not find a relationship to objective team
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53 632 performance, these affective outcomes might speak to the willingness of the students to engage

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3 633 in additional future coursework or continue to work with their peers in future team settings.
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5 634 Certainly, reporting a positive team experience would be beneficial as these students begin the
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7 635 job search and begin careers in organizations. While our study was confined to a computerized
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9 636 simulation game, the benefits of encouraging achievement motivations and reciprocal knowledge
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11 637 sharing behaviors within teams would extend to more traditional group-based projects as well.
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14 638 **Implications for Teaching**

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17 639 This study illustrates the potency of simulation games to cultivate behaviors that could
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19 640 lead to the development of team competencies. We found that knowledge sharing behaviors led
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21 641 to the development of specialized team cognitions. In this way, by lessening the cognitive load
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23 642 on any one person, participants not only enjoyed the learning task more, but they also enjoyed
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25 643 working with each other. This enjoyment was evidenced not only by the satisfaction variables
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27 644 but also through enhanced perceptions of team performance. In the context of an undergraduate
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29 645 game, perceptions of team performance would likely be predictive of a willingness to engage in
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31 646 future team interactions. A positive experience, lending itself to future team engagements would
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33 647 likely lead to the development of team competencies, competencies that are so valuable to future
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35 648 employers. Individuals' learning goal orientations, on the other hand, led to an enhanced sense
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37 649 of satisfaction with the task, but not necessarily to an appreciation of one's teammates. Since
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39 650 knowledge sharing behaviors can be encouraged and learning goal orientations are malleable, the
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41 651 results of this study should be of interest to educators, (Bell & Kozlowski, 2009; Steele-Johnson
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43 652 et al., 2000).

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45 653 Learning goal orientations can be encouraged through the use of instructional design
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47 654 techniques that encourage self-regulatory learning, e.g. encouraging exploration,
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49 655 experimentation, and positive framing of errors (Bell & Kozlowski, 2009). To facilitate norms
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3 656 for knowledge sharing, the students should be encouraged to work together, ask each other
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5 657 questions, and converse during the simulation rounds. By de-emphasizing evaluations and
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7 658 stressing the development of abilities, students should adopt “state” learning goal orientations
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9 659 (Steele-Johnson et al., 2000). Instead of seeing a question and answer exchange as a potential
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11 660 exposure of incompetence, it should frame the knowledge exchange as a way for all members on
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13 661 the team to benefit. Moreover, it should encourage all members of the team to engage in the
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15 662 simulation game.
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19 663 During the debriefing, instructors should remind team members of how their ability to
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21 664 share understandings and their mental representations of the team’s task environment generally
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23 665 reduced the mental load on any one team member. Thus, through reflection, this should
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25 666 reinforce the concept that no one person can do it all; moreover, when knowledge sharing occurs
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27 667 among team members, it makes the learning task much more enjoyable. In this way, through the
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29 668 use of simulation games, educators can emphasize critical thinking and problem-solving skills,
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31 669 while also encouraging the development of behaviors that lead to team competencies.
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35 670 **Limitations and Suggestions for Future Research**

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38 671 Our study was a correlational study. We captured survey information from students
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40 672 enrolled in a logistics and supply chain class in a single, medium-sized university. To gain more
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42 673 insight into the formation of student team structures and cognitions, future studies should include
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44 674 control groups and experimental conditions. Future studies might also look at the antecedents of
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46 675 team knowledge sharing norms, as well as the effects of encouraging learning goal orientations
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48 676 in tandem with knowledge sharing behaviors. None of our independent variables were predictive
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50 677 of actual team performance. This was an unexpected finding and could be due to our research
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52 678 design. Before we measured performance, we allowed the students several rounds of play over
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3 679 the course of three weeks. During this time, some of the students may have had time to develop
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5 680 more advanced levels of skill, while others may not. Also, we may not have captured the
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7 681 variables relating to actual performance. Another explanation might be related to statistical
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9 682 power. A post-hoc power analysis suggests that the number of teams in our sample size was
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11 683 small. However, even with a small sample size, we found significant effects in support of prior
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13 684 research and a-priori theorized relationships. In the future, studies might compare student
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15 685 reactions from a computer-based simulation game with those from other, more traditional, group
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17 686 projects, such as research reports or in-class presentations. Also, longitudinal studies should
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19 687 follow students through their respective program completions and see if the experiential nature
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21 688 of the simulation games is helpful for upper-level course work, as well as future job
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23 689 opportunities and future job performance.
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28 690 It is also worth noting that, in our study, knowledge sharing norms led to the formation of
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30 691 transactive memory systems. Our participants were novices and most likely volunteered to
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32 692 acquire, rather than share, respective areas of expertise. However, with a more professional
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34 693 sample, the sequencing of transactive memory systems and norms for knowledge sharing might
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36 694 be reversed, i.e., having an established TMS would lead to knowledge sharing, which would, in
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38 695 turn, lead to better team performance (Choi, Lee, & Yoo, 2010)
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42 696 **Conclusion**

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44 697 The goal of our study was to advance an understanding of determinants of student
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46 698 success in computer-based simulation games, at the individual and team levels. Consistent with
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48 699 theories of achievement motivations, our findings suggest that students with higher levels of trait
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50 700 learning goal orientations are intent on the game itself, and they enjoyed the learning exercise.
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52 701 From a social exchange perspective, we find that team member interactions and reciprocal
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3 702 knowledge exchanges were instrumental in the development of specialized team cognitions, or
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5 703 transactive memory systems. In our study, when teams formed transactive memory systems,
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8 704 they liked working on the game, they perceived that they were performing better on the game,
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10 705 and they enjoyed their teammates more. Future studies should look at the factors which are
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12 706 instrumental in encouraging team knowledge sharing norms, as well as the effects of
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15 707 encouraging learning goal orientations in tandem with knowledge sharing behaviors.
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For Peer Review

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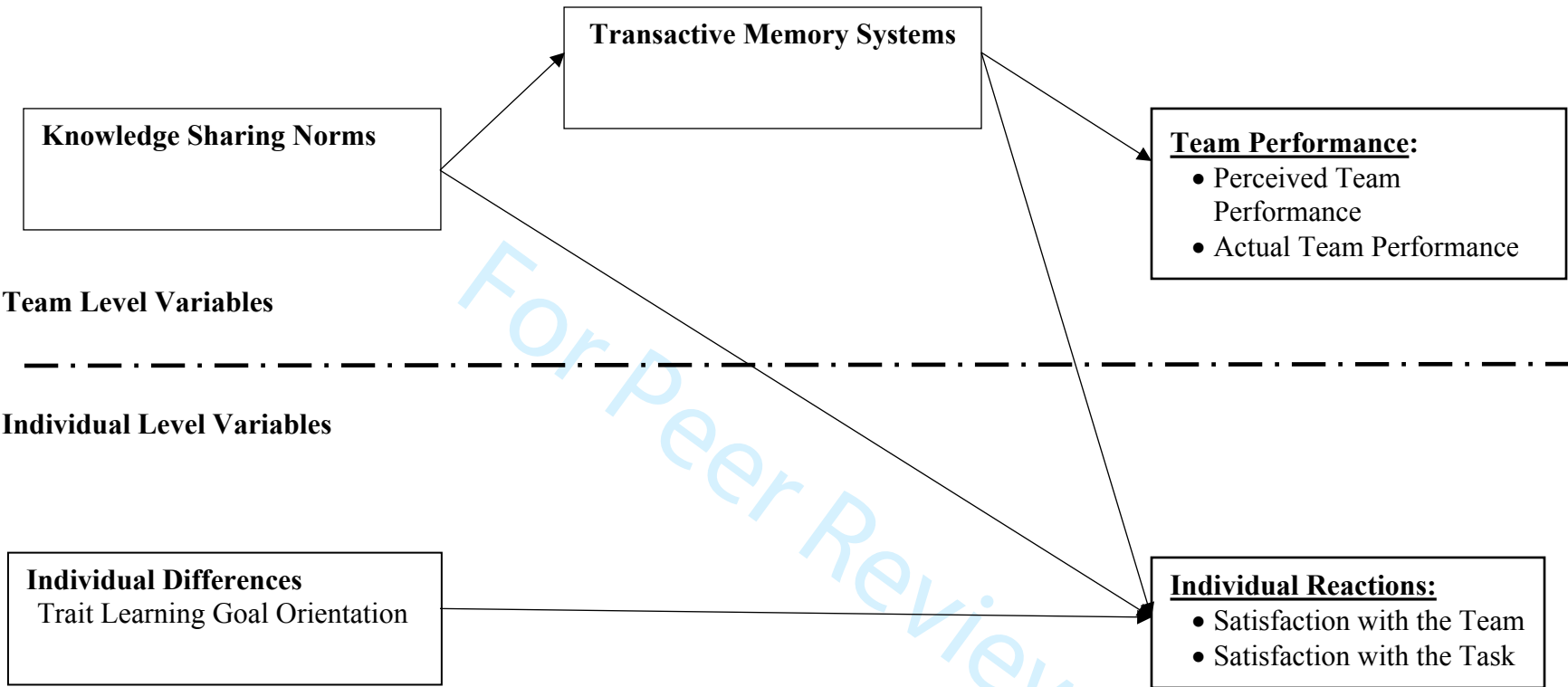
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FIGURE 1: Hypothetical model.



Variables assessed in this study: variables above the dashed line represent team-level constructs, variables below the dashed line represent individual-level constructs.

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TABLE 1: Aggregation results for study predictor variables.

Measure	$r_{WG(J), \text{uniform}}$		Shape	$\sigma^2 e$	$r_{WG(J), \text{measure-specific}}$				
	Mean	SD			Mean	SD	F ratio	ICC(1)	ICC(2)
Knowledge sharing norms	0.87	0.26	Slight Skew	2.90	0.81	0.29	2.02**	0.30	0.50
Transactive memory systems	0.95	0.05	Normal	1.04	0.69	0.37	1.95*	0.29	0.49
Perceived team performance	0.78	0.32	Slight Skew	1.85	0.69	0.36	2.32**	0.36	0.57

Notes. SD = standard deviation of $r_{WG(J)}$ values; shape = the shape of an alternative null distribution; $\sigma^2 e$ = variance of the alternative null distribution. Excel tool from Biermann, Cole, & Voelpel (2012).

** $p < .01$

* $p < .05$

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics

2-1: Among Level-1 (Individual) variables

	Mean	Std. Dev	1	2	3
1. Trait learning goal orientation	4.66	0.79	(.78)		
2. Satisfaction with the team	6.08	0.80	.05	(.72)	
3. Satisfaction with the task	4.57	1.37	.30**	.30**	(.91)

2-2: Among Level-2 (Team) variables

	Mean	Std. Dev	1	2	3	4
1. Knowledge sharing norms	5.44	0.94	(.96)			
2. Transactive memory systems	3.62	0.42	.55**	(.85)		
3. Perceived team performance	4.47	0.94	.57**	.75**	(.95)	
4. Actual team performance ^a	6.22	9.24	.05	.21	.32*	-

Team Level n=42; Individual Level n=100; Cronbach alpha reliabilities are listed on the diagonal.

** p < 0.01 level; * p < 0.05 level; τ p < 0.10 level. (All 2-tailed tests).

^a Natural Logarithm of Cumulative Net Income

Table 3. Estimates from random coefficient models predicting level-one satisfaction outcomes.

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Satisfaction With Team	Satisfaction With Task	Satisfaction With Team	Satisfaction With Task	Satisfaction With Team	Satisfaction With Task
<u>Fixed Effects</u>						
Intercept	6.18** (0.09)	4.56** (0.17)	6.18** (0.09)	4.56** (0.15)	6.18** (0.06)	4.55** (.12)
Lvl 1 - Trait learning goal orientation			0.16 <i>0.16</i> (0.17)	0.76** <i>0.44**</i> (0.28)	0.01 <i>0.01</i> (0.12)	0.49* <i>0.28*</i> (0.23)
Lvl 2 - Knowledge sharing norms					0.33** <i>0.39**</i> (0.08)	0.09 <i>0.06</i> (0.15)
Lvl 2 - Transactive memory systems					0.57** <i>0.30**</i> (0.19)	1.43** <i>0.44**</i> (0.36)
<u>Random Effects</u>						
Level-1	0.41** (0.08)	1.25** (0.23)	0.41** (0.08)	1.23** (0.23)	0.40** (0.06)	1.26** (0.23)
Intercept (Team)	0.21* (0.09)	0.61* (0.26)	0.20* (0.09)	0.43* (0.23)	0.00 -	0.05 (0.16)
<u>Model Fit</u>						
Deviance (-2 Log Likelihood)	228.2	338.2	227.3	331.2	192.2	310.6
Decrease in Deviance	-	-	0.90	7.00**	35.1**	20.6**
ICC ^a	0.34	0.33	0.33	0.26	0.00	0.04
$\Delta R^2_{\text{between-team}}^b$	-	-	0.04	0.30	1.00	0.88
$\Delta R^2_{\text{within-team}}^c$	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00

Model 3 Indirect Effects: Knowledge Sharing Norms → TMSs → Satisfaction With Team $[(\beta = 0.07, p < 0.05, (CI\ 95\%: 0.019, 0.129))]$

Knowledge Sharing Norms → TMSs → Satisfaction With Task $[(\beta = 0.07, n.s., (CI\ 95\%: -0.005, 0.149))]$

Note: * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$. Values based on SAS PROC MIXED with grand mean centered predictors. Entries show unstandardized parameter estimates with standard errors in parentheses. Standardized predictor coefficients are in italics. Estimation method = ML. Degrees of freedom method is between-within. ^a ICC = $[\tau^{00} / (\tau^{00} + \sigma_e^2)]$. ^b $R^2_2 [(\tau^{00} - \tau^{00}|m) / \tau^{00}]$ represents the percentage reduction of level two variance. ^c $R^2_1 [(\sigma_e^2 - \sigma_e^2|m) / \sigma_e^2]$ represents the percentage reduction of level one variance. Indirect effects for the 2-2-1 model were assessed using MPLUS version 8.3. Transactive memory systems are denoted as TMSs.

Table 4: Multiple regression results for aggregated team level variables.

Variables	Step 1		Step 2				Step 3			
	Transactive Memory Systems		Perceived Team Performance		Actual Team Performance		Perceived Team Performance		Actual Team Performance	
	B (SE)	β	B (SE)	β	B (SE)	β	B (SE)	β	B (SE)	β
Intercept	2.28** (.33)	0**	1.35 τ (.72)	0 τ	3.64 (8.59)	0	-1.83* (.83)	0*	-9.21 (12.59)	0
Knowledge Sharing Norms	.25** (.06)	.55**	.57** (.13)	.57**	.47 (1.56)	.05	.23 τ (.12)	.23 τ	-.92 (1.84)	-0.09
Transactive Memory Systems							1.39** (.27)	.63**	5.63 (4.07)	.26
F(1,40)	17.05**									
R ²	.30									
F(1, 40)			19.37**		.09					
R ²			.33		0.00					
F(2, 39)							29.32**		1.00	
R ²							.60		0.05	
Indirect effects from step 3:										
Knowledge Sharing Norms \rightarrow Transactive Memory Systems \rightarrow Prcvd Perf $[(\beta = .34), (CI 95\%: 0.19, 0.51)]$										

N=42 teams. B=unstandardized beta; β =standardized beta; SE=Standard Error. Values based on SAS PROC REG. Indirect effects calculated using PROCESS version 3.3.

$\tau < .10$; * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$;