

# Review of: "Psychological Power Parity: A Novel Perspective on Perceived Economic Power"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper introduces the innovative concept of "Psychological Power Parity" (PsPP), which seeks to explain how individuals perceive their economic power relative to their social connections within both local and global contexts. PsPP provides a fresh perspective on economic influence, bridging the gap between objective economic resources and their psychological impacts on decision-making, life outlook, and societal dynamics. Grounded in power basis theory, self-perception, and attribution theories, this concept enriches our understanding of power dynamics beyond mere material wealth.

## A. Strengths

**1. Theoretical Foundation:** The paper effectively situates PsPP within established theories of power, self-perception, and attribution. This grounding provides a robust theoretical framework that lends credibility and depth to the concept. The integration of historical perspectives on power, from Aristotle to Machiavelli, enriches the discussion and situates PsPP within a broad intellectual tradition.

**2. Comprehensive Framework:** The proposed quantitative framework for measuring PsPP is detailed and multifaceted. By accounting for the degree of interaction with social connections, the permeability of boundaries between ecosystems, and the distribution of economic resources, the framework offers a thorough method for assessing perceived economic power.

**3. Practical Applications:** The paper's exploration of PsPP's applications in psychological interventions, community-based initiatives, urban planning, and social welfare policies is a significant strength. By outlining how PsPP can inform practical interventions and policy development, the paper bridges the gap between theory and practice, demonstrating the concept's real-world relevance.

**4. Cross-cultural Considerations:** The inclusion of cross-cultural dimensions is commendable. By acknowledging how cultural values, norms, and belief systems can influence PsPP, the paper highlights the importance of considering cultural contexts in the application and study of PsPP. This aspect enhances the concept's generalizability and applicability across diverse populations.

## B. Weaknesses

**1. Empirical Evidence:** While the theoretical foundation and proposed framework are robust, the paper would benefit from more empirical evidence to support the concept of PsPP. Case studies, pilot studies, or initial quantitative analyses could provide preliminary validation and demonstrate the concept's practical applicability.

**2. Operationalization Challenges:** The measurement of PsPP involves complex variables, such as the degree of interaction with social connections and the permeability of boundaries between ecosystems. The paper could further elaborate on the operationalization of these variables to ensure clarity and replicability in future research.

**3. Interdisciplinary Integration:** The paper could strengthen its interdisciplinary approach by incorporating insights from psychology, sociology, and economics more extensively. While it touches on these fields, a deeper integration of interdisciplinary research could enrich the theoretical and practical implications of PsPP.

## C. Specific Examples of Empirical Studies or Data to Strengthen the Validation of PsPP

### 1. Longitudinal Studies on Economic Perception and Psychological Well-being:

- **Example:** A longitudinal study tracking individuals over several years to observe how changes in their perceived economic standing influence their psychological well-being, decision-making, and social interactions.
- **Data:** Surveys and psychological assessments conducted annually, measuring variables such as self-esteem, life satisfaction, and social network size and quality. Economic data such as income, savings, and employment status would also be collected.

### 2. Experimental Studies on Perceived Economic Disparities:

- **Example:** An experiment where participants are placed in different scenarios that manipulate their perceived economic standing relative to others (e.g., through hypothetical scenarios or controlled settings).
- **Data:** Pre- and post-experiment surveys measuring participants' perceived economic power, decision-making confidence, and social behaviors. Psychological measures such as stress levels (using cortisol samples) could also be included.

### 3. Cross-sectional Studies Across Different Cultures:

- **Example:** A cross-sectional study comparing perceptions of economic power and associated psychological outcomes in different cultural contexts (e.g., individualistic vs. collectivistic societies).
- **Data:** Surveys and interviews conducted in multiple countries, assessing perceptions of economic standing, cultural values, and psychological well-being. Socioeconomic data specific to each cultural context would also be collected.

### 4. Intervention Studies:

- **Example:** A study evaluating the effectiveness of targeted psychological interventions (e.g., cognitive-behavioral therapy, mindfulness training) aimed at individuals with low PsPP.
- **Data:** Pre- and post-intervention assessments of perceived economic power, self-esteem, life satisfaction, and

psychological resilience. Long-term follow-up assessments to evaluate the sustainability of intervention effects.

## D. Ways to Operationalize Complex Variables in PsPP

### 1. Degree of Interaction with Social Connections:

- **Operationalization:** Measure the frequency and quality of social interactions using self-reported questionnaires and social network analysis tools.
- **Example Questions:** “How often do you interact with your close friends/family?”, “Rate the quality of support you receive from your social connections.”
- **Tools:** Use social network analysis software to map and quantify social networks.

### 2. Distribution of Economic Resources within Ecosystems

- **Operationalization:** Collect data on perceived and actual economic disparities within an individual’s local and global communities.
- **Example Questions:** “How do you perceive your economic status compared to others in your community?”, “What percentage of your community’s resources do you believe you have access to?”
- **Tools:** Use socioeconomic datasets (e.g., census data, income reports) to compare perceived and actual distributions of economic resources.

### 3. Perceived Economic Power:

- **Operationalization:** Develop a validated scale to measure perceived economic power, including aspects such as financial security, access to resources, and influence over economic decisions.
- **Example Questions:** “How confident are you in your ability to handle unexpected financial expenses?”, “To what extent do you feel you have control over your economic future?”
- **Tools:** Use psychometric testing to ensure the reliability and validity of the scale.

## E. Conclusion

Overall, the introduction of "Psychological Power Parity" (PsPP) offers a novel and valuable contribution to our understanding of perceived economic influence within local and global ecosystems. The concept's grounding in power basis theory, self-perception, and attribution, combined with its practical applications and cross-cultural considerations, provides a comprehensive and insightful framework. Addressing the noted weaknesses, particularly through empirical validation and clearer operationalization, will further enhance the robustness and impact of PsPP. This paper lays a strong foundation for future research and practical applications aimed at understanding and addressing the psychological dimensions of economic power.

