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# **Abstract**

In light of the recent conflicts in Carthage over land use, cultural heritage preservation, and sustainable tourism, this works utilized a value-belief-norm (VBN) theoretical framework to consider psychological antecedents of residents' behavioral intentions to support cultural heritage tourism. As such, personal values, cultural worldview, awareness of consequences, ascription of responsibility, and subjective norms were considered antecedents of intentions to support cultural heritage tourism. Data were collected from 475 Carthage residents in nine neighborhoods adjacent to UNESCO World Heritage Sites using an on-site self-administered questionnaire. The proposed model was assessed through confirmatory factor analysis (to demonstrate sound psychometric properties across all 11 factors within the model), followed by structural equation modelling. Overall, 15 of the 19 proposed hypotheses were supported, ultimately contributing to 28% of the variance explained in residents' behavioral intentions to support cultural heritage tourism. Implications for theory and practice along with limitations and future research opportunities are discussed at the close of the paper.

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#### Introduction

Though consumer demand is an important component to consider in planning for sustainable tourism, in order for tourism to be considered sustainable, it takes the "buy-in" or support of the local community and its residents to be as successful as possible (Lee, 2013). Otherwise, the risk of running counter to local desires and interests can be great for destination marketing organizations and other tourism planning entities. This is especially true in contexts when considering the vulnerable and fragile natural and cultural resources that define a particular destination (Su & Wall, 2014). One such place that is well-known for its cultural heritage is the historic city of Carthage, Tunisia (in Northern Africa)—with its numerous tangible cultural heritage structures and artifacts presently under growing pressures of encroachment from 'urban sprawl,' threatening key archeological sites throughout the Ancient Mediterranean city.

Lying 15 kilometers northeast of Tunisia's capital, Carthage is rich in history with heritage and artifacts dating back to Ancient Punic Carthage, Roman Christendom, Vandals, Byzantine Empire, and early Arab-Muslim conquerors (Miles, 2011). As such, Carthage is comprised of 13 district archaeological zones dedicated by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. These sites make up roughly foursquare kilometers, encompassing 63.58% of the total area of Carthage. To protect the cultural-heritage integrity of the UNESCO has been able to protect the archaeological and historical world heritage sites through three dedications occurring in 1985, 1994, and 1996 (UNESCO, 2019a). Though these cultural heritage sites are protected, a growing concern about unplanned development (given limited space for development) adjacent to archaeological ruins is taking shape—so much so that UNESCO has put numerous world heritage sites within Carthage under watch as potentially threatened (UNESCO, 2019b). A draft of the recent 'state of conservation report' written by the World Heritage Centre speaks to the ongoing concern: "The expansion of unplanned and uncontrolled constructions in parts of the serial property is of concern for the adverse impacts these constructions may have on the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its authenticity and integrity" (UNESCO, 2019b). According to a Reuters' (2019) columnist, many homes have been developed illegally through corruption and nepotism since the Tunisian Revolution of 2011—in some cases on top of ruins (e.g., Roman Cisterns of La Malga) or in close proximity to ruins (e.g., Carthage Circus). As a

result, many residents are paying the price by having their homes demolished as they are faced with acknowledging the consequences of their actions and the realization that their developments have global impacts (Altekamp & Khechen, 2013). Despite the wide publicity Carthage and the world heritage sites have received, no one has assessed the degree of support Carthage residents have for cultural heritage tourism within their community. Gauging this support (and what leads to such support) among residents may provide the best avenue forward in effectively planning for the sustainability of unique cultural heritage resources within Carthage.

Unfortunately, minimal research has focused on the behavioral intentions of residents to support cultural heritage tourism (see Jaafar, Noor, & Rasoolimanesh, 2015; Rasoolimanesh, Jaafar, Ahmad, & Barghi, 2017 for examples of how attitudinal support was measured, not behavioral intentions to support per se). Even less work has been undertaken that centers on the psychological antecedents contributing to the behavioral intentions to support cultural heritage tourism. One theoretical framework that has received growing attention within the tourism literature is the value-belief-norm (or VBN) model (Stern 2000; Stern et al., 1999) to explain behavioral intentions. To date, no one has considered the VBN model within the context of cultural heritage tourism, especially when it comes to gauging residents' intentions to support this burgeoning form of tourism. Focusing on the historic city of Carthage, with its ancient ruins and vulnerable World Heritage Sites, the aim of this study is to test the VBN theoretical model whereby a host of psychological antecedents (e.g., personal values, cultural worldview, awareness of consequences, ascription of responsibilities, and subjective norms) are considered to ultimately explain residents' intentions to support cultural heritage tourism within their community.

#### Literature review

Conceptual orientation: The value-belief-norm model

The origin of the value-belief-norm (VBN) model is considered to have developed from two complimentary theoretical approaches—Values Theory (Schwartz & Bilsky, 1987) and Norm Activation Theory (Schwartz, 1977). The former theory advanced the notion that individuals' attitudes and behaviors are a function of deeply-held "enduring, trans-situational beliefs about desired end states of social interaction" (Landon et al., 2018, p. 959). Values then, which appear in various forms, are more stable constructs that inform the beliefs and attitudes about specific objects as well as how we act in regards to such objects (Schwartz, 1994). Norm Activation theory, the second theoretical framework, was originally developed by Schwartz (1977) to explain individuals' altruistic behaviors (i.e., pro-social behaviors). Within the accompanying theoretical model, Schwartz (1977) included three antecedents to such behaviors: awareness of consequences, ascription of responsibility, and personal norms. It was Stern (2000) and Stern, et al. (1999) that are credited with the development of the current value-belief-norm (VBN) model, claiming that these two theoretical frameworks explain the moral normative basis of "taking action with pro-environmental intent" (p. 441). It goes without saying that the origin of VBN comes out of environmental psychology and environmental social psychology literature, whereby oftentimes the dependent variable considered within proposed models are related to pro-environmental behaviors (Han, Olya, Cho, & Kim, 2018). However, a main focus of this current paper is to broaden the application of the VBN in considering residents' intentions to engage in sustainable cultural heritage tourism.

The VBN theoretical model establishes a causal chain of psychological antecedents of one's likelihood to act in a certain manner. This causal chain begins with personal values (i.e., measured as egoistic, altruistic, and biospheric values) which influences an individual's environmental or eco-centric worldview (Schultz, 2001). Such a worldview explains an awareness of consequences for acting in a certain manner. This awareness of consequences then contributes to an ascription of responsibility. According to Landon, et al. (2018), awareness of consequences and ascription of responsibility are not only prerequisites to the activation of moral norms, but they "refer to beliefs that one's behaviors may

influence valued-objects, and that mitigating those influences is within one's control" (p. 959). Norms then ultimately influence intentions to engage in particular behaviors. Over the last two decades, many have confirmed the relationships between constructs within the VBN theoretical model that Stern (2000) and Stern et al. (1999) initially put forward.

Not surprisingly, the VBN model has been employed predominantly within research focusing on pro-environmental behaviors, especially concerning research on climate change (Nilsson, von Borgstede, & Biel, 2004; Sanderson & Curtis, 2016), consumers' decision making in selecting products or services (Jansson, Marell, & Nordlund, 2011; Stern, 1999), and visitors to protected areas (Esfandiar, Dowling, Pearce, & Goh, 2019; van Riper & Kyle, 2014). As of late, the VBN model has been utilized within sustainable tourism research primarily focusing on pro-sustainable tourism behaviors (Han, Hwang, & Lee, 2017; Han, Olya, Cho, & Kim, 2018; Kiatkawsin & Han, 2017; Landon, et al., 2018) and the selection of green lodging options (Choi, Jang, & Kandampully, 2015; Han, 2015; Rahman & Reynolds, 2016). What many of these studies have demonstrated is that values (primarily either egoistic values or altruistic values) are not always significant predictors in the model (Han, et al., 2017; Han, et al., 2018; Kiatkawsin & Han, 2017; Landon, et al., 2018). Furthermore, norms (referred to as personal, moral, pro-environmental personal, or a sense of obligation to take pro-environmental action) were either the most salient (Choi, et al., 2015; Han, et al., 2017; Han, et al., 2018; Kiatkawsin & Han, 2017; Landon, et al., 2018) or second-most salient (Han, 2015) in explaining behavioral intentions.

With its history rooted in the environmental psychology and environmental social psychology literatures, it makes sense that the VBN theoretical model would be popular among tourism researchers in explaining pro-environmental behaviors of tourists. However, focusing solely on the environment when considering sustainable tourism is at the cost of not acknowledging the other two legs (i.e., economic or social-cultural) of the proverbial 'triple-bottom-line' stool. As such, the tourism literature has yet to employ the VBN within the context of cultural heritage tourism, especially focusing on residents' intentions to engage in sustainable cultural heritage tourism. This paper intends to do just that.

# Intentions to support cultural heritage tourism

Though the travel and tourism literature is abounding in studies involving residents' perspectives surrounding phenomena pertaining to tourism or tourism development (Stylidis, 2018; Woosnam, Draper, Jiang, Aleshinloye, & Erul, 2018), little work has focused on residents' support for cultural heritage tourism in the context of world heritage sites. Though, to be fair, work on the topic is gaining some momentum. This is arguably a function of the impending popularization of world heritage sites and the realization that including residents and their perspectives in the process is crucial in ensuring that development and visitor management proceeds in a sustainable fashion (World Tourism Organization, 2012).

Some tourism researchers have acknowledged the importance of including residents' perspectives concerning support for cultural heritage preservation and sustainable tourism near World Heritage Sites (WHS). In looking at resident participation in decision making for the Mutianyu Great Wall WHS in Beijing, China, Su and Wall (2014) found that community locals received benefits with minimal participation. The authors further found that local opinions were influenced by different levels of impacts from tourism.

Rasoolimanesh, Jaafar, and colleagues are at the forefront of travel and tourism research focusing on residents' perspectives surrounding WHS—though this is somewhat limited to Malaysia. Rasoolimanesh, Jaafar, Ahmad, and Barghi (2017) recently focused on community participation in WHS conservation and found motivation had the "greatest positive effect on the low level of community participation, whereas opportunity had the greatest effect on high level of participation" (p. 142) among residents. Utilizing stakeholder theory to explain residents' perceptions of sustainable tourism development in the midst of a Malaysian WHS, Rasoolimanesh and Jaafar (2017) revealed differing negative perceptions across demographics such as age, education, and economic involvement in tourism.

Further, the authors found that positive perceptions led to a positive effect on support for and participation in tourism development. Focusing on youth residents living near the same WHS in Malaysia, Jaafar, Noor, and Rasoolimanesh (2015) revealed that positive perceptions of conservation programs had a positive effect on involvement in promoting and supporting the WHS. Interestingly enough, the authors reported a positive relationship between negative perceptions and sense of belonging among the youth surveyed.

Much of the existing work surrounding residents' perceptions of and support for cultural heritage tourism (situated in proximity to World Heritage Sites) has not focused on matters of equity in gauging locals' behavioral support for cultural heritage tourism or preservation. Timothy (2011) argues that such neglect will only perpetuate a divide and make it difficult to sustainably plan and manage areas adjacent to such world-renowned attractions. Another observation of the existing work pertaining to residents and support for cultural heritage tourism is that resident populations under examination are largely treated as homogenous (with the noted exception of the work by Rasoolimanesh and Jaafar, 2017). This implicitly discounts perspectives of disadvantaged residents living adjacent to WHS (Jamal & Camargo, 2013). Furthermore, such an oversight downplays any power struggles and consideration of power in determining how a WHS should be preserved or managed. Ultimately, societal and historical contexts (of how different resident groups interact along with existing relationships among individuals) in many of the reviewed studies are disregarded. One may even go so far as to point out the irony in not acknowledging some of the local power struggles and inequity concerns in the face of trying to "preserve" heritage and history of the place and its structures. Ultimately, though the research concerning residents' support for cultural heritage tourism is in early stages, the time is never better to advance theoretical models to help explain residents' behavioral intentions to support such a burgeoning form of sustainable tourism. The VBN model may hold some necessary answers.

# Hypotheses and hypothesized model

Based on previous work focusing on the VBN model (Landon et al., 2018; Stern, 2000; Stern et al., 1999), we propose 19 sub-hypotheses across seven hypotheses that reflect various psychological antecedents of behavioral intentions to support cultural heritage tourism in Carthage. Three slight modifications to the established VBN model are made, however, in formulating the proposed model. The first is renaming 'biospheric values' (Landon et al., 2018; Stern, 2000; Stern et al., 1999) to 'cultural-centric values' with the same root content (simply changing "nature" to "culture and heritage") of unity, protection, and world of beauty within the construct. The second is considering 'cultural worldview' (based on the work of Choi, Papandrea, & Bennett, 2007) in place of 'eco-centric environmental worldview' that Landon et al. (2018) employed. The final amendment is employing 'intent to support cultural heritage tourism' (based on the work of Harrison-Walker, 2001 and Palmer, Koenig-Lewis, & Jones, 2013) as the ultimate dependent variable in the VBN model, in place of 'pro-environmental behavior,' which Stern and colleagues had initially utilized in their seminal work. Each of these modifications were made to reflect the current cultural context of the study.

To begin, we propose that egoistic values held by tourists will be negatively associated with a cultural worldview. On the contrary, we assert that other personally-held values (i.e., altruistic and cultural-centric) will be positively related to such individuals' cultural worldview. In keeping with the established VBN model, we propose that an acceptance of a cultural worldview (as measured through four constructs: intercommunity and intergenerational linkages; recognition of cultural values; awareness of cultural loss; and preservation of tradition and customs) leads to an awareness of the potential consequences (i.e., awareness of consequences) brought on by unplanned tourism. Next, we hypothesize that this awareness of the consequences of unplanned tourism is positively related to an ascription of responsibility to alleviate potential harms to cultural heritage. An ascription of responsibility is then proposed to positively affect subjective norms regarding one's actions in regards to supporting sustainable cultural heritage tourism. These subjective norms then in turn will be positively related to intentions to

support cultural heritage tourism. A graphical summary of the VBN constructs and the corresponding relationships between each are summarized in Figure 1. Further, the 19 sub-hypotheses are as follows:

- H<sub>1a</sub>-H<sub>1d</sub>: Egoistic values will be negatively related to cultural worldview through: a) intercommunity and intergenerational linkages; b) recognition of cultural values; c) awareness of cultural loss; and d) preservation of tradition and customs.
- H<sub>2a</sub>-H<sub>2d</sub>: Altruistic values will be positively related to cultural worldview through: a) intercommunity and intergenerational linkages; b) recognition of cultural values; c) awareness of cultural loss; and d) preservation of tradition and customs.
- H<sub>3a</sub>-H<sub>3d</sub>: Cultural-centric values will be positively related to cultural worldview through: a) intercommunity and intergenerational linkages; b) recognition of cultural values; c) awareness of cultural loss; and d) preservation of tradition and customs.
- H<sub>4a</sub>-H<sub>4d</sub>: Cultural worldview through: a) intercommunity and intergenerational linkages; b) recognition of cultural values; c) awareness of cultural loss; and d) preservation of tradition and customs will each be positively related to awareness of consequences.
  - H<sub>5</sub>: Awareness of consequences will be positively related to ascription of responsibility.
  - H<sub>6</sub>: Ascription of responsibility will be positively related to subjective norms.
  - H<sub>7</sub>: Subjective norms will be positively related to intentions to support cultural heritage tourism.

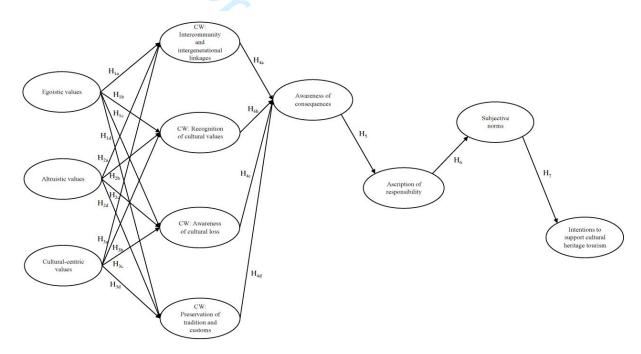


Figure 1. Proposed VBN model of psychological antecedents of intentions to support cultural heritage tourism

#### Methods

Study context

This study was undertaken in the historical-rich coastal city of Carthage, Tunisia—nestled along the Mediterranean Sea in Northern Africa. The city, situated roughly 15 kilometers northeast of the country's capital—Tunis—spans approximately three kilometers in length along the coast. Carthage is home to 13 key UNESCO-dedicated World Heritage Sites, including "the acropolis of Byrsa, the Punic ports, the Punic Tophet, the necropolises, theatre, ampitheatre, circus, residential area, basilicas, the Antonin baths,

Malga cisterns, and archaeological reserve" (UNESCO, 2019a). With a history dating back to 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C., Carthage has experienced many civilizations covering the Ancient Punic era, Roman Christendom, Vandals, Byzantine Empire, and early Arab-Muslim conquerors (Miles, 2011). Given this one-of-a-kind historical setting, rich in cultural archaeology and artifacts, Carthage is one of the key destinations throughout all of Tunisia.

Though UNESCO was swift to dedicate roughly two-thirds of Carthage as World Heritage Sites at three different points in time (i.e., 1985, 1994, and 1996), conflict surrounding land disputes has upset the balance of sustainability among residents, resources, and visitors over the last half-century (Altekamp & Khechen, 2013; UNESCO, 2019b). Most recently, illegal land acquisitions, artifact removal, and land demolition in Carthage have caught the attention of a globally-engaged audience (Reuters, 2019), as UNESCO is tasked with preserving the integrity of cultural heritage while the Tunisian local and national government entities wrestle with how to promote and provide opportunities for tourists to experience the city and its numerous sites. Caught in the middle are residents—some of whom are responsible for illegal land acquisitions and many of whom are not—with heterogeneous perspectives concerning history, heritage, and tourism within Carthage.

Most recent population figures of Carthage (per the National Institute of Statistics, Statistics Tunisia) claim that 17,010 residents across nine distinct communities, live within the city (Statistics Tunisia, 2014). These communities are comprised within two geographical areas: Area No. 1, which includes Salmppo, Byrsa, Dermech, Hanibal, Presidential, Hamilcar, Sidi bou Said, is home to 7,950 residents; Area No. 2, which includes Mohammed Ali and El Yasmina, is home to 9,060 residents.

# Data collection and sampling

Data for this study were collected between February and April of 2018, via a survey conducted among Carthage residents living in the nine communities listed above. This time of the year was deemed ideal given it was during the off-peak tourist season, and many residents would be available. Following a systematic random sampling scheme, one researcher from the team was positioned in several well-trafficked public locations throughout Carthage (in both Area No. 1 and Area No. 2 communities), staged ready to intercept every third individual that walked past. Once potential participants were briefed on the aim of the study and that their responses would be anonymous, they were asked to participate and handed a self-administered questionnaire. It should be mentioned that the researcher randomly selected days of the week and times of the day for data collection so as to capture a diverse sample of survey participants. Additionally, careful attention was paid by the researcher so as to not exclude individuals based on age, gender, community residence, or marital status. Such an approach was undertaken to reduce potential sampling bias.

Questionnaires were initially prepared in English and then translated into Arabic using the back-translation method (Perrewé et al., 2002). To ensure that the content of each item was cross-linguistically comparable and generated the same meaning, two independent professionals fluent in both languages, further checked the questionnaire. Following this, the questionnaire was pre-tested among a pilot sample of 25 local residents to check for item clarity and ease of completion. Once the questionnaire was refined, it was ready for distribution among residents. Throughout the three-month data collection period, 600 residents were intercepted and asked to participate. From those, 475 agreed and completed a questionnaire (providing a response rate of 79.1%). Upon careful inspection of the questionnaire, it was found that 10 individuals completed less than 50% of the instrument. This resulted in 465 usable questionnaires for data analysis.

## Measures

The items used to measure constructs within the proposed VBN model originate from prior research. The three value constructs (i.e., egoistic, altruistic, and cultural-centric) and corresponding items were adapted from the work of van Riper and Kyle (2014) and Landon et al. (2018). As noted above however, wording for the cultural-centric values items was slightly modified to reflect "culture and heritage", in place of "nature" as previously used. These nine items (three across each of the three values constructs) were measured on a 7-pt Likert scale, where 1 = not all important and 7 = very important. Cultural worldview was assessed using 19 items across four constructs (i.e., intercommunity and intergenerational linkages—six items; recognition of cultural values—six items; awareness of cultural loss—three items; and preservation of tradition and customs—four items) from the work of Choi, Papandrea, & Bennett, 2007), with the stem, "please indicate your agreement with the following items," where 1 = strongly disagree and 7 = strongly agree.

Seven items from the work of van Riper and Kyle (2014) and Raymond, Brown, and Robinson (2011) were used to measure awareness of consequences. These items were presented using a 7-pt Likert scale, where 1 = not at all a problem to 7 = a very serious problem, using the stem, "to what extent do you feel each of the following are problems created by travel and tourism." Ascription of responsibility was measured using six items on a 7-pt Likert scale, where 1 = strongly disagree and 7 = strongly agree (based on work of Landon et al., 2018). Subjective norms were measured using seven items from the work of Han, Hsu, and Sheu (2010) and Wu and Chen (2016), with items presented on a 7-pt Likert scale, where 1 = strongly disagree and 7 = strongly agree. Finally, eight items were employed to measure intentions to engage in sustainable cultural heritage tourism. These items, adapted from the work of Palmer et al. (2013) and Harrison-Walker (2001), were presented on a 7-pt Likert scale, where 1 = very unlikely and 7 = very likely. Actual wording of the items used for analysis can be found in Table 2 below.

# Analysis

In undertaking analysis for this research, a two-step structural modeling approach was employed (Anderson & Gerbing, 1988). Initially, a measurement model (employing confirmatory factor analysis, or CFA) was formulated to confirm the factor structures of all constructs included in the proposed model, as well as examine psychometrics (i.e., reliability and validity estimates). Following this, a structural path model was formulated to test each of the proposed 19 hypotheses. Both CFA and structural equation modeling were undertaken using AMOS v.25.

To gauge psychometrics for each factor within the model, composite reliabilities were assessed to ensure the estimates exceeded the threshold of 0.70, along with average variance extracted (AVE) estimates greater than 0.50, per Hair, Black, Babin, and Anderson (2018) recommendations. Three forms of validity were also assessed: convergent validity, discriminant validity, and nomological validity. Convergent validity is present when standardized factor loadings exceed 0.50 and corresponding *t* values are significant (Hair, et al., 2018). Discriminant validity is established if the factor correlations are less than the square root of the AVEs (Hair, et al., 2018). Finally, nomological validity is assessed through the testing of construct relationships within the model.

Model fit for both the measurement model and structural path model was assessed through the examination of incremental (i.e., Tucker-Lewis Index or TLI and comparative fit index or CFI) and absolute model (i.e., root mean square error of approximation or RMSEA and standardized root mean square residual or SRMR) fit indices. Following Hu and Bentler (1999) recommendations, fit is good if TLI and CFI are > 0.90 and RMSEA and SRMR are < 0.07.

#### Results

## Resident profile

A number of observations can be made from Table 1 in regards to the study's sample. The gender composition was nearly identical among men and women participants. In terms of age, the sample was relatively young, with 80% of individuals under the age of 50. A preponderance of participants was either single (49.5%) or married (43.4%). Nearly half of the participants had either a secondary or vocational educational background (44.6%), with 42.2% having completed an undergraduate degree. The most commonly reported occupations were employment in a non-tourism sector (29.7%), followed by business owners (20.4%) and students (20.4%). Mirroring this, most individuals (56.8%) reported they derived less than 10% of their household income from tourist spending. Finally, most of the sample (54.6%) participants had lived in Carthage for at least 20 years.

<Table 1. here>

#### Measurement model

Based on the proposed 11-factor model, a two-step analysis involving CFA and SEM was employed, following the recommendation of Anderson and Gerbing (1988). As such, the CFA was undertaken for two primary purposes: 1) to establish a sound measurement model for subsequent SEM analysis and 2) to confirm the proposed factor structure so that psychometric assessment could be carried out. The CFA was undertaken utilizing data from the 465 completed questionnaires, using AMOS v.25. The analysis (see results in Table 2) began by adding one factor at a time (with corresponding items) into the model to establish an 'ideal model,' reflecting all cross-loaders and error covariances. So as to trim this 'ideal model,' problematic items were purged from the model if their standardized factor loadings fell below 0.50 (Hair, Black, Babin, & Anderson, 2018) or if they loaded onto incorrect factors (Woosnam et al., 2018). Based on this criteria, seven items (from the initial 55 items included in the CFA) were removed: three items from cultural worldview (i.e., "culture helps us to live with people of different backgrounds," "cultural heritage means much to my well-being," and "students need to learn what their culture is"); one item from awareness of consequences (i.e., "modified culture or cultural erosion"); two items from subjective norms (i.e., "most people who are important to me think I should support cultural heritage preservation efforts in my town" and "most people who are important to me would want me to support cultural heritage preservation efforts in my town"); and one item from intentions to support cultural heritage tourism (i.e., "visit tourist attractions").

#### <Table 2. here>

The final measurement model contained 48 items: egoistic values (three items;  $\beta$  ranging from 0.67 to 0.82); altruistic values (three items;  $\beta$  ranging from 0.72 to 0.83); cultural-centric values (three items;  $\beta$  ranging from 0.74 to 0.79); cultural worldview—intercommunity and intergenerational linkages (five items;  $\beta$  ranging from 0.65 to 0.91); cultural worldview—recognition of cultural values (three items;  $\beta$  ranging from 0.51 to 0.82); cultural worldview—awareness of cultural loss (three items;  $\beta$  ranging from 0.78 to 0.93); cultural worldview—preservation of tradition and customs (four items;  $\beta$  ranging from 0.82 to 0.88); awareness of consequences (six items;  $\beta$  ranging from 0.62 to 0.93); ascription of responsibility (six items;  $\beta$  ranging from 0.63 to 0.90); subjective norms (five items;  $\beta$  ranging from 0.63 to 0.81); and intentions to support cultural heritage tourism (seven items;  $\beta$  ranging from 0.64 to 0.85). All items had a  $\beta$  in excess of 0.50, with 10 falling between 0.62 and 0.69. The model (Table 3) yielded a  $\chi^2(df) = 2263.70(989)$ ,  $\chi^2/df = 2.29$ , with the following fit indices: comparative fit index (CFI) = 0.92; Tucker Lewis index (TLI) = 0.91; root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) = 0.05; and standardized

root mean square residual (SRMR) = 0.06. According to Browne and Cudeck (1993), a TLI and CFI of at least 0.90, indicates an acceptable incremental fit of the data. Also, an RMSEA and SRMR value below 0.07 is considered a good absolute fit of the data (Hu & Bentler, 1999).

## <Table 3. here>

*Psychometrics.* All 11 factors in the model indicated a good internal consistency according to their composite reliability estimates in excess of 0.70 (Hair et al., 2018). To assess construct validity, convergent and discriminant validity estimates were examined. Convergent validity was demonstrated by three criteria: 1) β for each item greater than 0.50; 2) average variance extracted (AVE) in excess of 0.50; and 3) significant *t*-values (p < 0.001) for each factor loading (Hair et al., 2018) (see Tables 2). Discriminant validity was assessed by comparing the square root of the AVE for any two factors with inter-factor correlations. In 54 of the 55 instances, the former exceeded the latter (see Table 4). The only exception to this was the correlation between egoistic values and altruistic values (r = 0.79) being greater than the square root of the AVE for altruistic values (i.e., 0.77). Given this occurred within the same construct, it was deemed to be a minor concern. Overall, discriminant validity for each of the 11 factors within the model was established (Fornell & Larcker, 1981).

<Table 4. here>

Structural path model to examine hypothesized relationships

With the measurement model established, each of the relationships between model constructs (see Figure 1) was examined through structural equation modelling (SEM) (also using AMOS v.25). The structural model yielded a  $\chi^2(df) = 2569.64(1020)$ ,  $\chi^2/df = 2.42$ , with the following fit indices: CFI = 0.91; TLI = 0.90; RMSEA = 0.06; and SRMR = 0.07 (Table 3). Of the 19 proposed relationships, only four (i.e., cultural-centric values  $\rightarrow$  cultural worldview—intercommunity and intergenerational linkages; cultural-centric values  $\rightarrow$  cultural worldview—recognition of cultural values; cultural-centric values  $\rightarrow$  cultural worldview—preservation of tradition and customs; and cultural worldview—recognition of cultural values  $\rightarrow$  awareness of consequences) were not significant (p > 0.05). Though unique effect sizes for variance explained in each outcome variable can be surmised from Table 5, it is important to point out that ascription of responsibility explained a significant degree of variance in subjective norms ( $R^2 = 0.24$  or 24% of the variance), which then in turn, explained 28% of the variance ( $R^2 = 0.28$ ) in residents' behavioral intentions to support cultural heritage tourism.

<Table 5. here>

#### **Discussion**

This study was motivated by a call from researchers and practitioners to promote residents' support for cultural heritage tourism. We drew on environmental psychology, environmental social psychology and sustainable tourism literature to test the interplay of relationships between personal values, cultural worldviews, awareness of consequences, ascription of responsibility, subjective norms and residents' intentions to support cultural heritage tourism in a single integrative model. A number of arguments can explain our contributions.

Behavioral scientists are increasingly looking at applying behavior analysis principles to management of cultural heritage tourism sites, seeking to promote tourists' pro-sustainable behaviors and decreasing those behaviors detrimental to cultural heritage (Alazaizeh, Hallo, Backman, Norman, &

Vogel, 2016). Yet, surprisingly residents' intent to support sustainable cultural heritage tourism, as a vital constituent in promoting sustainable cultural heritage tourism, has been neglected.

Our hypothesis that egoistic values would be negatively related to cultural worldview through: a) intercommunity and intergenerational linkages; b) recognition of cultural values; c) awareness of cultural loss; and d) preservation of tradition and customs was supported. Studies have mostly focused on testing integrative models with environmental worldviews as opposed to cultural worldviews, with some exceptions (e.g., Choi et al., 2007). A number of studies found no significant relationship between egoistic values and NEP (e.g., Kiatkawasin & Han, 2017; Landon et al., 2018; van Riper & Kyle, 2014). The need for further research investigating the association between egoistic values and cultural worldview is further emphasized. Additionally, we hypothesized that altruistic values would be positively related to cultural worldview through the four factors of cultural worldview. Our findings support these relationships in contrast to previous studies drawing on the VBN model. Landon et al. (2018) failed to confirm the hypothesized relationship between altruistic values and the NEP. As with egoistic values, further work is needed in testing the association between these constructs for conclusive findings.

Findings also confirm the significant association of awareness of the consequences of unplanned tourism with an ascription of responsibility to alleviate potential harms to cultural heritage. The significant relationship may be explained by the fact that local people feel concerned and responsible for the sustainable protection and enhancement of cultural heritage resources. Our study echoes the findings of previous research conducted in promoting pro-environmental behaviors (e.g., Ramkissoon, Smith, & Weiler, 2013; Ramkissoon, Uysal, & Mavondo, 2018).

Another important finding of our study concerns subjective norms being positively related to residents' intentions to support cultural heritage tourism. Previous studies found subjective norms to be a significant predictor of intention to visit cultural heritage attractions (e.g., Al Ziadat, 2015; Shen, Schüttemeyer, & Braun, 2009). Our study findings bridge the gaps in theory and practice in suggesting that family, friends, government, local planning organizations and references that residents value would have some influence on their intent to support cultural heritage tourism. This is in line with previous studies (e.g., Ramkissoon & Sowamber, 2018; Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, 2016) on stakeholder engagement and the local community. Our findings however are somewhat contradictory to the work by Choi et al., (2007), suggesting the need for more studies in cultural heritage tourism for conclusive findings.

# Theoretical and practical applications

A majority of sustainable heritage tourism research in the recent past has focused on different aspects associated with management of resources, while less attention has been devoted to residents' support of cultural heritage tourism. Drawing from environmental psychology, sociology and tourism scholarships, our main theoretical contribution relates to expanding the application of the VBN in considering residents' intentions to support sustainable cultural heritage tourism. The extant literature provides numerous examples of research extending the VBN theory including additional predictors to capture a greater variance in explaining pro-environmental behavior across contexts (e.g., Han, 2015; Landon et al., 2018; Stern, 2000). Our study was also designed to incorporate important additional constructs (see Figure 1) and contribute to the existing body of knowledge in explaining residents' support for cultural heritage tourism in Carthage. Our amended VBN model lays the foundation for subsequent research that further extends the model in the context of cultural heritage tourism.

The importance of subjective norms in residents' intentions to support cultural heritage tourism is an important contribution to the body of knowledge. The VBN model was extended to include subjective norms in a cultural heritage tourism context, an area demanding further exploration. With numerous studies focusing on the environmental streams, our study brings a novel important theoretical contribution in proposing the extended VBN model and testing the relationships between subjective norms and residents' support for cultural heritage tourism. Also, past literature has focused mostly on subjective norms and tourists' cultural heritage tourism intentions neglecting the role of the local community as an

important stakeholder in the process. Further, our study adds to the pool of knowledge on personal values, cultural values, awareness of consequences, ascription of responsibility and subjective norms as psychological antecedents of residents' support for cultural heritage tourism

Results of this work also have important practical implications for government agencies, cultural heritage site managers, and destination marketers to consider when developing strategies for promoting cultural heritage tourism. As such, it is crucial to undertake a stakeholder engagement approach (Sowamber & Ramkissoon, 2018) and translate these findings into action (van Riper & Kyle, 2014). The first place to begin would be by educating these traditional decision makers about the necessity of including local voices within the planning process. Of course, this may be somewhat difficult given the alleged corruption between individuals in power and the general population of residents throughout Carthage. To this end, perhaps another places to focus attention may be on calling town hall meetings or something equivalent where various stakeholders are invited and perspectives can be communicated. This would largely be contingent upon the 'buy in' from numerous parties involved in the future planning of sustainable tourism for cultural heritage in Carthage.

The ascription of responsibility in predicting subjective norms and subjective norms in predicting residents' intent to support cultural heritage tourism in this study suggest that cultural site managers could aim at engaging residents in their product development and differentiation and communicate the mutual benefits. The extent to which residents' support can be achieved depends on a number of strategies. An outcome-focused communication plan by policymakers, cultural site managers and marketers is important to translate into measurable support by residents. Further, identifying strategies whereby the local people are consulted as an important stakeholder will have significant implications for sustainable cultural heritage tourism management.

Further, stakeholder engagement would allow the local community to develop and enhance trust as has been noted by numerous researchers focusing on sustainable tourism as of late (see Gursoy, Yolal, Ribeiro, & Netto, 2017; Nunkoo, 2015; Nunkoo, Ribeiro, Sunnassee, & Gursoy, 2018; Ramkissoon & Sowamber, 2018; Ribeiro, Pinto, Silva, & Woosnam, 2018), thereby increasing their intent to support cultural heritage tourism. Though trust would have been ideal to ascertain within this work, it was beyond the scope of our study to include trust in our proposed model. As such, future studies could build on our extended VBN model and test the associations of the proposed constructs with residents' trust and support for cultural heritage tourism.

# Limitations and future research

We would be remiss if limitations were not acknowledged for this research. The first of which pertains to the fact that we stopped shy of assessing actual behavioral support for cultural heritage tourism. This has been a limitation of the model Stern (2000) originally proposed, and others have followed suite (see Han, Hwang, & Lee, 2017; Han, Olya, Cho, & Kim, 2018; Kiatkawsin & Han, 2017; Landon, et al., 2018); simply stopping at behavioral intentions. The very nature of including actual behavioral support within the model would require data collection at two points in time to potentially measure the relationship between intentions and behavior. To consider these constructs concurrently would be incorrect. Therefore, we suggest that researchers undertake subsequent work employing data collection at two points in time, utilizing a longitudinal approach. Zhang, Fyall, and Zheng (2015) and Reggers, Grabowski, Wearing, Chatterton, and Schweinsberg (2016) has most recently championed this approach and has called for similar future work.

A second limitation pertains to construct validity estimates for the factors used within the model. Though convergent validity was established within the CFA results, it was revealed that one factor was problematic in the way of discriminant validity. The factor correlation between altruistic values and egoistic values was identical to the square root of the AVE for egoistic values. Given this occurred within the same construct (i.e., personal values), it was not deemed to be as problematic could it have happened across constructs (Hair, et al., 2018). Future work should continue to scrutinize items comprising

altruistic and egoistic values closely to see if a potential item can be removed in such a way as to not compromise the integrity of the measurement model (i.e.,  $\chi^2/df$  change of the model once an item is removed) (Woosnam, 2011).

Additionally, our model explained a moderate degree of variance (i.e., 28%) in intentions to support cultural heritage tourism. Though this number is by no means miniscule, it raises questions about what may be contributing to such a finding. Perhaps it was that we used a novel measure for culturalcentric values (borrowing items from the traditional biospheric values construct from Landon, et al., 2018 and others), and the effect that such values had on cultural worldview may have contributed to the ultimate variance explained in intentions to support cultural heritage tourism. Further testing of this form of values may be necessary in subsequent work in starting with a larger pool of items and formulating a more reliable measure (given it had one of the lowest composite reliability estimates from the CFA results). Results may also be explained by the notion that the VBN model in the context of cultural heritage tourism support is in its infancy, and could be strengthened by the inclusion of additional theoretically derived constructs. For instance, including constructs from the theory of planned behavior (i.e., subjective norms and perceived behavioral control) may contribute to a greater degree of variance explained in behavioral intentions to support cultural heritage tourism. Similar approaches have been undertaken by Han (2015) and Han and Hyun (2017) that answer the call made by Ward and Berno (2011) to employ complementary theoretical frameworks in an effort to better explain residents' perspectives of tourism and corresponding impacts.

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Table 1. Resident profile

Socio-demographic variable	n	%
Gender $(n = 465)$		
Male	229	49.2
Female	236	50.8
Age $(n = 465)$		
18-29	162	34.8
30-39	110	23.7
40-49	100	21.5
50-59	64	13.8
≥ 60	29	6.2
Marital status ( $n = 464$ )		
Single	230	49.5
Married	202	43.4
Divorced/Separated	19	4.1
Widowed	13	2.8
Education level $(n = 450)$		
Primary education	23	8.2
Secondary education	130	28.0
Vocational education	77	16.6
Undergraduate education	199	42.2
Graduate education	21	4.5
Occupation $(n = 465)$		
Employed within tourism and cultural heritage industry	62	13.3
Employed in other sector	138	29.7
Business owner	95	20.4
Unemployed	42	9.0
Student	95	20.4
Employed in other sector Business owner Unemployed Student Retired Income derived from tourist spending (n = 465) < 10% 10-19% 20-39%	33	7.1
Income derived from tourist spending $(n = 465)$		
< 10%	264	56.8
10-19%	88	18.9
20-37/0	53	11.4
30-49%	34	7.3
$\geq 40\%$	26	5.6
Years lived in community $(n = 465)$		
< 5 years	22	4.7
5-9 years	42	9.0
10-14 years	41	8.8
15-19 years	106	22.8
≥ 20 years	254	54.6

Table 2. Measurement model results

Factor and corresponding items	M(SD)	β	t	CR	AVE
Egoistic values <sup>a</sup> ( $\alpha = 0.785$ )				0.83	0.62
Social power: Control over others, dominance	3.33(2.063)	0.820	N/A		
Authority: The right to lead or command	4.05(2.285)	0.741	13.095***		
Influence: Having an impact on people and events	4.43(2.142)	0.673	12.531***		
Altruistic values <sup>a</sup> ( $\alpha = 0.852$ )				0.81	0.59
Social justice: Correcting injustice, care for others	6.49(1.061)	0.812	N/A		
Equality: Equal opportunity for all	6.48(1.021)	0.825	17.499***		
Unity with cultural environment: Fitting into culture	6.43(1.189)	0.717	13.776***		
Cultural-centric values <sup>a</sup> ( $\alpha = 0.849$ )				0.79	0.56
Protecting cultural heritage: Preserving cultural heritage	6.31(1.097)	0.777	N/A		
A world of beauty: Beauty of culture and heritage	6.32(1.028)	0.794	22.047***		
Unity with cultural environment: Fitting into culture	6.11(1.196)	0.740	14.669***		
CW: Intercommunity and intergenerational linkages <sup>b</sup> ( $\alpha = 0.902$ )				0.91	0.68
Cultural values of our forefathers are important to me	6.39(1.130)	0.848	N/A	0.71	0.00
We need to conserve more cultural heritage for future generations	6.39(1.066)	0.908	27.284***		
The present cultural heritage should be available for my children's children	6.42(1.018)	0.876	21.115***		
Cultural heritage must be a part of our lives	6.25(1.159)	0.651	13.560***		
Future generations have the right to enjoy the present cultural heritage	6.49(0.922)	0.818	18.442***		
CW: Recognition of cultural values <sup>b</sup> ( $\alpha = 0.722$ )				0.76	0.53
Culture helps me identify myself	5.89(1.241)	0.511	N/A		*****
Buildings, museums and paintings have the right to be preserved	6.29(0.961)	0.820	10.562***		
Ideas, beliefs and customs have the right to be preserved	6.08(1.165)	0.810	10.525***		
CW: Awareness of cultural loss <sup>b</sup> ( $\alpha = 0.892$ )				0.90	0.74
We are losing our cultural heritage	4.85(1.983)	0.933	N/A	0.50	••••
Cultural heritage is disappearing	4.64(2.086)	0.868	24.906***		
If we continue to live as usual, we will have major cultural loss	5.22(1.939)	0.778	21.152***		
CW: Preservation of tradition and customs <sup>b</sup> ( $\alpha = 0.866$ )	()			0.90	0.70
Traditions, customs, beliefs and practices of our culture should be preserved	6.07(1.054)	0.830	N/A	0.70	0.70
Built structures, artifacts and monuments of our culture should be preserved	6.23(0.914)	0.877	18.313***		
Traditions, customs, beliefs and practices of our culture are important to me	6.05(1.114)	0.820	18.304***		
Built structure, artifacts and monuments of our culture are important to me	6.11(1.150)	0.815	14.912***		

Awareness of consequences <sup>c</sup> (α = 0.899)  Degradation of naturally- and culturally sensitive areas Increased waste (e.g., litter, sewage, etc.)  Water scarcity and overuse  Degradation of built structures, artifacts and monuments Crowding in streets, neighborhoods and businesses Increased costs of goods and services	3.76(2.444) 4.12(2.378) 4.05(2.415) 3.86(2.284) 4.34(2.184) 4.70(2.029)	0.929 0.913 0.922 0.874 0.668 0.616	N/A 34.676*** 34.817*** 29.689*** 17.607*** 15.441***	0.93	0.69
Ascription of responsibility <sup>b</sup> (α = 0.932) Residents like me should be responsible for encouraging visitors to behave in manner that protects cult. aspects of town Residents like me should be held responsible to act in ways that reduce our own impact on cult.	5.43(1.493)	0.889	N/A	0.89	0.58
resources in our town Residents like me should feel obligated to be active in planning and managing to preserve our cultural heritage I feel a sense of obligation to help protect culture and heritage in my town Minimizing the impacts of tourism on cultural resources is party of my responsibility It is my responsibility to help support cultural heritage preservation in my town	5.27(1.558) 5.22(1.560) 5.54(1.562) 5.03(1.587) 5.35(1.631)	0.871 0.831 0.660 0.653 0.632	25.343*** 23.384*** 16.220*** 15.997*** 15.250***		
<ul> <li>Subjective norms<sup>b</sup> (α = 0.865)</li> <li>People whose opinions I value would prefer that I support cultural heritage tourism efforts in my town</li> <li>I would be influenced by government guidance to participate in efforts to support cult. heritage</li> </ul>	4.75(1.662)	0.634	N/A	0.85	0.53
tourism in my town I would be influenced by local tourism planning organizations to participate in efforts to support cult. heritage preservation in my town I would be influenced by family members to participate in efforts to support cultural heritage tourism in my town	4.56(1.921) 4.82(1.832) 4.80(1.777)	0.745 0.809 0.752	11.647*** 10.446*** 11.544***		
I would be influenced by other residents to participate in efforts to support cultural heritage tourism in my town	4.87(1.686)	0.692	10.859***	0.00	0.56
Intentions to support cultural heritage tourism <sup>d</sup> (α = 0.866)  Promote the various tourist attractions in my community  Provide information to visitors to enhance their experience  Protect the cultural heritage resources on which tourism in my community depends  Support the creation of laws and regulations protecting cultural heritage resources  Attend local community meetings regarding tourism planning  Offer my assistance to promotional events/activities pertaining to cultural heritage tourism  Interact positively with area visitors	5.56(1.587) 5.26(1.732) 5.79(1.486) 5.10(2.003) 4.52(1.975) 4.98(1.745) 6.03(1.481)	0.845 0.816 0.806 0.680 0.722 0.725 0.638	N/A 18.629*** 17.589*** 15.610*** 14.456*** 14.737*** 13.779***	0.90	0.56

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Items measured on scale of 1-7 (1 = not at all important; 7 = very important)

Note: M(SD): mean (standard deviation);  $\beta$ : standardized factor loading; t: value of corresponding factor loading; CR: composite reliability; AVE: Average variance extracted; \*\*\* indicates significant at p < 0.001 level.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Items measured on scale of 1-7 (1 = strongly disagree; 7 = strongly agree)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Items measured on scale of 1-7 (1 = not at all a problem; 7 = a very serious problem)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup> Items measured on scale of 1-7 (1 = *very unlikely*;  $7 = very \ likely$ )

Table 3. Fit indices of measurement and structural models

Fit indices	$\chi^2$	df	$\chi^2/df$	р	TLI	CFI	RMSEA	SRMR
Measurement model	2263.697	989	2.289	0.000	0.91	0.92	0.053	0.062
Structural model	2569.640	1020	2.421	0.000	0.90	0.91	0.055	0.069

Note: TLI: Tucker-Lewis index; CFI: Comparative fit index; RMSEA: Root mean square error of approximation; SRMR: standardised root mean square residual.



Table 4. Discriminant validity

Factors	AVE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Egoistic values	0.62	0.79										
2. Altruistic values	0.59	0.79	0.77									
3. Cultural-centric values	0.56	0.12	0.08	0.75								
4. CW: Intercomm. and intergen. linkages	0.68	0.41	0.61	-0.03	0.83							
5. CW: Recognition of cultural values	0.53	0.35	0.42	0.00	0.57	0.73						
6. CW: Awareness of cultural loss	0.74	-0.06	-0.11	0.14	-0.05	0.18	0.86					
7. CW: Preservation of tradition and customs	0.70	0.28	0.42	-0.03	0.57	0.71	0.16	0.84				
8. Awareness of consequences	0.69	-0.16	-0.23	0.19	-0.25	-0.01	0.36	0.05	0.83			
9. Ascription of responsibility	0.58	0.16	0.26	0.09	0.17	0.32	0.15	0.37	0.23	0.76		
10. Subjective norms	0.53	0.14	0.23	0.22	0.17	0.26	0.12	0.26	0.25	0.44	0.73	
11. Intentions to support cultural heritage tourism	0.56	0.11	0.22	0.05	0.28	0.32	0.11	0.37	0.21	0.41	0.48	0.75

AVE; off-diagonal estimation of the control of the Note: Bolded diagonal estimates are square root of AVE; off-diagonal estimates are factor correlations

Note: All factor correlations are significant at p < 0.001 level

Table 5. Results of structural model (standardized)

 $R^2$ <sub>Intercommunity and intergenerational linkages</sub> = 0.54

 $R^2_{\text{Recognition of cultural values}} = 0.69$ 

 $R^2_{\text{Awareness of cultural loss}} = 0.10$ 

 $R^2_{\text{Preservation of tradition and customs}} = 0.69$ 

 $R^2_{\text{Awareness of consequences}} = 0.20$ 

 $R^2_{\text{Ascription of responsibility}} = 0.05$ 

 $R^2_{\text{Subjective norms}} = 0.24$ 

 $R^2$ Intention to support cultural heritage tourism = 0.28

Note: \*\*\* indicates significance at p < 0.001 level.