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Considering emotional solidarity and the theory of planned behavior in explaining behavioral intentions to support tourism development

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ABSTRACT

Though the tourism literature has experienced no shortage of research surrounding residents' attitudinal support for tourism and tourism development, seldom has work focused on behavioral intentions of support, especially taking into consideration residents' perceived relationship with tourists. That said, the aim of this study is to formulate a model that incorporates emotional solidarity and theory of planned behavior constructs to gauge residents' behavioral intentions to support tourism. To test proposed model relationships between emotional solidarity, attitudinal support for tourism, perceived behavioral control, subjective norms, and behavioral intentions to support, data was collected from 740 residents of the widely-popular Mediterranean destination, Izmir (Turkey), and analyzed via structural equation modelling. Results revealed that each of the six proposed hypotheses were supported in the theoretical model. The three factors of emotional solidarity (i.e., welcoming nature, sympathetic understanding, and emotional closeness) uniquely explained 45% ($R^2_{SMC} = 0.45$) of the variance in attitudinal support for tourism. In turn, attitudinal support, along with perceived behavioral control and subjective norms, explained 42% ($R^2_{SMC} = 0.42$) of the variance in behavioral intentions to support tourism within Izmir. Implications for theory and practice along with limitations and future research opportunities are discussed at the close of the paper.

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KEYWORDS

Behavioral intentions; emotional solidarity; perceived behavioral control; residents' attitudes; subjective norms; theory of planned behavior

Introduction

Residents' support for tourism development is arguably one of the most well-researched topics within the tourism field (Nunkoo & So, 2016), and one of the most significant determinants of successful sustainable tourism development (Stylidis, 2016). Several studies have found that residents' support for tourism development has been affected directly or indirectly by residents' attitudes and perceptions of tourism impacts and perceived personal benefits (Andereck & Vogt, 2000; Gursoy & Rutherford, 2004; Huh & Vogt, 2008; Nunkoo & So, 2016). In essence, these three explanatory variables have been used as antecedents to best understand support for tourism

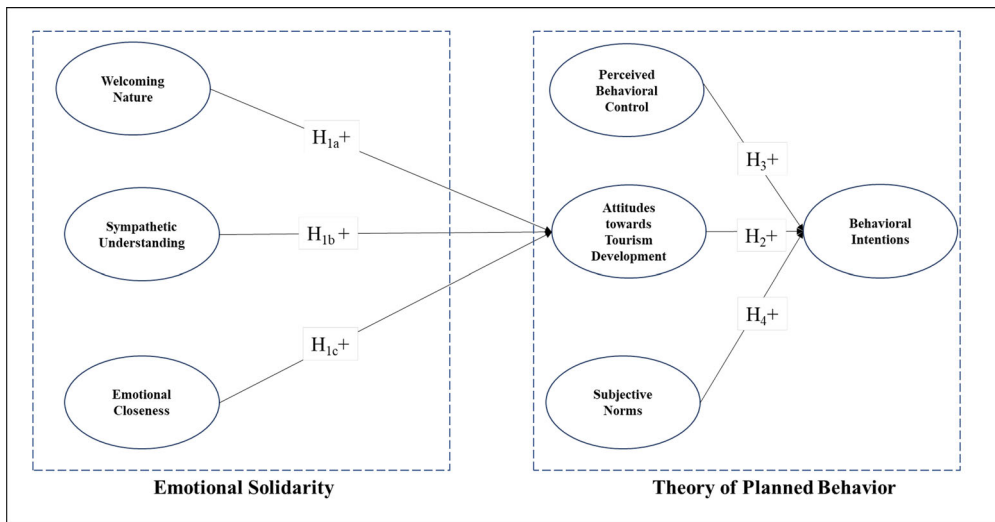


Figure 1. Proposed theoretical model.

development (Gursoy, Chi, & Dyer, 2010; Gursoy, Milito, & Nunkoo, 2017; Nunkoo, Smith, & Ramkissoon, 2013; Zuo, Gursoy, & Wall, 2017).

Despite numerous studies (see Gursoy et al., 2010; Gursoy, Milito et al., 2017; Nunkoo & Gursoy, 2012, 2017; Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, 2011, 2012) focusing on these financial and beneficial factors (i.e., residents' perceptions of tourism impacts and their perceived benefits and costs), a need still exists to examine these factors and other variables which may help to explain residents' support for tourism development (Draper, Woosnam, & Norman, 2011). To this point, limited work (see Hasani, Moghavvemi, & Hamzah, 2016; Li & Wan, 2017; Moghavvemi, Woosnam, Paramanathan, Musa, & Hamzah, 2017; Simpson & Simpson, 2017; Woosnam, 2012) has considered residents' emotional connections with tourists as a predictor of support for tourism development. Such work has found that the degree of emotional solidarity (ES) residents experience with tourists has influenced those same residents' support for tourism development. Such support has been conceived of solely as an attitudinal measure. To date, no study has sought to explain behavioral intentions to support tourism development by considering the emotional solidarity framework. Work that utilizes complementary theoretical frameworks to explain attitudes of tourism development would have great utility and involve constructs that would most certainly explain a robust percentage of variance in residents' support for tourism (Ward & Berno, 2011).

The current study will employ a well-established theoretical framework, the theory of planned behavior (TPB), complemented by emotional solidarity to explain residents' support for tourism development. Logical justification for the merger of these two frameworks is predicated on the fact that ES has served as a precursor of attitudes, which is a salient construct within the TPB framework. As such, it will extend the established relationship (Hasani et al., 2016; Moghavvemi et al., 2017; Woosnam, 2012) beyond perceived attitudinal predictors of support to include behavioral intention measures along with TPB constructs (i.e., *subjective norms* and *perceived behavioral control*) within the theory of planned behavior framework in order to predict residents' behavioral intentions to support tourism development. This study will link the emotional solidarity scale (ESS) (as measured through *welcoming nature*, *emotional closeness*, and *sympathetic understanding*) with TPB as a precursor to extant measures within the established model in an effort to ultimately explain residents' behavioral intentions to support tourism development. As Nunkoo and Ramkissoon (2010) offer, examining the social relationships between individuals in a tourism context may go far in helping to explain residents support for tourism; potentially

contributing a missing link to the extant TPB body of literature. To date however, no study has conceived of such a link (see [Figure 1](#)), especially when considering existing residents' perceptions of the relationships they possess with tourists and how that factors into the TPB framework.

This work will be vital for helping to gauge the potential support of planning for sustainable tourism within Izmir, Turkey—a highly popular destination within the country. With slightly more than 4 million residents (Turkish Statistical Institute [TSI], [2018](#)) welcoming 1 million visitors each year (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism [RTMCT], [2018](#)), Izmir offers a prime setting to assess residents' emotional solidarity (whether low or high) with tourists in determining to what extent the construct may explain TPB constructs, and ultimately, residents' behavioral intentions to support tourism development. In addition to theoretical contributions this study will make, findings from this research will further showcase the importance of considering residents' perspectives regarding tourism and perceptions of the relationships they possess with tourists in planning for sustainable tourism. As such, contingent upon model results, the focus may shift toward fostering positive relationships between residents and tourists, which may have lasting implications for continued support for tourism. Additionally, this work has the potential to give a voice to Izmir residents, who oftentimes are not empowered to offer their perspectives in helping to plan for sustainable tourism within the city.

Literature review

Residents' attitudes of tourism

The last forty years has witnessed a considerable amount of research focused on the relationship between residents' attitudes toward tourism and their support for tourism development (Andereck & Vogt, [2000](#); Gursoy et al., [2010](#); Gursoy, Milito et al., [2017](#); Gursoy, Yolal, Ribeiro, & Panosso Netto, [2017](#); Huh & Vogt, [2008](#); Jurowski, Uysal, & Williams, [1997](#); Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, [2012](#); Park, Nunkoo, & Yoon, [2015](#); Rasoolimanesh, Jaafar, Kock, & Ramayah, [2015](#); Rasoolimanesh, Ringle, Jaafar, & Ramayah, [2017](#); Ribeiro, Pinto, Silva, & Woosnam, [2017](#); Woosnam & Erul, [2017](#); Zuo et al., [2017](#)). For example, Ribeiro et al. ([2017](#)) found a direct relationship between residents' attitudes and their support for tourism development. Similarly, Andereck and Vogt ([2000](#)) found that the more positive residents' attitudes are concerning tourism, the more individuals will be supportive of tourism and tourism development. Overall, researchers have found that while policymakers and planners create tourism strategies, their priorities should be to understand the attitudes of residents and gain their support for tourism development (Gursoy, Milito et al., [2017](#); Hasani et al., [2016](#); Nunkoo & Gursoy, [2017](#); Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, [2011](#); [2012](#); Nunkoo et al., [2013](#); Rasoolimanesh et al., [2015](#); [2017](#); Ribeiro et al., [2017](#)). Such an approach is in keeping with a sustainable tourism planning process (Gursoy et al., [2010](#); Gursoy, Yolal et al., [2017](#)).

A healthy portion of this work has utilized the social exchange theory (SET). As has been pointed out within the tourism literature, SET is not without its limitations. Theoretical models considering the SET are formulated through the deduction of empirical works connecting constructs (Paraskevaidis & Andriotis, [2017](#); Rasoolimanesh et al., [2015](#); Ward & Berno, [2011](#)). As such, many of the works noted above are fairly disparate in what is or is not included within proposed models. Another concern mentioned within the literature is that work surrounding the SET does not always yield consistent findings (Andereck, Valentine, Knopf, & Vogt, [2005](#); Gursoy, Jurowski, & Uysal, [2002](#); Ko & Stewart, [2002](#); Látková & Vogt, [2012](#)). Furthermore, given that the SET is derived from the classical work of Homans ([1958](#)) considering economic principles of costs and benefits, work in the tourism literature has a tendency to reduce the relationships between residents and tourists to financial exchanges (Bimonte & Punzo, [2016](#)). As such, considering SET

leaves little room to account for a more intimate relationship that may exist between the parties, as frameworks like emotional solidarity can offer (Woosnam & Aleshinloye, 2018).

Emotional solidarity

Previous studies (Hasani et al., 2016; Li & Wan, 2017; Moghavvemi et al., 2017; Simpson & Simpson, 2017; Ribeiro et al., 2017; Woosnam, 2012) have considered residents' feelings toward tourists as an antecedent of support for tourism development from an attitudinal perspective. These studies primarily stated that residents' emotions can significantly predict their support for tourism development. The results of these studies clearly indicated that residents' emotions are valid, serving as significant predictors of their support.

Woosnam, Norman, and Ying (2009) first introduced the concept of emotional solidarity and the theoretical framework to the tourism literature. Following the development of measures for the ES framework, Woosnam and Norman (2010) then created and validated (through exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis) the 10-item Emotional Solidarity Scale (ESS), which is comprised of three unique factors: *welcoming nature* (four items), *emotional closeness* (two items), and *sympathetic understanding* (four items). Throughout the last decade, emotional solidarity research examining the degree of intimacy or closeness between residents and tourists has occurred in numerous contexts (Woosnam, 2012; Woosnam & Aleshinloye, 2013; Woosnam, Erul, & Ribeiro, 2017; Woosnam, Maruyama, Boley, & Erul, 2018; Woosnam & Norman, 2010; Woosnam et al., 2009; Woosnam, Shafer, Scott, & Timothy, 2015). For example, Woosnam (2012) emphasized that emotional solidarity served as a predictor of residents' attitudes concerning tourism development. Woosnam et al. (2015) demonstrated how tourists' solidarity significantly explained perceived safety while in a destination. Woosnam, Aleshinloye, Strzelecka, and Erul (2018) found that each of the three ESS factors explained residents' perceptions of tourism focused on a minority culture. Such work highlights how attitudes may serve as a link between emotional solidarity and the TPB framework, in the context of residents' support for tourism development.

However, it is difficult to explain the relationship between residents' emotional solidarity with tourists and the former's behavioral intention to support for tourism development relying solely on the ES framework. Woosnam (2011) suggested that the ES theoretical framework should not be considered the only framework used to explain the relationship between residents and tourists. In a similar vein, Woosnam and Norman (2010) claimed that including additional variables or working with other theoretical frameworks can better serve to explain this relationship. Ward and Berno (2011) furthered echoed the importance of considering multiple theoretical frameworks when seeking to explain residents' support for tourism. Considering this, the TPB (developed from the theory of reasoned action) is one viable theory to consider which has successfully linked attitude to behavioral intention.

To date, the relationship between residents' level of emotional solidarity with tourists and their behavioral intention to support tourism development has remained largely unexplored. The construct of emotional solidarity, which has most recently been utilized in numerous contexts within the tourism literature, can potentially explain behavioral intention to support with its antecedent predictors or work in tandem with other theoretical frameworks, such as the TPB (see Figure 1). Thus, we hypothesize that:

H_{1a}: Residents' *welcoming nature* with tourists will significantly predict the former's *attitudes towards tourism development*.

H_{1b}: Residents' *sympathetic understanding* with tourists will significantly predict the former's *attitudes towards tourism development*.

H_{1c}: Residents' *emotional closeness* with tourists will significantly predict the former's *attitudes towards tourism development*.

Theory of planned behavior and residents' behavioral intentions to support tourism

The theory of planned behavior (TPB) advances the notion that an individual's intention to engage in a particular behavior is a central component in the theoretical model, explained through attitudes, perceived behavioral control, and subjective norms (Ajzen, 1991). Ajzen (1991) defined *attitudes* as the person's favorable (i.e., positive) or unfavorable (i.e., negative) evaluations of performing a specific behavior. *Subjective norms* are individuals' perceptions of the social pressure in performing the behavior, as *perceived behavioral control* refers to an individual's perception of the possible difficulties when performing a specific behavior (Ajzen, 1991).

The TPB model has a long history of support for its ability to explain humans' intentions to engage in particular behaviors. Numerous studies have employed the theory to indicate direct relationships between TPB factors and behavioral intention (Han, 2015; Han, Hsu, & Sheu, 2010; Hsu & Huang, 2012; Lam & Hsu, 2006; Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, 2010; Park, Hsieh, & Lee, 2016; Wu & Chen, 2018). For example, Park et al. (2016) used the TPB to explain Chinese college students' intentions of traveling to Japan and found that the two of the three TPB constructs (i.e., *subjective norms* and *attitudes*) significantly predicted travel intention. In a similar vein, Lam and Hsu (2006) indicated that while tourists' perceived subjective norms and perceived behavioral control were related to respondents' travel intentions, their attitudes were not.

On the other hand, several studies (Han & Kim, 2010; Han et al., 2010; Hsu & Huang, 2012; Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, 2010) found that behavioral intention was explained by all three TPB factors. However, only two of these previous studies (Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, 2010; Wu & Chen, 2018) focused on residents' perspectives (i.e., residents' behavioral intentions to support tourism development). For example, while Nunkoo and Ramkissoon (2010) study was conceptual, proposing that TPB factors may influence residents' behavioral intention to support tourism development, Wu and Chen (2018) undertook an empirical research, revealing that two of the three TPB factors (i.e., *attitudes*, and *perceived behavioral control*) as well as potential social benefits, were significant predictors of the relationship.

To date, the emotional solidarity has been used as a predictor of the attitudinal measure of support for tourism development (Hasani et al., 2016; Li & Wan, 2017; Moghavvemi et al., 2017; Woosnam, 2012). In addition to this, no work has focused on ESS serving as a predictor of behavioral intentions to support tourism developments, and no study has extended the TPB model by including residents' emotions which shows the importance and uniqueness of this study. The main purpose of this study is to gain an understanding of how the emotional solidarity scale (ESS) (comprised of three unique factors: *welcoming nature (WN)*; *emotional closeness (EC)*; and *sympathetic understanding (SU)*) and TPB constructs (*attitudes towards tourism (ATD)*; *subjective norms (SN)*; and *perceived behavioral control (PBC)*), are effective and powerful in predicting residents' intentions to support tourism development. Therefore, it is hypothesized that:

H₂: *Residents' attitudes towards tourism development will significantly predict their behavioral intentions to support tourism development.*

H₃: *Perceived behavioral control will significantly predict their behavioral intentions to support tourism development.*

H₄: *Subjective norms will significantly predict their behavioral intentions to support tourism development.*

Methods

Study context

Izmir is the third largest metropolitan city in Turkey, and is the second biggest port following Istanbul within the country. Izmir represents Turkey well, with beautiful nature, ancient history

and architecture, diversity of activities, clean beaches, and is considered the economic center of the Aegean Region (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism [RTMCT], 2018). The city boasts a population of slightly more than 4.3 million individuals (Turkish Statistical Institute [TSI], 2018).

Considering Çeşme, Foça, and Selçuk, Izmir has hosted, on average, 1 million foreign visitors each year throughout the last two decades (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism [RTMCT], 2018). Izmir is extremely attractive to visitors for the diversity of its offerings which make it ideal for coastal tourism, cultural tourism, thermal tourism, and religious tourism. For example, ancient history and architecture, museums, festivals, and handicrafts are major draws for cultural tourists. With a large collection of sacred places such as the house of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus, many religious tourists are attracted to Izmir. In addition to these, desirable climatic conditions, natural beauty, beaches, and sea are distinctive features for coastal tourism. Furthermore, thermal waters provide a great opportunity for individuals in search of health tourism experiences.

Sampling and data collection

The current study was undertaken in Izmir between August and October of 2017. Izmir local residents (i.e., heads of household or business owners), who were at least 18 years of age, were asked to participate in the survey and complete an on-site self-administered questionnaire. After residents agreed to participate in the survey, the author distributed a self-administered questionnaire at the home or business of the participant and picked it up later that same day. To save money, time and effort, data were collected by using a cluster sampling strategy (i.e., the author visited every fourth home or business on the street in four selected districts: Izmir city center, Çeşme, Selçuk and Menderes).

Of the 1180 residents contacted by a researcher, 380 declined (an acceptance rate of 68%). The research team distributed 800 surveys, with 740 residents completing the on-site self-administered questionnaire (a completion rate of 92.5%); yielding an effective response rate of 63%. The response rate specifically for each district ranged from 58% (Izmir city center) to 61% (Menderes) to 66% (Çeşme and Selçuk).

Measures and data analysis

This study focused on three primary measures (presented using a 7-pt Likert scale, where 1 = strongly disagree; 7 = strongly agree). The first of the scales was the *Emotional Solidarity Scale* (ESS) used to measure residents' solidarity with tourists. Based on the work of Woosnam and Norman (2010), the 10-item ESS has three distinct factors: *welcoming nature*, *emotional closeness*, and *sympathetic understanding*. In addition to the ESS, TPB constructs (i.e., *attitudes towards tourism*; *subjective norms*; and *perceived behavioral control*) were also presented to residents (using a similar 7-pt, Likert-type scale). While the attitudes regarding tourism items were borrowed from Woosnam (2012), the perceived behavioral control items were adopted from Wu and Chen (2018). The final scale measuring behavioral intention was comprised of three items. The behavioral intention and subjective norm scales were adopted from the work of Han et al. (2010).

Analyses examining the hypotheses were conducted using IBM SPSS v.26 and AMOS v.25, to employ different descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Prior to assessing each of the hypotheses, univariate data screening occurred following Tabachnick and Fidell (2013) recommendations. As such, z scores for standardized data were examined to identify potential outliers from the data distribution. This step was followed by multivariate (i.e., Mahalanobis's distance) screening techniques. Next, the normality of data was examined through skew and kurtosis indices.

Table 1. Sample characteristics.

Socio-demographic Variable	<i>n</i>	%
Gender (<i>n</i> = 740)		
Female	370	50.0
Male	370	50.0
Employment (<i>n</i> = 740)		
Not tourism-related	461	62.3
Tourism-related	185	25.0
Student	65	8.8
Homemaker	12	1.6
Retired or unemployed	17	2.3
Monthly Household Income ^a (<i>n</i> = 740)		
Under ₺2,000	146	19.7
₺2,000-4,999	395	53.4
₺5,000-7,499	136	18.4
₺7,500 or more	63	8.5
Age ^b (<i>n</i> = 740)		
18-29	364	49.2
30-39	222	30.0
40-49	96	13.0
50-59	42	5.7
≥60	16	2.2
Education ^c (<i>n</i> = 740)		
Less than high school	50	6.8
High school	239	32.3
Technical or Vocational school	44	5.9
Undergraduate degree	368	49.7
Graduate degree	39	5.3
Marital Status (<i>n</i> = 740)		
Single	377	50.9
Married	311	42.0
Divorced or Separated	35	4.7
Widowed	17	2.3
Religion (<i>n</i> = 740)		
Muslim	660	89.2
Christian	3	0.4
Atheist	41	5.5
Other	36	4.9

^aMedian = ₺2,000-4,999^bMedian = 30-39 years of age, *SD* = 1.005^cMedian = Undergraduate degree, *SD* = 1.132

Note: Turkish Lira (TRY;₺) is the currency of Turkey. \$1=₺4 (approximately) at time of data collection in 2017.

Once univariate and multivariate data screening were completed, descriptive analysis for each variable in the dataset occurred whereby frequency distributions were requested. Following this, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was conducted to examine psychometric properties of each scale and corresponding factors. The CFA was undertaken to assess reliability and validity estimates for each factor and tested for quality and adequacy of the measurement model. Once the measurement model was established, each hypothesis within the proposed model was examined through structural equation modelling (SEM). This two-step analytical approach is in keeping with the work of Anderson and Gerbing (1988).

Results

Demographic profile

The sample (*N* = 740) was split evenly across the two self-reported genders (Table 1). In terms of age, the median fell within the 30-39 age range. Over half (62%) of the participants reported their employment status was not tourism-related. Respondents' were primarily either married (42%) or single (51%). Not surprisingly (given the study context of Turkey), a majority (89%) of

the participants were Muslim. In terms of education, half of the residents had at least an undergraduate degree. The median household income range among participants was ₺2,000-4,999 (i.e., US\$500-1,249) per month. However, 18% earned between ₺5,000-7,499 (i.e., US\$1,250-1,849) monthly and 9% made ₺7,500 or more per month (i.e., US\$1,850 or more). At the time of this study, the currency equivalency was four Turkish Lira equaled one US Dollar.

Measurement and structural models

CFA involving all constructs in the model revealed factor structures consistent with the literature (see Table 2). Following to a two-step process (i.e., establishing the measurement model through CFA and structural path model through SEM), all factors were found to have high reliability (e.g., composite reliabilities in excess of 0.70, ranging from 0.78 to 0.94) and high validity (e.g., the average variance extracted (AVE) was greater than 0.50, ranging from 0.56 to 0.85). It should be noted that the initial measurement model (which included all cross-loading items and error covariances) was trimmed to reach an 'ideal model' (Woosnam & Norman, 2010). Eight items were eliminated due to the presence of cross-loadings (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2013), high error covariances (Byrne, 2016), and low AVE scores (Byrne, 2016; Hair, Black, Babin, & Anderson, 2018). All of the 21 items within the measurement model had standardized factor loadings in excess of 0.50, which according to Hair et al. (2018), is acceptable (see Table 2).

Based on the measurement model results, incremental model fit indices (i.e., Incremental Fit Index (IFI), Tucker-Lewis index (TLI) and Comparative fit index (CFI)) were each in excess of 0.95, and the absolute model fit indices (e.g., Root mean square error of approximation, RMSEA) were lower than 0.05—indicating very good model fit (Hair et al., 2018; Woosnam, 2012). More specifically, the CFA model fit was: $\chi^2(166) = 301.06$, $p < 0.001$, RMSEA = 0.03, IFI = 0.987, TLI = 0.984, and CFI = 0.987 (see Table 3). Collectively, each of the three ESS factors (WN, EC, and SU) significantly and directly predicted residents' attitudes about tourism development, and then such attitudes (in tandem with subjective norms and perceived behavioral control) significantly and directly predicted behavioral intentions to support tourism development.

In addition to examining the internal consistency of each factor (i.e., through composite reliability estimates), measures of construct validity were also assessed. To determine discriminant validity, previous studies followed the recommendation that the square root of the AVE for each factor should be greater than the factor inter-correlations (i.e., any correlation between factors in corresponding rows or columns) (Hair et al., 2018; Woosnam, 2012). Such was the case in this study (see Table 4). Convergent validity was also confirmed based on significant t values associated with each factor loading.

Similar to the measurement model, results indicated that the structural model fit the data very well: $\chi^2(171) = 395.65$, $p < 0.001$, RMSEA = 0.04, IFI = 0.979, TLI = 0.974, and CFI = 0.979. The study's findings also demonstrated that each of the antecedent factors in the model significantly predicted the behavioral intentions construct (see Table 5). Results of the model relationships showed that as the degree of emotional solidarity residents experience with tourists increased, residents were more supportive of tourism development (from an attitudinal perspective). Additionally, this attitudinal support (coupled with subjective norms and perceived behavioral support) significantly explained residents' behavioral intentions to support tourism development (supported by the theory of planned behavior). Table 5 below illustrates that the squared multiple correlation (R^2_{SMC}) for attitudinal support was 0.45 ($R^2_{SMC} = 0.45$) (as explained by the three ESS factors) and behavioral intentions to support was 0.42 ($R^2_{SMC} = 0.42$) (as explained by attitudinal support, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control).

Table 2. Confirmatory factor analysis results and item descriptives.

Measurement model results						
Constructs and Indicators	λ	t	M	SD	CR	AVE
Sympathetic understanding			4.56		0.83	0.56
I feel I can trust Izmir visitors.	0.78	N/A ^a	4.43	1.60		
I have a lot in common with Izmir visitors.	0.78	20.54	4.56	1.63		
I share similar views with those Izmir visitors I have encountered.	0.72	18.92	4.71	1.49		
I identify with Izmir visitors.	0.71	18.80	4.54	1.79		
Welcoming nature			6.10		0.78	0.64
I am pleased to have visitors come to Izmir.	0.82	N/A ^a	6.21	1.09		
I am proud to have visitors come to Izmir.	0.77	17.35	5.99	1.22		
Emotional closeness			4.96		0.82	0.70
I feel close to some visitors I have met in Izmir.	0.87	N/A ^a	5.00	1.55		
I make friends with some Izmir visitors.	0.80	17.35	4.91	1.49		
Attitudes support for tourism development			6.44		0.88	0.65
I support tourism and want to see it remain important to Izmir.	0.84	N/A ^a	6.50	0.85		
I believe that tourism should be actively encouraged in Izmir.	0.82	31.75	6.52	0.87		
I support new tourism facilities that will attract new visitors to Izmir.	0.82	20.00	6.39	1.00		
Izmir should support the promotion of tourism.	0.75	18.21	6.36	1.00		
Subjective norms			5.53		0.94	0.85
Most people who are important to me would want me to support tourism development in Izmir.	0.96	N/A ^a	5.51	1.45		
Most people who are important to me think I should support tourism development in Izmir.	0.92	46.58	5.52	1.50		
People whose opinions I value would prefer that I support tourism development in Izmir.	0.88	41.27	5.55	1.42		
Perceived behavioral control			5.00		0.94	0.85
I have the skills to perform works to support tourism development in Izmir.	0.93	N/A ^a	4.91	1.65		
I have the talent to perform works to support tourism development in Izmir.	0.91	41.86	4.99	1.63		
I have the ability to perform works to support tourism development in Izmir.	0.92	42.87	5.11	1.63		
Behavioral intentions to support tourism development			5.29		0.89	0.74
I will make an effort to support tourism development in Izmir.	0.91	N/A ^a	5.23	1.52		
I am willing to support tourism development in Izmir.	0.83	29.29	5.65	1.40		
I plan to support tourism development in Izmir.	0.84	29.87	4.98	1.62		

^aIn AMOS, one loading has to be fixed to 1; hence, t -value cannot be calculated for this item.

Items were rated on a 7-point scale where 1 = strongly disagree and 7 = strongly agree.

Note: λ = factor loadings; t = t -statistical value; M = mean; SD = standard deviation; CR = composite reliability; AVE = average variance extracted.

The fit indices are: $\chi^2(166) = 301.06$, $RMSEA = 0.03$, $IFI = 0.99$, $TLI = 0.98$, and $CFI = 0.99$.

Table 3. Fit indices of measurement and structural models.

Fit indices ^a	CMIN(χ^2)	df	p-value	χ^2/df	IFI	TLI	CFI	RMSEA
Measurement Model	301.062	166	0.000	1.814	0.987	0.984	0.987	0.03
Structural Model	395.648	171	0.000	2.314	0.979	0.974	0.979	0.04

^aCMIN(χ^2): Chi-square; df: Degrees of freedom; p-value: Probability level; IFI: Incremental Fit Index; TLI: Tucker-Lewis index; CFI: Comparative fit index; RMSEA: Root mean square error of approximation.

Discussion

Conclusion

This study used the ESS and its factors to predict residents' attitudes towards tourism development. Consistent with the findings of Hasani et al. (2016) and Woosnam (2012), residents' degree of emotional solidarity with tourists significantly predicted their attitudinal support for tourism development in Izmir (i.e., each of the ESS factor was a significant predictor of *attitudinal support for tourism development*). Similarly, Woosnam (2012) found that only *welcoming nature* and *sympathetic understanding* significantly predicted residents' attitudinal support for tourism development ($R^2 = 0.37$).

Similar to Woosnam's (2012) findings, the results of this study indicated all of the three ESS factors significantly predicted residents' attitudinal support for tourism development ($R^2 = 0.45$). This is likely explained by reasoning that individuals who are welcoming of tourists and feel close to such individuals not only have positive attitudes towards tourism and a higher level of support for tourism development, but also see the benefits that tourism brings to the local community (Harrill, 2004; Woosnam, 2012).

Numerous studies have employed the theory of planned behavior and demonstrated direct relationships between TPB constructs and behavioral intention (Han, 2015; Han et al., 2010; Hsu & Huang, 2012; Lam & Hsu, 2006; Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, 2010; Park et al., 2016). Some studies found that only the two of three TPB constructs significantly predicted behavioral intentions (Lam & Hsu, 2006; Park et al., 2016; Wu & Chen, 2018). On the other hand, several studies (Han & Kim, 2010; Han et al., 2010; Hsu & Huang, 2012; Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, 2010) found that behavioral intention was explained with all of the TPB factors (i.e., *attitudes towards tourism*, *subjective norms*, and *perceived behavioral control*). The results of this study confirmed these previous studies' findings indicating the TPB constructs significantly predicted behavioral intentions (see Nunkoo & Ramkissoon, 2010; Wu & Chen, 2018).

For example, Wu and Chen (2018) indicated that two of the three TPB factors (i.e., *attitudes*, and *perceived behavioral control*) as well as potential social benefits, were significant predictors of the relationship ($R^2 = 0.45$). Contrary to Wu and Chen's finding that indicated that the *subjective norms* factor was not a significant predictor of residents' BI support for tourism development, this study found that each TPB factor was a significant predictor of BI ($R^2 = 0.41$). The results of this study indicated that residents' *perceived behavioral control* (i.e., their skill, talents, and ability), positive *attitudes towards tourism* (i.e., received benefits from tourism), and *subjective norms* (i.e., social pressure from people who are important such as family or friends for them) strengthened individuals' *behavioral intention to support tourism development* (Ajzen, 1991). This relationship between TPB factors and behavioral intention was supported by the theory of planned behavior, which shows that the more supportive one's attitudes are regarding tourism, along with the greater the *social norms* and *perceived behavioral control*, the stronger residents' behavioral intentions to support tourism development.

Implications

The current study makes several contributions to understanding residents' support for tourism development. The first contribution is the support for the theory of planned framework in

Table 4. Discriminant validity analysis results.

Factors	CR	AVE	MSV	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Perceived behavioral control	0.94	0.85	0.28	0.92						
2. Sympathetic understanding	0.83	0.56	0.36	0.28	0.75					
3. Welcoming nature	0.78	0.64	0.36	0.25	0.54	0.80				
4. Emotional closeness	0.82	0.70	0.36	0.29	0.60	0.42	0.84			
5. Attitudinal support for tourism development	0.88	0.65	0.36	0.28	0.26	0.60	0.32	0.81		
6. Subjective norms	0.94	0.85	0.28	0.42	0.30	0.38	0.29	0.51	0.92	
7. Behavioral intentions to support tourism development	0.90	0.74	0.28	0.53	0.37	0.41	0.37	0.47	0.53	0.86

Note: The bold diagonal elements are the square root of the variance shared between the factors and their measures (average variance extracted).

Off-diagonal elements are the correlations between factors. For discriminant validity, the diagonal elements should be larger than any other corresponding row or column entry.

All items were asked on a 7-pt scale where 1 = strongly disagree and 7 = strongly agree.

CR = composite reliability; AVE = average variance extracted, and MSV: Maximum Shared Variance.

Discriminant validity can also be measured $MSV < AVE$ (Byrne, 2016).

Table 5. Structural model results from hypothesis testing.

Hypothesized relationship	B	Beta (β)	t-statistic	Supported?
H _{1a} : Welcoming Nature → Attitudinal support for tourism development	0.56	0.69	11.47***	Yes
H _{1b} : Sympathetic Understanding → Attitudinal support for tourism development	0.12	0.22	3.69 ***	Yes
H _{1c} : Emotional Closeness → Attitudinal support for tourism development	0.10	0.18	3.40***	Yes
H ₂ : Attitudinal support for tourism development → Behavioral intentions to support tourism development	0.47	0.25	6.88***	Yes
H ₃ : Perceived behavioral control → Behavioral intentions to support tourism development	0.32	0.36	9.93***	Yes
H ₄ : Subjective norms → Behavioral intentions to support tourism development	0.27	0.27	7.43***	Yes

Note: The fit indices are: $\chi^2(171) = 395.648$, RMSEA = 0.04, IFI = 0.98, TLI = 0.97, and CFI = 0.98.

*** $p < 0.001$.

R^2_{SMC} : Attitudes towards Tourism Development = 0.45, and Behavioral Intentions = 0.42.

explaining residents' behavioral intention to support for tourism development. Result demonstrate that TPB constructs along with ESS factors significantly influence residents' behavioral intentions to support tourism development. In other words, the ESS and its factors served as antecedents to attitudinal support for tourism development, echoing what Woosnam (2012), Hasani et al. (2016), and Moghavvemi et al. (2017) found. These attitudes then, along with subjective norms and perceived behavioral control, were instrumental in explaining a significant degree of variance in residents' behavioral intentions to support tourism development within Izmir. To the knowledge of the authors, this is one of the first studies to utilize these frameworks in tandem as we move toward understanding more about what contributes to individuals' behavioral intentions to support tourism in their community.

The second contribution of this research is that this study extended not only the ES framework by examining residents' emotional solidarity with tourists as a precursor to attitudinal and behavioral intentions to support tourism development, but also the theory of planned behavior by including factors comprising the ESS. Such findings demonstrate continued support for the coupling of complementary theories in explaining residents' perspectives of tourism (Ward & Berno, 2011). Another noteworthy contribution of this study is that although emotional solidarity has been used to predict residents' attitudinal support (see Hasani et al., 2016; Li & Wan, 2017; Moghavvemi et al., 2017; Woosnam, 2012), it has not yet focused on residents' behavioral

intentions to do so. As such, the current work provides a more stable ground by which to continue to add to the proposed model with the inclusion of constructs such as values and beliefs, following the work of Han (2015). Future work may further test to see if coupling the VBN with the TPB may contribute to even greater findings surrounding behavioral intentions to support tourism development.

This study also has several practical implications for policymakers, government officials, managers and planners in Izmir in order to sustainably plan for tourism and tourism development. First, policymakers, government officials, managers, and planners should consider residents' opinions and perceptions about tourism so as to increase their support for tourism development. Residents must be involved in each stage of the tourism development process: planning, implementing and monitoring. Regularly held meetings hosted by government officials could be undertaken that will encourage local residents to attend and voice their perspectives. This would convey to residents that their insight is vital and valued. Furthermore, residents should be afforded opportunities to participate actively in the decision-making process and provide a voice in issues affecting their lives as related to sustainable tourism planning, development, and management. Efforts should be made to actively recruit residents throughout each of the districts of Izmir that will represent neighborhoods situated adjacent to key tourism attractions within the city. Having this representation will provide the necessary voice of the community to help ensure perspectives are considered throughout the process. If these steps are employed, the next logical progression in this inclusive planning process would be to allow these representatives to vote on key matters as they relate to sustainable tourism planning and development.

Finally, results revealed that ESS factors significantly predicted residents' attitudes towards tourism, whereby showing that as residents' degree of emotional solidarity with tourist increases, residents will potentially be more supportive of tourism and its accompanying development. Hence, policymakers, government officials, managers, and planners should promote and foster a positive relationship between residents and tourists by providing opportunities for interaction at key attractions and planning special events and festivals so as to increase their support for tourism development. For example, policymakers, government officials, managers, and planners should focus on activities such as creating cultural activities, increasing economic and cultural exchanges between visitors and residents (e.g., providing desirable tourism-related jobs), and increasing opportunities for tourism and tourism development (e.g., educating or training residents to work in the tourism sector, providing tax revenues, and housing) to gain residents' support and achieve successful tourism development. As residents' perceive the positive impacts of tourism in their community, they will be more likely to support tourism development in the way of attitudinal and behavioral intentions to support the industry (Gursoy et al., 2010; Li & Wan, 2017; Ribeiro et al., 2017).

Limitations and future research directions

This study is not without its limitations. The first of which is the sample representativeness; only four districts were included in the sample of Izmir residents. While these districts were randomly selected, due to temporal constraints, collecting data in additional areas was not undertaken given temporal and spatial constraints. It is recommended that work linking ESS, TPB constructs and behavioral intentions to support tourism should be done in additional contexts (across numerous international destinations with varying degrees of development), so as to replicate findings. Such work may also address another limitation of the present study—the fact that we did not measure actual behavioral support for tourism development. This is a noted limitation of the work employing a TPB framework (Han, 2015; Han et al., 2010).

Additionally, the sample included a moderate percentage (25%) of business owners who derive income from tourists. Such an oversampling may have implications for findings. As the

amount or sample of business owners who are gaining income from tourists increases, the effect size of this study will increase, and the sample of the study may potentially be more supportive of tourism development. Hence, future studies may consider focusing intentionally on collecting data from an equal degree of business owners and non-business owners as a means to compare attitudes and behavioral intentions to support to tourism development.

Previous scholars have claimed that modifying the TPB model by altering paths and including additional critical constructs in a certain context often contributes to, and enhances our understanding mechanisms, of the model and increases the ability to predict individuals' behavioral intentions (Ajzen, 1991; Perugini & Bagozzi, 2001). One such additional construct that could be added to subsequent work employing a model similar to ours is place attachment. Though emotional solidarity proved to contribute significantly to TPB constructs, the inclusion of place attachment (especially considering the dimension of social bonding) (Patwardhan et al., 2020; Ramkissoon, Mavondo, & Uysal, 2018; Ramkissoon, Smith, & Weiler, 2013; Woosnam, Aleshinloye et al., 2018) may prove to increase the overall variance explained in behavioral intentions to support tourism development.

Future studies should measure the direct effects of ESS on behavioral intentions to increase the variance explained in such intentions as well as actual behavior to support tourism development. In addition to this, future studies should also use the *attitudinal* scale as a mediator for the relationship between the ESS and behavioral intentions. Within the current study, we simply focused on direct effects of these relationships. Despite these limitations, the future is bright in considering both emotional solidarity and theory of planned behavior constructs in explaining residents' behavioral intentions to support tourism development. Continued work that seeks to understand residents' perspectives surrounding tourism may go far to contribute to sustainable tourism as the voice of locals is valued and destinations intentionally and proactively plan for tourism.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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