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ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Time perspective influence on management leadership styles and the mediating role of self-efficacy

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Abstract

We examined if time perspectives (TP) and the Deviation from a Balanced Time Perspective (DBTP-cf. Stolarski et al. Time Soc 20(3):346-363, 2011) have an effect on four types of Leadership Styles. Based on previous studies it was observed, that Self-Efficacy (SE) is determined by time perspectives (Epel et al. J Appl Soc Psychol 29(3):575–596, 1999). In particular, the transformational and transactional leadership styles could depend on higher self-efficacy of managers. We additionally tested if general self-efficacy (GSE) mediates the influence of time perspectives and the Deviation from a Balanced Time Perspective on Leadership Styles. We recruited a sample of former MBA-students, who now work in the middle management of German companies. We used the zimbardo time perspective inventory (ZTPI; Zimbardo and Boyd J Pers Soc Psychol 77(6):1271–1288, 1999), the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ) by Felfe and Goihl (Deutsche überarbeitete und ergänzte Version des Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ) [German revised and extended version of the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ)], Zentrum für Umfragen Methoden und Analysen, Mannheim, 2002) and the general self-efficacy-scale by Schwarzer and Jerusalem (Generalized Self-Efficacy scale, Nfer-Nelson, Windsor, 1995). Past Positive orientation has no significant effect on any of the four leadership styles. The present hedonistic dimension enhances and the past negative orientation reduces the transformational leadership style. The present fatalistic orientation reduces the Transformational and transactional leadership styles, but enhances the laissez-faire leadership style. Moreover, future enhances the transformational and transactional leadership styles. DBTP reduces the transformational and transactional leadership styles. The mediator role of GSE was confirmed for the transformational and transactional leadership style. Managers' time perspectives are important for implementing an efficient leadership style.

Keywords Time perspectives · Leadership styles · Managers · Self-efficacy

1 Introduction

Time perspectives (TP) have been shown in several studies to be highly relevant for cognitive, motivational and emotional elements of human thinking and behavior. One measurement operationalization that has been intensively used in the last twenty years is the zimbardo time perspective inventory (ZTPI). This scale was developed by Zimbardo and Boyd (1999) and differentiates between five independent dimensions of time as a reference system. These five time perspectives are: past negative, past positive, present hedonistic, present fatalistic and future. Past negative refers

to negative past experiences, including those of one's child-hood and to their effect on the present life (Zimbardo and Boyd 1999). This time perspective is related to feelings of regret and pain. Individuals are afraid of experiencing negative events of the past once again. According to Holman and Zimbardo (2009) a too pronounced past negative orientation can lead to impaired social interactions, and conflicts in relationships.

Past Positive is connected to a nostalgic and positive interpretation of the past, which enhances the recall of positive memories (Zimbardo and Boyd 1999). If this Time Perspective is too pronounced, it can lead to less concentration in the present and future. The Present Hedonistic orientation, measures the tendency of an individual to strive for immediate gratification and enjoyment of present life. It refers to an adventurous type of living, through avoidance of routine and boredom. If this Time



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Perspective is too pronounced it can lead to taking risks without considering negative consequenses (Boniwell and Zimbardo 2003). Present Fatalistic is related to the degree the individual assumes that his life is determined by external forces (Gonzalez and Zimbardo 1985; Zimbardo and Boyd 1999). This Time Perspective is associated with low self-esteem, helplessness and pessimism. If Present Fatalism is too pronounced, it can lead to anxiety (Papastamatelou et al. 2015), and post-traumatic stress disorder (Zimbardo et al. 2012). Finally, Future refers to the idea of working intensively in the present, in order to achieve high-standard goals in the future. It is associated with hard work and self-control. If this Time Perspective dimension is too pronounced, it can lead to missing the joy of the present.

1.1 Balanced time perspective and deviation from a balanced time perspective

One central concept in the time perspective research is the idea that specific combinations of time perspectives can be balanced or unbalanced, based on assumed optimum scorings on the individual time perspectives (cf. Rönnlund and Carelli 2018; Stolarski 2016; Stolarski et al. 2016). One of the concepts (cf. Stolarski et al. 2011) of the balanced time perspective (BTP) operationalizes the measurement of the deviation from the BTP (DBTP). According to Stolarski et al. (2011, 354), in order to reach a BTP one should score highly on the past positive dimension (PP=4.60), moderate highly on the Future perspective (F=4.00), and weak on the past negative (PN=1.95) and the present fatalistic orientations (PF=1.50).

The relationship between Time Perspectives and a wide range of different domains, such as academic achievement (Barber et al. 2009; Gutiérrez-Braojos 2015), well-being (Boniwell et al. 2014; Drake et al. 2008) or stress coping (Blomgren et al. 2016; Olivera- Figueroa et al. 2015; Papastamatelou et al. 2015; Rönnlund et al. 2018) has already been examined. However, there are only a few studies dealing with workplace related questions, such as the influence of Time Perspectives on working attitudes or working satisfaction (Korff et al. 2017; Wojtkowska et al. 2019), on violations of business ethics (Unger et al. 2019) or on burnout proneness (Papastamatelou and Unger 2018). In particular studies about the association between Time Perspectives of Managers and their leadership styles are missing in the literature.

The current study was conducted to close this gap and to examine the importance of Time Perspectives for managers and their leadership styles, as well as to investigate the role of self-efficacy of leaders.



1.2 Leadership

In the process of leadership, a group is being influenced by an individual with the aim to reach a common goal (Northhouse 2016). The style of a leader is the way in which he provides guidance and motivates employees. Therefore, leadership is an important factor in determining success of a company in today's competitive environment. A leadership style refers to the way in which team managers try to improve results and performance within a team (Anit 2006).

1.3 Self-efficacy and time perspectives

Self-efficacy refers to a belief in one's abilities to draft and implement action plans, which are necessary for reaching specific goals (Bandura 1997). General self-efficacy measures the individual differences in the views of the own capability in completing working tasks. General self-efficacy considers the belief that one is able to deliver a good performance in different contexts. With respect to leaders, general self-efficacy would mean that they believe in their potential to lead.

Self-efficacy has been linked to the future time perspective. In order for individuals to be self-efficient, they have to move on from negative past experiences and work toward a future, while considering obstacles as challenges. In addition, research results have indicated that self-efficacy correlates negatively with the Past Negative and the Present Fatalistic dimensions. A concentration toward a negative past and a fatalistic present do not allow a positive evaluation of one's abilities and potential in leading capabilites which could be translated into successful actions (Zebardast 2011, 937).

As the future time perspective is about the orientation toward the future and the reaching of goals (Zimbardo and Boyd 2008), it stands to reason that those scoring high on the Future Time Perspective displayed more success in goal achievement than those scoring low on the Future Time Perspective (Taylor and Wilson 2019).

1.4 Self-efficacy, leadership and time perspectives

Leadership self-efficacy refers to the belief of a leader in his ability to lead (Murphy 1992). According to Bandura (1993) increased efficacy is related to high levels of performance. This effect could be attributed to the influence of self-efficacy on individual choice. Individuals who perceive themselves as being highly efficacious with respect to a specific task, will more likely perform this task, they

will try to reach ambitious goals and increase their performance. The findings of Chemers et al. (2000) suggest that leadership self-efficacy has an increasing effect on leadership effectiveness, which in turn enhances team performance.

The findings of Paglis and Green (2002) demonstrated that managers who displayed higher leadership self-efficacy and thus whose confidence in their abilities was greater, were rated by their subordinates as having made more progress towards organizational change. Therefore, they found them to be more effective leaders. Similarly, in an experimental study Kane et al. (2002) showed that leaders with high self-efficacy, had more ambitious goals, as well as better strategies, which in turn enhanced group performance. In addition, in various studies (e.g. Wisner 2011) the self-efficacy of leaders is associated with increased team performance.

Leaders with higher self-efficacy are expected to be more effective leaders, since they put more efforts to fulfill their roles and to persist in face of obstacles faced.

1.5 Transactional leadership

Transactional leadership refers to transactions which regulate the relationship between the leader and his team (Stewart 2006). Thus, transactional leadership focuses on an reciprocal relationship between leaders and their followers (Northouse 2004). Transactional leaders reward their followers with benefits in exchange for good performance. The rewards include provision of good reviews, raises, and promotions. By doing so, they motivate employees to maintain the status quo and to increase their effectiveness (Northouse 2016). On the other hand they also use sanctions, in order to guarantee compliance of the followers with rules.

The research of Turner et al. (1997) suggests that specific behaviors which are inherent in transactional leadership could be associated with enhanced self-efficacy. According to Bass (1998), transactional leadership can be considered as the basis of transformational leadership. We assume that transactional leadership is related to Future orientation, since it is also associated with impoved self-efficacy and that the Deviation from a Balanced Time Perspective decreases the scoring on transactional leadership.

1.6 Transformational leadership

Transformational leadership creates awareness and enhances commitment towards the reaching of group specific goals.

These leaders pay attention to the individual employee, encourage new working ways, and coach the followers through the provison of intellectual stimuli. They provide followers with a clear mission statement, they are confident, optimistic, and empower followers to achieve the company's vision. Transformational leadership is based on the intrinsic motivation and the positive development of followers. This leadership is considered to achieve the best outcome, since employees have the chance to develop themselves and to grow (Northouse 2016).

Existing theories support the notion that the self-efficacy of a leader could be associated to behaviors which are characteristic to transformational leadership.

While only a few studies have examined the relationship between self-efficacy of leaders and transformational leadership style (e.g. Fitzgerald and Schutte 2010; Quigley 2003), the findings indicate that a leader with increased self-efficacy will display an enhanced tranformational leadership style. Transformational leadership is traditionally related to challenges for the status quo and to confidence of followers in their own abilities. Because of the relationship between the transformational leadership style and the self-efficacy of leaders, we assume an association of the transformational leadership style with a pronounced Future dimension. In contrast, we assume that the Deviation from a Balanced Time Perspective decreases the scoring on transformational leadership.

1.7 Management-by-exception

Management by exception leadership is about monitoring performance and pusue corrective actions whenever necssary. Management-by-exception concentrates on setting standards and on the compliance of employees with these standards (Judge and Bono 2000). While management-by-exception-passive does not provide interventions, which could foster a significant change in business environments, management-by-active-exception is characterized by leaders who actively follow the rules and intervene before problems occur (Aslan et al. 2011, 631).

Moreover, self-efficacy does not seem to be associated with management-by-exception leaders. Since management-by-exception leaders try to enforce working rules, we assume that this leadership style, will nonetheless be enhanced by the Future dimension.

1.8 Laisse-faire

According to Bass and Avolio (1990) laissez-faire leadership can be described as the absence of leadership. This style has been found to be less effective compared to the



transformational and transactional leadership styles (Goodnight 2004). Thus, laissez-faire leaders tend to lead as having no responsibility. In this case the leader invests less effort to meet work related tasks and displays minimal effort to complete tasks (Einarsen et al. 2007).

Laissez-faire leaders do not enable their followers to develop themselves (Northouse 2004). We hypothesize that the fatalistic orientation will foster this leadership style.

On the basis of the theory we have formulated the following hypotheses:

2 Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1 The Future dimension will enhance the transformational and transactional leadership styles. The Fatalistic orientation will foster the laisse fair leadership style, whereas the Future dimension will enhance management-by-exception.

Hypothesis 2 *The DBTP will reduce the transformational and transactional leadership styles.*

Hypothesis 3 Self-efficacy mediates the influence of the DBTP on the transformational and transactional leadership styles.

3 Methods

3.1 Participants

Our sample consisted of 78 German managers (n = 37 female, n = 30male, 11 without a gender indication with a mean age of $M_{AGE} = 40.52$ years; SD=10.27 years).

All participants have been recruited by the alumni network of a University of Applied Science located in Southwest Germany. The participants were former MBA-students of business-integrated courses, who were recruited through alumni data. The data-collection was conducted by online-based questionnaires created by the qualtrics online survey tool. We controlled for the overall response time and each link was case-sensitive and thus, could only be used once.

Participants were informed that the purpose of the study was strictly scientific and anonymity was ensured. After the completion of data-collection, the participants have been debriefed on the research questions of the study.

3.2 Outcome measures

In the current study we have used the following measurement instruments:

- The German version of the ZTPI by Reuschenbach et al. (2011).
- The German Multifactorial Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ) by Felfe and Goihl (2002);
- A reduced seven-item version of self-efficacy was used (Schwarzer and Jerusalem 1995).

3.2.1 Zimbardo time perspective inventory (ZTPI)

We have used the German version of the ZTPI by Reuschenbach et al. (2011) based on the ZTPI which was developed by Zimbardo and Boyd (1999) as a self-reported question-naire which consists of 56 items. This questionnaire measures the orientation of individuals towards the five Time Perspectives, namely, past negative, past positive, present hedonistic, present fatalistic and future.

The past-negative subscale contains 10 items which measure regret and negative past experiences. The past-positive subscale is based on 9 items and measures longing for early life or past times. The present-hedonistic subscale includes 15 items which measure the scores of a participant regarding pleasure-seeking and risk-taking. The present-fatalistic subscale contains 9 items which measure perceived hopelessness towards one's life. The future dimension consists of 13 which measure willingness for work, in order to achieve goals. The 56 statements were rated on a five-point Likert Scale (1 = very unlikely to 5 = very likely). The scores of each time perspective were formed by the means of the respective dimensions.

3.2.2 Deviation of the balanced time perspective (DBTP)

Individuals displaying low scores on past negative and present fatalistic, moderate scores on present hedonistic and high scores on past positive and future are viewed as having reached a *Balanced Time Perspective* (BTP). For the measurement of the BTP the *deviation from the balanced time perspective* (DBTP) coefficient was created (Stolarski et al. 2011). This coefficient examines the distance of an individual from the BTP and therefore a bigger distance of a DBTP value from zero, indicates that the individual deviates from a BTP. Following is the formula for the calculation of the DBTP:

$$DBTP = \sqrt{(oPN - ePN)^2 + (oPP - ePP)^2 + (oPFePF)^2 + (oPH - ePH)^2 + (oF - eF)^2}$$



In this formula *o* equals the *observed* value obtained for each measured TP, whereas *e* equals the *expected* optimal value for each TP, as indicated by Zimbardo and Boyd [1.95 for past negative (PN), 4.6 for past positive (PP), 1.5 for present fatalistic (PF), 3.9 for present hedonistic (PH), and 4.0 for Future (F)] (Zimbardo and Boyd 2008).

3.2.3 Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ)

The MLQ was developed by Bass and Avolio (1995). We have used the German version of the MLQ by Felfe and Goihl (2002). It is a 36-item likert-scale with a 5-point response format. According to Bass and Avolio (1994), transformational leadership includes: (1) Idealized Influence, (2) Inspirational Motivation, (3) Intellectual Stimulation and (4) Individualized Consideration.

Idealized influence addresses the role model function of transformational leaders, with which it is possible to sustainably influence employees. A distinction is made between an attributional and a behavioral aspect. The followers show admiration, respect and trust toward the managers (attribution). In addition, the managers have high expectations of their employees and are able to meet these expectations themselves. Their actions are based on ethical and moral principles (behavior-related) (Bass and Avolio 1994).

Inspirational motivation considers the visions of transformational leaders, as well as their *ideas on future developments*. Leaders show optimism for the future, present a vision, motivte nd encourge followers and explain wht has to be done and why (Uçara et al. 2012, 199).

Intellectual stimulation refers to the encouragement of followers to think creatively and innovatively. Failures are being tolerated and not criticized publicly. Employees are urged to participate and contribute their own ideas, even if they deviate from the ideas of their superiors (Bass and Avolio 1994).

Individualized Consideration considers transformational managers as coaches or mentors for their employees who recognize the personal needs and wishes for performance and growth of their followers. They aim to systematically promote employees and gradually develop their potential (Bass and Avolio 1994).

It is being assumed that transactional leadership is quite effective, but does not cause any special effort and additional commitment, such as the transformational strategies. Transformational leadership is sometimes also used to complement transactional leadership and often increases the effect of transactional leadership on organizational outcomes (Bono and Anderson 2005).

Transactional leadership is being measured by three subscales (Bass and Avolio 1994): Contingent Reward (CR); Management-by-Exception active (MbEa); Management-by-Exception passive (MbEp).

Contingent reward refers to the clarification of mutual expectations between managers and employees. At the same time, appropriate rewards are promised if the expectations are being adequately met (Bass and Avolio 1994).

Management-by-exception active considers managers as the ones who monitor and control processes with regard to errors and correct them if necessary. This strategy is not very effective when it comes to coping with special requirements, but it is quite appropriate in certain situations (Bass and Avolio 1994).

Management-by-exception passive is characterized by extensive reluctance on the part of the manager. They do not make decisions for as long as possible. They only take action when errors or problems make intervention absolutely necessary (Bass and Avolio 1994).

The last subscale refers to the Laissez-faire strategy and shows that transformational leadership is related to Laissez-faire leadership through individualized consideration. Laissez-faire leadership is characterized by passivity and a largely renunciation of leadership and influence. This leadership behavior is not only ineffective for coping with upcoming tasks, but also causes problems itself, because e.g. necessary decisions are delayed (Bass and Avolio 1994). Although Laissez-faire leadership is close to the management by exception passive strategy due to its passive characteristics, the laissez-faire leder does not intervene even after errors occur (Uçara et al. 2012, 199).

According to Bass and Avolio (1994) the scales Management-by-Exception active, Management-by-Exception passive and Laissez-Faire can largely be represented as separate factors/components.

3.2.4 General self-efficacy (GSE)

The GSE scale measures the perceived general self-efficacy (Bandura 1993) by a 10-item likert-type scale with a 4-point response format. The German version was validated by Schwarzer and Jerusalem (1995). An example of an item of this scale is: "I can always solve difficult problems if I try hard enough". Responses categories are: 1 = Exactly true, 2 = Moderately true, 3 = Hardly true, 4 = Not at all true. For the analyses the scale was reversed, so that a high value represents a high level of self-efficacy.

3.3 Results

We have conducted linear regressions to analyze the influence of the individual Time Perspectives on each of the four leadership styles (transformational, transactional, management-by-exception and laissez-faire) which can be examined separately. Management-by-exception active and management-by-exception active have been examined as one leadership style.



Table 1 Linear regression analysis with the five TP's on transformational, transactional, management-by-exception and Laissez-faire Leadership Style (LS)

	В	SE	β	t	p
Transformational LS:					
Past-positive	-0.05	0.09	-0.06	-0.51	0.305
Past-negative	-0.15	0.08	-0.25	-1.89	0.031
Present-hedonistic	0.18	0.11	0.20	1.70	0.035
Present-fatalistic	-0.21	0.10	-0.28	-2.05	0.022
Future	0.17	0.09	0.22	1.90	0.031
Transactional LS:					
Past-positive	-0.45	0.10	-0.05	-0.45	0.327
Past-negative	-0.09	0.09	-0.14	-1.02	0.157
Present-hedonistic	0.15	0.11	0.15	1.30	0.099
Present-fatalistic	-0.23	0.10	-0.31	-2.23	0.010
Future	0.22	0.10	0.27	2.31	0.012
Management-by-excep	otion LS:				
Past-positive	-0.05	0.15	-0.04	-0.34	0.369
Past-negative	0.16	0.13	0.19	1.23	0.111
Present-hedonistic	-0.05	0.17	-0.04	-0.28	0.391
Present-fatalistic	-0.11	0.16	-0.11	-0.71	0.241
Future	0.24	0.14	0.22	1.66	0.051
Past-positive	-0.04	0.09	-0.06	-0.49	0.312
Past-negative	-0.05	0.07	-0.09	-0.61	0.273
Present-hedonistic	0.05	0.10	0.07	0.55	0.262
Present-fatalistic	0.19	0.09	0.33	2.11	0.019
Future	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.15	0.442

DBTP deviation from balanced time perspective; for DBTP we conducted separate linear regression analysis including DBTP only

All p-values are reported for one-tailed tests

Regarding the transformational leadership style, we observed a significant enhancing effect of Future, β =0.218 (5, 65), p=0.031 (all p-values are reported for one-tailed tests). Again, a significant enhancing effect was observed for the present hedonistic dimension, β =0.198 (5, 65), p=0.035. Significant reducing effects were instead observed for the past negative, β =-0.251 (5, 65), p=0.031, and present fatalistic orientations, β =-0.283 (5, 65), p=0.022. Finally, no significant effect was observed for the past positive perspective (p=0.305).

The corresponding regression analysis for the transactional leadership style revealed an enhancing significant of Future orientation, $\beta = 0.268$ (5, 67), p = 0.012 and a significant reducing effect of the Present Fatalistic dimension, $\beta = -0.08$ (5, 67), p = 0.010 (cf. Table 1). The remaining Time Perspectives did not display significant effects (all p's > 0.0.98).

For the management-by-exception leadership style, our results indicate only one nearby significant enhancing effect for the Future dimension, $\beta = 0.216$ (5, 67), p = 0.051 (cf.

Table 2 Linear regression analysis with the deviation from balanced time perspective (DBTP) on transformational, transactional, management-by-exception and laissez-faire leadership style (LS)

	B	SE	β	t	p
Transform	ational LS:				
DBTP	- 0.25	0.07	- 0.39	-3.53	< 0.001
Transaction	nal LS:				
DBTP	-0.26	0.08	-0.37	-3.37	< 0.001
Manageme	nt-By-Except	tion LS:			
DBTP	-0.04	0.11	-0.05	- 0.39	0.174
Laissez-Fa	ire LS:				
DBTP	0.06	0.06	0.11	0.96	0.086

All p-values are reported for one-tailed tests

Table 1). All other Time Perspectives did clearly fail to reach significance (all p's > 0.110).

As in the case of management-by-exception, our regression analysis showed that only the Present Fatalistic orientation displayed a significant enhancing effect on the laissez-faire leadership style, $\beta = 0.329$ (5, 66), p = 0.051 (cf. Table 1). All other Time Perspectives were not significant (all p's > 0.272). Therefore, our first hypothesis was confirmed.

Moreover, we have applied the concept of the Deviation from a Balanced Time Perspective (DBTP), as an overall configuration of Time Perspectives and repeated the same regression analyses with DBTP as factor, instead of the individual five Time Perspectives. Our results suggest that DBTP influences the transformational leadership style, $\beta = -0.391$ (1, 69), p < 0.001, as well as the transactional leadership style $\beta = -0.371$ (1, 71), p < 0.001 in a significant reducing way. The more unbalanced the Time Perspective of a manager is, the less pronounced are the transformational and the transactional leadership styles. For both other leadership styles (management-by-exception and laissez-faire leadership style), we did not observe significant effects by the DBTP (cf. Table 2, all p's > 0.170). Thus, our second hypothesis was also confirmed.

We have examined the role of self-efficacy as a potential mediator of influence of Time Perspectives and DBTP on the leadership styles. Previous work, such as the study by Epel et al. (1999) has already reported that self-efficacy depends on time perspectives. Thus, we have first tested, if the effect of time perspectives and DBTP on self-efficacy could be observed in our sample. For this purpose, we conducted linear regression analyses with the five time perspectives and the DBTP.

For the individual time perspectives, we observed two significant enhancing and one significant reducing effect



Table 3 Linear regression analysis with the five TP's on general self-efficacy and linear regression analysis with the deviation from balanced time perspective (DBTP) on general self-efficacy

	В	SE	β	t	p
Past-positive	0.05	0.08	0.07	0.58	0.141
Past-negative	-0.12	0.07	-0.24	-1.70	0.024
Present-hedonistic	0.20	0.10	0.25	2.04	0.012
Present-fatalistic	-0.07	0.09	-0.12	-0.82	0.104
Future	0.14	0.08	0.21	1.73	0.023
DBTP	-0.48	0.63	- 0.36	- 3.27	< 0.001

We conducted a separate linear regression analysis for DBTP as independent variable instead of the single five time perspectives

All p-values are reported for one-tailed tests

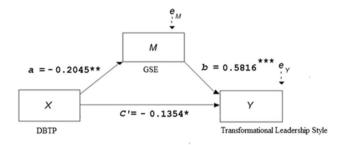


Fig. 1 Mediator model of DBTP on transformational leadership style with general self-efficacy as mediator. DBTP deviation from balanced time perspective, GSE general self-efficacy (*<0.05, **<0.01, and ***<0.001)

on self-efficacy. High scores on the Present Hedonistic β =0.250 (5, 66), p=0.023 and Future dimensions, β =0.205 (5, 66), p=0.045 enhanced self-efficacy significantly. A reducing effect was observed for the Past Negative orientation, β = -0.235 (5, 66), p=0.047. Past Positive and Present Fatalistic were not significant (all p's>0.207). Furthermore, the DBTP reduced self-efficacy, β = -0.364 (1.70), p<0.001.

Table 4 Regression coefficients, standard errors, and model summary information for the presumed deviation from balanced time perspective (DBTP) influence mediator model with the mediator general self-efficacy (GSE) on transformational leadership style (transform. LS)

Antecedent		Consequent								
		M (GSE)			Y (Transfo					
		Coeff	SE	p	Coeff	SE		p		
X (DBTP)	а	-0.205	0.063	0.002 c'	-0.135		0.067	0.047		
M (GSE)		_	_	- <i>b</i>	0.582		0.119	< 0.001		
Constant	$i_{ m M}$	3.561 $R^2 = 0.132$	0.144	$< 0.001 i_{\rm Y}$	2.412 $R^2 = 0.373$		0.448	< 0.001		
		F(1,69) = 10.51	2, p = 0.002			F(2,68) =	20.198	p < 0.001		

DBTP deviation from balanced time perspective, *GSE* = general self-efficacy *p*-values are for two-tailed tests

Because the overall configuration of time perspectives as operationalized by the DBTP seemed more relevant than the corresponding individual time perspectives, we have conducted a mediator analysis with DBTP as independent variable, self-efficacy as mediator and leadership styles as dependent variable. For the mediator analysis, we have used the Process Macro by Andrew Hayes for SPSS 24 (Hayes 2013).

The mediation analysis was conducted for each of the four investigated leadership styles, including those for which we have not observed direct effects (management-by-exception and laissez-faire) in the linear regression analyses (Table 3).

The first mediation model for the transformational leadership style (cf. Figure 1; Table 4) revealed that the effect of DBTP on the transformational leadership style is partially mediated by general self-efficacy: as assumed the DBTP reduces general self-efficacy significantly (a=-0.205; p=0.002) and general self-efficacy in turn enhances the transformational leadership style significantly (b=0.582, p<0.001). Furthermore, the negative direct effect of DBTP on the transformational leadership style remains significant in the mediation model (c'=-0.135; p=0.047): the higher the DBTP the lower the transformational leadership style. The total indirect effect a+b=-0.119 reached significance (BootLLCI=-0.2695; BootULCI=-0.0222).

With respect to the transactional leadership style (cf. Figure 2; Table 5) we observed that the effect of the DBTP is mediated by general self-efficacy: the DBTP significantly reduces general self-efficacy (a=-0.204; p=0.002) and in turn general self-efficacy enhances the transactional leadership style (b=0.524; p<0.001). The direct effect reached almost significance in the mediation model (c'=-0.149; p=0.051), whereas the total indirect effect a+b=-0.107 (BootLLCI=-0.2206; BootULCI=-0.0252) clearly reached significance.

As reported in the linear regression analysis above, we did not observe a significant effect of DBTP on the management-by-exception leadership style. By conducting the same



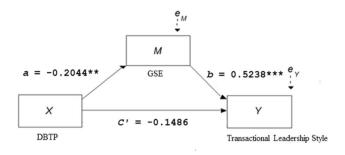


Fig. 2 Mediator model of DBTP on transactional leadership style with general self-efficacy as mediator. DBTP deviation from balanced time perspective, GSE general self-efficacy (*<0.05, **<0.01, and ***<0.001); the p-value for c' was in this case = 0.051

mediation model analysis (cf. Figure 3; Table 6) as for the transformational and the transactional leadership styles, the results showed again that the DBTP reduces general self-efficacy significantly (a = -0.204; p < 0.001) and general self-efficacy enhances the management-by-exception leadership style (b = 0.445; p = 0.034). The total indirect effect a + b = -0.091 reached significance (BootLLCI = -0.2296; BootULCI = -0.0105). As in the regression analysis we did not observe a direct effect of DBTP (c' = 0.045; p = 0.695). Thus, the possibility of an indirect mediating effect was confirmed (Fig. 4).

Finally, we did not observe a direct influence of DBTP, nor a significant influence of general self-efficacy on the lais-sez-faire leadership style (all p's > 0.464). The total indirect effect a+b=0.018 did also not reach significance (Boot-LLCI = 0.0185; BootULCI = 0.0866). Only the reducing effect of DBTP on general self-efficacy was observed, in line with the three preceding mediation analyses (a=-0.204; p=0.002).

Consequently, the laissez-faire leadership style is not affected by DBTP and general self-efficacy and contrary to the other leadership styles, no possible mediation model was found. Our third hypothesis was therefore confirmed (Table 7).

Table 5 Regression coefficients, standard errors, and modell summary information for the presumed deviation from balanced time perspective (DBTP) influence mediator model with the mediator general self-efficacy (GSE) on transactional leadership style (transactional LS)

Antecedent		Consequent									
		M (GSE)				Y (Transactional LS)					
		Coeff	SE	p		Coeff	SE		p		
X (DBTP)	а	- 0.204	0.063	0.002	c′	- 0.149		0.075	0.050		
M (GSE)		_	_	_	b	0.524		0.133	< 0.001		
Constant	$i_{ m M}$	3.560 $R^2 = 0.132$	0.143	<.001	$i_{ m Y}$	$2.655 R^2 = 0.297$		0.498	< 0.001		
		F(1,70) = 10.663, p = 0.002					F(2,69)	= 14.555,	p < 0.001		

DBTP deviation from balanced time perspective, *GSE* general self-efficacy *p*-values are for two-tailed tests

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4 Discussion

We can summarize that the past negative and present fatalistic perspectives have a negative effect on the transformational leadership style and the present hedonistic and future dimensions have a positive enhancing effect. This result can be explained through the challenges of the status quo by the transformational approach, as it is a more modern leadership style in which the leader is closer to the employees. In addition, this approach focuses on motivating and engaging employees while also having a mutual vision of the future.

The general self-efficacy is of high relevance, in particular for leadership styles, which can be characterized as ambitious and sophisticated, such as the transformational leadership style. This result is in line with reserach supporting the idea that a leader's self-efficacy can be associated to behaviors which are indicating transformational leadership.

According to Bandura (1996) increased efficacy is related to increased performance on various tasks. This could be traced back to the influence self-efficacy has on a personal choice, since individuals who perceive themselves as efficacious will be more likely to choose to perform the particular

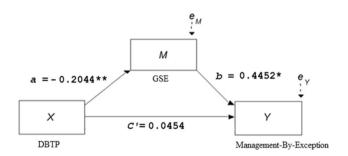


Fig. 3 Mediator model of DBTP on management-by-exception leadership style with general self-efficacy as mediator. DBTP deviation from balanced time perspective, GSE general self-efficacy (*<0.05, **<0.01, and ***<0.001)

Table 6 Regression coefficients, standard errors, and modell summary information for the presumed deviation from balanced time perspective (DBTP) influence mediator model with the mediator general self-efficacy (GSE) on management-by-exception leadership style (management-by-exception LS)

Antecedent		Consequent							
		M (GSE)				Y (manage	Y (management-by-exception		
		Coeff	SE	p		Coeff	SE		p
X (DBTP)	а	- 0.204	0.063	0.002	c′	0.045		0.116	0.695
M (GSE)		_	_	_	b	0.454		0.205	0.034
Constant	$i_{ m M}$	3.560	0.143	< 0.001	$i_{ m Y}$	1.635		0.771	0.038
		$R^2 = 0.132$				$R^2 = 0.066$			
		F(1,70) = 10.663, p = 0.002					F(2,69)	$=2.439, \mu$	0 = 0.095

DBTP deviation from balanced time perspective, *GSE* general self-efficacy *p*-values are for two-tailed tests

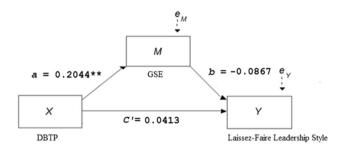


Fig. 4 Mediator model of DBTP on laissez-faire leadership style with general self-efficacy as mediator. DBTP deviation from balanced time perspective, GSE general self-efficacy (*<0.05, **<0.01, and ***<0.001)

task, while also setting high performance goals, and in turn display better performance.

Transformational leadership is traditionally associated with instilling confidence in followers that they can achieve higher levels of performance (Kirkpatick and Locke 1991). Thus, it can be assumed that only the ones who perceive themselves as more efficious are able to welcome challenging situations and persuade followers to do the same. Findings on self-efficacy indicate that this construct affects the choices of people regarding goals, expectations, efforts to

solve tasks abd persistance when facing of difficulties, hurdles and disappointments (Maurer 2001).

In sum, efficacious individuals are higly motivated, persistent in challenging situations, goal-oriented and clear thinkers under pressure.

Regarding the DBTP we have observed two significant reducing effects on the transformational and the transactional leadership styles. These influences were partly mediated by general self-efficacy. It becomes clear that DBTP hinders the transformational and transactional leadership styles which are the ones associated with self-efficacy.

Moreover, Future orientation increases the scoring of the management-by-exception (nearby significant) and the Present Fatalistic dimension enhances the laissez-faire leadership style.

The influence of time perspectives and DBTP on leadership styles seems plausible, since an individual develops time perspective bevor a specific leadership style is being developed. This study was the first to examine the effects of time perspectives on leadership styles, while also sheding light on mediating role of self-efficacy.

The limitations of this study include in particular the small sample size and the cross-sectional design which doesn't allow to differentiate between cause and effect.

Table 7 Regression coefficients, standard errors, and modell summary information for the presumed deviation from balanced time perspective (DBTP) influence mediator model with the mediator general self-efficacy (GSE) on laissezfaire leadership style (laissezfaire LS)

Antecedent		Consequent							
		M (GSE)				Y (laissez-faire LS)			
		Coeff	SE	p		Coeff SE			p
X (DBTP)	а	- 0.204	0.063	0.002	c′	0.041		0.066	0.536
M (GSE)		_	_	_	b	-0.087		0.118	0.465
Constant	$i_{ m M}$	$3.560 R^2 = 0.132$	0.143	<.001	$i_{ m Y}$	$2.464 R^2 = 0.023$		0.443	< 0.001
F(1,70) = 10.663, p = 0.002						F(2,6) p = 0.488	9)=0.72 8	5,	

DBTP deviation from balanced time perspective, *GSE* general self-efficacy *p*-values are for two-tailed tests



Future research could use longitudinal studies to become more insights into causal effects and rule out alternative ways of causal directions.

Moreover, future studies should also consider other conceptions of leadership styles and include typologies attributed to the style of leadership, in particular the one of Bass (1981) who differentites between *production oriented*, *people oriented*, *goal achieving or work facilitative*.

We can conclude that managers' Time Perspectives are important for implementing an efficient leadership style and that training programs could be developed to improve the Balanced Time Perspectives of managers.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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