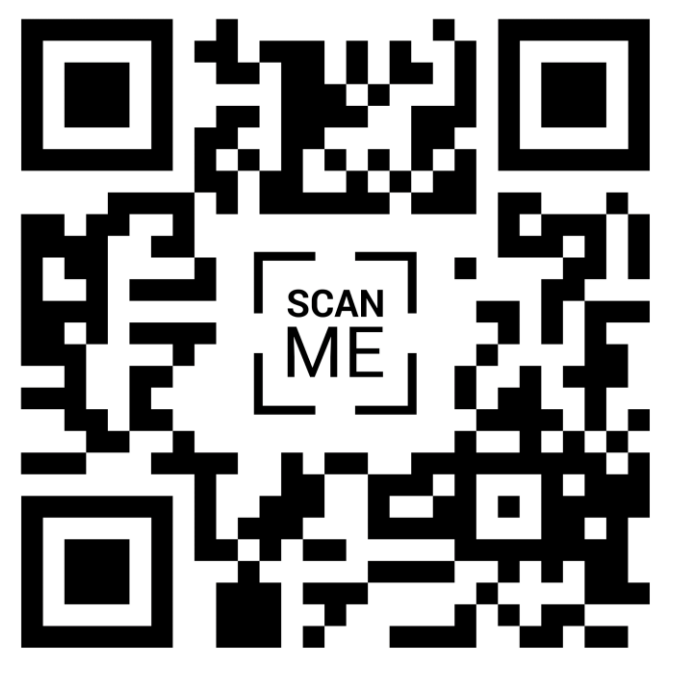


# "DISABLED ATHLETE ACTIVISM" IN SOUTH KOREA

A mixed-method study

Inhyang Choi (Alice) 🇰🇷, Damian Haslett 🇮🇪, and Brett Smith 🇬🇧



## Introduction

### Background.

Elite disabled athletes have the opportunity to increase awareness on social rights of disabled people but, there is no data in non-Western culture on how elite disabled athletes can be supported in their social mission.

### Aims.

- ① Describe difference between disabled elite athletes and non-athletes for activism orientation in South Korea
- ② Understand the reasons *why/why not* disabled elite athletes engage in activism, in comparison to disabled non-athletes in South Korea

## Results

**Disabled elite athletes** in South Korea had a greater activist orientation than **disabled non-athletes**.

↓ **WHY?**

### Para-athlete



Motivators = *Socialisation process*

1. Athlete status
2. 2018 Paralympic Games
3. Encouragement

Barriers = *Emotional cost*

1. Fear of disadvantage
2. Perceived backlash
3. Loneliness / Depression

↑ Comparison ↓

### Non-athletes with disabilities

Motivators 'Environmental facilitator', 'Emotional benefits'

Barriers 'Difficulty of access', 'Personal barriers'

## Methods

- Sequential mixed-methods design
- All participants with disability

**Phase 1**  
*Quantitative*

Elite athletes  
100

Non-athletes  
100

Activism Questionnaires

**Phase 2**  
*Qualitative*

Elite athletes  
High: 9  
Low: 9

Non-athletes  
High: 6  
Low: 6

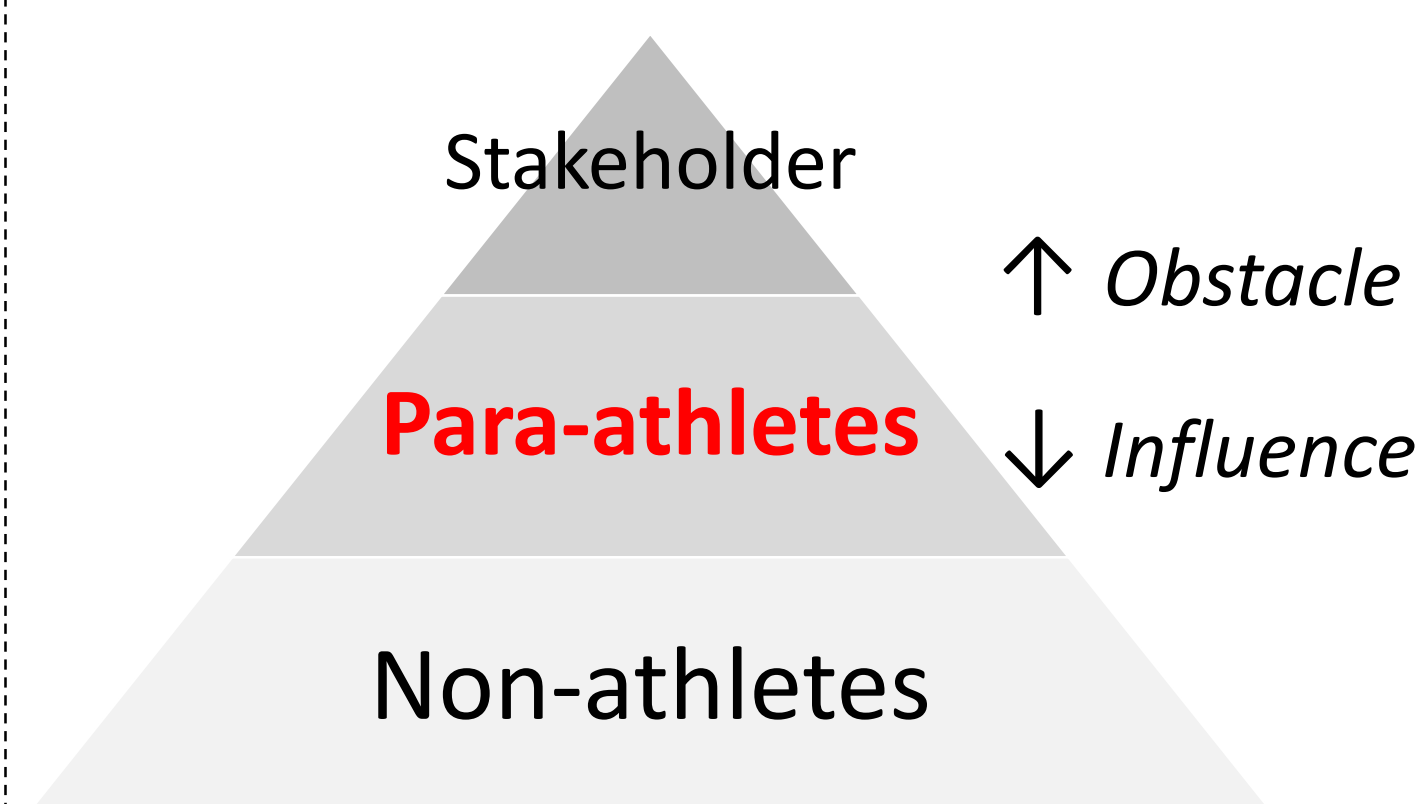
Semi-structured interview

## Discussion

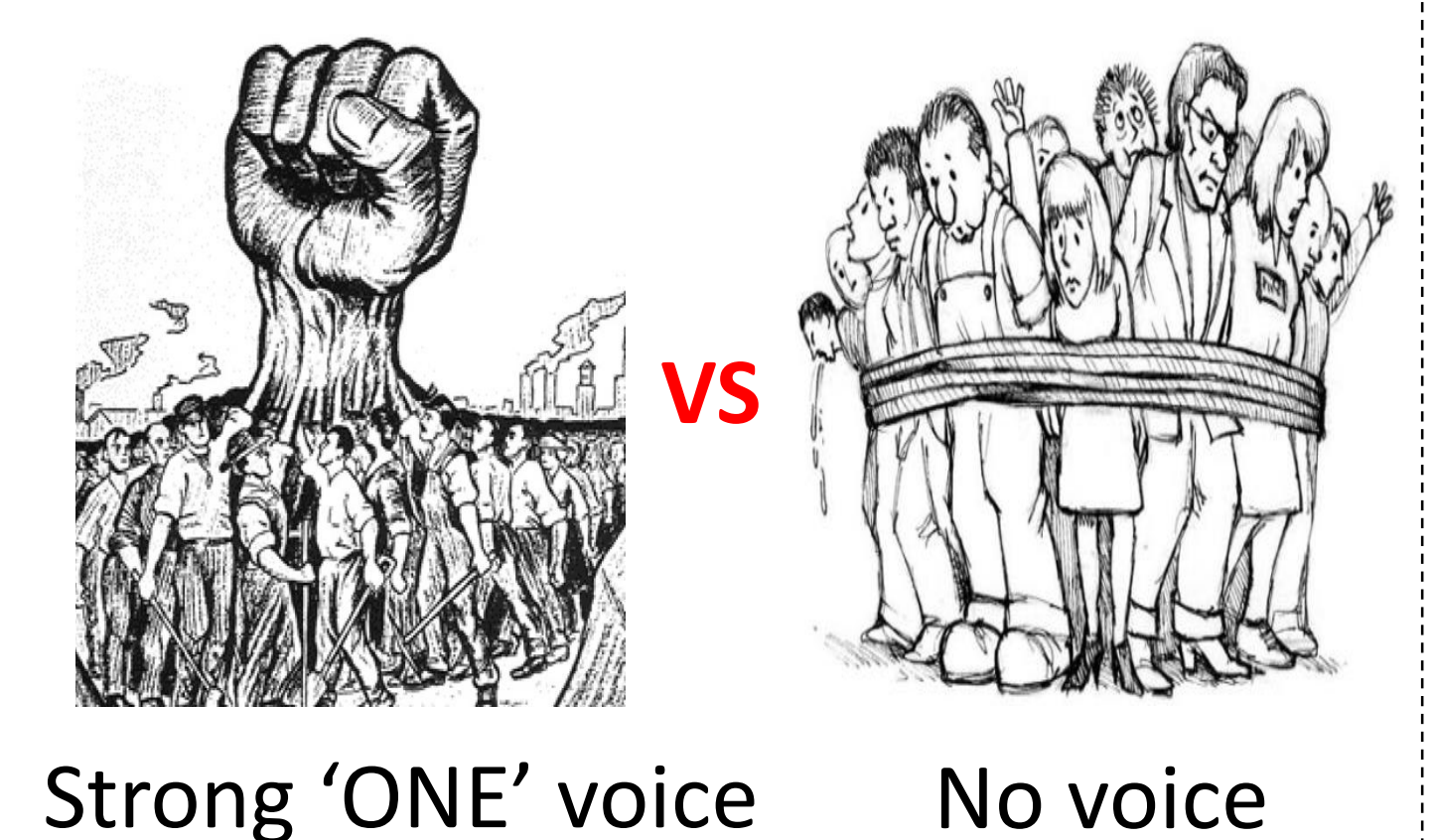
This study offers the **first** nuanced analysis of social activism for disabled athletes in a non-Western culture

## Interpretation

### 1. Hierarchical culture



### 2. Collectivism



### 3. Han culture

: uncontrollable psychological state of frustration, caused by the cognitive appraisal of an unfair discrimination or oppression

**Hope** = Encouragement

Or

**Harshness** = Discouragement

**The cultural perspective is important**

**WE WANT 'RIGHTS'**

