

A Diverse and Inclusive Psychological Work Climate: Some Antecedents and Consequences

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This paper presents an organizational field study that examines some antecedents and consequences of a diverse and inclusive psychological work climate. 23 managers participated in a survey after completing a diversity training. The results found support for a tri-dimensional conceptualization of a psychological inclusive climate. ANOVAs analyses were conducted to determine whether the results support the hypotheses. The findings show significance for some antecedents on both psychological climates, such as time worked for the organization, perception of an inclusive leadership, and personal comfort with diversity. As for the consequences, significant relationships were found between a psychological diversity climate and three attitudinal variables: job satisfaction, job training satisfaction, and organizational commitment. As for the psychological inclusive climate, the results showed significance only with job satisfaction and job training satisfaction. The theoretical implications of this study are discussed, and the practical applications of the findings are explained in hope to guide the creation of diverse and inclusive work climates that relist the positive outcomes that can be reached by a diverse workforce.

Keywords: psychological diversity climate, psychological inclusive climate, antecedents, consequences, organizational field study

INTRODUCTION

In today's workplace, managing diversity successfully requires fostering a work climate that provides the proper environment for diversity to thrive and to be successful at resolving conflicts and integrating information about differences which, in turn, lead to increase creativity and innovation, improve the quality of decision-making process, and therefore enhance performance. Such environment has been described as diverse and inclusive. In this study, we focus our attention on the managers' individual perception of a diverse and inclusive psychological work climate (Daghan, Bhatti & Juhari, 2019). A psychological work climate was defined as employee cognitive judgment of his/her work environment that leads to a perception about his or her organization that is significant to the individual (James, Choi,

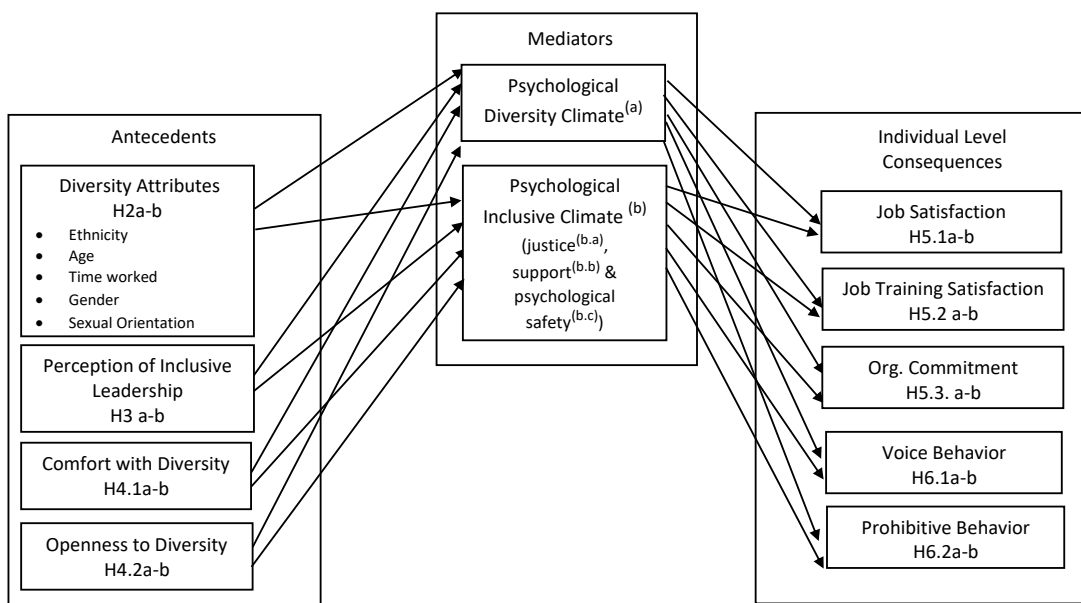
Ko, McNeil, Minton, Wright & Kim, 2008). Since the literature considers a diversity climate and inclusive climate as being factors of an appropriate environment in which diversity can relish its full potential (Roberson, 2019; Van Knippenberg, Nishii, & Dwertmann, 2020), our study focuses on both psychological work climates. First, the study explores the underlying psychological dimensions that conceptualize the concept of a psychological inclusive climate. Then, it examines some antecedent variables and individual consequences of both psychological work climates.

Few empirical studies (Mor Barak & Cherin 1998; Mor Barak, Cherin, & Berkman, 1998; Nishii, 2003) has examined the conceptualization of a psychological diversity climate and a psychological inclusive climate. Only some studies have investigated the antecedents that may predict the emergence of such climates (Li, Perera, Kulik & Metz, 2019). There is also only a small body of research (Mor Barak, Lizano, Kim, Duan, Rhee, Hsiao, & Brimhall, 2016) that examines the consequences of such psychological work climates. Therefore, our study contributes to the literature by addressing three research questions. First, we explore what are the underlying dimensions that describe being working under a psychological inclusive climate? Second, we ask what are the antecedents that contribute to create both psychological work climates? Third, we investigate what are the attitudinal and behavioral consequences, that are predicted by both psychological work climates? Our proposed theoretical model provides some answers to these research questions.

THE PROPOSED THEORETICAL MODEL

We present a conceptual model that considers both a psychological diversity climate and a psychological inclusive climate as being mediators of the relationship between some antecedents, and individual consequences. Our measurement of an inclusive climate is multidimensional. We measure it by referring to three established and related concepts which are: justice, support, and psychological safety. In our model, both psychological climates mediate the relationship between four antecedent variables (i.e., diversity attributes, perception of inclusive leadership, perceptions of openness to diversity, and comfort with diversity), and five individual outcomes (i.e., job satisfaction, job training satisfaction, organizational commitment, voice behavior, and prohibitive behavior).

FIGURE 1
THE THEORETICAL MODEL OF THE MEDIATING EFFECTS OF A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL WORK CLIMATE



LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

Psychological Diversity Climate

Diversity climate has been defined as “the extent that employees view an organization as utilizing fair personnel practices and socially integrating all personnel into the work environment (McKay, & Avery, 2015, p. 191)”. The literature suggests that diversity climate is complex and multifaceted (Dwertmann, Nishii, & van Knippenberg, 2016; Herdman & McMillan-Capehart, 2010; Holmes IV, Jiang, Avery, McKay, Oh, & Tillman, 2020). According to Chrobot-Mason and Aramovich (2013, p. 663), an “affirming climate” for diversity consists of a multitude of management practices that create a work environment defined as providing equal access and fair treatment to all. The creation of a pro-diversity climate depends on employee perceptions that diversity is valued and the extent to which diverse employees are encouraged to contribute fully to the organization (Joshi & Roh, 2013). The employees’ perception of working in a pro-diversity climate gives an important message that their organization is perceived to be free from biases and that it cares for the well-being of all their employees. In return, in a reciprocal perspective, employees will show positive attitudes such as a high level of job satisfaction and commitment, leading to increase performance (McKay, Avery, Liao, & Morries, 2011).

Psychological Inclusive Climate

Research suggests that an inclusive climate emerges when people are working in a diverse organization in which they feel fairly treated (MorBarak et al., 1998), supported in their identities, and welcome to safely express their voice during the decision-making process (Nishii, 2013). Based on the literature, we propose that these three underlying psychological dimensions (i.e., justice, support, and psychological safety) are at the core of conceptualizing a psychological inclusive climate. Under such working conditions, research suggests that workers’ response to such a positive work climate by displaying positive performance outcomes such as a high level of job satisfaction and job training satisfaction, organizational commitment, and a high level of voice behaviors and prohibitive behaviors. Thus, we propose that a psychological inclusive climate is a multi-dimensional mediator that explains the relationship between some antecedent variables and individual consequence variables.

Justice

Justice is defined as individual’s perception of whether the organization treats them fairly. Justice is reflected by employees’ perception of being fairly treated throughout the distribution and allocation of the resources (i.e. distributive justice), the decision making processes implemented in the organization (i.e., procedural justice), the information provided to explain the decisions making processes and its related outcomes (i.e., informational justice), and the interpersonal treatment experienced by group members during social interactions (i.e., interpersonal justice) (Colquitt, Conlon, Wesson, Porter, & Ng, 2001). For example, fairness is reflected by achieving a diverse workforce whose members are treated with dignity and provided with equal opportunities. Fair practices in organizations build up a foundation to eliminate biases and discrimination.

Researchers suggest that justice perception plays an important role in understanding an inclusive climate (Buttner, Lowe, & Billings-Haris, 2010; Shore, Cleveland, & Sanchez, 2018). For example, Hicks-Clarke and Iles (2000) emphasized the importance of justice as one major dimension of an inclusive climate by stating that it refers to employees’ fairness perceptions of the organization in terms of its management processes used to allocate opportunities. Fairness perceptions relate to whether the organization puts efforts into the prevention and resolution of discriminatory treatments.

Researchers most often include fairness in their operationalization of an inclusive climate. For example, in a study conducted by Mor Barak and colleagues (1998), inclusive climate was measured by including an organizational fairness factor. Therefore, we believe that justice is a latent construct of a psychological inclusive climate.

Support

According to organizational support theory (Eisenberger, Armeli, Rexwinkel, Lunch & Rhoades, 2001; Gower, Forster, Gloppen, Johnson, Eisenberg, Connett, & Borowsky, 2018; Luthans, Norman, Avolio, & Avey, 2008; Shore & Shore, 1995), a supportive work climate is defined as employees' shared perceptions of the extent to which the organization and its members value their contributions and care about their well-being. As pointed out by Rhoades and Eisenberger (2002), perceived organizational support helps the organizational members to deal with stressful situations such as in times of conflicts or interpersonal challenges, which are likely to occur in diverse group settings. Stamper and Masterson (2002) found that perceived organizational support leads to the feeling of being an insider at work, which positively influences work behavior.

Research suggests that diverse organizations are more likely to create an inclusive climate when the organizational strategy is committed to support diversity initiatives by implementing human resource practices that are diversity related such as providing training programs about diversity and inclusion, celebrating diversity and its related holidays, conducting team building activities, providing mentoring programs, involving newly hired employees into a socialization process, and organizing networking events (Roberge, Lewicki, Hietapelto & Abdyldaeva, 2011). Such supportive managerial practices influence the emergence of a diverse and inclusive psychological climate and therefore increases organizational attachment, reduce employees' absenteeism and turnover, and enhance job satisfaction, job training satisfaction, organizational commitment and ultimately organizational performance (Eisenberger, et al., 1997; Gonzalez & Denisi, 2009; Kochan, Bezrukova, Ely, Jackson, Joshi, Jehn, Leonard, Levine & Thomas, 2003; Luthans et al. 2008; McKay, et al., 2008).

Employees are more likely to be validated in their identities when they feel supported by their peers and the organization. We believe that the emergence of a diverse and inclusive psychological climate encourages individuals to bring forward and share with other group members their "unique identity". This self-disclosure facilitates the social learning process and the integration of knowledge, skills, experiences, insights, and identities from diverse employees. By welcoming and supporting self-disclosures, the climates contribute to activate identity confirmation among group members (Milton & Westphal, 2005). Such a social context makes employees feel valued and accepted for being members of the group as well as for their unique contribution, leading them to be able to freely express who they are. Thus, feeling supported captures the positive responses employees receive from their organization and its group members when differences are expressed. We propose that a psychological inclusive climate should include the dimension of support.

Psychological Safety

We propose that the third dimension of a psychological inclusive climate is psychological safety defined as "feeling able to show and employ oneself without fear of negative consequences to self-image, status, or career" (Kahn, 1990, p. 708). It is reflected in the possibility of choosing one's own work style and maintain important cultural habits, even when these habits may differ from what it is perceived as being the norm (Luijters, Van der Zee, & Otten, 2008). For example, people with certain religious beliefs may pray in the workplace, even if most employees do not participate in such religious practice at work. Being able to freely express the self within the work environment is a value at the core of feeling psychologically safe. Thus, an important aspect of psychological safety is employees' feelings of being able to communicate openly about their respective differences and potential problems that may arise among themselves without fearing rejection ((Edmondson, 1999; Luijters et al. 2008). For example, Baer and Frese (2003) measured psychological safety by using items such as: "As an employee in our company one is able to bring up problems and tough issues".

Psychological safety indeed fulfills the need of inclusiveness (Shore, et al. 2011). By nature, it is an emotional construct referring to the absence of discrimination and fear of being rejected, while it also refers to the perception of being accepted and considered by other members and the group at large (Frazier, Fainshmidt, Kling, Pezeshkan, & Vracheva, 2017). In a highly psychologically safe work environment, employees are likely to self-disclose their identity with others, leading them to identify with

one another more easily and to engage in validating each other's identity in relationship with their group membership and their uniqueness (Leonardelli, Pickett, & Brewer, 2010; Roberge & van Dick, 2010). In other words, the processes of social identification and identity confirmation among group members are activated while the environment is perceived as being psychologically safe, which then contributes to the feeling of inclusiveness. Therefore, our first hypothesis is as followed:

Hypothesis 1: *A psychological inclusive climate is composed of three underlying psychological dimensions: justice, support, and psychological safety.*

Antecedent Variables

The emergence of a diverse and inclusive psychological climate may reside into the effect of variables such as the diversity of the group, the perception of an inclusive leadership, comfort with diversity, and openness to diversity.

Diversity and Its Attributes

Diversity has been defined as differences between individuals on any attribute that may lead to the perception that another person is different from the self (van Knippenberg, De Dreu, & Homan, 2004). These attributes may be visible or invisible. Visible diversity refers to observable demographic characteristics such as gender, race, ethnicity, or age, whereas invisible diversity are non-observable characteristics such as education, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, personality traits, abilities/disabilities. Visible attributes are mostly perceived first, at the beginning of interpersonal relationships, and may lead to stereotyping others who are perceived as being different. Invisible attributes are usually perceived once the group members have been interacting and getting to know each other on a deeper level. Theories, such as social identity (Tajfel, 1978) and self-categorization (Reimer, Schmid, Hewstone, & Ramiah, 2020; Turner, Hogg, Oakes, Reicher, & Wetherell, 1987), suggest that if these attributes are perceived as differences among group members, they create disparities, stereotyping and conflicts in between group members and therefore lower performance.

Because of such possibility in today's organizations, managing diversity effectively has become common concerns (Roberge, Lewicki, Hietapelto, & Abdyldeeva, 2011). In the scientific literature, diversity management has been explosive. There have been tremendous efforts in proposing new research ideas that may help diversity to lead to positive performance outcomes. For example, Chatman, Polzer, Barsade and Neal (1998) found that demographic diversity was likely to lead to positive outcomes when the organizational culture makes group membership salient and encourages people to categorize and identify to one another as having the organization's interest in common. More recently, many researchers have paid attention to fostering a diversity climate (Gonzalez, & Denisi, 2009; McKay, Avery, & Morris, 2008; McKay, Avery, Tonidandel, Morris, Hernandez, & Hebl, 2007), while others have investigated the emergence of an inclusive climate (Mor Barak, Cherin, & Berkman, 1998; Nishii, 2013; Shore, Cleveland & Sanchez, 2018). Both types of climates pursue the ideas that implementing an appropriate environmental context for diversity is a key factor to reach out to positive performance outcomes. Such climates create the right work environment capable of integrating employees' different viewpoints, insights, experiences, opinions, or identities, which in turn lead to reach positive outcomes in organizations.

In this study, we propose that the representation of diversity attributes (i.e., ethnicity, age, time worked, gender, disability, & sexual orientation) among managers will influence the perception of a psychological diversity climate as well as inclusive climate in the organization. The more diverse the group is, the more likely managers will perceive their psychological climate as being diverse and inclusive.

Hypothesis 2a: *Managers' diversity attributes predict a positive association with a psychological diversity climate.*

Hypothesis 2b: *Managers' diversity attributes predict a positive association with a psychological inclusive climate and its three subdimensions (justice^(b,a), support^(b,b) and psychological safety^(b,c)).*

Inclusive Leadership

Inclusive leadership refers to leaders that are aware of, and understand diversity not only in terms of demographic characteristics but also in terms of perspectives, identities and approaches to work and encourage the true value of bringing together a variety of opinions and insights among different people (Hollander, 2009; Homan, Gundemir, Buengeler & van Kleef, 2020). Research suggests that the perception of an inclusive leadership influences the creation of an inclusive climate (Shore, et al., 2011; Randel, Galvin, Shore, Ehrhart, Chung, Dean & Kedharnath, 2018). In fact, without a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion coming from the top of the organization, the emergence of such climate among employees may never occur. An inclusive climate may only exist when employees perceive that the leadership enacts strategies that pursue the goal of successfully managing diversity and inclusion in the organization. We hypothesized as followed:

Hypothesis 3a: *Managers' perception of an inclusive leadership in their organization predicts a positive association with a psychological diversity climate.*

Hypothesis 3b: *Managers' perception of an inclusive leadership in their organization predicts a positive association with a psychological inclusive climate and its three subdimensions (justice^(b,a), support^(b,b) and psychological safety^(b,c)).*

Comfort With Diversity and Openness to Diversity

Individuals vary on their level of openness to and comfort with diversity. These individual differences may be due to personality (i.e., especially the trait of openness to experience) and past experiences at interacting with diverse people. Those who shown interest in diversity are more likely to identify with diverse people, to feel psychologically closer to these people and learn more easily from their differences (Roberge, Petrov & Huang, 2014). By being open to diversity, they may also feel more comfortable at interacting with people who are different from the self which overtime may make them more competent at managing diversity successfully and more likely to perceive their environment as being diverse and inclusive. We hypothesized as followed:

Hypothesis 4.1a: *Managers' perception of their level of comfort with diversity predicts a positive association with a psychological diversity climate.*

Hypothesis 4.1b: *Managers' perception of their level of comfort with diversity predicts a positive association with a psychological inclusive climate and its three subdimensions (justice^(b,a), support^(b,b) and psychological safety^(b,c)).*

Hypothesis 4.2a: *Managers' perception of their own openness to diversity predicts a positive association with a psychological diversity climate.*

Hypothesis 4.2b: *Managers' perception of their own openness to diversity predicts a positive association with a psychological inclusive climate and its three subdimensions (justice^(b,a), support^(b,b) and psychological safety^(b,c)).*

Consequent Variables

Regarding the consequent variables, this study focuses on examining whether both psychological climates predict, at the individual level, some attitudinal and behavioral outcomes. There are three attitudes that are examined: job satisfaction, job training satisfaction, and organizational commitment. As for the behavioral outcomes, the study examines voice behavior and prohibitive behavior.

Job Satisfaction and Job Training Satisfaction

Job satisfaction is defined as the positive or negative attitude an employee has towards his or her job, including the surrounding work environment and co-worker (Ping Lima, Khun Loob & Lee, 2017). In this study, we measure an overall perception of job satisfaction and propose that when employees perceive the psychological climate as being diverse and inclusive, which means that they feel fairly treated, supported and in a psychologically safe environment, they will be more satisfied with their job overall. Previous studies have largely disregarded the study of perceived positive diversity climate and job satisfaction and therefore as expressed by Madera, Dawson, and Guchait (2016) more research is needed in this area.

Job training satisfaction is defined as how people feel about aspects of the job training they received (Schmidt, 2007). Providing job training about diversity and inclusion to manager employees is considered enacting proactive and inclusive human resource practices that contribute to the emergence of an inclusive climate. Employees' satisfaction with the training received may be an important outcome variable to consider understanding the influence of providing such a training program on the diverse and inclusive climate. We propose that employees who perceive the psychological climates as being diverse and inclusive will be more satisfied with the training provided on the job.

Hypothesis 5.1a: *A psychological diversity climate predicts a positive association with managers' job satisfaction.*

Hypothesis 5.1b: *A psychological inclusive climate and its 3 subdimensions (justice^(b.a), support^(b.b) and psychological safety^(b.c)) predict managers' job satisfaction.*

Hypothesis 5.2a: *A psychological diversity climate predicts a positive association with managers' job training satisfaction.*

Hypothesis 5.2b: *A psychological inclusive climate and its three subdimensions (justice^(b.a), support^(b.b) and psychological safety^(b.c)) predict a positive association with managers' job training satisfaction.*

Organizational Commitment

Klein, Molly, and Brinsfield (2012) defined commitment as “a volitional psychological bond reflecting dedication to and responsibility for a particular target” (p. 137). In the case of our study, the target is the organization. We propose that employees will be more committed to their organization when they perceive being in a diversity climate and an inclusive climate that shows fairness, support and psychologically safety. When such work climates exist, employees will show a high level of commitment toward their organization. Indeed, fostering such diverse and inclusive climates met employees' expectations regarding how they want to be treated by their employer, leading them to reciprocate by showing a high level of organizational commitment (McKay, Avery, Liao, & Morries, 2011).

Hypothesis 5.3a: *A psychological diversity climate predicts a positive association with managers' organizational commitment.*

Hypothesis 5.3b: *A psychological inclusive climate and its three subdimensions (justice^(b.a), support^(b.b) and psychological safety^(b.c)) predict a positive association with managers' organizational commitment.*

Voice Behavior

Voice is defined as nonrequired behavior that emphasizes expression of constructive challenge with an intent to improve rather than merely criticize (LePine & Van Dyne, 1998). An inclusive climate supports voice behavior in the organization by encouraging people to respectfully and openly express their disagreements, even when they are not part of the status quo. Such proactive behavior may be predicted by an inclusive climate, especially when the psychological safety climate is highly perceived among employees.

Hypothesis 6.1a: *A psychological diversity climate predicts a positive association with managers' voice behavior.*

Hypothesis 6.1b: *A psychological inclusive climate and its three subdimensions (justice^(b,a), support^(b,b) and psychological safety^(b,c)) predict managers' voice behavior.*

Prohibitive Behavior

Prohibitive behaviors, such as whistleblowing (Near & Miceli, 1987; Miceli & Near, 1992), are critical and meant to stop some activity such as bullying or sexual harassment incidents in organizations. Under an inclusive climate, employees are more likely to speak up when facing difficult situations such as being either victim or witness of psychological or sexual harassment in organizations.

We proposed that when employees perceive the climate as being inclusive which means that they feel fairly treated, supported and psychologically safe, the likelihood for them to display voice and prohibitive behaviors will increase.

Hypothesis 6.2a: *A psychological diversity climate predicts a positive association with managers' prohibitive behavior.*

Hypothesis 6.2b: *A psychological inclusive climate and its three subdimensions (justice^(b,a), support^(b,b) and psychological safety^(b,c)) predict managers' prohibitive behavior.*

METHOD

Sample

An organizational field study was conducted after the delivery of a training program related to diversity, harassment, and inclusion. A survey was distributed to 38 managers, however, only 23 questionnaires were properly completed. Therefore, the sample is composed of 23 managers from an organization located in the Midwest of United States of America.

The organization who participated in this study was a distribution center. The sample was composed of 83 percent male managers and 17 percent female managers. In terms of their ethnicity, 22 percent were Asian; 30 percent were Latinos; 0 percent were American Indian; 17 percent African American; 26 percent were Caucasian; and the remainder, "other." As for the age, 30 percent were between 20 to 25 of age, 30 percent were between 26 to 30 of age, 4 percent were between 31 to 35 of age, 22 percent were between 36 to 40 of age, 14 percent were between 41 to 45, 0 percent were older than 46 of age. No manager had a disability. As for their orientation sexual, 78 percent were heterosexual, 9 percent were homosexual, 13 percent were bisexual, and 0 percent were transgender. As for unit tenure, 22 percent had been working in their units for less than 1 year and the maximum work years is 4 years.

Measures

Following up on a diversity training program, the managers were invited to participate into this research project by completing a survey that measured the variables of interest. The studied mediator variables were measured by using 4 items that assessed the overall perception of a psychological diversity climate ($\alpha = .912$) (McKay et al., 2008), and 19 items that assessed an overall perception of a psychological inclusive climate ($\alpha = .902$), for which 6 items were used to assess justice ($\alpha = .739$), (Mor Barak et al., 1998), 6 items to assess feeling of support ($\alpha = .869$) (Eisenberger, et al., 2001), 7 items to assess psychological safety climate ($\alpha = .774$) (Baer & Frese, 2003). The antecedent variables were measured by using 6 items that assessed diversity of attributes (ethnicity, age, time worked, gender, disability, and sexual orientation), 8 items that assessed inclusive leadership ($\alpha = .849$) (Randel et al. 2018), 4 items that assessed perception of openness to diversity ($\alpha = .895$), and 3 items that assessed personal comfort with diversity ($\alpha = .588$) (Mor Barak et al., 1998). The consequence variables were measured by focusing on 3 attitudinal variables using, 4 items that assessed job satisfaction ($\alpha = .937$)

(Weiss et al., 1999), 11 items that assessed job training satisfaction ($\alpha = .909$) (Schmidt (2004), and 4 items that assessed organizational commitment ($\alpha = .981$) (Klein, Cooper, Molloy, & Swanson, 2014). And, two behavioral variables were measured by using 6 items that assessed voice behavior ($\alpha = .893$) (LePine & Van Dyne, 1998), and 2 items that assessed prohibitive behavior ($\alpha = .310$).

Analyses

A confirmatory factorial analysis was conducted to examine if the underlying psychological dimensions (justice, support, and psychological safety) could be considered all part of the psychological inclusive climate.

ANOVA analyses were conducted to determine whether the antecedent variables (diversity attributes, inclusive leadership, openness to and comfort with diversity) predict the emergence of a diversity climate and an inclusive climate. ANOVA analyses were also conducted to determine whether there were positive associations between the psychological climates and individual outcomes such as job satisfaction, job training satisfaction, organizational commitment voice behavior, and prohibitive behavior.

RESULTS

Hypotheses Testing

Table 1 presents the correlational relationships between psychological diversity climate, psychological inclusive climate and the antecedents and consequences at the individual level of analyses. We report the number of questions, the means, and the estimated standard deviations. The correlation matrix of the observable variables (or manifest variables) for inclusive climate was obtained and it was found that there are many correlations above 0.3, suggesting that clustering subgroups of variables is possible through factor analysis (Tabachnick & Fidell 2001). The value for the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy was 0.5 and Bartlett's test was significant. Principal components analysis was carried out and five factors emerged after varimax rotation. Table 2 shows that there is only one question for factor #4 and one for factor #5. Factor #1, #2, and #3 account for the major variance, which is 62.45%. Factor #1 corresponds to 'justice dimension', accounting for 26.56% variance. Factor #2 corresponds to 'support dimension', accounting for 22.58% variance. Factor #3 corresponds to 'psychological safety dimension', accounting for 13.31% variance. Such results support hypothesis 1 stating that an inclusive psychological climate may be composed of three underlying psychological dimensions: justice, support, and psychological safety.

TABLE 1
THE MEANS, STANDARD DEVIATIONS, AND THE CORRELATIONS BETWEEN ALL VARIABLES (N= 23)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1. Diversity Climate	1																	
2. Inclusive Climate	.727**	1																
3. Justice	.499*	.853**	1															
4. Support	.788**	.831**	.490*	1														
5. Psychological Safety	.589**	.920**	.761**	.643**	1													
6. Ethnicity	.061	.147	.119	.056	.211	1												
7. Age	-.088	-.151	-.146	-.245	.004	.510*	1											
1. Working years	.438*	.381	.417*	.270	.313	-.097	-.118	1										
2. Gender	.092	.227	.052	.225	.305	-.045	.014	-.081	1									
3. Sexual Orientation	.361	.437*	.514*	.377	.255	-.362	-.364	.088	-.364	1								
4. Inclusive Leadership	.712**	.709**	.430*	.788**	.607**	-.001	-.163	.078	.264	.260	1							
5. Comfort with Diversity	.515*	.517*	.367	.531**	.439*	.271	.040	.492*	-.287	.254	.343	1						
13. Openness to Diversity	-.138	-.221	-.234	-.063	-.288	.097	.130	-.057	-.148	.052	-.012	.080	1					
14. Voice Behavior	.240	.086	-.070	.256	.017	.291	-.058	.231	-.143	.038	.326	.434**	.494*	1				
15. Prohibitive Behavior	.166	.095	-.076	.201	.106	.382	.183	.090	.384	-.255	.209	.203	.364	.604**	1			
16. Job Satisfaction	.754**	.665**	.402	.669**	.643**	.224	.161	.314	-.068	.196	.694**	.626**	-.120	.353	.243	1		
17. Job Training Satisfaction	.617**	.575**	.310	.640**	.526**	.009	.081	-.023	.073	.345	.708**	.435*	-.045	.355	.318	.765**	1	
18. Organizational Commitment	.484*	.355	.288	.286	.350	-.086	.005	.567**	-.278	.176	.280	.339	-.115	.061	-.252	.595**	.181	1
Number of Questions	4	19	6	6	7	1	1	1	1	1	8	3	4	6	2	4	11	4
Means	3.27	3.11	3.17	3.28	2.91	3.09	1.52	20.78	1.83	1.35	3.27	3.71	4.57	4.03	4.39	3.46	3.68	4.08
Standard Deviations	1.07	.715	.819	.923	.744	1.703	1.472	11.062	.388	.714	.815	.747	.585	.728	.783	1.17	.858	1.14

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

TABLE 2
TOTAL VARIANCE EXPLAINED

Questions (Component)	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	7.909	41.627	41.627	7.909	41.627	41.627	5.046	26.560	26.560
2	2.927	15.405	57.032	2.927	15.405	57.032	4.290	22.580	49.140
3	1.824	9.601	66.633	1.824	9.601	66.633	2.528	13.308	62.448
4	1.316	6.928	73.561	1.316	6.928	73.561	1.734	9.126	71.573
5	1.063	5.595	79.157	1.063	5.595	79.157	1.441	7.583	79.157
6	.887	4.668	83.825						
7	.637	3.354	87.179						
8	.616	3.241	90.420						
9	.472	2.486	92.906						
10	.377	1.985	94.891						
11	.268	1.409	96.300						
12	.237	1.248	97.548						
13	.151	.794	98.342						
14	.124	.653	98.995						
15	.089	.468	99.463						
16	.059	.311	99.774						
17	.027	.141	99.915						
18	.009	.049	99.964						
19	.007	.036	100.000						

TABLE 3
CONFIRMATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS FACTOR LOADINGS:
ROTATED COMPONENT MATRIX

	Component				
	1	2	3	4	5
Dimension 1: Justice					
Q.1 I feel I have been treated differently here because of my race, sex, religion, or age. (Reverse coded)	-.233	.055	.130	.908	.083
Q.2 Managers here have a track record of hiring and promoting employees objectively, regardless of their race, sex, religion, or age	.750	-.160	-.319	.004	-.307
Q.3 Managers here give feedback and evaluate employees fairly, regardless of the employee's ethnicity, gender, age, or social background.	.726	.158	.354	.056	.021
Q.4 Managers here make layoff decision fairly, regardless of factors such as employees' race, sex, age, or social background	.799	.167	-.011	-.026	.216
Q.5 Managers implement human resource policies (such as sick leave) fairly for all employees.	.599	.043	.518	.395	-.126
Q.6 Managers here give assignments based on the skills and abilities of employees.	.768	.368	.313	-.103	-.034
Dimension 2: Support					
Q.7 The managers take pride in my accomplishments	.155	.859	.106	-.142	-.076
Q. 8 The organization really cares about my well-being	.441	.741	.121	.361	-.162
Q.9 The managers value my contributions to its well-being	.226	.857	-.191	.136	.042
Q.10 The managers strongly considered my goals and values	.026	.880	.267	.083	-.090
Q.11 The management shows little concern for me. (Reverse coded)	.188	.100	.795	.239	-.030
Q.12 The managers are willing to help me if I need a special favor	.069	.771	.371	.041	.077

Dimension 3: Psychological Safety					
Q.13 In our company some employees are rejected for being different. (Reverse coded)	.110	.340	.560	.533	-.361
Q.14 When someone in our company makes a mistake, it is often held against them	.176	-.151	-.062	.011	.920
Q.15 No one in our company would deliberately act in a way that undermines others' efforts	.712	.325	.345	.030	.227
Q.16 It is difficult to ask others for help in our company? (Reverse coded)	.393	.460	.072	.381	-.163
Q.17 In our company one is free to take risks	.474	.238	.491	-.092	.340
Q.18 The people in our company value others' unique skills and talents	.580	.365	.539	-.230	-.082
Q.19 As an employee in our company, one is able to bring up problems and tough issues	.860	.154	.203	-.119	.219

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.
 Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

Table 4 shows the antecedent variables that significantly predict a psychological diversity climate, which were time worked for the company ($F = 5.283$, $p < .05$, hypothesis 2a was partially supported), perception of an inclusive leadership ($F = 21.607$, $p < .01$, hypothesis 3a. was supported) as well as personal comfort with diversity ($F = 7.561$, $p < .05$, hypothesis 4.1a was supported). Managers' perception of their openness to diversity was not significantly associated to a psychological diversity climate, which means that hypothesis 4.2a was refuted.

TABLE 4
RESULTS OF ANTECEDENT VARIABLES PREDICTING A PSYCHOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CLIMATE^(a)

Antecedent Variables	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Managers' diversity attributes					
- Ethnicity					
Regression	3.161	4	.790	.644	.638
Error	22.078	18	1.227		
Total	25.239	22			
- Age					
Regression	2.322	4	.583	.458	.765
Error	22.907	18	1.273		
Total	25.239	22			
- Time worked					

	Regression	5.073	1	5.073	5.283	.032*
	Error	20.166	21	.960		
	Total	25.239	22			
- Gender	Regression	.212	1	.212	.178	.677
	Error	25.027	21	1.192		
	Total	25.239	22			
- Sexual orientation	Regression	3.291	2	1.646	1.500	.247
	Error	21.948	20	1.097		
	Total	25.239	22			
Inclusive leadership	Regression	12.799	1	12.799	21.607	.000**
	Error	12.440	21	.592		
	Total	25.239	22			
Personal comfort with diversity	Regression	6.681	1	6.681	7.561	.012*
	Error	18.558	21	.884		
	Total	25.239	22			
Perception of own openness to diversity	Regression	.483	1	.483	.410	.529
	Error	24.756	21	1.179		
	Total	25.239	22			

Note. Two-tailed, * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$.

Table 5 shows the antecedent variables that significantly predict a psychological inclusive climate which were time worked for the company ($F = 4.865$, $p < .05$, hypothesis 2b was partially supported), perception of inclusive leadership ($F = 21.251$, $p < .01$, hypothesis 3b was supported), as well as personal comfort with diversity ($F = 7.668$, $p < .05$, hypothesis 4.1b was supported). Managers' perception of their openness to diversity was not significantly associated to a psychological inclusive climate, which means that hypothesis 4.2b was not supported.

Table 5 also shows the antecedent variables that significantly predicted perception of justice, which were diversity of sexual orientations ($F = 4.197$, $p < .05$, hypothesis 2(b.a) was partially supported), and perception of an inclusive leadership ($F = 4.756$, $p < .05$, hypothesis 3(b.a) was supported). The table shows the antecedent variables that significantly predicted perception of support which were perception of an inclusive leadership ($F = 34.452$, $p < .01$, hypothesis 3(b.b) was supported) and personal comfort with diversity ($F = 8.235$, $p < .01$, hypothesis 4.1(b.b) was supported). None of the diversity attributes were predictive of support which means that hypothesis 2(b.b) was refuted. It also shows the antecedent variables that significantly predicted perception of psychological safety, which were perception of an inclusive leadership ($F = 12.224$, $p < .01$, hypothesis 3(b.c) was supported) and personal comfort with diversity ($F = 5.010$, $p < .05$, hypothesis 4.1(b.c) was supported). None of the diversity attributes were predictive of psychological safety which means that hypothesis 2(b.c) was refuted.

TABLE 5
RESULTS OF ANTECEDENT VARIABLES PREDICTING PSYCHOLOGICAL INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ^(b) AND ITS
THREE SUBDIMENSIONS

Antecedent variables	Psychological inclusive climate					Justice					Support					Psychological Safety					
	Sum of Squares	Df	MS	F	Sig.	Sum of Squares	Df	MS	F	Sig.	Sum of Squares	Df	MS	F	Sig.	Sum of Squares	Df	MS	F	Sig.	
Managers' diversity attributes																					
- Ethnicity																					
Regression	2.648	4	0.662	1.384		3.747	4	0.937	1.533		1.833	4	0.458	0.487		3.959	4	0.99	2.163		
Error	8.609	18	0.478			11.002	18	6.11			16.923	18	0.94			8.234	18	0.457			
Total	11.257	22				14.749	22				18.756	22				12.193	22				
- Age																					
Regression	2.009	4	0.502	0.977		0.408	2	0.204	0.285		1.214	2	0.607	0.692		0.064	2	0.032	0.053		
Error	9.249	18	0.514			14.341	20	0.717			17.542	20	0.877			12.129	20	0.606			
Total	11.257	22				14.749	22				18.756	22				12.193	22				
- Time worked																					
Regression	2.117	1	2.117	4.865	*	3.179	2	1.59	2.748		1.378	2	0.689	0.793		2.431	2	1.215	2.49		
Error	9.14	21	0.435			11.569	20	0.578			17.378	20	0.869			9.763	20	0.488			
Total	11.257	22				14.749	22				18.756	22				12.193	22				
- Gender																					
Regression	0.582	1	0.582	1.145		0.04	1	0.04	0.057		0.946	1	0.946	1.116		1.137	1	1.137	2.159		
Error	10.675	21	0.508			14.709	21	0.7			17.81	22	0.848			11.057	21	0.527			
Total	11.257	22				14.749	22				18.756	22				12.193	22				
- Sexual Orientation																					
Regression	2.151	2	1.076	2.363		4.36	2	2.18	4.197	*	2.822	2	1.411	1.771		0.81	2	0.405	0.712		
Error	9.106	20	0.455			10.389	20	0.519			15.934	20	0.797			11.383	20	0.569			
Total	11.257	22				14.749	22				18.756	22				12.193	22				
Inclusive leadership																					
Regression	5.662	1	5.662	21.251	**	2.724	1	2.724	4.756	*	11.653	1	11.653	34.452	**	4.486	1	4.486	12.224	**	
Error	5.395	21	0.266			12.025	21	0.573			7.103	21	0.338			7.707	21	0.367			
Total	11.257	22				14.749	22				18.756	22				12.193	22				

Personal comfort with diversity																			
Regression	3.011	1	3.011	7.668	*	1.983	1	1.983	3.263	5.283	1	5.283	8.235	**	2.349	1	2.349	5.01	*
Error	8.246	21	0.393			12.765	21	0.608		13.473	21	0.642			9.845	21	0.469		
Total	0.549	22				14.749	22			18.756	22				12.193	22			
Openness to diversity																			
Regression	0.549	1	0.549	1.077		0.81	1	0.81	1.22	0.074	1	0.074	0.083		1.014	1	1.014	1.904	
Error	10.708	21	0.51			13.939	21	0.664		18.682	21	0.89			11.18	21	0.532		
Total	11.257	22				14.749	22			18.756	22				12.193	22			

Note. Two-tailed, * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$.

TABLE 6
RESULTS OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CLIMATE^(a) PREDICTING
CONSEQUENCE VARIABLES

Consequence variables	Sum of Squares	<i>Df</i>	Mean square	<i>F</i>	Sig.
Job satisfaction					
Regression	17.095	1	17.095	27.644	000**
Error	12.986	21	.618		
Total	30.082	22			
Job training satisfaction					
Regression	6.169	1	6.169	12.921	.002**
Error	10.027	21	.477		
Total	16.196	22			
Org. commitment					
Regression	6.657	1	6.657	6.421	.019*
Error	21.773	21	1.037		
Total	28.429	22			
Voice behavior					
Regression	.669	1	.669	1.281	.271
Error	10.978	21	.523		
Total	11.647	22			
Prohibitive behavior					
Regression	.370	1	.370	.592	.450
Error	13.109	21	.624		
Total	13.478	22			

Note. Two-tailed, * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$.

TABLE 7
RESULTS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL INCLUSIVE CLIMATE(b) AND ITS THREE SUBDIMENSIONS PREDICTING
CONSEQUENCE VARIABLES

Consequent variables	Psychological inclusive climate				Justice				Support				Psychological Safety								
	Sum of Squares	Df	MS	F	Sig.	Sum of Squares	Df	MS	F	Sig.	Sum of Squares	Df	MS	F	Sig.	Sum of Squares	Df	MS	F	Sig.	
Job satisfaction																					
Regression	13.283	1	13.283	16.606	**	4.859	1	4.859	4.046		13.479	1	13.479	17.050	**	12.419	1	12.419	14.766	**	
Error	16.798	21	.800			25.222	21	1.201			16.602	21	.791			17.662	21	.841			
Total	30.082	22				30.082	22				30.082	22				30.082	22				
Job training satisfaction																					
Regression	5.351	1	5.351	10.360	**	1.559	1	1.559	2.237		6.627	1	6.627	14.543	**	4.489	1	4.489	8.053	**	
Error	10.846	21	.516			14.637	21	.697			9.569	21	.456			11.707	21	.557			
Total	16.196	22				16.196	22				16.196	22				16.196	22				
Org. commitment																					
Regression	3.579	1	3.579	3.024		2.363	1	2.363	1.904		2.323	1	2.323	1.869		3.475	1	3.475	2.924		
Error	24.850	21	1.183			26.066	21	1.241			26.106	21	1.243			24.954	21	1.188			
Total	28.429	22				28.429	22				28.429	22				28.429	22				
Voice behavior																					
Regression	.085	1	.085	.155		.058	1	.058	.104		.765	1	.765	1.477		.003	1	.003	.006		
Error	11.562	21	.551			11.590	21	.552			10.882	21	.518			11.644	21	.554			
Total	11.647	22				11.647	22				11.647	22				11.647	22				
Prohibitive behavior																					
Regression	.121	1	.121	.919		.077	1	.077	.121		.542	1	.542	.880		.150	1	.150	.237		
Error	13.357	21	.636			13.401	21	.638			12.936	21	.616			13.328	21	.635			
Total	13.478	22				13.478	22				13.478	22				13.478	22				

Note. Two-tailed, * p < .05; ** p < .01.

Table 6 shows that the relationships between a psychological diversity climate and the individual consequence variables were significant for job satisfaction ($F = 27.644$, $p < .01$, H5.1a was supported), job training satisfaction ($F = 12.921$, $p < .01$, H5.2a was supported), and organizational commitment ($F = 6.421$, $p < .05$, H5.3a was supported). The relationships between psychological diversity climate with the voice behavior and prohibitive behavior were not significant, which means that hypotheses 6.1a and 6.2a were rejected.

Table 7 shows that the relationships between a psychological inclusive climate and the individual consequence variables were significant for job satisfaction ($F = 16.606$, $p < .01$, H5.1b was supported), and job training satisfaction ($F = 10.360$, $p < .01$, H5.2b was supported). The relationship with organizational commitment was not significant which means that hypothesis 5.3b was refused. The relationships between psychological inclusive climate with the voice behavior and prohibitive behavior were neither significant, which means that hypotheses 6.1b and 6.2b were refused.

While Table 8 shows that perception of justice did not predict any of the consequence variables, it shows that both perception of support and perception of psychological safety significantly predicted positive relationships with some attitudinal variables such as with job satisfaction ($F = 17.050$, $p < .01$, H 5.1(b.b) was supported, and $F = 14.766$, $p < .01$, H 5.1(b.c) was supported), and with job training satisfaction ($F = 14.543$, $p < .01$, H 5.2(b.b) was supported, and $F = 8.053$, $p < .01$, H 5.2(b.c) was supported). The relationships with organizational commitment was not significant, neither it was significant with the behavioral variables, which means that hypotheses 5.3 (b.b) and 5.3(b.c) and hypothesis 6.1(b.b), 6.1(b.c) and 6.2(b.b), 6.2(b.c) were refused.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this organizational field study first support the tri-dimensional conceptualization of an inclusive psychological climate. Perceptions of justice, support, and psychological safety are considered the latent constructs of such a climate. Then, the findings reveal that both psychological diversity climate and psychological inclusive climate are positively associated with the time worked for the organization. People who have worked longer time are more likely to perceive the work climates as being diverse and inclusive. Moreover, the result of this study suggests that managers who report perceiving the leadership as being inclusive are more likely to perceive the psychological climates as being both diverse and inclusive. Also, the findings reveal that managers who considered themselves comfortable with diversity are more likely to perceive the climate as being diverse and inclusive. Interestingly, the antecedents that significantly predicted perception of justice, dimension of an inclusive climate, were diversity of sexual orientations and inclusive leadership.

Perception of own openness to diversity might be a moderator instead of an antecedent variable. Those people who score higher on openness to diversity might be more likely to perceive the climate as being inclusive only when they perceive themselves as being comfortable with diversity. People who score low on openness to diversity might not perceive the climate as inclusive, even if they feel comfortable with diverse people. Openness is part of personality trait whereas being comfortable with diversity is a feeling. Both might interact with each other instead of being direct antecedent variables.

As for the consequences, both psychological climates, diverse and inclusive, were positively associated to job satisfaction and job training satisfaction. Only a psychological diversity climate was positively associated to organizational commitment. None of the hypotheses that were predicting positive relationships with voice behavior and prohibitive behavior were supported. Such findings show that the relationship between psychological climates and the consequences are significant for attitudinal variables, but not significant for behavioral variables, as it has often been found in the literature (Holmes et al., 2020)

Limitations of the Study

Our sample size is small, only 23 surveys were included into the analyses. Replicating this study by using a bigger sample size is recommended for future research to be able to generalize the results. The

study conducted in this paper could somehow be considered as being a case study because of its limited numbers of participants. Moreover, because of its small sample size, the hypotheses that were not supported could have potentially become significant if the study would have had a bigger sample size. Therefore, it would be relevant to replicate this study with a bigger sample size and making sure that all participants complete the questionnaire adequately.

It would have been interesting to add a recent measure developed to assess inclusive climate, which focuses on the needs of belongingness and uniqueness (Chung, Ehrhart, Shore, Randel, Dean & Kedharnath, 2020). Only measuring the three underlying psychological dimensions (justice, support & psychological safety) could be seen as a weakness of our design.

Also, the relationships between the studied variables are assumed to be causal relationships. However, with the design of this field organizational study, we are limited to only examine correlational relationships between the variables. More research is needed to determine if the studied antecedent variables cause the creation of diversity and inclusive climates, and whether such climates have effects on outcome variables. With the design of this study, we can only reveal if there are associations between variables.

Another limitation to this study is that the effectiveness of the diversity training program, implemented prior to the data collection, was assessed only by the job training satisfaction variable. If data would have been collected before and after the diversity training program, we would have been able to measure the change caused by the diversity training program. Future studies could consider changing the design of this study to focus on how the diversity training program influences psychological climates.

Theoretical Implications

Both psychological climates, diverse and inclusive, were taken into consideration by this study. The proposed model and empirical study are a first attempt to study psychological diversity climate and psychological inclusive climate together. More studies should examine both concepts within the same study to determine the differences in between these psychological climates. Also, the model could be expanding by examining multi-level antecedents and consequences to the diversity and inclusive climates (Li, Perera, Kulik & Metz, 2019). Further research could replicate and expand the proposed model by including multi-level variables and testing the model with a bigger sample size. More research is needed to perfect our understanding of the antecedents and consequences of a psychological diverse and inclusive work environment to assure that a diverse workforce becomes flourishing.

Practical Applications

The model can be used to identify strengths and weaknesses in terms of shaping managers' psychological diversity climate and psychological inclusive climate as well as predicting its individual consequences. It could be providing support to diagnose problems with the necessary climate for leveraging the advantages associated with a diverse workforce.

CONCLUSION

This paper sheds lights onto a theoretical model regarding the relationship between psychological climates (both diverse and inclusive), antecedents and individual level consequences. The tri-dimensional conceptualization of a psychological inclusive climate, that is, perceptions of justice, support and psychological safety was supported. Some antecedents such as time worked for the organization, the perception of inclusive leadership and personal comfort with diversity are significantly related to psychological climates. As to the consequences, it suggests that there are significant relationships between a psychological diversity climate and the three attitudinal variables – job satisfaction, job training satisfaction and organizational commitment. It also indicates that there are relationships between psychological inclusive climate and the two attitudinal variables, job satisfaction and job training satisfaction. The findings could be used to predict individual level consequences through managers' psychological work climates.

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