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PREDICTORS OF ATTITUDES OF JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS AND THEIR PARENTS TOWARDS THE ROMA

Original research

ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to examine the contribution of features of the five-factor model of personality and the model of right-wing authoritarianism in junior volleyball players and their parents to the prediction of the variance of social distance towards Roma. The pertinent sample of participants consisted of (N = 120) adolescent athletes from the Kolubar district (M age = 14.90, SD = 0.68 years), as well as one parent of each volleyball player (age 37 years ± 4.78). The following measuring instruments were applied: A social distance scale, Big Five Inventory – BFI, and Right-Wing Authoritarianism – RWA scale. The findings of the hierarchical regression analysis, with a statistically significant 21% variance, showed that the authoritarianism of volleyball players is a dominant significant positive predictor ($\beta = 0.24, p \leq 0.01$) of the criteria of parental social distance. This suggests that as the dimension of authoritarianism increases, individuals report greater social distance. Also, the personality trait extraversion of the five-factor personality model, with 29% of the variability, proved to be a relevant negative partial predictor ($\beta = -0.29, p \leq 0.01$), which signals that young athlete with a pronounced lower score on the variable extraversion express worse social distance, that is, they more often see it as a loss. The interaction function of personality traits – the Big Five (extraversion, openness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and agreeableness) is not statistically significant in the prediction of the construct parental social distance and the construct child's social distance, and therefore requires further studies. The results of internal consistency indicate that the used measuring instruments are adequate for future research on the Serbian sample of athletes in adolescence. Finally, methodological limitations in this empirical study are given, its theoretical and practical implications are analyzed, as well as guidelines for further and relational research.

Keywords: young athletes, Roma, dimensions of personality, extraversion, authoritarianism, right-wing authoritarianism, social distance

INTRODUCTION

The “Big Five” model of personality factors and right-wing authoritarianism is a concept studied within various scientific fields such as psychology, sociology and kinesiology. Studies of inter-ethnic tolerance in Europe and the world show that, compared to all ethnic minorities, the Roma are the most frequent victims of hostile attitudes (Mayagoitia-Soria et al., 2024), where a negative attitude towards that stigmatized social group, their begging and unhygienic habits is rooted (Siyam, 2024), and the belief that they are treated unfairly and are deprived of the right to the same social practices (Traini, 2022).

A relatively large number of problems regarding the grouping of Roma into a single system are evident, and the solutions can be found in changing the negative attitudes of the majority of people towards them. The authors (Amodio & Cikara, 2021) tried to identify negative attitudes towards the Roma. They believe that contact between different social groups, which is realized under certain social circumstances, reduces certain prejudices, i.e. positive or negative preconceived judgments of national minorities. Their theory is based on the fact that discrimination is a consequence of

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of insufficient social knowledge of a specific social group. This difference can be reduced by equal communication between majority and minority social groups during the realization of common goals, and the effect is more successful if such communication is supported by normative acts, legal regulations and customs, which are aimed at perceiving humanity between the members of the two groups. Additionally, intercommunication between social groups generates positive experiences and changes in attitudes towards ethnic discrimination (Duru et al., 2021). The authors (Johnston & Glasford, 2018) believe that the mutual influence of members of different social groups, due to discrimination and prejudice and failure to identify the external social group, reduces their negative judgment and beliefs about the Roma. This preconceived negative judgment and beliefs, and realization of common goals can be minimized by equal contact between majority and minority social groups. The effect is much greater if that contact is in accordance with customs and law and directed so that it perceives common interests and creates decent living conditions for members of different groups. Intergroup contact generates positive experiences with the external group and orients them towards data that does not affirm their current set of simplified and overgeneralized views of the Roma, which leads to a decrease in anxiety and transformations in attitudes towards that national minority (Barlow et al., 2019).

The level of social distance towards Roma is increasing due to poor hygiene and health habits of Roma children (Borinca et al., 2021). Their relations determine not only the quantity but also the quality of contacts. In accordance with the social identity theory (Muqarshi, 2024), ethnic prejudices begin already during preschool, from the age of six. The transition from greater affection in one's own social group to prejudices towards the outside group is significantly conditioned by the attitudes of one's own children's group. If a child's social environment explicitly manifests negative attitudes, they usually become a social norm with a high chance that the child will also adopt them (Muqarshi et al., 2021). According to research (Andrews et al., 2023), children can manifest their attitudes by imitating parents, the media or peers, and due to the existence of negative attitudes and a social environment child often the accept attitudes as their own because they believe that they are members of the same social community. Empirical studies that compare the attitudes of parents and their children provide contradictory findings. In the study (Modecki et al., 2022) it is pointed out that there is no relevant correlation between the racial attitudes of children and their parents, and that young people who perceive negative parental attitudes towards another racial group achieve less closeness in communication with

them, e.g. they are not determined to spend time with them or invite them to their apartment.

The authors (Fibbi et al., 2022) found a negative correlation between contacts and various forms of prejudice. In addition, in the research (Dronjak, 2023), the findings show that in schools that educate children (i) in the minority language, the tendency of adolescents towards discrimination is largely defined by negative attitudes towards another ethnic group, but also by a more intense belonging to their own group, regardless of belonging to a minority or majority social group. However, the relationships between the more intense contact and social distance are not established since they do not depend solely on the quantity but also on the quality of communication, and that sameness in attitudes is hereditary due to a set of personality dimensions (Johnston et al., 2019). Those authors emphasize that the intolerance and reputation of the parents produce the inability of the child to respect the rights of members of the Roma community, so children orient their aggression towards social groups that are perceived as marginalized. In the study (Šabanović, 2023) it was found that parental prejudices and a tendency towards authoritarianism are significant determinants of prejudice against Roma. The findings of the study (Červar, 2021) indicate that, in addition to the dimension of authoritarianism, an important function in the context of negative attitudes belongs to the "Big Five" model of personality factors – BFI, where agreeable, open and conscientious individuals manifest more positive attitudes towards different markers, i.e. stigmatized social groups.

Finally, the review of the aforementioned researches states that there are insufficient findings related to negative attitudes towards the Roma, while this phenomenon has not been examined in the Serbian sports population. Therefore, the aim of this research was to determine the influence of the basic traits of the five-factor model of personality and right-wing authoritarianism of volleyball players in late adolescence on the prediction of their attitude towards the construct of social distance. Based on the aim of this study and previous research, a positive influence of the predictor variables of the club where junior volleyball players train together with Roma, as well as the parental dimensions of authoritarianism, on the variance of parental social distance is expected (H_1). It is also assumed a negative influence of the predictors of the club where young people train together with Roma and parental dimensions of extraversion on the variability of children's social distance (H_2).

METHODS

Participants and procedure

The pertinent sample ($N = 120$) included junior volleyball players from four clubs from Kolubara district: „Valjevo“ (Valjevo), „Železničar“ (Lajkovac), „Ub“ (Ub), and „Srbijanka 014“ (Valjevo). The average age of participants was 14.90 years ($SD = 0.68$). All volleyball players had a minimum of two years of systematic and organized training, lasting at least three times a week. The sample also included a parent of each volleyball player. The average age of parents was $37 \text{ years} \pm 4.78$. The number of siblings ranged from one to seven: 50% of the families have one child, 30% two children, 15% three, 3% four, and 2% have more than five children. The level of education of the parents is as follows: primary school (3%), secondary school (70%), junior college and university (25%), academic title master's or doctorate (2%). There were 75% employed parents, 15% unemployed, and 10% pensioners. Most of the parents were married (70%), 10% of them were single, 6% lived in an unmarried union, 7% were divorced, and 6% were widowed.

This transversal research was conducted during March 2024. Before participating in the anonymous and voluntary research, parents and volleyball players signed consent for their own and their child's participation in the research. The instructions for filling out the measuring instruments were read and explained to the participants, and they were told that at any time and when they wanted to, they could quit the testing and not answer certain questions. They were also informed that the obtained results will be used only for research purposes. The testing was carried out by professionally trained measurers, under the supervision of a psychologist. The testing lasted approximately 20 minutes. The research was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki approved by the ethics committee of the Serbian Academy of Innovation Sciences from Belgrade.

Measuring instruments and variables

A social distance scale (Šlezak and Šakaja, 2012). The aim of this scale was to examine the classic measure of open prejudice, i.e. different levels of closeness, starting with the closest ones and towards the furthest ones, to which an individual is ready to agree with members of the Roma ethnic minority. The measuring instrument included seven degrees of closeness, which are arranged from higher to lower. The participant's task was to evaluate his degree of closeness, or (dis)agreement with the ethnic Roma national minority on a seven-point Likert-type scale. During processing, the total score for each social

group was added up, and it varied from 1–7. The items were coded so that the total score on the scale was equal to the sum of the affirmative answers. The results on the scale were reverse scored, so a higher score indicates a greater degree of social distance towards the Roma, while a lower score on the scale, due to intuitiveness and congruence with the feeling thermometer, signals a lower degree of ethnic distance towards the examined social group. Therefore, if the participant answered that he agreed to the closest contact (“best friend”) with a member of the Roma social group, his social distance is 0, that is, there is none. However, if he did not agree to the closest contact, but agreed to another contact based on closeness (“he trains with me at the club”), his social distance is 1. The furthest level of closeness refers to “I would drive him out of the country” and if the participant only agreed to that “contact”, then the social distance is maximum and amounts to 6. The total social distance consists of the sum of the social distances, and the maximum score of the total social distance is 36. The internal reliability coefficient Cronbach's alpha (in this sample is $\alpha = 0.82$, which confirms the satisfactory internal consistency of the used scale (Tabachnick et al., 2019).

Big Five Inventory – BFI (Benet Martinez and John, 1998). The BFI measures the basic traits of the five-factor model of personality. The instrument includes a total of 44 items in the form of short verbal phrases for self-assessment of five basic personality traits, e.g. extraversion (8 items), agreeableness (9 items), conscientiousness (9 items), neuroticism (8 items) and openness to experience (10 items). The participant's task was to evaluate on a five-point Likert-type scale the extent to which they agree with the listed characteristics from “I completely disagree” to “I completely agree”. The results are expressed partially by subscales, as the arithmetic mean of the participant's answers, where a higher score indicates a greater expression of a certain personality dimension in the individual, i.e. that a person is more characterized by his individual traits, while a lower score indicates a less pronounced individual personality trait. Cronbach's alpha coefficient of internal consistency of the questionnaire in this research ranges from 0.70 to 0.95, namely: for extraversion ($\alpha = 0.80$), agreeableness ($\alpha = 0.75$), conscientiousness ($\alpha = 0.89$), neuroticism ($\alpha = 0.90$) and openness to experience ($\alpha = 0.95$). The calculated values according to Figel (2013) show acceptable reliability of the used measuring instrument, because the lower limit value is greater than 0.70.

Right-Wing Authoritarianism – RWA (Tomić, Huić and Čepuljić, 2013). RWA examines three aspects of right-wing authoritarianism: authoritarian aggression, conventionality, and authoritarian submissiveness within a social group. The measuring instrument

contains 15 declarative statements (for example, It is necessary to censor the media so that people do not come into contact with destructive and disgusting information; The most important virtues that children should learn are obedience and respect for authority; Traditional customs and values are still the best guidelines for life). Five-point numeric-descriptive scales of the Likert type with a format of five levels of agreement/disagreement (from 1 = not important at all/does not apply to me at all to 5 = very important/applies to me completely) were used, where 1 expresses complete disagreement, and 5 complete agreement with the content of the statement. After recoding, the definitive score on the scale represents the sum of responses to all items. Agreement with the odd items and disagreement with the even items expresses an authoritarian attitude, where a higher score expresses a higher level of authoritarian attitudes. The reliability of internal consistency of Cronbach's alpha for the applied subscales on this sample is: authoritarian submissiveness ($\alpha = 0.80$), authoritarian aggression ($\alpha = 0.78$) and conventionality subscales ($\alpha = 0.82$), which signals the satisfactory reliability of the measuring instrument.

Statistical analysis

Descriptive parameters of central tendency, skewness and kurtosis coefficients and the Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test were calculated for all variables included in the analysis. Reliability was analyzed using Cronbach's alpha coefficient. Statistical procedures included correlation analysis (the Pearson linear correlation coefficient) and hierarchical regression analysis. A statistically significant result is based on the probability level ($p \leq 0.05$ or $p \leq 0.01$). Data processing was done using IBM SPSS (version 21 software, Chicago, IL, USA).

RESULTS

The basic parameters of the distribution of participants' answers for all used variables are shown in Table 1. The basic measures of central tendency show that the behavioral component of the attitude – the parental social distance towards the Roma is quite low. The values of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, and coefficients of skewness lower than 2 and kurtosis lower than 7 show that the obtained distribution of results does not deviate significantly from the normal – Gaussian theoretical distribution, so according to the authors (Tabachnick et al., 2019) in further statistical processing of the data, they can use parametric procedures, which enable (precise or probable)

Table 1. Indicators of descriptive statistics and normal distribution of results on individual variables included in the analysis

Variable	Min	Max	M	SD	Sk	Ku	K-S _p
Parental social distance	0	7	2.90	1.99	0.01	0.25	0.88 (0.05)
Right-wing authoritarianism	30	59	50.03	7.01	0.04	0.69	0.09 (0.01)
Openness	5	35	26.17	4.98	0.19	0.30	0.26 (0.03)
Conscientiousness	20	35	30.05	4.50	0.70	0.60	
Neuroticism	4	30	18.82	4.29	0.05	0.32	0.45 (0.02)
Agreeableness	15	35	25.78	4.30	0.30	0.53	0.57 (0.01)
Extraversion	10	30	23.65	4.20	0.56	0.16	0.38 (0.05)
Child social distance	1	7	2.02	1.94	0.72	0.45	0.60 (0.03)

Legend. Min = The minimum value of the result, Max = The maximum value of the result, M = Arithmetic mean, SD = Standard deviation, Sk = Skewness, Ku = Kurtosis, K-S_p = Significance level of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov SE – Standard error for skewness was 0.09, and for kurtosis was 0.17.

conclusions to be made about the values of the investigated variables.

In order to determine whether there are statistically significant linear correlation of the used numerical variables, parametric Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated (Table 2).

Table 2. Intercorrelations between the examined variables

Variables	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Parental social distance	-0.32**	-0.16*	-0.18*	0.10	0.16*	0.14*	0.01
2. Authoritarianism	–	-0.33**	0.03	0.17*	0.02	0.05	-0.6
3. Openness		–					-0.24
4. Conscientiousness			0.08**	-0.40**	-0.22**	0.40**	0.04
5. Neuroticism				–	-0.19*	0.16*	0.03
6. Extraversion					–	0.15*	-0.30**
7. Agreeableness						–	-0.05
8. Child social distance							–

Annotation. The level of statistical significance of the correlation coefficient on the reliability interval * $p \leq .05$; ** $p \leq .01$.

The results of bivariate correlations show that children's social distance has a negative, statistically significant linear correlation of low intensity with the basic feature of the five-factor model, openness and extraversion of parents. The resulting negative stochastic relationship shows that if the personality dimension of the participant is increased openness, then the value of their extraversion trait decreases, and vice versa. Also, a significant negative intercorrelation, of medium intensity, was found between the variables parental social distance and right-wing authoritarianism and conscientiousness. The calculated inverse stochastic direction signals the prediction of the quantitative agreement of the examined variables. This means that as the degree of parental social distance increases, the corresponding values of the right-wing authoritarianism and conscientiousness variables in children decrease. Hierarchical regression analysis in Table 3 analyzed the contribution of predictors (variables of basic personality traits – Big Five, authoritarianism and the club where the athlete trains) in explaining the criterion variable of parental and child social distance (Table 3).

Table 3. Partial contributions of predictors in the prediction of criterion variables – parental and child social distance

Predictor variables	Parental social distance			Child social distance		
	Model 1 β (SE)	Model 2 β (SE)	Model 3 β (SE)	Model 1 β (SE)	Model 2 β (SE)	Model 3 β (SE)
Volleyball player's club	0.19* (0.05)	0.20* (0.88)	0.23** (0.67)	-0.18* (0.34)	-0.21** (0.52)	-0.17* (0.93)
Authoritarianism		0.24** (0.45)	0.29** (0.36)			0.24 (0.05)
Openness						0.09 (0.16)
Conscientiousness						-0.08 (0.46)
Neuroticism						-0.05 (0.57)
Extraversion				0.268**		-0.29** (0.34)
Agreeableness				0.24** (0.28)	0.01 (0.33)	0.10 (0.43)
R	0.15*	0.28**	0.34**	0.17*	0.30**	0.46**
ΔR^2	0.02	0.09*	0.21*	0.03	0.23*	0.06**
R ²	0.12	0.15	0.31	0.07	0.19	0.29**

Annotation. β = Standardized regression beta coefficient; R = Coefficient of multiple correlation; R² = Coefficient of determination – the total contribution to the explained variance; ΔR^2 = Change in contribution after the introduction of new predictors in explaining the proportion of variance; SE = Coefficient of the standard error of estimate. p = Alpha probability * ≤ 0.05 ; ** $p \leq 0.01$.

Hierarchical regression of the criterion variable of parental social distance was conducted in three steps. In order to satisfy the assumption for calculating the hierarchical regression analysis, the collinearity results were checked – tolerance and variance increase factor, and it was concluded that they are within acceptable values. The calculated tolerance values range from 0.39 to 0.87, while the variance increase factor values range from 1.01 to 2.29. When testing such a model, no variable showed harmful multicollinearity among predictors, so the data are suitable for conducting regression analyzes (Field, 2013).

In the first step of the hierarchical analysis with parental social distance (as a criterion variable), the variable volleyball player's club was included. In the second step, the variable authoritarianism was introduced, and in the third step, the Big Five basic personality traits. In the 1st step, the variable volleyball player's club showed a statistically significant 2% of the variance of the criteria, while no predictor variable is statistically significant. In the second step, the percentage of explained variance increases by 9% of the variance, and authoritarianism of an individual becomes an independent significant positive predictor ($\beta = 0.24$, $p \leq 0.01$), which means that with increasing authoritarianism, individuals report greater social distance. Finally, with the given set of predictor variables, the entire model is statistically significant, and at the level of p reliability of ≤ 0.01 , it explained 31% of the total variance of the social distance construct. The results are in accordance with the tested alternative hypothesis H1 (confirmed first hypothesis). This model showed that a club where junior volleyball players train together with Roma, and a more visible dimension of

authoritarianism, significantly contributes to the explanation of parental distance.

In the second hierarchical analysis with child's social distance (as a criterion variable) in the first step, the variable volleyball player's club statistically significantly explained the variability of the criteria in a negative direction. In the second step, the right-wing authoritarianism variable additionally explained a statistically significant 23% of the criterion variance. In the third step, an additional statistically significant 6% of the criterion variance was interpreted, whereby only the extraversion variable proved itself to be a negative partial predictor ($\beta = -0.29$, $p \leq 0.01$). This means that volleyball players with a more pronounced lower score on the dimension of extraversion express a worse child's social distance, that is, they more often see it as a loss. This hierarchical analysis explained a statistically significant 29% of the variance of the criterion variable. The obtained results are consistent with the initial assumptions about the relationship between the variables. The results also correspond to the initial hypothesis H2 (confirmed second hypothesis). That regression equation signals that the club where junior volleyball players train together with Roma, and who have a more pronounced extraversion dimension, significantly contributes to child's social distance.

DISCUSSION

Given that previous research has drawn attention to the inconsistent results of the correlations between the "Big Five" model of personality factors, and the variables of volleyball player's club and right-wing authoritarianism, the aim of this empirical study was to examine the predictive contribution of the aforementioned independent variables to predicting the attitude of junior volleyball players towards criteria parental social distance and child's social distance.

The obtained regression findings on our examined sample correspond with empirical research in which it was established that contact of majority social groups interacts with positive attitudes towards Roma (Schmid et al., 2023). More precisely, during training, volleyball players receive new information during contacts, which generates favorable experiences with Roma and positive attitudes towards that minority ethnic group. However, this empirical study did not examine the quality of contact between majority and minority groups. Therefore, in the following studies, in addition to the quantity of mutual influence, the quality of their contact should also be included. Therefore, in the following studies, in addition to the quantity of mutual influence, the quality of their contact should also be included. The research (Anicich et al., 2021) has established that participants in different age periods manifest different attitudes towards targeted social groups, and therefore also towards Roma. The

findings of our sample suggest that in circumstances where participants do not have a chance to have contact with peers of Roma origin, they show more negative attitudes towards Roma, which coincides with the findings of the aforementioned studies. On the other hand, when volleyball players are in contact with Roma, they manifest positive attitudes. This information is important in the transformation or reduction of negative attitudes of volleyball players who are more prone to stigmatization.

The findings of the hierarchical regression analysis indicate that the predictor of parental social distance can be predicted based on the club where young athletes train and the dimensions of right-wing authoritarianism. Specifically, parents of volleyball players who train with Roma show a higher level of social distance. However, within the construct of authoritarianism, the volleyball player's club is no longer a relevant factor in predicting social distance criteria. Model authoritarianism is characterized by adherence to traditional values, obedience to a person who enjoys general reputation and has great influence. The study (Harry & Nathanael, 2024) has established that violent and aggressive adolescents towards the Roma minority group show negative attitudes towards the Roma. Also, the results on the interaction between authoritarianism and negative attitudes towards the Roma are not unexpected and were found in studies (Lopez et al. 2023; Stambulova et al., 2021). Despite the fact that volleyball players who have contact with Roma show a lower level of the construct of social distance towards Roma, different findings were obtained in the sample of parents. This is probably due to the fact that they notice the bad hygiene and health habits of the Roma population, as well as their poorer school performance, and therefore take more care of their children, which affects the maintenance of social distance towards stigmatized groups.

The criterion variable social distance can be predicted based on the dimension of extraversion and the young athlete's club – volleyball players who train together with Roma manifest a lower degree of social distance. At the same time, volleyball players whose parents achieve higher scores on the extraversion predictor show a lower level of social distance towards Roma. Parents who are characterized by a more pronounced trait of extraversion are more social, more sensitive and to a greater extent oriented towards other individuals (Piepiora & Piepiora, 2021). It is expected that parents direct their behavior to their children, who are more determined to influence each other on different social groups, and as a result, they also form more positive attitudes. It is necessary to examine these findings along with the dimensions of personality in subsequent empirical studies on a larger number of participants and on the entire territory of Serbia. During the interpretation of the findings in this study, it is

important to take into account its certain methodological limitations, which should be paid attention to in future research. The pertinent sample of young athletes included a relatively small number of participants, so the results cannot be generalized. In addition, the participants were involved in this kind of research for the first time, so there is doubt whether they understood the variables clearly enough, especially the items on the Right-Wing Authoritarianism scale. In addition, during the examination, the participants sat in pairs at the desk, and their answers were visible to other research participants, which may condition the giving of socially desirable answers. In addition, when examining the social distance towards the Roma, only the behavioral dimension of the attitude was measured. It is necessary that future empirical studies include the cognitive dimension, i.e. a set of simplified and overgeneralized features about the Roma, as well as an emotional dimension – a preconceived negative opinion about the Roma. That would condition a more complete overview about the relations and dimensions of the parents' personality and their attitude, and the attitude of their children towards the Roma ethnic group. Finally, the research is correlational in nature, and future research should be conducted with a prospective longitudinal design.

The advantage of this research is the fact that the survey included young volleyball players and one of their parents, which resulted in obtaining more information about the generators of attitudes towards the Roma.

The obtained findings complement the studies that emphasize the relevance of parents in directing the attitudes of their children – volleyball players towards different members of society who are not important and who are secondary. The practical contribution of this study is manifested in variants of influence on young athletes in order to reduce negative attitudes towards the Roma population. In addition, the results of this empirical study can contribute to the construction of intervention and prevention programs for adolescent volleyball players and increase racial tolerance.

CONCLUSION

The aim of the research was to find an answer to the question of what predicts parental social distance and child's social distance in junior volleyball players, with special attention to the role of the five-factor model of personality and right wing authoritarianism in these relationships. Summarizing the analyzed results, it is found that the contact of young athletes correlates to positive attitudes towards the Roma, i.e. their manifestation of negative attitudes even though they have no contact with peers of the Roma national

minority. Parents' attitudes towards the Roma population are largely in interaction with their personality dimension – authoritarianism, while children's attitudes depend on contact with Roma in the volleyball club and the degree of personality dimension trait – extraversion. The obtained regression findings have implications in the theoretical and practical sense, which relate to the contribution of creating a system of measures and a plan to increase the tolerance of Roma as negative persons. Definitely, in terms of research, the work represents a quality start for future longitudinal research on this relevant, but neglected topic on the sample of Serbian athletes..

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Conflict of Interest

The authors do not have any conflicts of interest to disclose. All co-authors have reviewed and concurred with the manuscript's content, and no financial interests need to be reported.