

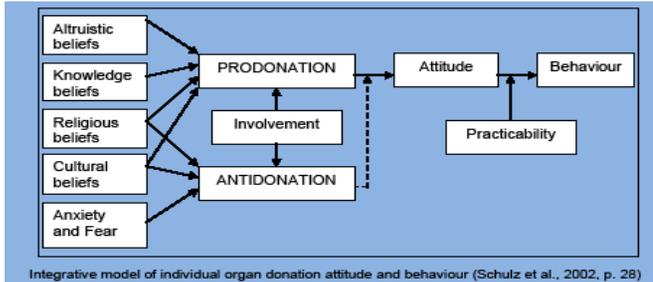
Influences on organ donation attitudes and behaviour

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Objectives

In Germany the number of organ transplantations is steadily growing and organ donation behaviour, i.e. having an organ donation card, is growing too; but this increase doesn't supply the need. This study aims at evaluating whether personal values and social desirability affect organ donation attitudes and behaviour.



Hypotheses

- (1) The development of a German Organ Donation Attitudes Scale (GODAS) led to different scales measuring pro- or anti-donation attitudes.
- (2) Personal values are remarkable predictors of organ donation attitudes; social desirability is a predictor with lower effect size.
- (3) Organ donation behaviour is only influenced by pro- and anti-donation attitudes.

Methods

308 students filled in a questionnaire:

- **Organ Donation Questionnaire**
 - ✓ Organ Donation Attitudes (40 Items)
 - ✓ Organ Donation Behaviour: Having an organ donation card
 - ✓ Willingness to get an organ donation card
 - ✓ Intention to donate and other questions
- **Portrait Value Questionnaire** (Schwartz et al. 2001)
 - Measures 10 human values: Conformity, Tradition, Benevolence, Universalism, Self-Direction, Stimulation, Hedonism, Achievement, Power, Security
- **Social Desirability Questionnaires**
 - Crowne and Marlowe (SDS-CM; 1960); Stöber (SDS-17; 2001)
- **Sample**
 - ✓ Age: Mean = 24.3 years (SD=3.8)
 - ✓ Gender: 245 (79.5%) female, 63 (20.5%) male
 - ✓ Semester: Mean = 4.5 semester, SD=2.1 (1-10)
 - ✓ Study course: 112 (36.4%) Business Administration, 196 (73.6%) Humanity Sciences

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Descriptive Results

- Are you holding an organ donation card?
Yes = 70 (22.7%) No = 238 (77.3%)
- If not, are you willing to complete an organ donation card?
Yes = 161 (69.4%) No = 71 (30.6%)
- After my death, I would donate my organs to a strange person.
Yes = 286 (92.9%) No = 22 (7.1%)
- I would accept the organ donation of a strange person.
Yes = 299 (97.1%) No = 9 (2.9%)
- Has a member of your family received a tissue or organ donation? Yes = 16 (5.2%) No = 292 (94.8%)
- Would you prefer to donate organs if you could receive financial incentives? Yes = 76 (24.7%) No = 232 (73.3%)



Results

(1) GODAS-Hypothesis

Factor analysis (Varimax rotation after Scree test) led to 4 factors regarding organ donation attitudes.

1. Negative ethical-morale attitudes (12 items, r=0.90)
2. Negative emotional attitudes (11 items, r=0.86)
3. Positive ethical-morale attitudes (7 items, r=0.79)
4. Distribution (5 items, r=0.48)

(2) Influences on organ donation attitudes

Step-wise hierarchical regression analyses revealed remarkable influences of personal values on all 4 GODAS-factors. Social desirability relates only to one factor.

GODAS	PVO Benevolence (β)	PVO Security (β)	PVO Tradition (β)	PVO Power (β)	PVO Hedonism (β)	PVO Universalism (β)	SDS-CM (β)	Demography (β)
1 Adj. r ² = 0.129	-.257	.081	.139	.122				Age -.148 Study group -.136
2 Adj. r ² = 0.195	-.157	.354			-.109		-.140	Study group -.185 Age -.141
3 Adj. r ² = 0.074						.277		
4 Adj. r ² = 0.042		.181						Semester -.128

(3) Influences on organ donation behaviour

Behaviour / Intention	GODAS-1 (β)	GODAS-2 (β)	GODAS-3 (β)	GODAS-4 (β)	Demography (β)
Organ Donation Card?		.298	-.263		
Adj. r ² = 0.193					
Willing to complete?	.237	.272	-.225		Age -.175
Adj. r ² = 0.297					
Intention to donate	-.257	-.149	.414	-.183	
Adj. r ² = 0.455					

Both behaviour and intention were not influenced by personal values or social desirability.

Conclusion

Personal values influence organ donation attitudes substantially; social desirability plays a minor important role. Regarding organ donation behaviour and intention to donate, only organ donation attitudes and not personal values or social desirability are influencing variables. In a current study organ donation related behaviour (taking an organ donation card) is included to fill the intention-behaviour gap.