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PI1 Name: Keren Kaplan Mintz

**Scientific abstract –** **The role of efficacy beliefs in emotional and behavioral responses to climate change**

Climate change (CC) is one of the most pressing issues facing humanity today. As climate change becomes a reality, knowing possible ways to address climate anxiety and enhance adaptive behavior is essential. Identifying coping strategies and interventions that provide people with the capabilities required to confront the challenges posed by CC can serve as an important means of enhancing their resilience. The proposed research will address this challenge by providing an innovative theoretical framework for the role of efficacy beliefs in enhancing climate mitigation and adaptation. The research aims are twofold. First, it aims to empirically test a theoretical framework that explores the relations between CC emotions, behavioral responses, and efficacy beliefs. Second, it aims to investigate the influence of action-based and knowledge-based interventions on the enhancement of efficacy beliefs, behavioral intentions, and climate emotions Using an interdisciplinary approach based on an integration of educational and psychological research, the study will provide an original look at the mechanisms that contribute to the development of efficacy beliefs related to CC. The study will focus on young adults in Israel, as young adults are particularly vulnerable to CC distress, and there is a need to better understand coping strategies that can help enhance their resilience. The research will use a mixed-methods approach to data collection and analysis. The research methods will include semi-structured interviews, a survey, a controlled experiment, and an investigation of educational interventions. The proposed research will take an innovative look at the inter-relations between climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the findings will enhance our understanding of the ways that participating in pro-environmental behavior can enhance coping and resilience in reference to CC. The comprehensive approach of the proposed research, which explores the bi-directional relations between behavioral and emotional responses to CC, and the role of efficacy beliefs in these relations, is both innovative and timely. Specifically, it will contribute to our understanding of the ways efficacy beliefs are developed through active engagement in environmental action, and how they influence behavior and emotions related to CC. The integration of psychological and educational models, and the experimental evaluation of different types of intervention, will provide insight into how best to develop efficacy beliefs related to CC. Finally, the research will provide important information on emotions toward CC, climate anxiety, and efficacy beliefs in young people in Israel. As the awareness of CC is rising in Israel, and as actual incidents of extreme weather are becoming more common, such an understanding will play a key role in supporting policy decision-making, and as a baseline for future investigations.