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# Immigrant collective civic action: Integrating group resilience into the social identity model of collective action

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## Abstract

Based on the social identity model of collective action (SIMCA), this study examined factors associated with immigrant collective civic action, while also testing the role of group resilience. A convenience sample of 226 first-generation immigrants (58.6% female) of different nationalities completed a self-report questionnaire. Partial least squares path modelling was used to test a model assessing the relationship between national and ethnic identity and collective civic action, mediated by collective efficacy, perceptions of collective unfair treatment, and group resilience. Results confirmed the identity–efficacy pathway to collective civic action for both national and ethnic identity, but not the ethnic identity–injustice or the ethnic identity–group resilience pathways. Implications for research and practice are discussed.

**KEYWORDS**
collective civic action, group resilience, immigrants, PLS-SEM, SIMCA

## 1 | INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, people have migrated in search of better living conditions and new opportunities, but almost everywhere their hopes are met with a variety of challenges and difficulties (Atkin, Bradby, & Harding, 2010; Brodsky et al., 2022; Schwartz, Unger, Zamboanga, & Szapocznik, 2010). Societal structural forces and social inequalities, as

well as the migrant's agency, combine to determine the outcome of the acculturation process and shape integration locally, as highlighted in the social resilience approach to migration (Preston, Shields, & Akbar, 2022).

Considering that civic engagement and collective action are the main means to advocate for political, civil, social, and human rights (Arcidiacono, Natale, Carbone, & Procentese, 2017; Chan, Cattaneo, Mak, & Lin, 2017; Furlong & Vignoles, 2021; Keshavarzi, McGarty, & Khajehnoori, 2021; Mazzoni, van Zomeren, & Cicognani, 2015), research on the factors that promote immigrants' engagement in collective action and other forms of voice seems socially and heuristically relevant. This is all the more so as there is evidence that they face more barriers than nonimmigrant groups in engaging in various forms of participation (Martinez Damia et al., 2020). However, the integration of immigrants requires their involvement both in conventional forms of political participation, such as voting, and unconventional actions, typically in the realm of protest (Martiniello, 2006), as well as the development of civic engagement, that is, their participation in civil society through belonging to community groups and associations.

The notion of collective civic action has been developed to capture hybrid or mixed forms of participation that combine civic forms typical of civil society with protest demands typical of social movements (Sampson, McAdam, MacIndoe, & Weffer-Elizondo, 2005). Although traditionally studied separately, they share similar correlates, such as collective efficacy, as in the above study. Indeed, established scholars of collective action theory have recognised that collective action can be considered a form of civic engagement (van Zomeren, Postmes, & Spears, 2012), suggesting that the factors that promote collective action are also likely to promote different or mixed forms of civic engagement. Collective civic action defines civic activities as collective in nature, that is, as a group-based effort to improve the status of a group (Ebert & Okamoto, 2013). This fits the typology proposed by Amnå and Ekman (2014), which includes both civic engagement and protest as collective forms of political participation. The integrative theory of civic engagement developed by Pancer (2015) also places collective action among the systemic (i.e., collective) expressions of civic engagement. Indeed, given the multiplicity and variety of definitions of civic engagement—that is, as community service, political engagement, collective action, and social change (Adler & Goggin, 2005)—there is also a multiplicity of indicators to assess it, covering a repertoire of actions ranging from membership of community groups and volunteering to protesting and campaigning (Keeter, Zukin, Andolina, & Jenkins, 2002), to name but a few.

Whereas research on collective action has flourished in the last decades (Furlong & Vignoles, 2021; Keshavarzi et al., 2021; Mazzoni et al., 2015), less attention has been devoted to apply or integrate the current models to collective civic action. Moreover, theory and research have neglected to consider whether factors such as resilience might also play a role. Since resilience has been conceptualised as a range of internal and shared assets that help people to cope with uncomfortable and aversive events (Castro & Murray, 2010; Kirmayer, Dandeneau, Marshall, Phillips, & Williamson, 2011; Magis, 2010; Ungar et al., 2008), it is reasonable to expect that resilience may contribute to promote collective civic action. Indeed, it is also plausible to hypothesise that those factors driving traditional collective action in the general population act similarly among immigrants (Klandermans, van der Toorn, & van Stekelenburg, 2008) and for civic forms of collective action (van Zomeren et al., 2012).

Based on these premises, the present study aims to explore the determinants of immigrants' collective civic action in the receiving contexts. We will apply the social identity model of collective action (SIMCA; van Zomeren, Spears, & Leach, 2008), extending its use beyond traditional collective action and integrating group resilience in the model.

SIMCA (van Zomeren et al., 2008) is widely regarded as one of the most influential social psychological models of collective action. This model is based on an extensive meta-review analysis of the determinants of collective action and combines theories of social identity, relative deprivation—which focuses on perceptions of injustice—and resource mobilisation—which emphasises the role of efficacy beliefs (Keshavarzi et al., 2021). In a nutshell, scholars have concluded that three core motivations drive collective action: identity, efficacy, and perceptions of injustice (Thomas, Mavor, & McGarty, 2012; van Zomeren, 2013). Based on social identity theory (SIT; Tajfel & Turner, 1979), SIMCA posits that social identification serves as a key driver of collective action, as people are motivated to protect and enhance their group interests and identity (Simon & Grabow, 2010; Simon & Klandermans, 2001), while also

being encouraged to act on the basis of shared norms and beliefs (Furlong & Vignoles, 2021). Furthermore, in contexts where collective action aims to challenge the status quo, research has confirmed that identification with a stigmatised and devalued group is an important predictor of participation (Chan, 2011; Chan et al., 2017; Cobb et al., 2019; Stepick, Stepick, & Labissiere, 2008). SIMCA asserts that social identification promotes a sense of collective efficacy while also increasing sensitivity to injustice, to the extent that identification predicts collective action both directly and through the mediation of efficacy and perceived injustice (van Zomeren et al., 2008; van Zomeren, Postmes, Spears, & Bettache, 2011). Specifically, at the group level, efficacy beliefs encompass individuals' expectations that collective efforts can be effective in changing an unsatisfactory status quo (Fattori, Pozzi, Marzana, & Mannarini, 2015) and represent the instrumental motivations to mobilise (Rees & Bamberg, 2014) aimed at achieving tangible outcomes. Furthermore, as postulated by relative deprivation theories (Smith, Pettigrew, Pippin, & Bialosiewicz, 2012), dissatisfaction, indignation, and discontent with how people feel they have been treated by the authorities also promote mobilisation (Klandermans et al., 2008) in an attempt to restore social justice (Waldron, Ruane, Oberman, & Morris, 2019).

## 2 | COLLECTIVE CIVIC ACTION AMONG THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION

As stated above, collective civic action encompasses a multiplicity of activities, including volunteering and advocacy, as well as a wide range of political actions (Adler & Goggin, 2005; Keeter et al., 2002; Pancer, 2015), from voting to the repertoire of protest typical of collective action. As far as immigrant groups are concerned, Klandermans et al. (2008) found that their mobilisation was fuelled by dissatisfaction, indignation, and discontent about how immigrants feel they are treated by authorities and governments. Similarly, Grant, Abrams, Robertson, and Garay (2014) confirmed that disadvantaged immigrants' protest was directly enhanced by feelings of anger, resentment, and frustration in response to discrimination. As for the role of social identity, scholarship reported controversial results, especially when examining the concurrent role played by national and ethnic identity. National identity and subgroup identities are not necessarily mutually exclusive (Klandermans, 2014). Grant et al. (2014), who attempted to predict immigrant protest by testing the integrated social identity, relative deprivation, collective efficacy (SIRDE) model, considered immigrants' national and heritage cultural identities as separate and opposing forces for collective action, but found that only participants' national (Canadian) identity was indirectly relevant to protest actions, while none of the pathways from ethnic identity to protest was significant. In Klandermans et al.' (2008) study of Turkish and Moroccan immigrants in the Netherlands, those who identified more with their ethnic group were less involved in collective action. The authors, who measured national and ethnic identity separately, tested whether immigrants in their sample with a dual identity—that is, a strong ethnic identity *and* a strong national identity—were more or less likely to participate in collective action, but found no such relationship. However, the role of dual identification in making immigrants active actors in the political process is supported by studies on politicised collective identity. According to Simon and colleagues (Simon & Grabow, 2010; Simon & Ruhs, 2008), who conceptualised dual identity as a blended identity rather than as two strong combined identities, identification with both the ethnocultural ingroup and the country of residence promotes mobilisation among migrants. Their findings do not contradict the literature on the 'darker side' of common identity (Dovidio, Gaertner, Ufkes, Saguy, & Pearson, 2016) and the ironic effect of positive intergroup contact (Hassler, Ulug, Kappmeier, & Travaglino, 2021), which highlights that for disadvantaged groups, contact with the advantaged group and a focus on shared identity can reduce the detection of inequalities between groups and can be detrimental to collective action engagement, discouraging migrants from promoting social change. Indeed, a sign of this pacification is that immigrants with a dual identity are more satisfied with their situation (Klandermans, 2014). In line with this thesis, Simon and colleagues' findings show that dual identification with the aggrieved group and the larger polity of the receiving country selectively promotes immigrants' engagement in *peaceful* political actions.

## 3 | THE ROLE OF RESILIENCE IN IMMIGRANTS' COLLECTIVE CIVIC ACTION

Studies on the well-being of migrants' have repeatedly identified the positive outcomes of resilience, both at the individual (Güngör & Strohmeier, 2020; Ungar et al., 2008) and collective level (Drury, 2012; Lyons, Fletcher, & Bariola, 2016). Indeed, bound together by a common destiny, immigrant groups would be able to adapt to changing circumstances (Norris, Stevens, Pfefferbaum, Wyche, & Pfefferbaum, 2008), while planning actions aimed at making the environment suitable for their needs (Zautra et al., 2008). In addition, immigrants can benefit from the resilience of local community, which can facilitate the use of community resources for societal change by offering immigrants the opportunity to thrive in a context that is endowed with assets and opportunities (Magis, 2010). As suggested by Brodsky and Cattaneo (2013), resilience actions may lead immigrants to acquire sufficient resources to settle new, externally oriented goals aimed at increasing their power and influence in their new social environment.

To date, less attention has been paid to resilience as a factor, which may contribute to traditional or collective civic action. Chan et al. (2017) examined the case of the Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong by combining collective identity, moral beliefs, and resilience, hypothesising that the latter would provide people with resources both in the initial phase and in the long term. Specifically, resilience would be useful in deciding to sustain collective action while enduring a persistent state of disadvantage, risk, and adversity. Indeed, they found that those who emphasised civic competence and efficacy (both components of resilience) showed the highest levels of engagement in long-term collective action. Resilience was also found to play a role in explaining immigrants' willingness to vote (Voicu & Comşa, 2014), as it provides immigrants with internal resources that enable them to actively participate.

At the superindividual level, resilience research has focused on communities and groups, suggesting that community resilience and collective civic action are linked (Magis, 2010; Norris et al., 2008). Indeed, a resilient community has the capacity to change and transform its environment through social action (Pfefferbaum, Reissman, Pfefferbaum, Klomp, & Gurwitch, 2005), while in other ways, collective action can support the resilience of groups and communities. However, there is currently little evidence on the relationship between collective resilience—referred either to a community or to a group—and collective civic action, and any hypotheses are exploratory. For the purposes of the present study, we have considered group resilience as factor that may promote immigrants' collective civic action in the receiving society.

## 4 | AIMS AND HYPOTHESES

Based on the perspective of the SIMCA (van Zomeren et al., 2008), the present study aimed to examine the factors associated with immigrants' collective civic action, while also testing the role of group resilience. Specifically, a model was tested to assess the relation between immigrants' national and ethnic identity and collective civic action, as mediated by collective efficacy, perceptions of collective unfair treatment, and group resilience (Figure 1).

Based on research on collective action and civic engagement, it was hypothesised that:

$H_1$: based on SIMCA, and consistent with previous findings among immigrants (Klandermans et al., 2008), collective efficacy and perceptions of group unfair treatment would mediate the relationship between national and ethnic identity and engagement in collective civic action. Indeed, we expected that participants who identified strongly with a group (either national or ethnic) would perceive a greater sense of collective efficacy, both as 'immigrant' and as 'Italian'. In both cases, efficacy beliefs would be positively associated with their engagement in collective civic action. Also, on the basis of SIMCA, we expected that immigrants who identify strongly with their ethnic group would experience heightened feelings of injustice regarding the treatment they receive. In turn, perceived injustice would be associated with greater engagement in collective civic action. On the contrary, based on the literature on the pacifying effects of intergroup contact (Hassler et al., 2021) and common identity (Dovidio et al., 2016), we expected national identity to be negatively associated with group unfair treatment.

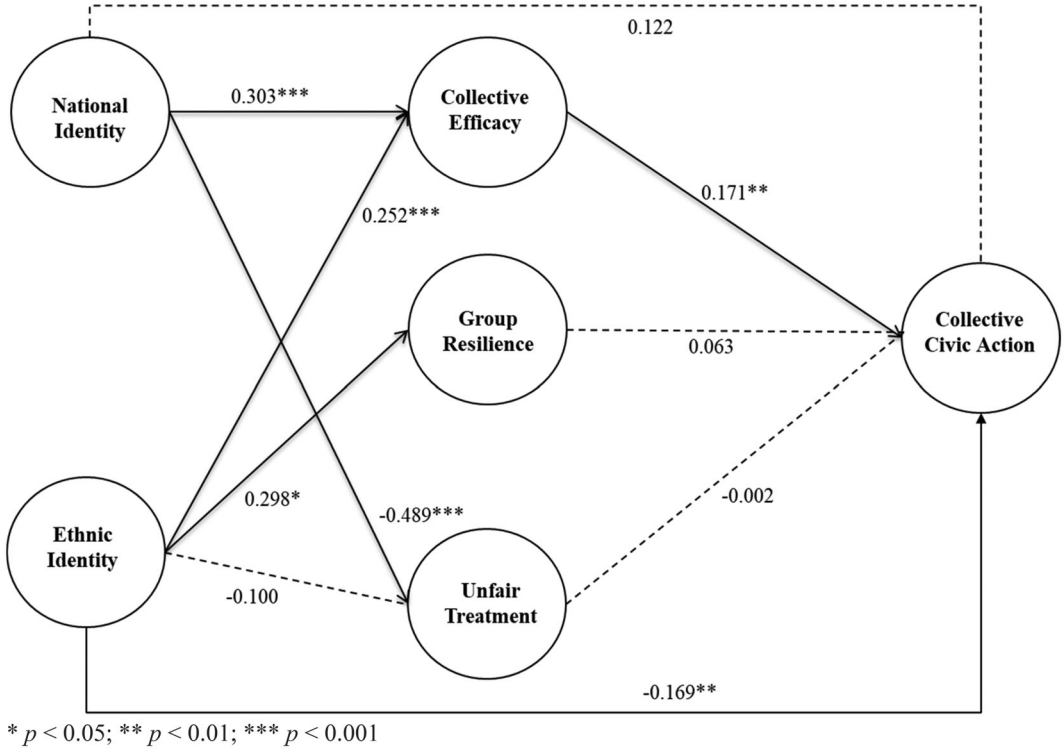


**FIGURE 1** Collective civic action model.

$H_2$: group resilience would mediate the relationship between ethnic identity and participation in collective civic action. We expected that immigrants who identified with their ethnic group would be facilitated in their assessment of their resilience, that is, their sense of collective ability to cope with adversity such as economic and social disadvantage, discrimination, and deprivation. The hypothesised relationship between group identity and group resilience is similar to that between group identity and collective efficacy in SIMCA. Indeed, group resilience is close to the concept of collective efficacy because it involves a combination of agency and adaptability (Lyons et al., 2016). Conversely, we also expected greater group resilience to be associated with greater participation in collective civic action because resilience, like efficacy, involves mental anticipation and readiness to achieve goals.

## 5 | METHOD

### 5.1 | Procedure and sample

A convenience sample of 226 (N 136, 58.4% female) first-generation immigrants living in Italy, aged 18–72 years (mean [M] = 34, standard deviation [SD] = 9.66), participated in a survey. The sample was diverse in terms of nationality and education: 38.3% from Africa, 23.9% from Eastern Europe, 19.9% from Southeast Asia, 14.2% from South America, 2.2% from other European countries, and 1.3% from North America. In terms of education, the majority of the sample had primary (31.9%) or secondary education (31.9%), 15% had a bachelor's degree, and 16.8% had a master's degree, while only 4.4% had tertiary education (according to the International Standard Classification of Education [ISCED]). The majority of the sample (48.7%) lived in Italy with their family, while 40.3% lived alone. Few (11.1%) lived with their children.

The survey was conducted between June and September 2021. Participants were recruited through three migrant advocacy associations based in Lecce and Naples (both municipalities in southern Italy): 'Teranga AIP', founded by a Senegalese community, and 'Unipop Interazione', a group of foreign students and academics interested in promoting intercultural communication, are both based in Lecce and are dedicated to promoting dialogue between people of different cultures and supporting marginalised immigrants facing social challenges. Similarly, 'Less', an organisation based in Naples, is dedicated to defending the rights of immigrants and fighting discrimination.

The questionnaire was developed in English and translated into Italian and French, giving participants the opportunity to complete the questionnaire in the language they were most comfortable with and in the format they were more comfortable with (paper or online). They completed the questionnaire with the help of the researchers. The questionnaire took about 25 min to complete, and no incentives were given. Participants were informed of the purpose of the research and the procedure for completing the questionnaire, in accordance with Standard 3.10, informed consent, of the APA Ethical Guidelines, and were assured that their information would be treated in strict accordance with data protection legislation. Participants were recruited following ethical approval from the [blinded for peer review] Human Research Ethics Committee.

## 5.2 | Measures

Data were collected using a self-report questionnaire that included the following measures:

### 5.2.1 | Participation in collective civic action

Participants were asked whether they had participated in a list of civic and political activities in the past 12 months (e.g., volunteered in a social/civic/political group; worked in a political party/trade union or political organisation; voted in an election; participated in a march/public demonstrations; signed a petition). The responses were dichotomous. A scale was then created by counting the number of activities in which respondents had participated. A score of 0 would indicate no activities at all, while a score of 10 would indicate 10 activities.

### 5.2.2 | National and ethnic identity

Participants were asked to rate on a 5-point Likert scale the extent to which they identified with the national group, Italians, and their specific ethnic group (e.g., Moroccans, Indians, etc.). Specifically, identification was measured with two items on each subscale asking how connected they felt to the national/ethnic group and how much they enjoyed being seen as a member of that group (Klandermans et al., 2008).

### 5.2.3 | Perceptions of unfair treatment

Perceptions of unfair treatment by the national government were measured using two different subscales adapted from Klandermans et al. (2008), each measured with two items rated on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree: procedural fairness towards the group (example item 'The government makes sure that people of my nationality get what they deserve') and distributive fairness towards the group (example item 'The government does not respect people of my nationality').

#### 5.2.4 | Group efficacy

Participants were asked about their belief that they can be effective as a group when it comes to political activities. Group efficacy was measured by two items rated on a 5-point Likert scale (from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree) regarding the belief that immigrants' collective action can make a difference and bring about a change. The scale was adapted from Klandermans et al. (2008).

#### 5.2.5 | Group resilience

Group resilience was measured using the 5-item Fletcher–Lyons Collective Resilience Scale (FLCRS; Lyons et al., 2016). Participants were asked to refer to the immigrant group to which they belonged, thinking specifically of the group made up of people who, like themselves, had left their country of origin and settled abroad (sample items: 'Our group is able to achieve goals/to adapt/to get what we need to survive'). The scale is designed to assess the extent to which a group is able to overcome difficulties. Items were rated on a 7-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree).

#### 5.2.6 | Sociodemographics

Participants were asked about their ethnic background, age, gender, level of education, occupation, and relationship status.

### 5.3 | Data analysis

The research hypotheses were estimated using a variance-based estimator, Partial Least Square Structural Equation modelling (PLS-SEM; Wold, 1985). The variables included were specified in a reflective way as first-order variables and measured by their own indicators. Collective civic action was the endogenous variable, measured by its only indicator, which resulted in 11 levels (from 0 = no participation to 10 = full participation). National and ethnic identity represented the exogenous latent variables (LVs), measured by their indicators as first-order variables. All analyses were conducted using SmartPLS software (Ringle, Wende, & Becker, 2015). The evaluation of the structural model and the mediation analysis was carried out by means of a nonparametric procedure, namely bootstrapping (5000 samples; Ciavolino et al., 2022). The coefficient of determination $R^2$, the effect size ($f^2$), and the predictive relevance ($Q^2$)—which refers to the predictive power of the model—were used to evaluate the structural model (Cohen, 1988; Hair, Hult, Ringle, & Sarstedt, 2022). The standardised root mean square residual (SRMR) was considered as an index of model fit; values less than 0.08 indicate a good fit to the data (Hu & Bentler, 1998).

## 6 | RESULTS

### 6.1 | Measurement model's evaluation

All LVs were reflective. Cronbach's $\alpha$ and a Dijkstra–Henseler's ρ higher than 0.7 confirmed internal consistency and composite reliability, while an average variance extracted (AVE) of 0.50 or greater confirmed the convergent validity (Ciavolino, Aria, Cheah, & Roldàn, 2022; Table 1). The loadings ranged from 0.866 to 0.944. The correlations between the LVs are shown in Table 2.

**TABLE 1** Construct reliability and validity.

| | Cronbach's alpha | Dijkstra–Henseler's ρ | Composite reliability | AVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Collective efficacy | 0.874 | 0.874 | 0.941 | 0.888 |
| Perception of unfair treatment | 0.958 | 0.946 | 0.949 | 0.797 |
| National identity | 0.708 | 0.754 | 0.870 | 0.769 |
| Ethnic identity | 0.767 | 0.782 | 0.895 | 0.808 |
| Group resilience | 0.950 | 0.951 | 0.962 | 0.834 |

Abbreviation: AVE, average variance extracted.

**TABLE 2** Correlation matrix.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Collective efficacy | - | | | | |
| 2. Group resilience | 0.407*** | - | | | |
| 3. Ethnic identity | 0.349*** | 0.296*** | - | | |
| 4. Perception of unfair treatment | −0.164** | −0.484*** | −0.246*** | - | |
| 5. National identity | 0.385*** | 0.412*** | 0.330*** | −0.505*** | - |
| 6. Collective civic action | 0.175** | 0.113 | −0.071 | −0.074 | 0.153** |

*$p < .05$; **$p < .01$; ***$p < .001$.

## 6.2 | Structural evaluation

The results (Table 3) did not confirm the existence of a direct and significant effect of both national and ethnic identity on collective civic action. National identity had a significant positive relationship with collective efficacy and a significant negative relationship with perceptions of unfair treatment. Ethnic identity had a significant positive relationship with collective efficacy and group resilience, but no relationship with perceptions of collective unfair treatment. Ethnic identity was also negatively associated with collective civic action. In terms of mediation, the results showed only indirect mediation between national identity and collective civic action when mediated by collective efficacy, while also showing a full mediation between ethnic identity and collective civic action when mediated by collective efficacy. In short, both national and ethnic identity were positively related to collective civic action only via collective efficacy positively.

$R^2$ ranged from 0.097 to 0.252 (Table 4). The $R^2$ value for the endogenous variable collective civic action is 9.7%, suggesting a weak but acceptable explanatory value (Hair, Risher, Sarstedt, & Ringle, 2019). The effect size $f^2$ ranges from small ($f^2 = 0.004$ for the relationship between perception of unfair treatment and collective civic action) to medium ($f^2 = 0.252$ for the relationship between national identity and perceptions of unfair treatment). Finally, $Q^2$ values for all the constructs were all above 0. The SRMR value of 0.047 indicates a good model fit.

# 7 | DISCUSSION

Our study aimed to extend SIMCA in two ways: (a) to apply SIMCA to a range of participatory actions beyond protest, which we subsumed under the label 'collective civic action'; (b) to integrate group resilience into SIMCA, along with collective identity, collective efficacy, and perceived group injustice.

**TABLE 3** Direct and indirect effects.

| | Estimate (*B*) | Confidence interval (95%) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2.5% | 97.5% |
| Direct effects | | | |
| Collective efficacy → collective civic action | 0.171** | 0.038 | 0.301 |
| Group resilience → collective civic action | 0.063 | −0.130 | 0.252 |
| Ethnic identity → collective efficacy | 0.252*** | 0.112 | 0.391 |
| Ethnic identity → group resilience | 0.298* | 0.171 | 0.425 |
| Ethnic identity → perception of unfair treatment | −0.100 | −0.024 | 0.228 |
| Ethnic identity → collective civic action | −0.169** | −0.321 | −0.023 |
| Perception of unfair treatment → collective civic action | −0.002 | −0.176 | 0.187 |
| National identity → collective efficacy | 0.303*** | 0.173 | 0.432 |
| National identity → perception of unfair treatment | −0.489*** | −0.592 | −0.360 |
| National identity → collective civic action | 0.122 | −0.042 | 0.275 |
| Indirect effects | | | |
| Ethnic identity → group resilience → collective civic action | 0.019 | −0.039 | 0.084 |
| Ethnic identity → collective efficacy → collective civic action | 0.048* | 0.013 | 0.098 |
| National identity → collective efficacy → collective civic action | 0.058* | 0.018 | 0.111 |
| Ethnic identity → perception of unfair treatment → collective civic action | 0.000 | −0.021 | 0.027 |
| National identity → perception of unfair treatment → collective civic action | 0.001 | −0.084 | 0.087 |

*$p < .05$; **$p < .01$; ***$p < .001$.

**TABLE 4** Explanatory value and predictive power.

| | $R^2$ | Adj. $R^2$ | $Q^2$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Collective efficacy | 0.206 | 0.199 | 0.187 |
| Group resilience | 0.199 | 0.192 | 0.162 |
| Perception of unfair treatment | 0.252 | 0.245 | 0.234 |
| Collective civic action | 0.076 | 0.072 | 0.052 |

Abbreviations: Adj $R^2$, adjust coefficient of determination; $f^2$, effect size; $Q^2$, predictive relevance; $R^2$, coefficient of determination.

Results confirmed the ethnic/national identity–efficacy pathway to collective civic action, but not the ethnic identity–injustice or the ethnic identity–group resilience pathways.

More specifically, in our immigrant sample, both identities proved to be related to engagement in collective civic action through the mediation of collective efficacy. The nonsignificant association between national identity and collective civic action may indicate full mediation. Based on our data, the hypothesis that the development of a sense of national identity promotes the active engagement of immigrants in the receiving society (Grant et al., 2014; Hopkins, 2011; Rapp, 2020; Scuzzarello, 2015) can only be true under the condition that collective efficacy is included as an essential mediator.

With regard to ethnic identity, we found a residual effect, which partly recalls the findings of Klandermans et al. (2008), who found that those immigrants who identified strongly with their ethnic group were less likely to engage in collective forms of action. Overall, our findings suggest that strong ethnic identities may actually separate and

isolate immigrants, leading them to withdraw from the receiving society (Phinney, 1990), let alone engage in collective action. Similar conclusions, though on a different basis, were reached in a study of ethnic and national sense of community in a group of Albanian and Sri Lankan immigrants in Italy (Mannarini, Talò, Mezzi, & Procentese, 2017), which found links between these two group identifications and preferred acculturation strategies, with ethnic identification associated with separation and national identification with integration.

Collective efficacy emerged as the key mediator, demonstrating an emotionally positive pathway to participation in collective civic action, as opposed to the emotionally negative pathway that would result from perceptions of being treated unfairly. The centrality of efficacy is consistent with the theoretical framework used by Sampson et al. (2005) to coin the concept of collective civic action, as they identified the interface between collective action theory and civic engagement/community participation theory precisely in terms of collective efficacy. Moreover, the importance of the efficacy construct in our model may have obscured the role of group resilience, which, as expected, was 'reinforced' by ethnic group identification, but was not related to engagement in collective civic action. Indeed, the strong correlation between the two constructs may indicate partial overlap, which is also theoretically plausible due to the agency component of resilience (Lyons et al., 2016).

The negative relationship between both identities (but significant only for national identity) and perceptions of being treated unfairly suggest that immigrants who identify with the receiving country feel less disrespected, as already found in the study by Grant et al. (2014). This finding is also consistent with the principle that for minority groups sharing a superordinate identity—such as that represented by the receiving national community—can reduce the perceptions of inequalities and make immigrants feel more satisfied with the status quo (Dovidio et al., 2016). This theory could also explain why our immigrant subgroup identity was not significantly associated with perceptions of injustice, a finding that is inconsistent with the SIMCA model and quite unusual in the literature, although not entirely novel (Grant et al., 2014). However, as we did not measure dual identity or the salience of the two separate identities, this is only a speculative explanatory hypothesis at the moment.

Guidelines for community interventions can be drawn from these data. In order to promote the involvement of immigrants in the wide range of actions included in the notion of collective civic action, practitioners should focus on enhancing their sense of collective efficacy, both as immigrants and as Italians. In addition, helping them to participate in local or national events, increasing opportunities for constructive interaction with people, and joining community groups and organisations as members can facilitate their civic and political engagement and the development of a sense of belonging to the receiving national community. At the same time, providing opportunities for immigrants to express their ethnic identity and have it recognised within the community can help these groups to build resilience, which is a key factor in immigrant well-being and a non-detrimental process of acculturation (Güngör & Strohmeier, 2020). In this process, a central role can be played by associations. Indeed, studies have highlighted the links between immigrants' involvement in ethnic and native voluntary organisations and political participation (Pilati, 2016), showing that the former provide immigrants with a solid basis for pursuing their political and civil rights, while also supporting their material needs in the face of immigration issues. The latter provides immigrants with new opportunities to integrate into society, which acts as an additional mobilising force. However, these outcomes depend to a larger extent on the capacity of the sociopolitical and institutional context to provide opportunities for immigrants (Pilati & Morales, 2016). Working to secure services and supports, as well as psychosocial resources such as dual identity, group efficacy, and group resilience, could greatly empower immigrants by setting the stage and charting the path for full integration into receiving societies.

## 8 | LIMITATIONS

There are several limitations to this study. First, the cross-sectional nature of the study precludes causal interpretations of the significant relationships between SIMCA variables, resilience, and collective civic action. Further research is needed to provide more robust evidence, and longitudinal studies would provide more accurate information on

causal relationships. In addition, the convenience nature of the sample, which was ethnoculturally heterogeneous and gender imbalanced, prevents the results from being generalisable to the immigrant population as a whole. We also acknowledge that operationalising the notion of collective civic action as a hybrid form of participation is complex, and that our attempt to measure collective civic action by expanding the range of actions to cover both the typical repertoire of collective action and that of civic engagement is not fully satisfactory and not fully in line with the concept of hybrid or blended action.

## 9 | CONCLUSIONS

The present study extends current research on collective action among the immigrant population by applying SIMCA to both contentious and noncontentious actions and by integrating group resilience into SIMCA. As this was a first attempt, there are several points that need to be addressed and clarified in future studies in order to progressively consolidate the preliminary findings of this study: (a) a more precise operationalisation of the notion of collective civic action as a mixed form of participation; (b) a test of SIMCA for pure civic engagement, to rule out the hypothesis of SIMCA as a general model able to explain all forms of participation; (c) further tests to identify possible overlaps between group resilience and collective efficacy; and (d) the inclusion of moral convictions, which was added to the original SIMCA as a fourth core motivation for collective action (van Zomeren, 2013). We strongly believe that further research and theoretical elaboration are needed in two directions:

(1) Updating and revising the concept of collective action (and its operationalisation) to capture the much more diverse scenario of contemporary collective action. As Sampson et al. (2005) point out, the concept of collective action has privileged a narrow form of struggle over other forms of collective engagement, but there has been a shift in the form of movements in recent decades (McAdam, Sampson, Weffer-Elizondo, & MacIndoe, 2005), which should be recognised and taken into account.
(2) Deepening the understanding of the immigrants' experience in taking active part in the social and political life of their communities. Since immigrants' societal inclusion is a complex process that involves immigrants' individual characteristics, immigrants' group features, and the receiving society's characteristics—that is, policy, attitudes, political structures, and opportunities (Schlumbohm, 2013)—the dynamics of engagement in collective civic action should be studied looking not only for commonalities with the receiving population but also for specificities. Research should clarify the role of the specific social contexts in shaping immigrants' opportunities and hindrances, acknowledging both the structural forces and the immigrants' agency (Preston et al., 2022), and also in promoting or precluding their involvement in collective civic action. As nowadays migrants often experience contexts where they are criminalised and feared (Mazzara et al., 2021), it is of the utmost importance to understand how migrants can cope and make room for themselves in discriminatory environments and cope with the challenges they are faced with. At a time when dehumanising political rhetoric, racism, and discrimination continue to occur almost daily (Mazzara et al., 2021), promoting immigrants' participation in collective civic action is a cogent need. Indeed, it would be not only a sign of a functioning democracy but also an indication of a healthy society that values social justice and diversity (Martinez Damia et al., 2020; Marzana, Martinez Damia, Atallah, & Martinez, 2019; Meringolo, Cecchini, & Donati, 2021).

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### CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors have no relevant financial or nonfinancial interests to disclose.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

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