

"The dark side of working from home"

Prof Jarrod Haar, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Mahuta, AUT

Job Burnout

Fair to say \rightarrow a <u>lot</u> of different wellbeing outcomes.

The focus here is job burnout:

Defined as

"a work-related state of exhaustion that occurs among employees, which is characterised by extreme tiredness, reduced ability to regulate cognitive and emotional processes, and mental distancing"

Job Burnout

Four Dimensions:

- 1. Exhaustion: loss of physical and mental energy
- 2. Mental Distance: being psychologically distancing from the work
- 3. Emotional Impairment: intense emotional reactions and feeling overwhelmed by one's emotions
- 4. Cognitive impairment: memory problems, attention and concentration deficits. Poor cognitive perform.

Note: being tired and exhausted ≠ burnout!

Making Sense of the Burnout Scores

These four dimensions are scored as follows:

- Green zone: Low to modest burnout levels. Low risk of burning out. Normal/natural.
- Orange zone: High burnout score. Higher than normal risk of burning out. I call this 'smouldering' [we'll revisit this!]
- Red zone: severest levels of job burnout. Here, you are at high 'burnt-out' risk.

Can be represented as follows...



Pre-Covid NZ WFH

29.2%

But...

Pre-Covid NZ WFH

2.8%

• Mainly WFH. Statistics NZ (2019)

NZ WFH during Covid

42%

Statistics NZ (2020)

USA WFH

5%/60%

Pre- and Post- Covid-19

The Ubiquitous Nature of Technology

- The 24/7 nature of Technology has lead to:
- 'crackberry'
- iFatigue
- And more recently Nomophobia

Nomophobia is **defined** as fear of being without your phone, a combination of the words no, mobile and phobia. An example of **nomophobia** is what someone feels when they travel internationally without a working cell phone.

mWork

- The ability to be able to perform work related tasks using technology devices and other means of communication → mobility work (mWork).
- mWork refers to the frequency of using a mobile device (e.g., smart phone, laptop, tablet etc.) to engage in work-related tasks using internet access during family time.
- Focus is work tasks <u>during</u> family time rather than the ability to perform work tasks through a mobile job

Study Model **Crisis** Leadership **Exhaustion** Mental **Distance** Job WFH **Burnout Emotional Impairment Cognitive Impairment** mWork

Methods

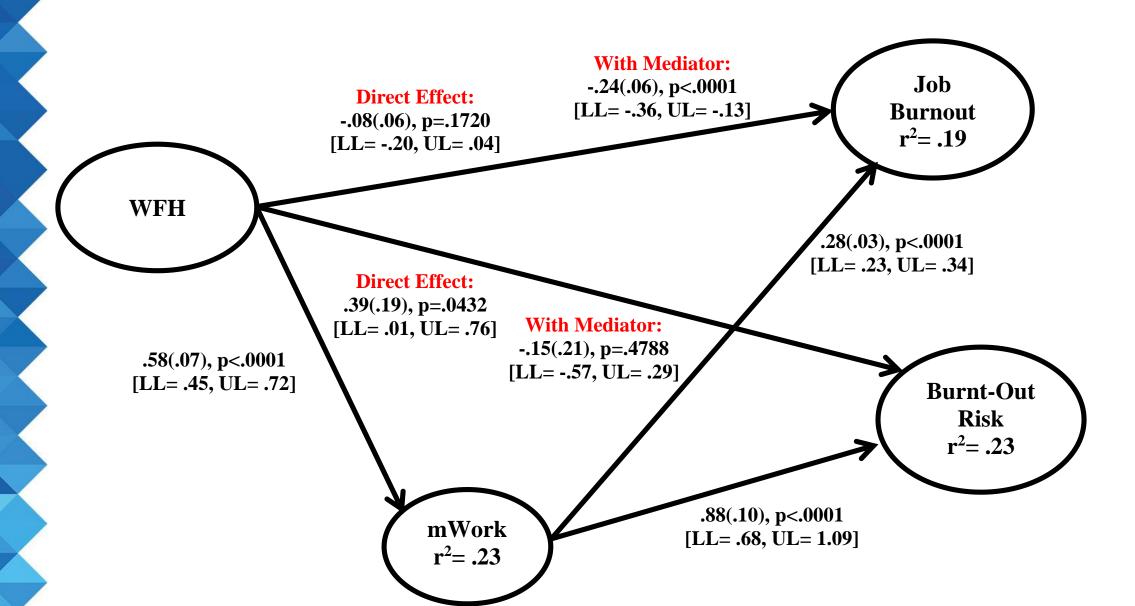
N=907. Varied sample: 51.6% male, parents 50%, NZ Europeans 57%, married 76%. Average age 37.9 years. Mainly private sector, all sized firms.

Measures: WFH, mWork and Job Burnout established. Crisis leadership new. CFA in AMOS → Mint (e.g., CFI = .95). All measures reliable (> .85). Severe Burnout (Burnt-out Risk Calculated).

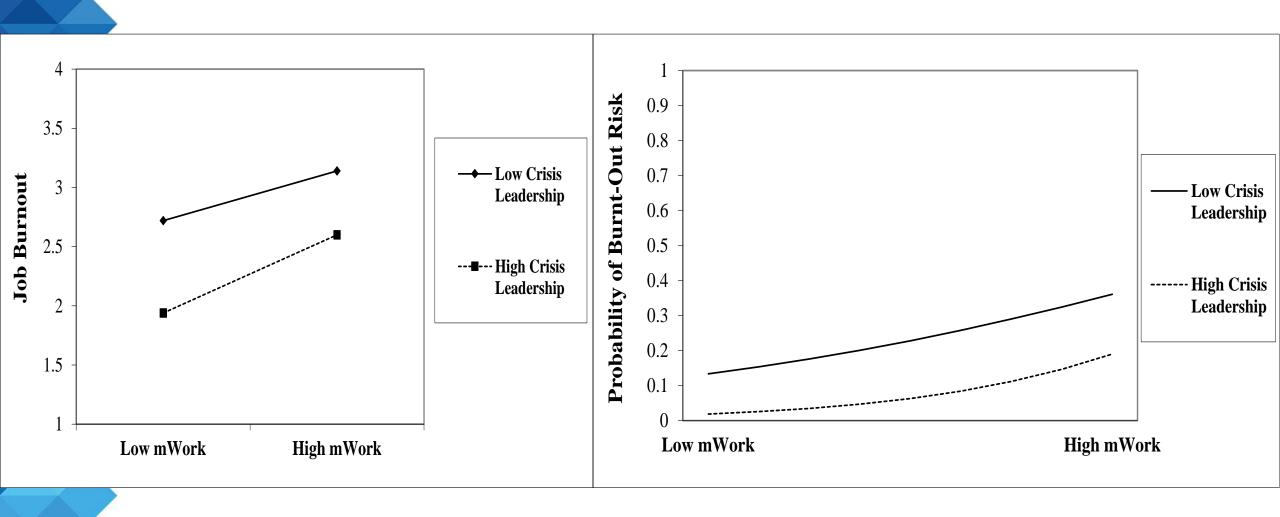
Moderated mediation analysis in PROCESS (4.0).

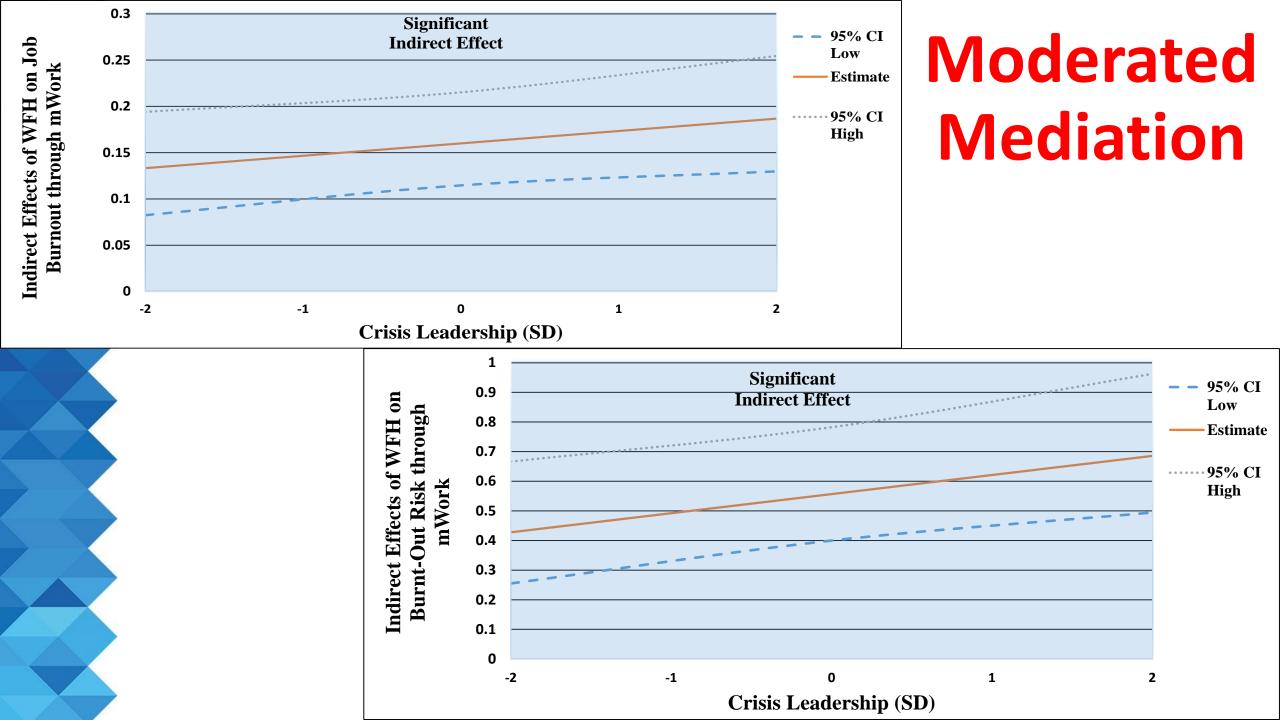
50% of sample WFH. 18% burnt-out risk!

Direct & Mediation Effects



Moderation Effects





Meaning?

- WFH doesn't come without issues! Greater mWork, influences on Job Burnout & burnt-out risk (+ & -)
- mWork plays a detrimental effect on Job Burnout & Burnt-out Risk
- Crisis Leadership reduces Job Burnout & burnt-out risk. Has buffering effects that are useful.
- However, as a boundary condition → intensifies the potential detrimental effect of WFH! Might reflect the context of Covid and thus 'crisis leadership' might infer many org context are still in 'crisis'!! :-/



