

50TH ANNIVERSARY Northeast Decision Sciences Institute Annual Conference Proceedings

March 26-27, 2021 • VIRTUAL



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A Study of the Relationship between Employment Attributes, Ethics and the Dampening Effect of Pressure

Oral

Dr. Pamela Harper¹, Dr. Pablo Rivas², Dr. John Cary¹, Dr. William Brown¹ 1. Marist College, 2. Baylor

This study attempts to fill an important gap in the behavioral ethics literature by

examining the relationship between employment-related variables (employment level, tenure, company size) and ethicality. Specifically, we study the impact of pressurized environments on employees in organizations, to understand the extent to which they are conducive or debilitating to ethical conduct. A sample of 370 business employees of varying tenure and employment levels at companies of various sizes were surveyed. As hypothesized, we find support for a non-linear ("U-shaped") relationship between employment factors and ethicality and a dampening effect of pressure across these key relationships.