

The Paradoxical Effects of the Contagion of Service-Oriented Organizational Citizenship Behavior

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Purpose: Previous research on the service-oriented organizational citizenship behavior (OCB) of employees has mainly focused on the examination of its driving factors, and has ignored the consequences that it may bring to the workplace. To bridge this research gap, by shifting the focus to the event observers, a double-edged sword model is constructed in the present study, which helps explain whether, when, and why the service-oriented OCB of coworkers is contagious.

Methodology: Multi-wave data of 239 employees from seven service-oriented companies in the hospitality industry in central and southwestern China were used to support the proposed model. The time-lag method and critical incident techniques were introduced during the data collection stage. OLS regression and the bootstrapping method were employed for hypothesis testing.

Findings: Drawing on attribution theory, it is argued that the contagion (vs non-contagion) effects of service-oriented OCB work through the dual cognitive pathways (hypocrisy perception vs serving self-efficacy) of observers, which depend on the self-serving attribution of the observers to the behaviors of their coworkers. Specifically, when the self-serving attribution of observers is high, the service-oriented OCB of their coworkers is positively associated with the hypocrisy perception of the observers, which in turn inhibits their own service-oriented OCB. In contrast, when the self-serving attribution of observers is low, the service-oriented OCB of their coworkers is positively associated with the serving self-efficacy of the observers, which in turn promotes their service-oriented OCB. This framework provides a valuable theoretical explanation perspective and empirical evidence for the exploration of how service-oriented OCB affects observers.

Keywords: contagion, service-oriented OCB, attribution

Introduction

Currently, the service industry is playing an increasingly important role in the development of the global economy.^{1,2} The service quality of employees is a vital source for enterprises to gain competitive advantage; enterprises with higher service quality will establish a heterogeneous advantage as compared to other competitors. Against this background, the service-oriented organizational citizenship behavior (OCB) of employees is receiving increasingly more attention from service industry practitioners and scholars.^{3,4} Service-oriented OCB can be defined as the discretionary behaviors of employees that go beyond the requirements of their roles during the service process.^{5,6}

Previous studies have extensively discussed the service-oriented OCB of employees, and can be roughly divided into the following three perspectives. First, the literature has reached a consensus on the necessity of service-oriented OCB to help promote the overall service quality, competitive advantage, and financial performance of hospitality enterprises.⁷⁻⁹ Second, scholars have discussed the driving factors of service-oriented OCB; factors such as the organization's service climate, supervisory support climate, and high-performance human resource management system are all important antecedent variables of service-oriented OCB.^{5,6,10-12} The third perspective is primarily based on the viewpoint of

employee-customer interaction; service-oriented OCB has been considered to provide more innovative service ideas, establish better customer interaction, provide better service quality, and yield higher customer satisfaction.^{13,14}

Relatively rich research has been carried out on service-oriented OCB. However, previous studies have rarely considered the consequences of service-oriented OCB, especially in the workplace. Employees often work with colleagues, so their behaviors are often accompanied by some witnesses. Furthermore, the behavior observers in the workplace often occupy the majority position, which means that the positive behaviors of employees may have a “role model” effect and drive a positive atmosphere at the team level.¹⁵ In other words, within an organization, the service-oriented OCB of a small number of employees may stimulate the OCB of a larger number of employees, which will significantly promote the company’s service performance. However, this type of learning effect may also be counter-productive. For example, when subordinates attribute a supervisor’s humility to self-service, not only will they not show humility, but they will engage in deviant behavior.¹⁶ This means that the contagion effects of the behavior of employees may be dualistic (promote vs inhibit). Thus, is this the case for service-oriented OCB? Regrettably, the existing literature has ignored this topic. Therefore, the primary research question of the present study is raised as follows.

From the observer-centric perspective, does, when will, and how will the double-sword edge effect of the contagion of service-oriented OCB exist among colleagues?

To bridge this research gap, the current study investigates the impact of service-oriented OCB on observers from an observer-centric perspective. Specifically, drawing on attribution theory,¹⁷ a double-edged sword model is constructed, which helps explain whether, when, and why the contagion (vs non-contagion) effect of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers exists. Attribution theory clarifies how observers make causal explanations for the behavior of themselves and others.^{18–20} Service-oriented OCB can be viewed as either beneficial or detrimental behavior, which depends on whether the attributed motive for the behavior is driven by an authentic focus on helping others or a focus on only improving the image of oneself.²¹ Therefore, the cognitive judgments of employees depend on their attributions of the events they observe. Previous studies have shown that observers are more likely to make negative attributions (such as self-serving, eg, focusing on the image needs of the individual) to the OCB of coworkers.²² Based on the preceding analysis, it is argued in the present study that the self-service attribution of observers determines their different cognitive judgments of, and behavioral responses to, service-oriented OCB. Specifically, when observers have a high level of self-serving attributions about such positive behaviors, they tend to have hypocrisy perceptions, which will further inhibit their willingness to implement service-oriented OCB. On the contrary, when observers have a low level self-serving attributions about positive behaviors, they tend to produce serving self-efficacy, which will further promote their willingness to implement service-oriented OCB. In summary, the present study aims to investigate the specific mechanism of the contagion (vs non-contagion) effect of service-oriented OCB. The theoretical model is presented in [Figure 1](#).

The present study provides several theoretical implications for service-oriented OCB and attribution theory. First, based on the observer-centric perspective, the current study is the first to explore the impact of service-oriented OCB on observers. A contagion (vs non-contagion) model of employees’ service-oriented OCB is constructed; this compensates for the lack of actor-based perspectives in previous studies of service-oriented OCB, and provides a more comprehensive perspective for understanding the impact of proactive behaviors. Second, the proposed double-edged sword model helps to balance the contradictory views of previous research. By introducing the logic of dialectics into the research of service-oriented OCB, the current study explains why contradictory views exist, and provides a more complete and dialectical theoretical perspective for the relevant literature from the observer-centric perspective. Third, by identifying new factors that promote and inhibit the service-oriented OCB of employees, the current study further expands the relevant literature in the field of service-oriented OCB. Finally, a dual-pathway framework (hypocrisy perception vs serving self-efficacy) is identified, via which the contagion (vs non-contagion) of service-oriented OCB occurs. This framework provides a valuable theoretical explanation perspective and empirical evidence for the exploration of how service-oriented OCB affects observers.

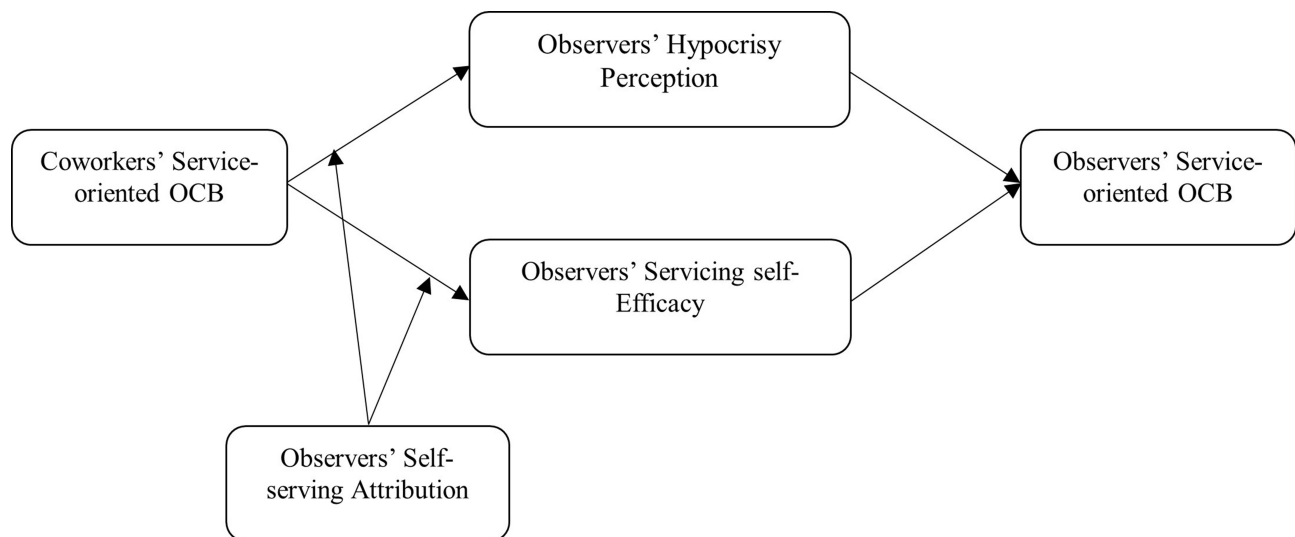


Figure 1 Theoretical model of the current research.

Theoretical Grounding and Hypothesis Development

Attribution Theory

A key element in explaining human behavior is the attribution of the motivation for that behavior.^{23–25} Attribution theory clarifies how observers make causal explanations for the behavior of themselves and others,^{18–20} which suggests that individuals' perceptions of the causes of past events will affect their own attitudes about and motivation toward future events, and they will then adjust their behavioral responses according to the social environment.^{26,27} In addition, the formation of attribution is based on the behavioral information available to observers, rather than objective facts.²⁸ Therefore, individuals can make internal or external attributions based on the control points (factor sources), stability, and controllability that affect others' behavior to help them better understand, predict, and control events.¹⁹

Based on the preceding discussion on attribution theory, observers' attitudes about and responses to the behavior of their colleagues depend on their attribution of the motivation behind the behavior. In addition, emerging research has shown that the proactive OCB of coworkers may lead to the negative perceptions of observers, such as impression management attribution.^{29–31} Therefore, the motivation of coworkers for service-oriented OCB may be different from that of observers, which means that proactive and extra-role behavior may also result in some negative feedback effects.

Observers' Self-Serving Attribution for Coworkers' Service-Oriented OCB

Attribution theory proposes that individuals construct causal explanations for others' behavior to understand their environment.¹⁷ Correspondingly, individuals (such as observers) will interpret and assess their coworkers' behavior in line with these explanations. Therefore, an individual's cognition of the behavior of others depends on the motivational attribution of that behavior.¹⁹ Service-oriented OCB, which has gone beyond the basic work requirements, refers to the spontaneous behavior of front-line employees outside of their formal role when serving customers.³ Research has shown that observer employees in the third-party perspective are more likely to make negative (eg, self-serving motive) attributions about the OCB of their coworkers.²² The self-serving motive focuses on the image needs of the individual self. As such, the same performance of service-oriented OCB can be viewed as either beneficial or detrimental behavior, which depends on whether the attributed motive for the behavior is driven by an authentic focus on helping others or a focus on only improving the image of oneself.²¹ For example, one observer may view the early arrival of a coworker as showing concern for the organization, but another coworker may regard this same behavior as motivated by impression management.

There is a key difference between acting in a more authentic way and acting in an instrumental way.^{32,33} Therefore, the good behavior of coworkers may be considered negative when the behavior is attributed to instrumental (self-serving)

motivation by the observer.^{34,35} Based on the preceding discussion, the current study aims to explore the different cognition and behavioral reactions of observers under different self-serving motivation attribution levels of their coworkers as perceived by the observer. By adopting the perspective of the perceptions of individuals, which focuses on how employees interpret information about their coworkers and draw conclusions about them, light can be shed on how the behavior of coworkers, such as service-oriented OCB, is perceived.

The Non-Contagion of Service-Oriented OCB: The Instrumentality Mechanism The Interactive Effect of Coworkers' Service-Oriented OCB and Observers' Self-Serving Attribution on Observers' Hypocrisy Perception

Drawing on attribution theory, it is argued that when observers attribute the service-oriented OCB of their coworkers to impression management, ie, the OCB of coworkers is perceived as self-serving, the service-oriented OCB of the coworkers may induce the hypocrisy perception of the observers. Attribution theory suggests that when employees observe a novel behavior, they will form attributions to understand this behavior.³⁶ Service-oriented OCB, which consists of the three behaviors of service delivery, loyalty, and participation, refers to the citizenship behaviors toward customers performed by service employees.³⁷ From this perspective, as a type of OCB, service-oriented OCB can be regarded as a tool with which actors can obtain organizational resources, such as high-level leader-member exchange (LMX), the trust of supervisors, etc.^{38,39} In public, coworkers may engage in service-oriented OCB to service customers, but in private, they may be self-interested in gaining the trust of their supervisors, which may lead to inconsistencies in their service-oriented OCB. Similarly, studies have shown that the behaviors displayed by individuals may not always be consistent.^{40,41}

Service-oriented OCB refers to an employee's proactive service behavior toward consumers, which is a consumer-oriented behavior; however, scholars have also pointed out the detrimental motivation of conducting such behavior to impress others (such as supervisors and observers).⁴²⁻⁴⁴ This evaluation of the motives of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers may be labeled as self-serving, ie, a type of impression management. Specifically, when observers make self-serving attributions about the service-oriented OCB of their coworkers, they are interpreting that the coworkers are engaging in such behavior instrumentally, rather than authentically, with the goals of influencing the way that others view them and maintaining a hardworking and capable image in the eyes of others (eg, consumers, supervisors, and observer employees). Correspondingly, the observers may associate the service-oriented OCB of their coworkers with some negative perceptions and regard their behavior as hypocritical.

In addition, when observers make self-serving attributions about the service-oriented OCB of their coworkers, they may consider that their coworkers are acting in an instrumental way instead of a more authentic way. The connotation of authenticity depends on the context in which the observers witness their coworkers' behaviors, which means that "authenticity" is a socially constructed variable.⁴⁵ Similarly, studies have shown that authenticity does not necessarily exist objectively; on the contrary, it is often a motivational attribution of individuals to others.⁴⁶ Therefore, it is suggested that when observers make self-serving attributions about the service-oriented OCB of their coworkers, they are implying that the behavior of their coworkers is a political tactic and not authentic, which may lead to the perception of the behavior as hypocritical. Furthermore, based on the definition of this construct, service-oriented OCB is a proactive service behavior of employees toward consumers. Therefore, the recipients of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers are not observer employees.⁴⁷ This means that observers cannot directly benefit from the behaviors of coworkers, which may further result in the inconsistent perceptions of observers between their attributions and their coworkers' actual behavior. Under these circumstances, the service-oriented OCB of coworkers may be considered equivalent to impression management tactics, via which the coworkers desire to be seen as hardworking and capable.

Based on the preceding discussion, the following hypothesis is proposed.

Hypothesis 1: The service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the self-serving attribution of observers will interact to influence the hypocrisy perception of the observers.

The relationship between the service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the hypocrisy perception of observers will be stronger and positive when the self-serving attribution of the observers is high, but will be weaker when the self-serving attribution is low.

The Mediating Role of the Hypocrisy Perception of Observers

The reactions of observers when they attribute the service-oriented OCB of coworkers to hypocrisy are subsequently examined. Drawing on attribution theory, once an employee has formed a certain explanation for the behavior of others (eg, perceiving the service-oriented OCB of coworkers as hypocrisy), the employee will rely on this explanation to make his/her own behavioral decisions.^{48,49} Therefore, the service-oriented OCB of coworkers may also convey some hypocrisy information. Previous studies have shown that individuals tend to feel discomfort when they regard the behavior of their teammates as hypocritical.⁵⁰ For example, Cha and Edmondson⁵¹ suggested that hypocrisy perception will positively predict the moral disengagement of an individual; an individual produces certain specific cognitive tendencies and uses these tendencies to adjust their inherent responsibility attribution to minimize the responsibilities of the actors themselves regarding behavioral consequences.⁵² Employees with a high level of moral disengagement tend to redefine their behaviors to find a moral norm for their unethical behaviors, and to ultimately protect themselves from the rebuke of their moral self.⁵³ In other words, when observers have a high level of self-serving attributions about the service-oriented OCB of their coworkers, they may regard the behavior as hypocrisy, which may not make moral norms stand out; in contrast, it may set a bad example for observers (the hypocrisy cognition of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers), and give them reasons for moral disengagement, such as the inhibition of their own service-oriented OCB.⁵⁴ Similarly, the emerging research has shown that the hypocrisy perception of the humility of supervisors may inhibit the OCB of subordinate employees.

Based on the preceding discussion, the following hypothesis is proposed.

Hypothesis 2: Hypocrisy perceptions of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers mediate the relationship between the interactive effect of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the self-serving attribution of the service-oriented OCB of observers.

The indirect effect of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers on the service-oriented OCB of observers via their hypocrisy perceptions will be strong and positive when the self-serving attribution of the observers is high, and will be weaker when the self-serving attribution is low.

The Contagion of Service-Oriented OCB: The Authenticity Mechanism The Interactive Effect of Coworkers' Service-Oriented OCB and Observers' Self-Serving Attribution on Observers' Serving Self-Efficacy

Drawing on the service-oriented OCB literature⁵⁵ and attribution theory,^{19,27} it is suggested that the service-oriented OCB of coworkers may also lead to an overall increase in the serving self-efficacy of observers, especially when observers attribute the service-oriented OCB of coworkers to a low self-serving manner. Serving self-efficacy refers to an individual's belief in his/her or capabilities to engage in serving behaviors that can benefit the consumers.^{56,57} Previous studies have shown that the self-efficacy of individuals can be enhanced by witnessing workplace events.⁵⁸ The impact of this path depends on the observers' perception of the event.^{59,60}

Specifically, when observers attribute the service-oriented OCB of their coworkers to a low self-serving manner, they may be more inclined to think that their coworkers are acting with authentic motivation. In other words, observers in this attribution situation may consider that their coworkers are taking actions to improve the service quality by communicating with the organization, exhibiting attentive service performance to consumers, and promoting the image of the organization.³⁷ Meanwhile, the service-oriented OCB of coworkers may bring high-level performance, customer satisfaction, and loyalty to the organization.^{61,62} Such cognition, namely vicarious learning, enables observers to learn the behaviors of their coworkers, which helps them avoid spending unnecessary effort on unnecessary trials.⁶³ Vicarious learning includes the stages of attention, retention, and reproduction, which respectively refer to the observer's behavior awareness, ability to remember behavior, and ability to repeat behavior.⁶⁴ The vicarious learning process provides observers with a mental script to repeat the witnessed service-oriented OCB of their coworkers.⁶⁵

Previous studies have shown that vicarious learning can help promote individual self-efficacy beliefs.⁶⁶ Therefore, it is further suggested that individuals who observe their coworkers engaging in service-oriented OCB may feel more confident about the effectiveness of their own service-oriented OCB, and may be more likely to consider that their own service-oriented OCB can provide consumers with high-level service quality and improve the organization's

performance. Witnessing the engagement of coworkers in service-oriented OCB may provide the observers, especially those with a low level of self-serving attribution, with a cognitive schema that mentally guides them in their attempts to undertake service-oriented OCB. This socially constructed confidence is especially necessary for service-oriented OCB, which is often associated with immense social risks, as it may disturb others.⁶⁷ Therefore, exemplification by coworkers is critical to the construction of the serving self-efficacy beliefs of observers.

Based on the preceding discussion, the following hypothesis is proposed.

Hypothesis 3: The service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the self-serving attribution of observers will interact to influence the serving self-efficacy of observers.

The relationship between the service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the serving self-efficacy of observers will be stronger and positive when the self-serving attribution of observers is low, and will be weaker when the self-serving attribution is lower.

The Mediating Role of Observers' Serving Self-Efficacy

Drawing on attribution theory, as the witnesses of the behavior of their coworkers, observers tend to adjust their behaviors according to their attribution of the service-oriented OCB of their coworkers.⁶⁸ As such, the service-oriented OCB of coworkers plays a crucial role in demonstrating serving behaviors to observers via observational learning, which may influence the observers' confidence and ability to identify the consumers' needs and serve them proactively.⁶⁹ Therefore, it is first proposed that the service-oriented OCB of coworkers plays a vital role in instilling serving self-efficacy to observers with a low level of self-serving attribution. Self-efficacy has been considered a potential psychological mechanism that drives employee performance improvement.⁵⁶ In addition, the implementation of proactive behavior (including service-oriented OCB) is socially risky, so individuals must be confident to implement this behavior.⁷⁰ The confidence of an individual in a certain behavior will encourage him/her to implement that behavior.^{57,58} Therefore, consistent with the self-confidence nature presented in the definition of self-efficacy, observers with a high level of serving self-efficacy are more inclined to engage in service-oriented OCB.⁷¹ Similarly, emerging research has shown that when employees witness the voice behavior of their coworkers, their own voice self-efficacy beliefs will be enhanced, which will further trigger their voice behavior.⁷² Taken together, it is suggested that serving self-efficacy serves as a conduit that transmits the interaction between the service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the self-serving attribution of observers into their own service-oriented OCB.

Based on the preceding discussion, the following hypothesis is proposed.

Hypothesis 4: The serving self-efficacy of observers mediates the relationship between the interactive effect of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the self-serving attribution of observers on the service-oriented OCB of observers.

The indirect effect of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers on the service-oriented OCB of observers via their serving self-efficacy will be strong and positive when the self-serving attribution of observers is low, and will be weaker when the self-serving attribution is high.

Methods

Samples and Procedure

Since the over-arching theory of present study is attribution theory, we should test our model at the individual-level.⁷³ In the sample collection phase, we used the critical incident technique method, which can effectively evaluate the employees' perception and response to specific events.^{74,75} Previous studies have shown that service-oriented OCB occurs in the service industry, so we collected samples from 7 hotels in central and southwestern China.^{55,61} Furthermore, to better control the common method variance, a time-lag longitudinal tracking research design was adapted for data collection. Specially, the participants were asked to report the core variables at intervals. Our field survey was completed in three phases, with two weeks between each phase, for a total of four weeks. The specific process is as follows.

Before the formal survey, all the participants were asked to recall their coworker C's service-oriented OCB in the past month as much as possible. After the incident was reviewed, we formally started the questionnaire survey. In the first

stage, the participants were asked to report demographic information and the coworker C's service-oriented OCB observed by themselves. 350 questionnaires were distributed and 305 were effectively returned. Two weeks later, we started the second investigation, and the previous valid questionnaires were distributed again. This time, we mainly investigated the employees' (serving self-efficacy and hypocrisy perception) cognitive judgment. 305 questionnaires were distributed and 267 were effectively returned. After another two weeks, the last investigation was conducted. Employees reported their own service-oriented OCB and self-serving attribution. In summary, 267 questionnaires were distributed and 239 were effectively returned. The remaining 28 questionnaires were discarded because they were not completed.

Measures

Coworkers' Service-Oriented OCB

In order to measure the coworkers' service-oriented OCB observed by employees, we refer to the scale developed by Bettencourt et al.³⁷ The participants were asked to score their coworkers' service-oriented OCB (1 for strongly disagree, 5 for disagree). One example item is: "My colleague C will follow up customer requests and problems in time." We calculated the Cronbach's alpha (α) to evaluate the internal consistency reliability of the scale, wherein a value of 0.70 or above is suggested to ensure internal consistency reliability.⁷⁶ In this study, the scale showed excellent internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = 0.984$).

Observers' Hypocrisy Perception

In order to measure the observers' hypocrisy perception, we refer to the scale developed by Dineen et al.⁷⁷ The participants were asked to score their coworkers' hypocrisy (1 for strongly disagree, 5 for disagree). One example item is: "I hope my colleague C will practice what he preached more." The scale had excellent internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = 0.951$).

Observers' Serving Self-Efficacy

In order to measure the observers' serving self-efficacy, we refer to the scale developed by Wu et al.⁵⁷ The participants were asked to score their serving self-efficacy (1 for strongly disagree, 5 for disagree). One example item is: "I think I can put the best interests of consumers ahead of my own." The current study had an alpha value of 0.960 indicating excellent internal consistency reliability.

Observers' Self-Serving Attribution

Following the previous study, self-serving attribution here means observers' impression management attributions.^{32,42} In order to measure the observers' self-serving attribution, we refer to the scale developed by Rioux and Penner.⁷⁸ The participants were asked to score their self-serving attribution (1 for strongly disagree, 5 for disagree). One example item is: "My coworker C behave nicely for it may make him look good to the supervisor." The scale yielded an alpha value of 0.969 indicating excellent internal consistency reliability.

Observers' Service-Oriented OCB

In order to measure the observers' service-oriented OCB, we refer to the scale developed by Bettencourt et al.³⁷ The participants were asked to score their own service-oriented OCB (1 for strongly disagree, 5 for disagree). One example item is: "I will follow up customer requests and problems in time." The scale exhibited excellent internal consistency reliability ($\alpha = 0.992$).

Control Variable

In addition, previous studies have shown that some background variables (such as age, gender, education level and tenure) are also important factors affecting employees' service-oriented OCB.^{11,55} Therefore, this study intends to put the gender (1 for male, 2 for female), age (coded with 1 to 5, respectively, representing 20 years and below, 21–25 years, 26–35 years, 36–45 years, 46 and above), education level (1 for below senior high school, 2 for senior high school, 3 for junior college, 4 for bachelor, 5 for master and above), tenure (1 for 1 year and below, 2 for 1–3 years, 3 for 3–5 years, 4 for 5–7 years, 5 for 7 years and above) and jobs (1 for hotel room related jobs, 2 for hotel reception, 3 for catering related

jobs, 4 for marketing related jobs, 5 for the others) as the control variables of this study, which were reported by employees themselves.

Analytic Strategy

To verify our four hypotheses, quantitative methods were performed including descriptive statistics, inter-correlations analysis, verification of statistical hypotheses, and multivariable approaches.^{79,80} Multivariable approaches included multiple regression, exploratory factor analysis (EFA), and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA).^{81,82} Additionally, Bootstrap method and Johnson-Neyman method were also adopted to test our hypotheses. The specific analysis strategies are as follows.

Before testing the hypothesis, we performed two preliminary analyses. First, considering that the core variables in this paper were all reported by the observers themselves, the empirical results may be affected by the common method variance. Two main methods were proposed to control possible common method variance: (a) strengthening the research design and (b) employing statistical controls.^{83,84} In this study, we have adopted a time-lag longitudinal tracking research design to reduce common method variance. As for statistical controls, Harman's single-factor test is widely used to examine common method variance.⁸⁵ Based EFA with all study variables, the common method variance is not an issue if the first unrotated factor accounts for less than 50% of the variance in data.⁸⁶ Second, we adopted model fit comparison techniques to test the discriminant validity of the five study variables. Based on the CFA, we compared the five-factor model against the other five alternative models, including a four-factor model that combined observers' hypocrisy perception and observers' serving self-efficacy, a four-factor model that combined observers' serving self-efficacy and observers' self-serving attribution, a four-factor model that combined observers' hypocrisy perception and observers' self-serving attribution, a three-factor model that combined observers' hypocrisy perception, observers' serving self-efficacy, and observers' self-serving attribution, and a single-factor model combined all the five variables. Model fit was evaluated by several commonly used indices.⁸⁷⁻⁸⁹ chi square (χ^2 , $\chi^2/df < 3$, for acceptable), comparative fit index (CFI > 0.90 for acceptable), standardized root mean-square residual (SRMR, < 0.08 for acceptable), root mean squared error of approximation (RMSEA, < 0.08 for acceptable).

Subsequently, we began to test our hypotheses. First, inter-correlations coefficients of all variables were calculated. Second, multiple regressions were performed. Finally, we further used process macro to test the moderated mediating effect.⁹⁰ Specifically, we measured the difference of indirect effects between higher (+1 standard deviation) and lower (-1 standard deviation) level moderators (observers' self-serving attribution).⁹¹

In generalizing conclusions, we adopted a flexible method to the assumed significance level.^{80,92} Specifically, significance level below 0.05 was conventionally used, but sometimes significance level below 0.10 was used.

Results

Common Method Variance

We performed EFA according to the Harman's single factor method to analyze all the items in the questionnaire and separate the unrotated common factors. The results show that there are 5 factors with a characteristic root greater than 1. The first factor accounts for 38.724% of the total load of all factors, and the total explained variance is 85.092%. Therefore, the result meets the requirement that the maximum extracted variance should be less than the 50% critical value of the total explained variance, which indicates that the common method variance of this study is within an acceptable range and the empirical test can be continued.

Discriminant Validity

A series of confirmatory factor analysis was conducted before the hypothesis testing, which may help to ensure that the discriminant validity of our core constructs (coworkers' service-oriented OCB, observers' service-oriented OCB, serving self-efficacy, hypocrisy perception and self-serving attribution) meets the requirements. Based on the comparison among the follow six models in Table 1, the indices of the five-factor model all pass the threshold standard, and are significantly better than other models, which indicates that the variables have discriminant validity.

Table 1 Model Fit Results for Confirmatory Factor Analyses

Model	X ² /DF	CFI	SRMR	RMSEA	Model Comparison Test		
					Model Comparison	$\Delta\chi^2$	Δdf
1. Five factors: CSO, OSO, HP, SE, SSA	2.494	0.911	0.0342	0.079	–	–	–
2. Four factors a: CSO, OSO, HP + SE, SSA	3.418	0.855	0.11	0.101	2vs1	1046.584	4
3. Four factors b: CSO, OSO, SE + SSA, HP	4.064	0.816	0.1024	0.113	3vs1	724.12	4
4. Four factors c: CSO, OSO, HP + SSA, SE	4.181	0.81	0.141	0.116	4vs1	130.741	4
5. Three factors: CSO, OSO, HP + SE + SSA	4.979	0.761	0.1464	0.129	5vs1	908.982	7
6. Single factor:	10.721	0.415	0.285	0.202	6vs1	6486.235	10

Notes: n=239; “CSO” indicates coworkers’ service-oriented OCB, “HP” indicates observers’ hypocrisy perception, “SE” indicates observers’ serving self-efficacy, “SSA” indicates observers’ self-serving attribution, “OSO” indicates observers’ service-oriented OCB; Δ = change relative to the measurement model.

Abbreviations: CFI, comparative fit index; RMSEA, root mean squared error of approximation; SRMR, standardized root mean-square residual.

Table 2 Correlation analysis

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Gender (T1)	1									
2. Age (T1)	–0.117	1								
3. Education (T1)	0.036	–0.263**	1							
4. Job (T1)	0.032	–0.462**	0.046	1						
5. Tenure (T1)	–0.116	0.774**	–0.315**	–0.449**	1					
6. CSO (T1)	–0.055	–0.052	0.054	–0.048	–0.044	1				
7. HP (T2)	0.000	–0.088	0.088	0.077	–0.053	0.423**	1			
8. SE(T2)	–0.071	0.083	–0.106	–0.070	0.152*	0.250**	0.050	1		
9. SSA (T3)	0.076	–0.125	0.011	0.172**	–0.197**	0.005	–0.047	–0.297**	1	
10. OSO (T3)	–0.121	0.153*	0.040	–0.216**	0.156*	0.231**	–0.164*	0.431**	–0.358**	1

Notes: n=239; “CSO” indicates coworkers’ service-oriented OCB, “HP” indicates observers’ hypocrisy perception, “SE” indicates observers’ serving self-efficacy, “SSA” indicates observers’ self-serving attribution, “OSO” indicates observers’ service-oriented OCB; *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01.

Abbreviation: T1/2/3, Time 1/2/3.

Hypothesis Testing

Table 2 depicts the correlation analysis results. According to the Table 2, there are significant correlated relationships between coworkers’ service-oriented OCB, observers’ service-oriented OCB, serving self-efficacy, hypocrisy perception. The correlation between these variables is basically consistent with the theoretically expected relationship of this study, which also lays the foundation for subsequent hypothesis testing.

We further conducted a series of multiple regressions to test our model. Table 3 presents the results for Hypothesis 1. As shown in model 3 in Table 3, the interaction between coworkers’ service-oriented OCB and observers’ self-serving attribution has a significant positive effect in predicting the observers’ hypocrisy perception ($b = 0.190$, $t = 3.210$, $P < 0.01$). As shown in Figure 2, a simple slope analysis shows that, the relationship between coworkers’ service-oriented OCB and observers’ hypocrisy perception will be strong and positive when observers’ self-serving attribution is high, but weaker when observers’ self-serving attribution is low. Therefore, hypothesis 1 is verified. Similarly, as shown in model 3 in Table 4, the interaction between coworkers’ service-oriented OCB and observers’ self-serving attribution has a significant negative effect on the prediction of observers’ serving self-efficacy ($b = -0.116$, $t = -1.903$, $P < 0.1$). As shown in Figure 3, a simple slope analysis shows that, the relationship between coworkers’ service-oriented OCB and observers’ serving self-efficacy will be strong and positive when observers’ self-serving attribution is low, but weaker when observers’ self-serving attribution is high. Therefore, hypothesis 2 has also been verified.

In order to test the moderated mediating effects of hypothesis 3 and 4, we first test the significance level between the mediating variables (hypocrisy perception and serving self-efficacy) and the dependent variable (observers’ service-oriented OCB). The results are demonstrated in Table 5. As shown in model 2 in Table 5, there is a significant negative relationship

Table 3 Regression Results for the Predictors of Observers' Hypocrisy Perception

Variables	Observers' Hypocrisy Perception (T2)								
	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3		
	b	SE	t	b	SE	t	b	SE	t
Observers' gender (T1)	-0.015	0.131	-0.112	0.047	0.119	0.399	0.066	0.117	0.588
Observers' age (T1)	-0.110	0.121	-0.911	-0.067	0.110	-0.612	-0.086	0.108	-0.799
Observers' education (T1)	0.116	0.095	1.213	0.092	0.087	1.064	0.099	0.085	1.163
Observers' job (T1)	0.047	0.056	0.837	0.083	0.052	1.604	0.065	0.051	1.270
Observers' tenure (T1)	0.051	0.073	0.700	0.050	0.067	0.736	0.052	0.066	0.786
Coworkers' service-oriented OCB (T1)				0.425	0.059	7.167**	0.428	0.058	7.360**
Observers' self-serving attribution (T3)				-0.063	0.061	-1.043	-0.027	0.061	-0.438
Coworkers' service-oriented OCB * Observers' self-serving attribution							0.190	0.059	3.210**
Constant	-0.342	0.530	-0.645	-0.594	0.482	-1.233	-0.537	0.473	-1.135
VIF (MAX)					1.060			1.100	
R ²		0.017			0.198			0.233	
ΔR ²					0.181			0.034	
F		0.790			8.155**			8.711**	

Notes: n = 239; Unstandardized regression coefficients are reported; *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01.

Abbreviation: T1/2/3, Time 1/2/3.

between observers' hypocrisy perception and their service-oriented OCB ($b = -0.328, t = -5.518, P < 0.01$), there is a significant positive relationship between the observers' serving self-efficacy and their service-oriented OCB ($b = 0.309, t = 5.364, P < 0.01$). This laid a preliminary foundation for the test of moderated mediating effects. Furthermore, we use Process Macro program and Bootstrap method for the further test. As shown in Table 6, with the observers' self-serving attribution

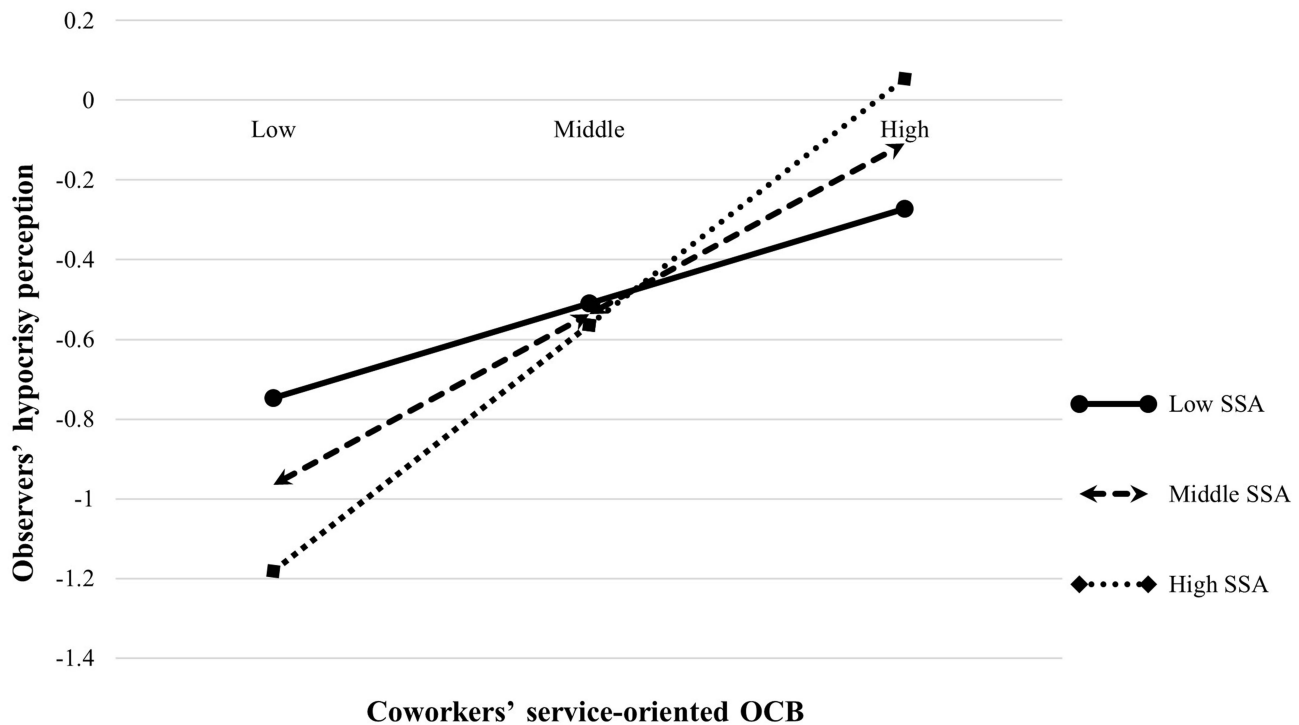


Figure 2 The moderating role of observers' self-serving attribution on the relationship between coworkers' service-oriented OCB and observers' hypocrisy perception.

Table 4 Regression Results for the Predictors of Observers' Serving Self-Efficacy

Variables	Observers' Serving Self-efficacy (T2)								
	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3		
	b	SE	t	b	SE	t	b	SE	t
Observers' gender (T1)	-0.113	0.130	-0.870	-0.047	0.121	-0.386	-0.058	0.120	-0.483
Observers' age (T1)	-0.121	0.120	-1.007	-0.066	0.112	-0.595	-0.055	0.111	-0.493
Observers' education (T1)	-0.095	0.094	-1.006	-0.123	0.088	-1.399	-0.127	0.088	-1.453
Observers' job (T1)	-0.021	0.056	-0.376	0.022	0.052	0.417	0.033	0.052	0.627
Observers' tenure (T1)	0.134	0.073	1.835 [†]	0.094	0.068	1.379	0.093	0.068	1.365
Coworkers' service-oriented OCB (T1)				0.259	0.060	4.286**	0.257	0.060	4.280**
Observers' self-serving attribution (T3)				-0.279	0.062	-4.530**	-0.302	0.062	-4.833**
Coworkers' service-oriented OCB * Observers' self-serving attribution							-0.116	0.061	-1.903 [†]
Constant	0.509	0.525	0.969	0.285	0.490	0.583	0.250	0.487	0.514
VIF (MAX)					1.060			1.099	
R ²		0.034			0.172			0.185	
ΔR ²					0.138			0.013	
F		1.646			6.847**			6.512**	

Notes: n = 239; Unstandardized regression coefficients are reported; [†]p < 0.10, *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01.
Abbreviation: T1/2/3, Time 1/2/3.

from one standard deviation below the average to one standard deviation above the average, the mediating effect of observers' hypocrisy perception increases significantly in turn, and the whole model is significant (index = -0.0575, 95% CI [-0.1131, -0.0146]). Next, referring to the suggestion of Hayes and Matthes,⁹⁰ we used Johnson-Neyman method to draw the mediating effect map.^{93,94} As shown in Figure 4, among the regions of significance in the range of the moderator

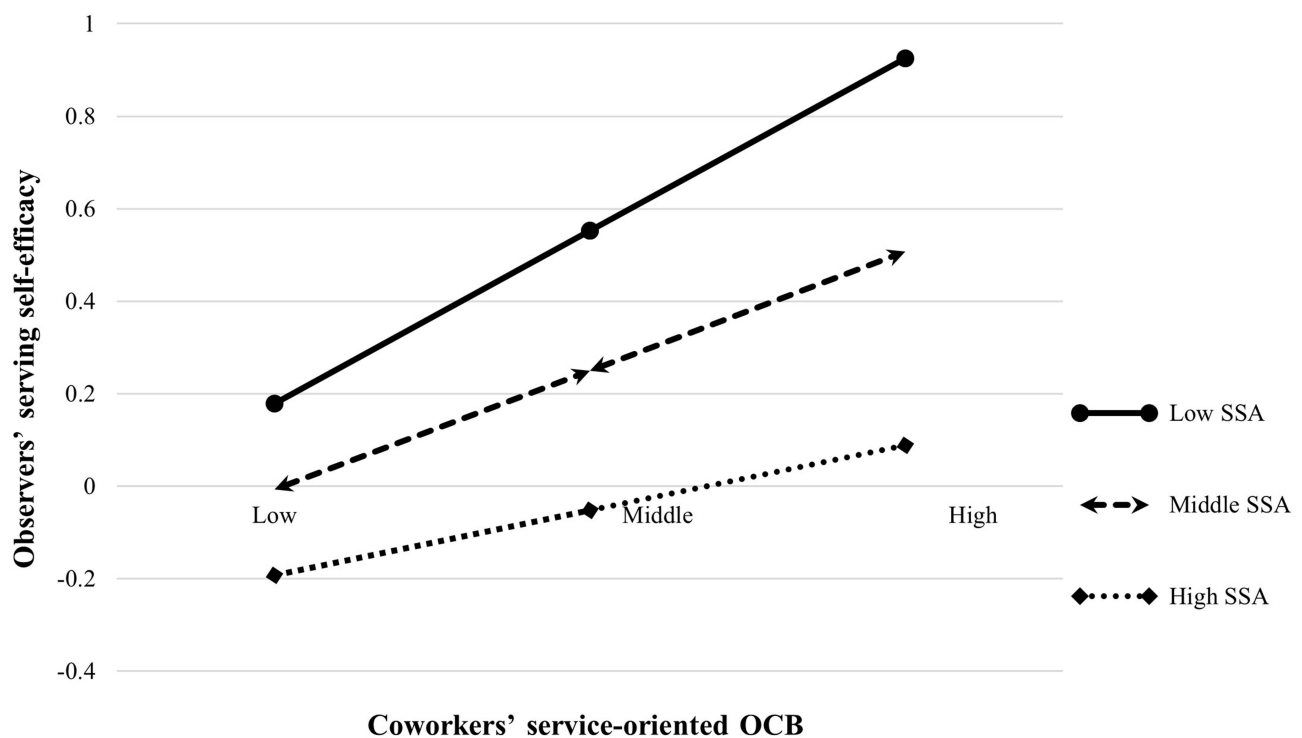


Figure 3 The moderating role of observers' self-serving attribution on the relationship between coworkers' service-oriented OCB and observers' serving self-efficacy.

Table 5 Regression Results for the Predictors of Observers' Service-Oriented OCB

Variables	Observers' Service-oriented OCB (T3)					
	Model 1			Model 2		
	b	SE	t	b	SE	t
Observers' gender (T1)	-0.145	0.118	-1.227	-0.105	0.105	-1.000
Observers' age (T1)	0.088	0.109	0.802	0.076	0.097	0.784
Observers' education (T1)	0.083	0.086	0.969	0.155	0.077	2.013*
Observers' job (T1)	-0.086	0.051	-1.671 [†]	-0.075	0.046	-1.630
Observers' tenure (T1)	0.002	0.067	0.031	-0.010	0.060	-0.161
Coworkers' service-oriented OCB (T1)	0.225	0.059	3.821**	0.286	0.060	4.734**
Observers' self-serving attribution (T3)	-0.323	0.061	-5.269**	-0.238	0.057	-4.160**
Coworkers' service-oriented OCB* Observers' self-serving attribution	0.007	0.060	0.120	0.105	0.055	1.924 [†]
Observers' Hypocrisy Perception (T2)				-0.328	0.059	-5.518**
Observers' Serving Self-efficacy (T2)				0.309	0.058	5.364**
Constant	0.117	0.478	0.245	-0.136	0.427	-0.319
VIF (MAX)		1.099			1.352	
R ²		0.216			0.385	
ΔR ²					0.169	
F		7.906**			14.254**	

Notes: n = 239; Unstandardized regression coefficients are reported; [†]p < 0.10, *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01.

Abbreviation: T1/2/3, Time 1/2/3.

Table 6 Bootstrap Results for the Moderated Mediation Effect

Variables		Conditional Indirect Effect				Moderated Mediator			
		Estimate	Boot SE	BC 95% CI		INDEX	S.E.	BC 95% CI	
Observers' Hypocrisy Perception	Low observers' self-serving attribution	-0.0578	0.0371	-0.1424	0.0020	-0.0575	0.0240	-0.1114	-0.0146
	Middle observers' self-serving attribution	-0.1303	0.0313	-0.1998	-0.0750				
	High observers' self-serving attribution	-0.1829	0.0429	-0.2751	-0.1068				
Observers' Serving Self-efficacy	Low observers' self-serving attribution	0.1563	0.0408	0.0785	0.2394	-0.0451	0.0208	-0.0856	-0.0021
	Middle observers' self-serving attribution	0.0995	0.0268	0.0518	0.1558				
	High observers' self-serving attribution	0.0583	0.0299	0.0068	0.1261				

Notes: n=310; low represents mean "-1" SD (Standard Deviation), and high represents mean "+1" SD; This study uses bootstrap for random sampling 5000 times.

Abbreviations: S.E., standard error, BC, biased corrected, CI, confidence interval.

(observers' self-serving attribution), the mediating role of observers' hypocrisy perception between coworkers' service-oriented OCB and observers' service-oriented OCB was significant, which means that the indirect effect of coworkers' service-oriented OCB on observers' service-oriented OCB via observers' hypocrisy perception will be strong and positive when observers' self-serving attribution is high and will be weaker when observers' self-serving attribution is low. Therefore, hypothesis 3 is supported. As shown in Table 6, with the observers' self-serving attribution from one standard deviation below the average to one standard deviation above the average, the mediating effect of observers' serving self-efficacy is significantly weakened in turn, and the whole model is significant (index = -0.0451, 95% CI [-0.0871, -0.0016]).

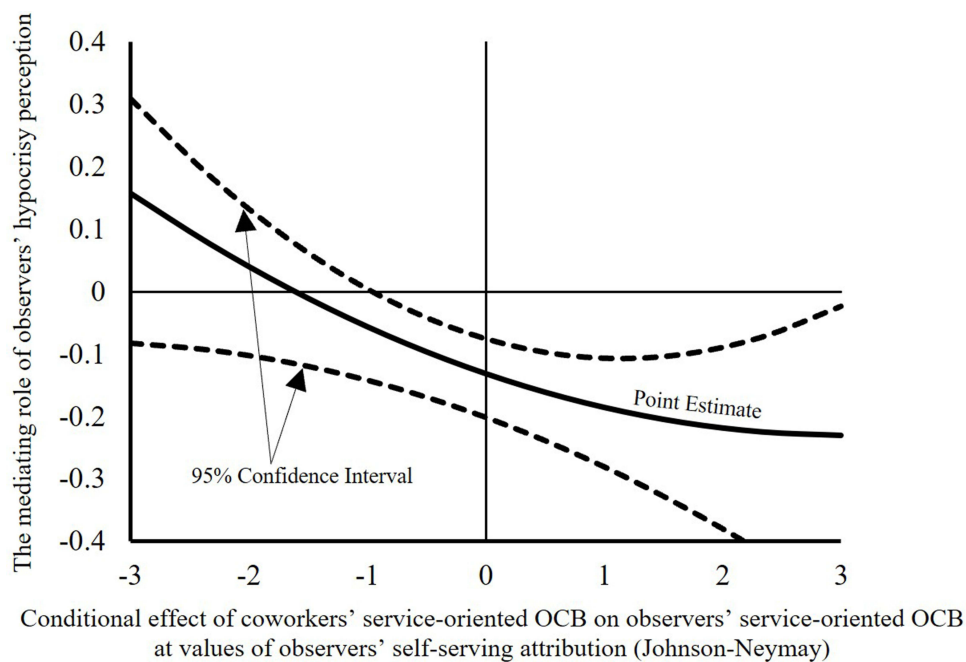


Figure 4 Conditional effect of coworkers' service-oriented OCB on observers' service-oriented OCB at values of observers' self-serving attribution (observers' hypocrisy perception as mediator).

Furthermore, it is indicated by the mediating effect diagram with regulation in [Figure 5](#), among the regions of significance in the range of the moderator (observers' self-serving attribution), the mediating role of observers' serving self-efficacy between coworkers' service-oriented OCB and observers' service-oriented OCB was significant, which means that the indirect effect of coworkers' service-oriented OCB on observers' service-oriented OCB toward victims via observers' serving self-efficacy will be strong and positive when observers' self-serving attribution is low and will be weaker when observers' self-serving attribution is high. Therefore, Hypothesis 4 is supported.

Discussion

The theoretical implications, practical implications, limitations, and future research prospects are subsequently discussed based on the findings of the previous sections.

Theoretical Implications

This research has several important theoretical implications for the extant literature on service-oriented OCB, serving self-efficacy, hypocrisy perception, and attribution theory.

First, based on the observer-centric perspective, the present study was the first to explore the impact of service-oriented OCB on observers. Previous research on service-oriented OCB mainly focused on its antecedent variables. For example, studies have shown that factors such as hotel customer-employee exchange, the organization service climate, the supervisory support climate, and high-performance human resource practices are all important driving factors for the service-oriented OCB of employees.^{5,6,10,11} The role stressors will inhibit employees from implementing service-oriented OCB.⁹⁵ However, these previous studies paid less attention to the outcome variables of service-oriented OCB. Moreover, very few studies that explored the outcome variables of service-oriented OCB exclusively focused on the perspective of the behavior recipient, ie, the exploration of the benefits of the behavior to the others, such as consumers and organizations.⁶¹ Furthermore, few investigations have focused on the impacts of employees' adoption of service-oriented OCB on third parties (observers), which urgently require deeper insights. Although the impacts of service-oriented OCB on the observers are indirect effects, they often reflect the "majority effect" in reality, ie, the third parties are usually the majority, but the behavior recipients may be the minority.¹⁵

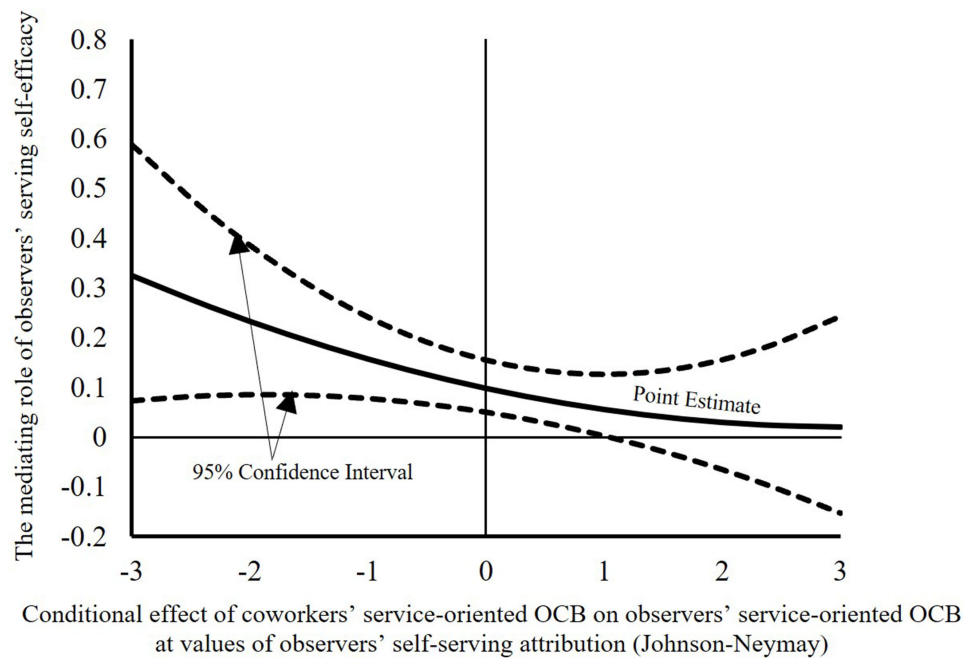


Figure 5 Conditional effect of coworkers' service-oriented OCB on observers' service-oriented OCB at values of observers' self-serving attribution (observers' serving self-efficacy as mediator).

To bridge this research gap, by utilizing an observer-centric perspective, a contagion (vs non-contagion) model of the service-oriented OCB of employees was constructed in the present study, which expanded the research of service-oriented OCB to behavior observers. The theoretical model compensates for the lack of actor-based perspectives in previous studies on service-oriented OCB, and provides a more comprehensive perspective for understanding the impacts of proactive behaviors. Furthermore, based on attribution theory, an in-depth exploration of the internal mechanism and boundary conditions of the contagion (vs non-contagion) effects of service-oriented OCB was conducted. Specifically, the dual cognition (serving self-efficacy vs hypocrisy perception) of employees plays a mediating role, and their self-serving attribution plays a moderating role, which provides an important theoretical explanation and empirical evidence for revealing the mechanism of the impact of service-oriented OCB on observers. To the best of the authors' knowledge, this is the first study to shift focus to the behavior of observers in the investigation of the consequences of the service-oriented OCB of employees, which will greatly enrich the understanding of this pro-social behavior.

Second, and more importantly, previous research based on the observer-centric perspective has been controversial. Specifically, some studies have found that some behaviors that are widely considered to have positive effects (ie, voice, high-level creativity, etc.) have important positive impacts on the observers themselves, while other studies have suggested that these positive behaviors have negative impacts on the observers. For example, Ng et al⁷² argued that witnessing the voice of a coworker may promote observers to engage in this voice. On the contrary, other studies have shown that employees with a high level of creativity may cause the envy of, and ostracism by, their coworkers.^{96,97} Therefore, previous studies have overlooked the boundary conditions under which positive behaviors take effect. With regards to this, a double-edged sword model that explores the positive and negative impacts of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers on the behavior of observers was constructed in the present study. The empirical results demonstrated that the influences of proactive behaviors (ie, service-oriented OCB) on observers can be either positive or negative, depending on the observers' attribution of the behavior. By introducing the logic of dialectics into the research of service-oriented OCB, the present study provides a more complete and dialectical theoretical perspective for the relevant literature from the observer-centric perspective.

Third, this research uncovered new behavioral factors that affect the service-oriented OCB of employees. Existing relevant research has rarely considered how the service-oriented OCB of employees is affected by factors related to their

coworkers. As stated in previous studies, the impacts of coworkers and the relationships between coworkers and observers on OCB must be considered, as OCB is likely shaped by social and relationship factors.^{98,99} Unfortunately, empirical research in this area is relatively lacking. The existing literature on the antecedent variables of service-oriented OCB has mainly focused on climate- and supervisor-related variables. Furthermore, the present study enriches the existing literature from the perspective of observers. It was found that the service-oriented OCB of coworkers may also inhibit or promote the service-oriented OCB of observers by dual cognitive pathways (hypocrisy perception vs serving self-efficacy). By identifying new factors that promote and inhibit the service-oriented OCB of employees, the present study further expands the existing literature in the field of service-oriented OCB.

Finally, a dual-pathway framework (hypocrisy perception vs serving self-efficacy) via which service-oriented OCB contagion (vs non-contagion) occurs was identified. It was determined that as the cognitive paths of employees differ, their corresponding behavioral responses will also be different. The hypocrisy mechanism focuses on the willingness of employees to engage in service-oriented OCB, which is necessary to satisfy the proactive nature of service-oriented OCB.⁵⁵ When employees feel that their coworkers or supervisors are hypocritical, they usually feel uncomfortable, which may inhibit them from implementing OCB.⁵⁰ The self-efficacy mechanism focuses on the confidence of employees in engaging in service-oriented OCB.⁷¹ Moreover, it was further examined why employees can have two different reactions to the certain behavior of a coworker. Drawing on attribution theory, the causal inferences of individuals about past events will affect their own attitudes about and motivation toward future events, and they will adjust their corresponding behavioral response according to the social environment.^{26,27} Therefore, it is suggested that the attributions (self-serving attribution) of individuals determine the dual cognitive pathways. Specifically, when observers have a high level of self-serving attributions about such positive behaviors, they tend to have hypocrisy perceptions, which will further inhibit their willingness to implement service-oriented OCB. In brief, the present study provides initial evidence that the hypocrisy and serving self-efficacy perceptions of observers are the pathways that separately explain the contagion and non-contagion processes of service-oriented OCB, which provides a deeper understanding of this proactive workplace behavior.

Practical Implications

In addition to the theoretical implications, the present study also has the following implications for the daily management of the hospitality industry.

Service-oriented OCB is widely encouraged in the hospitality industry due to its role in improving enterprise-customer relationships, service performance, etc. However, not all employees are willing to engage in this kind of proactive behavior; on the contrary, many employees implement counterproductive work behaviors.¹⁰⁰ Therefore, an in-depth study was conducted on differences in behavioral choices. This research has revealed a very important situation, ie, in a workplace in which the service-oriented OCB of employees is encouraged, blindly asking employees to engage in OCB may have counterproductive effects. On the contrary, managers can refer to the contagion and non-contagion mechanisms proposed in the present study to propose corresponding measures.

First, according to the non-contagion mechanism, the hypocrisy perception interrupts mutual trust between employees. Therefore, managers should promote team building and enhance the mutual trust among employees, which will help dispel employees' suspicions about the behaviors of their coworkers and promote their improved involvement in work. Second, according to the contagion mechanism, another pathway proposed in the present study, namely self-efficacy, is the key factor that may drive the contagion of service-oriented OCB among employees. Therefore, managers should regularly organize skills training to enhance the confidence of employees in implementing OCB. On the other hand, for those employees who wish to actively contribute to the organization but have no way of starting, the proposed contagion path model also provides a certain reference. These employees can first observe the behaviors of their coworkers, which will help cultivate their confidence in the ability to implement service-oriented OCB. This belief will further promote the implementation of service-oriented OCB.

Moreover, it was further explored why the same employee facing the same incident will have two diametrically opposite cognitive mechanisms. It was found that the attributions of employees determine the dual pathways. Therefore, managers should occasionally conduct moral education and shape the vision of all employees to work hard. In addition, it

is necessary to disseminate the benefits of service-oriented OCB to employees, as this will help deepen employees' awareness of these behaviors. Via these mechanisms, observers will greatly reduce the self-serving attributions of their coworkers' behavior; this will block the non-contagion mechanism and enhance the contagion mechanism, thereby ultimately promoting the service-oriented OCB of the entire team.

Limitations and Future Research

Consistent with all studies, this article still has the following limitations:

First, the samples for this study were collected from seven large hotels in central and southwestern China. Future studies can collect data from other service-related industries and examine our theoretical model again, which will help verify the universality of our model. At the same time, as mentioned above, our field survey was conducted in China, where the traditional cultural background is different from Western countries. Studies have shown that cultural elements play a key role in the employee OCB's decision-making process.¹⁰¹ Therefore, it is necessary for the following research to collect samples from countries with other cultural backgrounds and compare the empirical results with this article to analyze the reasons for the differences.

Second, we focused on observers' behavioral responses to coworkers' service-oriented OCB. During the survey process, the participants were asked to report their perceptions of the core constructs such as service-oriented OCB, hypocrisy perception, serving self-efficacy and self-serving attribution. Therefore, the variables were all reported by a single source, that is, the observers, which may lead to the common method variance.¹⁰² In order to circumvent this problem, a time-lag survey was conducted, and our common method variance met the requirements as well. Future research can try to collect data from multiple sources through sophisticated experiments (such as both coworkers and observers) and use multi-level regression (such as hierarchical linear regression) or random coefficient method to verify our theoretical model again, which may help to improve the research results' robustness.

Third, present study identified a dual-pathways framework (hypocrisy perception vs serving self-efficacy) through which service-oriented OCB contagion (vs non-contagion) occurs, which constitutes a great complement and enrichment to the existing literatures. However, the other mechanisms have not been considered. Existing literatures on the antecedent variables of service-oriented OCB mainly drawing on social exchange theory, justice theory, social comparison theory, and the job demand-resource model etc. examined the mediating role of justice climate, perceived LMX difference, and depersonalization etc.^{6,61,95,103} Therefore, it is of great importance for future research to examine the internal mechanism among service-oriented OCB contagion (vs non-contagion) effects, which is more through the present study's dual-pathways mechanism than the justice, LMX, and other mechanisms mentioned above. Future research can further develop our model and attribution theory by controlling the above alternative mechanisms.

Fourth, future research can further explore the other outcomes of service-oriented OCB. Drawing on attribution theory, this study takes observers' dual-pathways cognitions (hypocrisy perception and serving self-efficacy) as the mechanism to the double-edged sword effect of coworkers' service-oriented OCB. However, in addition to attribution perspective, there are still many mechanisms that need to be further examined. For example, from the perspective of conservation of resource, future research can test the loss and acquisition of observers' own resources after observing coworkers' service-oriented OCB and their next behavioral decision.

Conclusion

Drawing on attribution theory, it was found that witnessing the service-oriented OCB of coworkers may cause different behavioral responses of observers (ie, promoting vs inhibiting their own service-oriented OCB) via two distinct attribution pathways (serving self-efficacy vs hypocrisy perception); this depends on the self-serving attribution of observers to their coworkers' behaviors. Specifically, the service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the self-serving attribution of observers will interact to influence the hypocrisy perception of the observers. Thus, the relationship between the service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the hypocrisy perception of observers will be stronger and positive when the self-serving attribution of the observers is higher, and will be weaker when the self-serving attribution is lower. Hypocrisy perceptions of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers mediate the relationship between the interactive effect of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the self-serving attribution of observers regarding service-oriented OCB.

Furthermore, the service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the self-serving attribution of observers will interact to influence the serving self-efficacy of the observers. Thus, the relationship between the service-oriented OCB of coworkers and the serving self-efficacy of observers will be stronger and positive when the self-serving attribution of the observers is low, and will be weaker when the self-serving attribution is lower. The serving self-efficacy of observers mediates the relationship between the interactive effect of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers and self-serving attribution on the service-oriented OCB of observers. Data from seven hotels in central and southwestern China support the proposed theoretical model. By integrating the proposed double-edged sword model of the service-oriented OCB of coworkers, the proposed study makes both theoretical and practical contributions to the field.

Data Sharing Statement

Data supporting the findings presented in the current study will be available from the corresponding author upon request.

Ethical Statement

Our study did not involve human clinical trials or animal experiments. Meanwhile, current paper did not involve any sensitive topics that may make the participants feel uncomfortable. No deception or concealment of participant information. Based on the above reasons, the research is deemed to meet the institutional requirements and is therefore exempt from ethical recognition. All participants were informed of the research process and provided written informed consent in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. The above investigation process has been approved by the Institutional Review Committee of the School of Business, Sichuan University.

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Disclosure

All the authors declare that we have no conflicts of interest.

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