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Crafting work and leisure for recovery and optimal functioning across life domains

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Introduction: Recovery experiences have thus far been portrayed as experiences that simply "happen" to people. However, recovery can also be understood from a crafting perspective; that is, individuals may proactively shape their work and non-work activities to recover from stress, satisfy their psychological needs, and achieve optimal functioning.

Materials and Methods: In my talk, I will present the theoretical basis of needs-based crafting based on a conceptual review of the literature. Moreover, I will present empirical findings on the validation of a newly developed off-job crafting scale.

Results: In five sub studies, we found that off-job crafting was related to optimal functioning over time. Moreover, the newly developed off-job crafting scale had good convergent and discriminant validity, internal consistency, and test-retest reliability.

Conclusions: Theoretical and empirical evidence suggests that needs-based crafting can enhance optimal functioning in different life domains and support people in performing their work duties sustainably. Proactive attempts to achieve better recovery through needs satisfaction may be beneficial in an intensified and continually changing and challenging working life. Our line of research provides important avenues for organizational research and practices regarding recovery and needs satisfaction occurring at work and outside work.