Status Threat – Pre-registration Study 3

1) Data collection. Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) Hypothesis What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
After all participants got exposed to a prime validated to increase status threat among majority members (i.e., the racial-shift paradigm; Craig et al., 2014), we conduct an experiment to test if priming common national identity reduces status threat and the downstream consequences.
We will assess whether priming national identity to white American majority members will a.) decrease their sense of status threat, b.) decrease outgroup animosity, c.) increase perceived connectedness with minority groups, and d.) decrease radical right support.
White Americans are randomly exposed to one of two conditions. In the control condition (Condition 1), participants will only be exposed to the status threat prime. In the national identity condition (Condition 2), participants will be exposed to the status threat prime and subsequently read a text on national identity, following previous research by Levendusky (2017).
Specifically, we have two aims:

1. *Evaluate whether priming common national identity in Condition 2 does, compared to Condition 1, make participants experience minority members as more American.*
2. *Evaluate whether priming common national identity in Condition 2 does, compared to Condition 1, make participants feel less status-threatened, hostile towards outgroups, more connected towards these minority outgroups, and less likely to support the radical right.*

3) Dependent variable Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

- *American identification (manipulation check, adapted from Huddy & Khatib, 2007). Participants rate four items, all ranging strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7). Example item: Being American is important to me.*

- *Perceived Americanness: six items assessing the perceived Americanness of various groups (Democrats, Republicans, white Americans, Black Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans): Please indicate to what degree you find the following groups to be American, 1 (Not at all) to 5 (Extremely)).*

- *Status threat (adapted from Outten et al., 2012): Participants rate five items, all ranging strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7). Example item: White Americans should be threatened by the growing ethnic diversity in the US.*

- *Outgroup animosity: Participants are asked to indicate their warmth/favorability towards 5 different racial groups (Blacks, Asians, Hispanics, illegal migrants, legal migrants). Prompt: Please indicate your feelings toward the following people and groups below. Ratings between 50 degrees and 100 degrees mean that you feel favorable and warm toward the person or group. Ratings between 0 degrees and 50 degrees mean that you don't feel favorable and warm toward the person or group. You would rate them at the 50 degree mark if you don't feel particularly warm or cold toward them. If there is a person or group you don't recognize, you don't need to rate them.*

- *Connectedness (Aron et al., 1992), Participants see 7 sets of circles that vary in how much they overlap. One circle represents the self (i.e., the participant) and the other represents People of Color (the other). Higher scores on this measure (i.e., greater overlap of the circles) represents greater perceived similarity.*
- *Radical right support. Measured in two ways*
    - *1. Vote choice: one item reading, If the presidential election was held today, which candidate would you vote for? (Joe Biden, Donald Trump).*
    - *2. Feeling thermometers: as for outgroup animosity, now measuring warmth towards Republicans and Democrats (reverse-coded).*

- *Ethnic identification (adapted from Verkuyten, 2005). Participants rate five items, all ranging strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7). Example item: I feel connected to other white Americans.*
- *Feeling thermometer: as for outgroup animosity and warmth towards Republicans, now measured for the subgroup of white Americans.*

- *Patriotism (2 items, adapted from Huddy & Khatib, 2007, both ranging strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7)). Example item: It makes me feel good when I see the American flag flying.*
- *Nationalism (2 items, adapted from Huddy & Khatib, 2007, both ranging strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7)). Example item: America is a better country than most others.*
- *National pride (7 items, adapted from Huddy & Khatib, 2007, all ranging strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7)). Example item: I am proud of the country's……democracy.*

4) Conditions How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
White Americans are randomly exposed to one of two conditions. In the control condition (Condition 1), participants will only be exposed to the status threat prime. In the national identity condition (Condition 2), participants will be exposed to the status threat prime and subsequently read a text on national identity, following previous research by Levendusky (2017).

5) Analyses Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

- *Scales will be summarized into indices, if internal consistencies justify this.*
- *We summarize the thermometers on outgroups (i.e., Black Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic/Latinx Americans, illegal immigrants, legal immigrants) into an index, if internal consistency and factor structure justify this.*

- *Building on our previous studies, we will conduct a mediation analysis of condition -> status threat -> outcomes.*

6) Outliers and Exclusions Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We will exclude participants who did not pass the attention checks.

7) Sample Size How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size?
Based on an a priori power analysis and accounting for dropouts, we will recruit 900 participants from CloudResearch.

8) Other Anything else you would like to pre-register?

- *Besides the mediation through status threat, we may conduct mean difference testing (i.e., ANOVAs) to explore the direct effect of condition on all variables. We may also conduct basic descriptive analyses. Specifically, we will test:*
  - *Condition 2 (vs. Condition 1) -> increased perceived Americanness of outgroups (as measured in the perceived Americanness items)*
  - *Condition 2 (vs. Condition 1) -> decreased status threat perceptions (as measured in the status threat scale)*
  - *Condition 2 (vs. Condition 1) -> increased connectedness (as measured in the IOS scale)*
  - *Condition 2 (vs. Condition 1) -> decreased outgroup animosity (as measured by the feeling thermometers or, if justified, the thermometer scale)*
  - *Condition 2 (vs. Condition 1) -> decreased radical right support (as measured in vote choice and thermometers for Republicans, and Democrats (reverse-scored))*

- *We may test if the relationships are moderated by partisanship, i.e., test an interaction of condition and partisanship on the outcomes.*
- *We assess ethnic identity and warmth towards whites to account for the possibility that priming national identity increases ethnic identity and warmth towards whites. If that is the case, it would suggest that our national identity prime is confounded with white identity contents. In turn, this could lead to the opposite of the intended effects. Therefore, we consider exploratory mediation analyses of condition -> ethnic identity -> outcomes.*
- *We assess patriotism, nationalism, and national pride to evaluate if our treatment affects one or several of these concepts (besides or instead of national identity). If so, we may control for the respective variable or evaluate whether it can explain unexpected effects (e.g., that the experimental identity condition rather increases animosity due to primed nationalism).*

- *We assess perceived Americanness as we argue that priming superordinate national identity reduces status threat and downstream consequences because it makes subordinate outgroups appear American, too. To test this reasoning, we consider a mediation of condition -> perceived Americanness -> outcomes and possibly a serial mediation of condition -> perceived Americanness -> status threat -> outcomes.*
  - *The outgroups (Blacks, Asians, Hispanics) will be summarized in an index if possible. The other three groups (Democrats, Republicans, whites) are mainly assessed to prevent demand effects (i.e., making the question salient by having outgroups ranked as American), to establish a baseline (i.e., how American are whites perceived to be), and to rule out that our national identity prime evokes white sentiments (as indicated in perceived Americanness of whites and Republicans).*

9) Name Give a title for this AsPredicted pre-registration
Status Threat – Study 3

10) Type of study.
Experiment

11) Data source
CloudResearch