Status Threat – Pre-registration Study 4

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?
The main hypothesis is that white Americans' sense of threat and subsequent social and political backlash can be reduced when priming a shared identity. An experiment tests if priming a common national identity reduces status threat and downstream backlash against racial minorities. White Americans get randomly assigned to one of three conditions. In the control condition (Condition 1), participants are asked to list what they had for their three latest meals. In the first treatment condition (Condition 2, "Value Condition"), participants are asked to list what three values they think most Americans share. In the second treatment condition (Condition 3, "Hardship Condition"), participants are asked to list what three hardships they think most Americans share.
We test the following hypotheses in a mediation analysis:
1a. Condition 2 reports, on average, less status threat than Condition 1.
1b: Condition 3 reports, on average, less status threat than Condition 1.

2a: Status threat is positively associated with outgroup animosity.
2b: Status threat is negatively associated with perceived connectedness.
2c: Status threat is positively associated with sympathy toward Republicans.
2e: Status threat is positively associated with symbolic racism.
2e: Status threat is positively associated with opposition to progressive racial policies.

3a: Status threat mediates a negative effect of the shared identity primes on outgroup animosity.
3b: Status threat mediates a positive effect of the shared identity primes on perceived connectedness.
3c: Status threat mediates a negative effect of the shared identity primes on sympathy toward Republicans.
3d: Status threat mediates a negative effect of the shared identity primes on symbolic racism.
3e: Status threat mediates a negative effect of the shared identity primes on opposition to progressive racial policies.

3) Dependent variable Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
Mediator
- *Status threat (5 items, adapted from Outten et al., 2012, all ranging strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7)). Example item: White Americans should be threatened by the growing ethnic diversity in the US.*

Dependent variables
1. *Outgroup animosity: Participants are asked to indicate their warmth/favorability toward 5 outgroups (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.

2. *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.*
3. *Sympathy toward Republicans (as for outgroup animosity, measured as warmth toward Republicans).*
4. *Symbolic racism (4 items, adapted from Banks & Valentino, 2012, ranging strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5)). Example item: Over the past few years, racial minorities have gotten less than they deserve. (reverse-coded)*
5. *Opposition to conservative racial policies (4 items, adapted from Banks & Valentino, 2012, ranging strongly oppose/very low (1) to strongly support/very high (5)). Example item: There is much discussion about the best way to deal with racial problems. Some people think achieving racial integration of schools is so important that it justifies busing children to schools out of their own neighborhood. Others think letting children go to their neighborhood schools is so important that they oppose busing. Do you oppose or support policies busing children to schools out of their own neighborhood?*

Manipulation check

- *American identification (4 items, adapted from Huddy & Khatib, 2007, all ranging strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7)). Example item: Being American is important to me.*

Covariates

1. *Constructive patriotism (4 items, adapted from Huddy & Khatib, 2007, all ranging strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7)). Example item: People should work hard to move this country in a positive direction.*
2. *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.*
3. *Nationalism (2 items, adapted from Huddy & Khatib, 2007, both ranging from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7)). Example item: America is a better country than most others.*
4. *National pride (7 items, adapted from Huddy & Khatib, 2007, all ranging from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7)). Example item: I am proud of the country's...democracy.*
5. *White identity (5 items, adapted from Verkuyten, 2005, all ranging strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7)). Example item: I feel connected to other white Americans.*

4) Conditions How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
White Americans get randomly exposed to one of three conditions. In the control condition (Condition 1), participants are asked to list what they had for their three latest meals. In the first treatment condition (Condition 2, "Value Condition"), participants are asked to list what three values they think most Americans share. In the second treatment condition (Condition 3, "Hardship Condition"), participants are asked to list what three hardships they think most Americans share.

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

- *We will summarize all scales above into indices, if internal consistencies (Cronbach's alpha) justify this.*

- *Building on our previous studies, we test our hypotheses with a mediation analysis of condition -> status threat -> outcomes. Mediations will be conducted with the R-package lavaan, bootstrapping 5,000 samples. For the indirect effect (Hypotheses 3a-3e), hypotheses are supported amid a significant effect ($p < .05$) for the indirect effect coefficient, respectively.*

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 (one asking them to tick a specific response in a Likert-scale, a second asking them for a specific response in an open-text question). Furthermore, we will exclude participants who give nonsense responses (i.e., write text that does not respond to the question) in the open-response questions.

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 recruit 1,500 participants from CloudResearch.

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

- *Based on previous literature and our previous studies, we expect that status threat is the central mechanism explaining backlash. Therefore, our main hypothesis tests are the mediations of the treatments on the outcomes through status threat.*
  However, we additionally test the direct effects of the conditions on the dependent variables, using OLS regressions. Specifically, we test:
- *Condition 2 (vs. Condition 1) -> reduced outgroup animosity*
- *Condition 2 (vs. Condition 1) -> increased connectedness*
- *Condition 2 (vs. Condition 1) -> reduced sympathy toward Republicans*
- *Condition 2 (vs. Condition 1) -> reduced symbolic racism*
- *Condition 2 (vs. Condition 1) -> less opposition to progressive racial policies*

- *Condition 3 (vs. Condition 1) -> reduced outgroup animosity*
- *Condition 3 (vs. Condition 1) -> increased connectedness*
- *Condition 3 (vs. Condition 1) -> reduced sympathy toward Republicans*
- *Condition 3 (vs. Condition 1) -> reduced symbolic racism*
- *Condition 3 (vs. Condition 1) -> less opposition to progressive racial policies*

- *We assess the covariates listed above as our previous studies and pilots have shown that the common identity primes may additionally evoke alternative conceptions of nationhood, specifically constructive patriotism, symbolic patriotism, nationalism, national pride, and white identity. Our previous studies suggest that these concepts are contrarily associated with the outcomes, thus potentially blurring any effects. Hence, if a treatment does not predict status threat, we control for any covariate that is significantly affected by the treatment to reduce this confounding.*

  - *We are aware that these posttreatment controls may evoke posttreatment bias (Montgomery et al., 2018) but consider this the best option to assess the cleanest effect of the national identity prime possible. That said, we present two different national identity primes (i.e., values and hardships) as our pilots suggest that the value treatment primes national identity more strongly, but also more likely evokes other conceptions of nationhood, compared to the hardship prime. In that sense, the value prime is the stronger but nosier treatment. While the main aim of this experiment is to reduce status threat with either identity prime, we present the results for both primes to transparently inform about the intricacies in priming national identity (a widely promoted but difficult to implement intervention).*

- *In exploratory analysis, we may test if the relationships are moderated by conservative ideology, such that the treatment effect is conditional on conservative ideology.*

9) Name Give a title for this AsPredicted pre-registration
Status Threat – Study 4

10) Type of study.
Experiment

11) Data source
CloudResearch