Groups and Well-being 2 (#7895)

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

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
Previous research has shown that gaining a new group membership improves well-being because it satisfies global psychological needs, whereas losing a group membership decreases well-being because it undermines global psychological needs. We test the hypothesis that this effect is moderated by group esteem, such that losing a negative group membership may in fact improve well-being, whereas gaining a negative group membership may undermine well-being.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
1. Meaningful existence – 3 items from Greenaway et al., 2015, EJSP (e.g., "I felt meaningless"; 1=strongly disagree to 7=strongly agree)
2. Perceived personal control – 3 items from Greenaway et al., 2015, EJSP (e.g., "I felt in control"; 1=strongly disagree to 7=strongly agree)
3. Self-esteem – 3 items from Greenaway et al., 2015, EJSP (e.g., "I felt good about myself"; 1=strongly disagree to 7=strongly agree)
4. Belonging – 3 items from Greenaway et al., 2015, EJSP (e.g., "I felt disconnected"; 1=strongly disagree to 7=strongly agree)
5. Depression – 7 items from Greenaway et al., 2015, EJSP (e.g., "I felt that I had nothing to look forward to"; 0=Did not apply to me at all, 1=Applied to me to a considerable degree or a good part of the time, 3=Applied to me very much or most of the time; ratings will be summed into a single index of depression symptoms)
6. Life satisfaction – 3 items from Schmitt et al., 2002, PSPB (e.g., "I am satisfied with my life"; 1=strongly disagree to 7=strongly agree)
7. Group esteem – 4 items adapted from Ellemers, Kortekaas, & Ouwerkerk, 1999, EJSP, and Leach et al., 2008, JPSP (e.g., "I think this group [has/had] little to be proud of"; 1=strongly disagree to 7=strongly agree)
8. Ingroup identification – 5 items adapted from Leach et al., 2008, JPSP (e.g., "[identify/identified] with this group"; 1=strongly disagree to 7=strongly agree)

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Participants are asked to recall and write about a positive or negative group membership they gained or lost, adapted from Greenaway et al. (2015, EJSP). Thus, the study has a 2 (group membership gain/loss) x 2 (positive/negative group membership) between-subjects design.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will conduct 2 (group membership gain/loss) x 2 (positive/negative group membership) between-subjects ANOVAs on all dependent measures (measures 1-6 above). Simple effects analyses will be conducted to follow up statistically significant interactions. We will also conduct two separate moderated mediation analyses using PROCESS with meaningful existence, perceived personal control, self-esteem, and belonging as simultaneous mediators; life satisfaction and depression as dependent measures; the group membership gain/loss manipulation (-0.5=loss condition; 0.5=gain condition) as the predictor; and the group membership valence manipulation (-0.5=negative group; 0.5=positive group) as a moderator on the a and c’ paths (PROCESS Model 8).

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
Data from participants whose responses to the writing task do not provide a clear picture or do not clearly describe an event relevant to the prompt (e.g., participants who only write a few words; participants who do not provide sufficient detail to identify what event or group membership they were thinking of) will be excluded before any analyses are conducted.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
We will aim for 150 participants per cell, yielding a target sample size of 600. Data collection will cease when 600 participants have completed the study.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
We will measure ingroup identification and group esteem with regard to the ingroup participants wrote about, testing for differences with 2 (gain/loss condition) x 2 (positive/negative group membership) between-subjects ANOVAs. We anticipate no effects on ingroup identification, and a main effect of the group membership valence manipulation but no effects of the gain/loss manipulation on group esteem. If there are unexpected differences in ingroup identification or group esteem, we may conduct exploratory analyses adjusting for these variables. We will also conduct exploratory factor analyses to test whether the mediators form distinct, reliable constructs (meaningful existence, perceived personal control, self-esteem, and belonging) or load on a single factor, as in Greenaway et al. (2015, EJSP).

Available at https://aspredicted.org/676p2.pdf