Groups and Well-being 1 (#7170)

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”; 1=Did not apply to me at all, 2=Applied to me to some degree or some of the time, 3=Applied to me to a considerable degree or a good part of the time, 4=Applied to me very much or most of the time)
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?
The study has a three-condition between-subjects design: Participants are asked to recall and write about an important group membership they gained or lost, or their daily routine (control condition), as in Greenaway et al. (2015, EJSP).

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will conduct linear regression analyses to examine the interactive effects of condition and group esteem on all dependent measures (measures 1-6 above). Group esteem will be mean-centered and condition will be dummy-coded. We will assess all pairwise comparisons by condition by varying the reference group. Statistically significant interactions will be decomposed using simple slopes analysis. 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; condition (dummy-coded) as the predictor; and group esteem (mean-centered) as a moderator on the a and c’ paths.

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 450. Data collection will cease when 450 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 identification with the ingroup that participants wrote about in the identity gain and loss conditions in order to examine whether participants in both conditions considered ingroups with which they identified. We will test for differences in ingroup identification using an independent samples t-test (identity gain=0.5, identity loss=-0.5; the control condition will be excluded from this analysis because this measure will not be presented in the control condition). If there are reliable differences in ingroup identification, we may conduct exploratory analyses adjusting for ingroup identification. 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).