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?
Primary hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1: When instructed to think about how they are similar to (vs. different from) a target, participants will choose to imagine the perspectives of immoral targets less frequently than neutral targets.

Hypothesis 2: In a post-task questionnaire, participants will report that they were less narratively transported while imagining the perspectives of immoral targets (vs. neutral targets) during the task.

Hypothesis 3: Lower narrative transportation for immoral targets (relative to neutral targets) will be associated with choosing fewer immoral (vs. neutral) targets.

Hypothesis 4: The relationship between choice of immoral targets and narrative transportation (Hyp. 3) will depend on experimental condition, such that this association will be stronger when participants are instructed to think about how they are similar to (vs. different from) the targets.

Secondary/Exploratory Hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1: In a post-task questionnaire, participants will report that they felt less positively about themselves while imagining the perspectives of immoral targets (vs. neutral targets) during the task.

Hypothesis 2: Less positive self-evaluations for immoral targets (relative to neutral targets) will be associated with choosing fewer immoral targets.

Hypothesis 3: The relationship between choice of immoral targets and self-evaluations (Hyp. 2) will depend on experimental condition, such that this association will be stronger when participants are instructed to think about how they are similar to (vs. different from) the targets.

Hypothesis 4: In a post-task questionnaire, participants will report greater effort and frustration while imagining the perspectives of immoral targets (vs. neutral targets) during the task.

Hypothesis 5: In a post-task questionnaire, participants will report lower efficacy while imagining the perspectives of immoral targets (vs. neutral targets) during the task.

Hypothesis 6: In a trial-level question, participants will report feeling less upset for the target on trials where they choose immoral targets.

Hypothesis 7: In a trial-level question, participants will report feeling less similar to the target on trials where they choose immoral targets.

Hypothesis 8: In a trial-level question, participants will report that imagining the target’s perspective was easier on trials where they choose neutral targets.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
1) Immoral target choice, which will be calculated as the proportion of the 16 trials where the participant chose an immoral target.

For measures 2-4 below, participants will complete the scales twice after all 16 trials: once in reference to trials where they chose an immoral target and once in reference to trials where they chose a neutral target.

2) Adapted Narrative Transportation Scale (Appel et al., 2015), completed on a 1-7 Likert scale.
   1. I could picture myself in the scene of the events described
   2. I was mentally involved in the scenario
   3. I wanted to learn how the scenario ended
   4. Imaging the scenario affected me emotionally

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5. I had a vivid image of the person’s perspective

3) Self-evaluation items (adapted from Monin et al., 2008), completed on a 1-7 Likert scale.
1. Disappointed with myself
2. Happy with myself
3. Annoyed with myself
4. Comfortable with myself
5. Disgusted with myself
6. Pleased with myself
7. Angry with myself
8. Dissatisfied with myself
9. Secure with myself

4) NASA Task Load Index (Hart & Staveland, 1988), completed on a 1-5 Likert scale.
1. How mentally demanding was the task?
2. How hard did you have to work to accomplish your level of performance with this task?
3. How insecure, discouraged, irritated, stressed, and annoyed were you by this task?
4. How successful were you in accomplishing what you were asked to do in this task?

5) Trial-Level Measures, completed on a 1-7 Likert scale. Participants will complete these measures on each of the 16 trials.
1. How similar do you feel to [target name]?
2. How upset do you feel for [target name]?
3. How easy was it to imagine [target name]'s perspective?

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Participants will be provided with 16 trials of an adapted version of the Empathy Selection Task (EST; Cameron et al., 2019). For each trial, participants will be shown two targets: each target will come with an image (Ma, Correll, & Wittenbrink, 2015) and verbal description. For each trial, one target will come with a verbal description indicating that the target is immoral, while the other will come with a morally-neutral description. Participants will be given the choice to imagine the perspective of one of the two targets. After making each choice, they will be instructed to imagine how the target would think, feel, and behave during an acute negative experience and write a sentence describing what they imagined.

Participants will be randomly assigned to complete this task under one of two experimental conditions:
Similar: Participants are instructed to complete the task while thinking about how they are similar to each target.
Different: Participants are instructed to complete the task while thinking about how they are different from each target.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will use t-tests to compare the Similar and Different conditions on target choice. To compare responses on the narrative transportation, self-evaluation, and effort measures, we will use t-tests comparing whether the difference between immoral and neutral target ratings on these measures differs from 0.

We will use regression models to test the moderating effect of condition on the relationship between choice proportion and narrative transportation, self-evaluation, and effort. We will also run multilevel regression models to test the effect of trial and condition on trial-level ratings (upset, similarity, and imagination).

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We will exclude participants who show clear inattentiveness during the study, either by not completing one of the trials and/or providing irrelevant responses on the open-ended portion of the trials. If extreme outliers are identified, we will analyze data with and without these outliers included and report both sets of results.

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 a sample size of 200, which will provide 94% power to detect a medium-sized effect between the two experimental conditions.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
Participants will complete the empathic concern and perspective-taking subscales of the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1983) and the internalization items of the Moral Identity Scale (Aquino & Reed, 2003). We will include these measures for exploratory purposes, including whether they moderate effects of condition on the dependent variables. We will also compare whether proportion of choices for immoral targets significantly differs from 0.50, both overall and within the Different and Similar conditions.

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