Supplementary material for: Autobiographical Recall of Mastery Experiences Is a Mechanism of Self-Affirming under Social Identity Threat

1. **Elaboration on the manipulation check applied in Studies 1 and 2**

Two questions were adapted from Phinney and colleagues, (1993) and used to assess the perception of participants of the experimental conditions. The aim of the manipulation was to assess whether participants read the vignette and perceived the content as negative versus neutral or positive. In one, participants were asked to rate the author of the article on his/her attitudes on the group portrayed, and in the other, they were asked to rate the author of the article on his/her feelings on the group portrayed. Both questions were rated on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (very positive) to 5 (very negative).

1. **The construction of the experimental manipulation vignette in Studies 1 and 2**

We used a categorization threat, a type of social identity threat, which ascribes a stereotypical characteristic to a target group (Branscombe et al., 1999), to constructthree short experimental vignettes since our outcome measure was self-reported collective self-esteem as opposed to a performance index where social identity threat has been induced by manipulating task instructions. The “fat US American” stereotype was used and constructed into a short description with an identity-relevant target group (US American). The selection of the stereotype was based on the high prevalence of obesity in the United States relative to other countries, with an estimated one third of both men and women being obese (Ng et al., 2014). The constructed vignette featured a description of Americans supported by fictitious statistics “Americans are known to be fat; More than one-third (34.9% or 78.6 million) of American adults are obese…”. To pretest the constructed vignettes, we used cognitive interviewing to assess how participants perceived and interpreted the vignettes. The procedure involved conducting five semi-structured in depth interviews with U.S American citizens in which we asked interviewees to engage in concurrent reports of their thoughts (think aloud) with probe questions applied when needed (Beatty & Willis, 2007; Drennan, 2003). After finalizing the vignette, an identity-irrelevant variant (Austrian) was developed such that the two vignettes differed only in the country designator. A neutral condition was also constructed, featuring a description of chairs “A chair is a piece of furniture with a raised surface used to sit on…”. Word count was kept constant across the vignettes (see Appendix A for full script).

1. **Manipulation check results per condition for Study 2**

order (attitude rating for routine recall before threat *F*(2, 201) = 149.70, *MSE* = .48, *p =* .00; feeling rating for routine recall before threat *F*(2, 201) = 120.91, *MSE* = .53, *p =* .00; attitude rating for routine recall after threat *F*(2, 189) = 87.73, *MSE* = .486, *p =* .00; feeling rating for routine recall after threat *F*(2, 189) = 92.06, *MSE* = .46, *p =* .00; attitude rating for mastery recall before threat *F*(2, 159) = 122.48, *MSE* = .46, *p =* .00; feeling rating for mastery recall before threat *F*(2, 159) = 103.26, *MSE* = .51, *p =* .00; attitude rating for mastery recall after threat *F*(2, 161) = 137.41, *MSE* = .42, *p =* .00; feeling rating for mastery recall after threat *F*(2, 161) = 111.18, *MSE* = .47, *p =* .00)

1. **Interaction effect between recall order and threat relevance in Study 2**

 We found a more specific protective effect when examining the interaction between recall order and threat relevance (*F*(2, 710) = 5.89, *MSE* = .64, *p* = .00, η2 = .02) where in the identity irrelevant condition alone and regardless of recall type (*F*(1, 716) = 26.29, *MSE* = .65, *p* = .00, η2 = .03), those instructed to recall a memory before being exposed to the identity-irrelevant threat (*M* = 4.66, *SD* *=* .84)scored significantly higher on collective self-esteem than those recalling a memory after exposure to the identity irrelevant-threat (*M =* 4.13, *SD* = .29). This was not the case for participants in the identity-relevant (*F*(1, 716) = 3.23, *MSE* = .65, *p* = .07, η2 = .00) and neutral conditions (*F*(1, 716) = .28, *MSE* = .65, *p* = .60, η2 = .00). The main effect of recall order suggests an overall protective or buffering effect of recall but the interaction term with threat type suggests that such a general protective effect was specifically relevant when participants were exposed to a negative stimulus that did not target their national identity.

References

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