## Introduction

- Terror Management Theory (TMT): culture helps us cope with death anxiety (mortality salience) (Greenberg et al., 1986). Mortality Salience (MS) is the unconscious awareness of death.
- Mortality salience has been shown to alter behavior, such as increasing aggression towards groups that threaten one’s worldview (McGregor et al., 1998).
- Mortality salience can have differing effects due to individual differences (Greenberg et al., 1992; Greenberg et al., 2001; Van den Bos et al., 2012; Mikulincer & Florian, 2000).
- Research surrounding TMT has tried to explain possible causes of militant extremism with mixed results.

## Hypotheses:

1: Mortality salience will increase scores in Contemporary Militant Extremism (CME).

2: Social Dominance Orientation (SDO) will predict higher scores in Justification of Violent Acts; Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) will predict higher scores in Justification of Violence in the Name of God; neither SDO or RWA will predict scores in Sins of Western Nations.

## Methods and Materials

- 30 participants (19 female, 10 male, 1 other) were recruited online.
- Participants completed an anonymous online survey that contained measures of Right-Wing Authoritarianism, Social Dominance Orientation, PANAS-X, and Contemporary Militant Extremism.

## Results

- Across conditions, there was no significant difference in positive, \( t(28) = 1.05, p > .05, g = .38 \), or negative affect, \( t(28) = -0.21, p > .05, g = .08 \).
- There was no significant difference in contemporary militant extremism between conditions, \( t(28) = -0.23, p > .05, g = 0.09 \).
- SDO predicted scores in Justification of Violent Acts, \( b = .44, t(28) = 2.16, p < .05 \). A significant regression was found, \( F(1, 28) = 6.84, p < .05, R^2 = .20 \).
- RWA predicted scores in Justification of Violence in the Name of God, \( b = .74, t(28) = 4.27, p < .05 \). A significant regression was found, \( F(1, 28) = 33.99, p < .05, R^2 = .55 \).

## Discussion

- These findings further support those of Vergani et al. (2019), in which mortality salience did not increase militant extremism.
- Jonas and Fritsche (2013) found that existential threat does not necessarily always increase hostilities towards other groups.
- Mortality Salience may have nuanced effects on aggressive and violent behaviors based on individual factors and differences.

## References


