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A Model of Loneliness based on Self-Concept Theory

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Poster Presentation 36

**A MODEL OF LONELINESS BASED ON
SELF-CONCEPT THEORY**

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This study utilizes the Brewer and Gardner theory of self-concept and relates it to previous theories of loneliness. Approximately 80 participants were cued by stories (primes) to put them in a mind-frame that focused on one level of self. We expect to run an additional ten participants. The levels we chose were the collective and the interpersonal self; the participants may also have been part of a control condition. The collective self is the way in which an individual perceives their personality characteristics within a collective group. The interpersonal self is the way in which an individual perceives their personality characteristics within a dyadic relationship.

The participants were then administered the UCLA Loneliness Scale. Previous research has shown that this scale can measure three types of loneliness: isolation, connectedness, and belongingness. It is predicted that the type of loneliness experienced will vary with the relationship with which the participant was primed.

We are currently in the process of analyzing these data. A MANOVA will be used to determine if participants primed with a collective story will have significantly lower (less lonely) belongingness loneliness scores on the UCLA scale than the control group. A second MANOVA will be used to determine if participants primed with an interpersonal story will have significantly lower connectedness scores on the UCLA scale than the control group. In addition, participants were given an additional loneliness scale, a depression inventory scale, and a demographics form. These measures were used to determine if the results are covarying with factors other than loneliness. It is predicted that they will not be significantly correlated with measures of loneliness.