



Sacred Heart
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How Context Shapes our Concerns:

Investigating the Causal Effects of Social Identity Threat Concerns using the SITC Inventory

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Introduction

- Our society must develop a deeper understanding of how stigma affects marginalized communities.
- To understand, affirm, and improve the experiences of socially marginalized groups, it is critical to have a valid and precise self-report measure of **social identity threat concerns**.
- The purpose of the present research is to **develop and validate a new, easy-to-use self-report measure** to precisely measure social identity threat concerns in a variety of contexts.

Method

- 337 participants were recruited for an online experiment
- After consenting and providing demographic information, participants were informed that they would either be participating in either a **politically sensitive** or **racially sensitive conversation**.
- Those assigned to the **High Threat condition** were told they would be the sole representative of their political or racial group, while those assigned to the **Low Threat condition** were told they would be in the majority.
- With the impending conversations in mind, they were **asked to complete the SITC Inventory**.
- After completing the inventory, participants were informed the study was over and they were debriefed.

Results

- As expected, participants in the High Threat condition reported **greater concerns** participants in the Low Threat condition, regardless of whether they expected a politically or racially sensitive conversation.
- In other words, **expecting to be the sole representative of their group led people to worry** about being **devalued and/or mistreated**.

Discussion

- This demonstration further **supports the validity and utility of the SITC Inventory**, extending it to actual (vs. imagined) social contexts.
- Practically, this self-report measure can be **leveraged to identify and root out harmful and unfair norms, policies, and practices** that perpetuate and compound social disadvantage.

The SITC Inventory

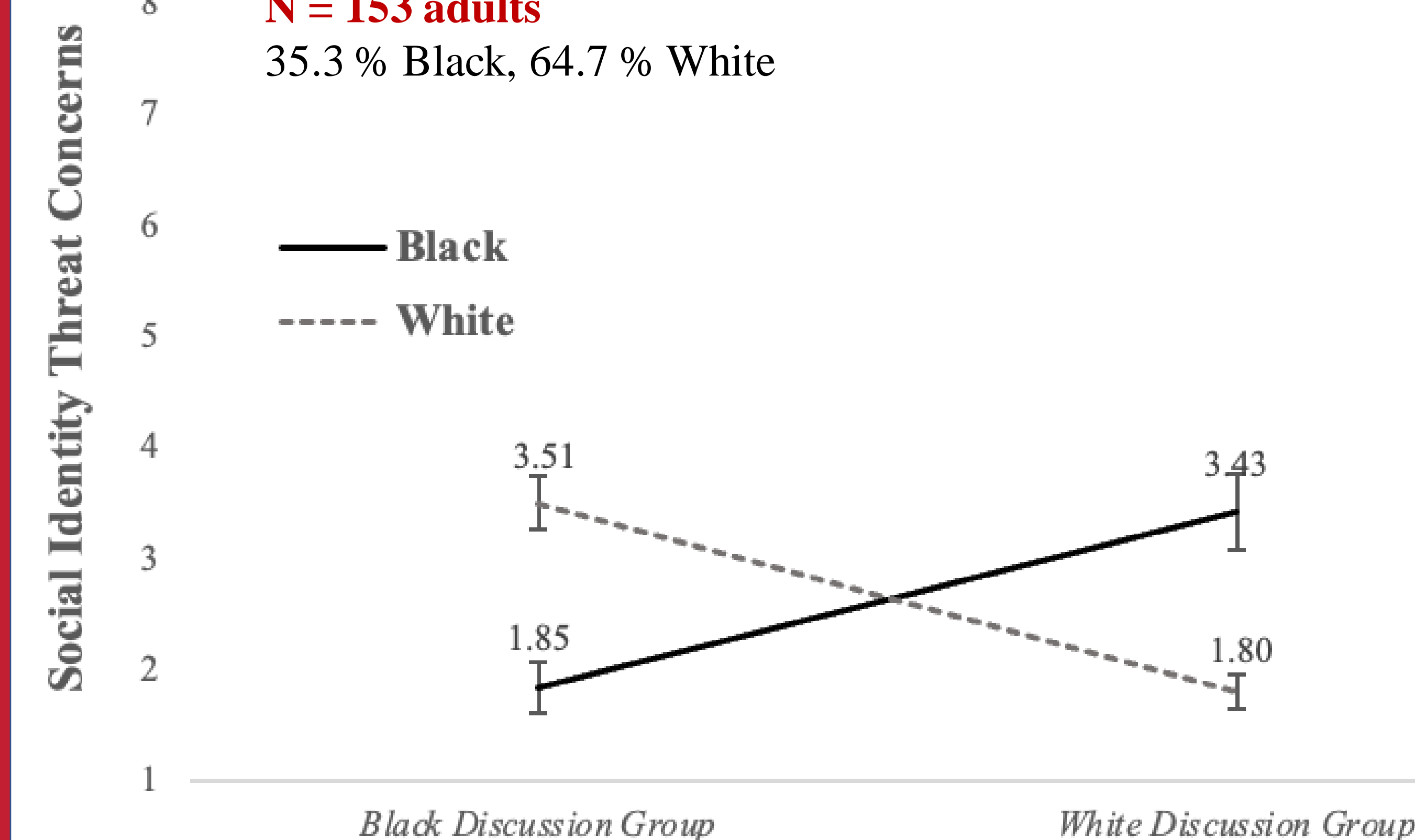
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Not at all true of me				Moderately true of me				Extremely true of me

- Sometimes, I'm not sure that people think I belong (or "fit in") [in context] because of my [social identity].
- [In context], I sometimes wonder whether people have less respect for me because of my [social identity].
- Sometimes, I'm not sure that others [in context] value my opinions or contributions because of my [social identity].
- [In context], I sometimes wonder whether I am being left out or marginalized because of my [social identity].
- Sometimes, I wonder whether I am being stereotyped because of my [social identity] [in context].
- Sometimes, I am concerned that someone [in context] might physically hurt me because of my [social identity].
- Sometimes, I am concerned that someone [in context] might taunt or harass me because of my [social identity].
- Because of my [social identity], I sometimes wonder whether others [in context] will give me a fair shot.
- Because of my [social identity], I sometimes wonder whether I can trust others [in context] to have my back and support me.
- Sometimes, I wonder whether people [in context] only keep me around to be the "token" member of my [social identity] group.
- Because of my [social identity], I sometimes wonder whether people [in context] see me as a "true" [ingroup member].
- [In context], I am sometimes concerned that someone will single me out (or shine a spotlight on me) because of my [social identity].
- Sometimes, I wonder if people [in context] overlook (or forget about me) because of my [social identity].
- Sometimes, I wonder whether others [in context] think I get "special advantages" or "unfair privileges" because of my [social identity].
- [In context], I sometimes wonder whether I'll feel pressured to downplay my connection to my own [social identity] group and, instead, be expected to fit in with another [social identity] group.
- [In context], I am not sure that events and activities will be equally accessible to people who share my [social identity] background.
- Sometimes, I'm not sure I am being true to my [social identity] identity while I'm [in context].
- I sometimes wonder whether I should reveal my [social identity] to others [in context].
- [In context], I am sometimes concerned that someone will reveal my [social identity] to others without my permission.
- Sometimes, I am not sure if I should try to "pass" as a member of another [social identity] group (in order to blend in with everyone else [in context]).
- [In context], I sometimes wonder whether people might dismiss my [social identity] as "unreal" or "fake."
- [In context], I am sometimes concerned that others might incorrectly identify my [social identity]—assuming I belong to a(n) [social identity] group that I don't actually belong to.
- [In context], I am sometimes concerned that others will become preoccupied with "correctly" identifying my [social identity].

Racially Sensitive Conversation

$F(1, 149) = 43.81, p < .001, \eta^2 = .23$

N = 153 adults
35.3 % Black, 64.7 % White



Politically Sensitive Conversation

$F(1, 180) = 139.47, p < .001, \eta^2 = .44$

N = 184 adults
47.3 % Liberal, 52.7 % Conservative

