

ABSTRACT

The current study seeks to compare the effect of morality salience (MS) and perception of limited time on resource allocation towards outgroup members, and to explore the combined effect of the MS and perception of limited time on resource allocation between in- and out- group members. Findings from the terror management theory suggest that people under the MS distribute less resources to outgroup than ingroup members, whereas research in socioemotional selectivity theory suggests that when people with a limited time perception focus more on emotionally meaningful relationships rather than their in- vs. outgroup membership, and would therefore allocate resources more favourably to people with whom they feel emotionally closer.

117 Hong Kong undergraduates are recruited and randomly assigned into four conditions — MS, limited time perception, combined (counterbalanced), and control. After undergoing the respective manipulations in each condition, participants divided up a fixed amount of resources to four hypothetical persons: worldview supporting close other, worldview supporting stranger, worldview derogating close other, and worldview derogating stranger. Participants in the MS condition allocated more resources to worldview supporters than worldview derogators (regardless of closeness); participants in the limited time perception condition allocated more resources to close others (regardless of their worldviews). Interestingly, allocation

pattern in the combined condition is consistent with limited time perception condition.

The potential explanations for this pattern and its theoretical implications are discussed.