

Abstract of the Thesis entitled:

Effects of Mortality Salience on Future Orientation, Goal Focus and Subjective Life Expectancy and the Moderating Roles of Anxiety Sensitivity and Perceived Social Support in Emerging Adulthood

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The current research seeks to identify the effects of death reminders on goal focus, future time orientation and life expectancy, interlacing concepts from both the Terror Management Theory and the Socioemotional Selectivity Theory. For emerging adults, we hypothesized that mortality salience would alter one's view on time perspective, with defence mechanisms exaggerating life expectancy estimates for individuals with greater anxiety sensitivity and minimal levels of perceived social support. This group was also deduced to display higher performance and mastery avoidance goals and lower performance and mastery approach goals. Results from this moderation study were consistent with the hypothesis that individuals with low perceived social support reported longer life remaining time estimates as well as higher mastery avoidance scores under mortality salience condition. However, there were no significant differences in the future time perspective as well as approach goals of emerging adults even when considering different levels of perceived social support. Anxiety sensitivity did not act as a moderator although it displayed a significant effect on performance avoidance scores in the study.