**Mortality Salience**

Wikipedia: **Mortality salience** is a term which describes awareness of one's eventual [death](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death).

Mortality salience has the potential to cause [worldview defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Worldview_defense&action=edit&redlink=1), a psychological mechanism which strengthens people's connection with their [in-group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In-group) as a [defense mechanism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_mechanism). Mortality salience can also lead people to feel more inclined to punish minor moral transgressions. Especially among students who were politically conservative, mortality salience increased support for military intervention but not among students who were politically liberal.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mortality_salience#cite_note-martyrdom-1)Individuals with higher self-esteem do not react to mortality salience, while those with moderate self-esteem do. Religious individuals as well as religious fundamentalists are less vulnerable to mortality salience manipulations [[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mortality_salience#cite_note-4)

[Rosenblatt A](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Rosenblatt%20A%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=2795438) et al, 1989

In Experiment 1, judges recommended especially harsh bonds for a prostitute when mortality was made salient. Experiment 3 demonstrated that mortality salience also leads to larger reward recommendations for a hero who upheld cultural values. Experiments 4 and 5 showed that the mortality salience effect does not result from heightened self-awareness or physiological arousal.

Greenberg et al, 1992

In Experiment 1, mortality salience increased dislike of non-politically-similar others in conservatives but not liberals. In Experiment 2, prompting tolerance eliminated the effect of mortality salience to enhance negative reactions to a critic of the United States.

Henry et al, 2010

Results showed that Mortality Salience (MS) affected the amplitude of the P2 and N2 components elicited by ingroup faces but had no effect on the processing of outgroup faces. Processing of angry ingroup relative to angry outgroup faces was pronounced in the MS condition, reflected both in N2 amplitude and in longer latency of the P3 component, suggesting heightened sensitivity to threats to positive ingroup. Overall, findings suggest that MS intensifies perception of social category features, primarily by enhancing processing of ingroup cues.