**Introduction**

One generation ago, White Christians were the dominant religious group in the United States (The General Social Survey, 1976). Today, in 23 out of 50 States, religiously unaffiliated individuals outnumber White Christians (Jones & Cox, 2016). In some States, Euro-Americans now make up less than 50% of the State population (Pew Religious Landscape Survey, 2007).

A number of headlines and news coverage in recent years have made these statistics increasingly visible to the general public, which may elicit both positive and negative reactions for members of various groups. While many individuals may receive the news of America’s changing demographics as a positive trend of increasing diversity and inclusion, it is possible that White Christians may perceive this news as a threat to their status as a dominant cultural majority (Craig & Richeson, 2014).

Previous research on this pattern of responses have indicated that White Americans, upon being told or reminded of the decline of the numerical majority of White individuals in the US, were observed to express more fearful or hostile emotions toward racial/ethnic minority groups, as well as being more likely to endorse a more conservative, right-wing authoritarian political alignment (Craig & Richeson, 2014).

The present research seeks to replicate and extend these studies, which have previously focused on only racial/ethnic identity. The present study is the first to explore the attitudes and reactions of those who identify as both White and Christian when told or reminded of the US’s demographic shift. We predict that White Christian-identified individuals who read about the US’s recent demographic shift, relative to a control group that is not reminded of the shift, will self-report less openness to other religions, less support for multiculturalism and stronger endorsement of conservative social and political policies. We hypothesize that these effects will be mediated by perceived threats to the system and the groups participants identify with.

**Methods**

- We will administer an online survey sampling US citizens from across the country through online psychological research sites and a UWEC student sample through Qualtrics.
- Participants will be presented with an informed consent, which will request verification of residence in the United States (those who do not qualify will be thanked and sent to the end of the survey).
- Participants will be randomly assigned to read one of two articles describing US religious demographic changes. The threat and control articles were both extracted from the Public Religion Research Institute (2016, PRRI).

**Control Condition**

Threat Condition

• ANOVAs will be conducted to test for the main effect of condition and interactions between condition and participant variables (e.g., religious beliefs, political affiliation, education level) on each DV. PROCESS models will be run to determine if the effects of threat on DVs are mediated by threats to the system and to the group.

**Analysis Strategy**

- Thereafter, participants will complete several dependent measures:
  - **System and Group Threat; System Justification** (Craig & Richeson, 2014: 5 items)
  - **The American way of life is being threatened.**
  - **Increases in non-Christians’ status will lead to reductions in Christians’ influence.**
  - **Increases in American racial minorities’ status will lead to reductions in White Americans’ influence.**
  - **Religious Schema Scale** (Streib, Hood, & Klein, 2010; 10 items) measures religious openness
  - **Regardless of how people appear to each other, we are all human.**
  - **It is important for us to understand the experiences of those of other cultures and religions.**
  - **Everyday Multicultural Competency Scale** (Mallinckrodt, Miles, Bhaskar, Chery, Choi, & Sung, 2014, 25 items) measures multicultural understanding, support and comfort
  - **The US has a long way to go before everyone is truly treated equally.**
  - **It is difficult for me to put myself in the shoes of someone who is racially and/or ethnically different from me.**
  - **Social and Economic Conservatism Scale** (Everett, 2013, 16 items) measures support for politically correlated social policies
  - **On a scale of 1-100 with 1 being no support to 100 fully supportive of the following events:**
    - Gun Ownership
    - Gay Marriage
  - **Religious and Immigration Policy Scale** (new, 6 items)
    - **Businesses have the right to refuse service to customers based off of religious beliefs.**
    - **Creationism should be taught alongside evolution in public school.**
  - **Manipulation Check**
    - The survey will conclude with participant demographics and debriefing.