

Publication

A matter of vertical position : consequences of ostracism differ for those above versus below its perpetrators

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 1724707

Author(s) Schoel, C.; Eck, J.; Greifeneder, R.

Author(s) at UniBasel [Greifeneder, Rainer](#) ;

Year 2014

Title A matter of vertical position : consequences of ostracism differ for those above versus below its perpetrators

Journal Social psychological and personality science

Volume 5

Number 2

Pages / Article-Number 149-157

Keywords social exclusion, power, embodiment, aggression

Vertical position in space has been linked to perceptions of power, and high-power individuals have been shown to be less influenced by both the situational context and other people. Building on this literature, we hypothesized that a high spatial position as compared with a low one would reduce the threat from social exclusion and might help prevent aggressive acts of retaliation. To investigate this hypothesis, two arrangements of 'Cyberball'-a classic manipulation of social exclusion-were compared: In the standard arrangement, participants are positioned below the excluding players; for the new arrangement, the standard arrangement was vertically flipped, so that participants were positioned above the excluding players, and thus "aloof" from the situation. Results show that only individuals positioned below (implying low power), but not individuals positioned above (implying high power), exhibited increased aggression when being ostracized. Threatened need for control and negative mood mediated the tendency toward aggressive behavior.

Publisher Sage

ISSN/ISBN 1948-5506

edoc-URL <http://edoc.unibas.ch/dok/A6124439>

Full Text on edoc Available;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1177/1948550613488953

ISI-Number WOS:000336437600003

Document type (ISI) Article