

**Publication****Belonging to a Majority Reduces the Immediate Need Threat from Ostracism in Individuals with a High Need to Belong****JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)****ID** 3566636**Author(s)** Eck, J.; Schoel, C.; Greifeneder, R.**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Greifeneder, Rainer](#) ;**Year** 2017**Title** Belonging to a Majority Reduces the Immediate Need Threat from Ostracism in Individuals with a High Need to Belong**Journal** European Journal of Social Psychology**Volume** 47**Number** 3**Pages / Article-Number** 273-288

Ostracism—being ignored and excluded—threatens the basic human needs for belonging, self-esteem, control, and meaningful existence. This work introduces belonging to a majority as a buffer against the immediate negative impact of ostracism on basic needs for individuals with a high need to belong, for whom social groups are especially relevant. Three studies show that for individuals high in the need to belong, need threat was attenuated by membership in a majority group, but not by membership in a minority group (Studies 1 and 3) or a group of unknown size (Study 2). By contrast, individuals low in the need to belong—who place less importance on group membership in general—did not benefit from belonging to a majority group. The general pattern replicated across different manipulations of group membership and social exclusion, with two measures of need threat, and with participants from two different countries.

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