Individual Identity

Psychology Session I
Superordinate Identity

Superordinate = the order above

Superordinate identity is relative = an identity that is broader than another
Salience of Identity

Salience = top of the mind

Identity can be made salient by reading stories you identify with [MW14].
Salience of Identity
Identity and Reducing Polarization

When superordinate identity is at the top of your mind → reduced prejudices [MW12, MW14].

Forgiveness for others [MW12].

Social justice [MW12].

Social responsibility [MW12].

Support for diplomacy [MW12].
Global vs. American Identity

Those whose global citizenship is salient prioritize peace [MW12].

A global citizen identity is also more strongly associated with:

- **Sense of responsibility** to solve societal issues.
- **Forgiveness** for political attacks.
- **Concern for human rights** [MW12].
Issues With Superordinate Identity

When superordinate identity is made salient:

- Majority race group members are less likely to identify racial biases [MW14].

- Especially unlikely to notice subtle discrimination against minorities [MW14].
Solution to Desensitization

Dual identity
- May mitigate desensitizing effects [MW14].
- Is associated with prosocial action [MW14].
Conclusion

Superordinate identity can improve many metrics associated with polarization.

Sense of global identity has even stronger effects than American identity.

Superordinate identity can cloud a person’s ability to notice injustices.

Dual identity may allow an individual to become less prejudiced while priming them to notice injustices.