

INTRODUCTION

- Social rejection is a highly distressing experience that threatens our fundamental social needs (Maner et al., 2007)
- Social rejection activates highly sensitive threat detection and response systems that seek out sources of social recovery
- Existing research suggests that socially rejected individuals are more open to strategies that promote affiliation
- To date, no research has tested prosocial responses to rejection related to intergroup contact
- The present study aimed to examine whether rejected individuals would express less interest in a social affiliation service if that service is centered around interactions with outgroup members

RESULTS

- Participants in the rejection group had a significantly higher feeling of need threat compared to participants in the inclusion and control group
- There was no significant difference between the rejection, inclusion, and control group when filling out the Diversity Connect flyer
- Social rejection was present in the male targets in the racially ambiguous faces

CONCLUSION

- These results provide some preliminary support for our hypothesis that rejected individuals would not be any more interested in an affiliation service if that service involves contact with outgroup members
- A study examining in-person rejection is currently underway to assess the levels of interests between the diversity service vs. general affiliation service

REFERENCE

Maner, J. K., DeWall, C. N., Baumeister, R. F., & Schaller, M. (2007). Does social exclusion motivate interpersonal reconnection? Resolving the "porcupine problem." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 92(1), 42–55. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.92.1.42>
 Williams, K. D. (2009). Chapter 6 Ostracism: A Temporal Need-Threat Model. In *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology* (Vol. 41, pp. 275–314). Academic Press. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0065-2601\(08\)00406-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0065-2601(08)00406-1)

Social Rejection and Interest in Diverse Social Connections

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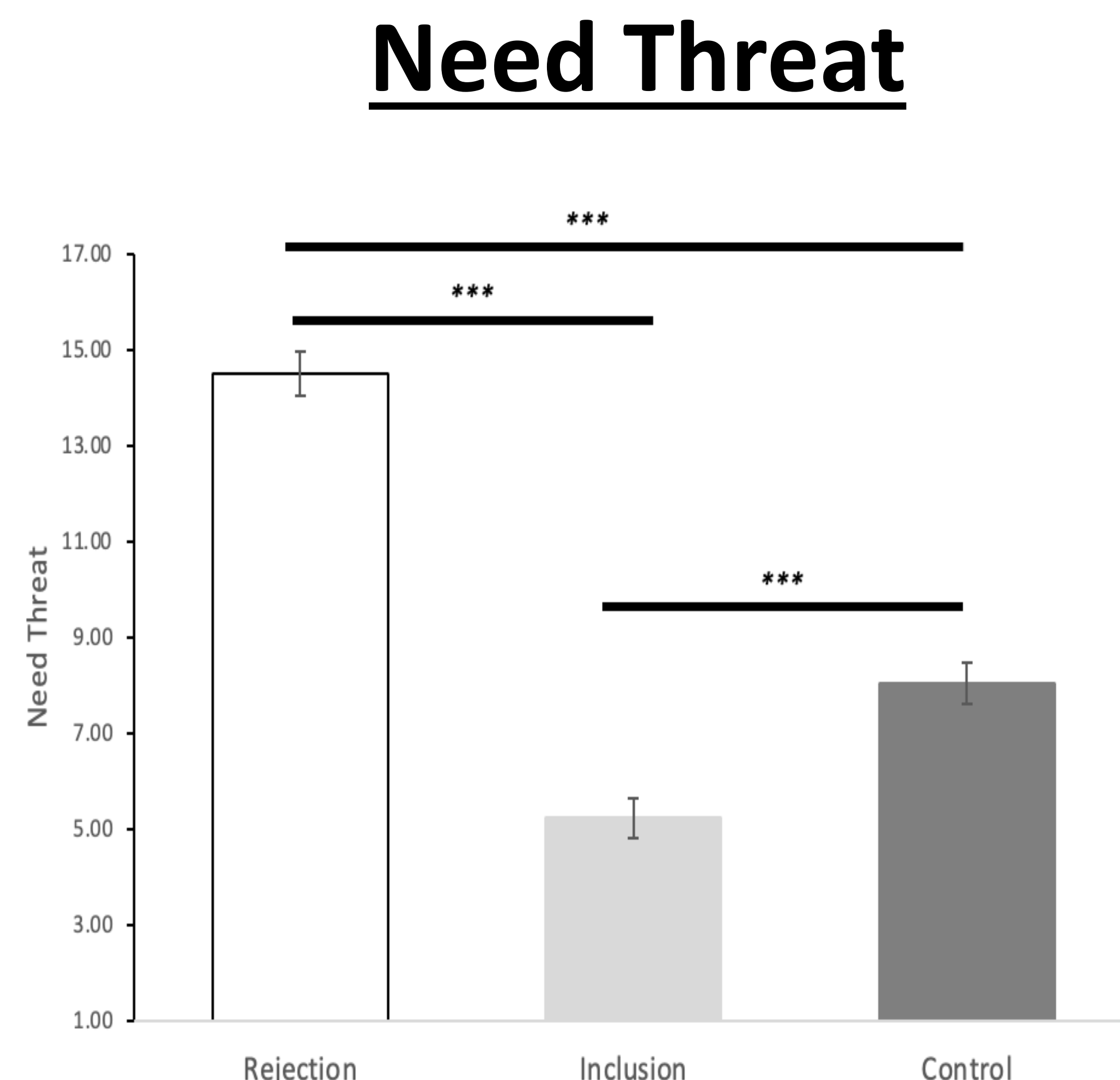
METHOD

PARTICIPANTS

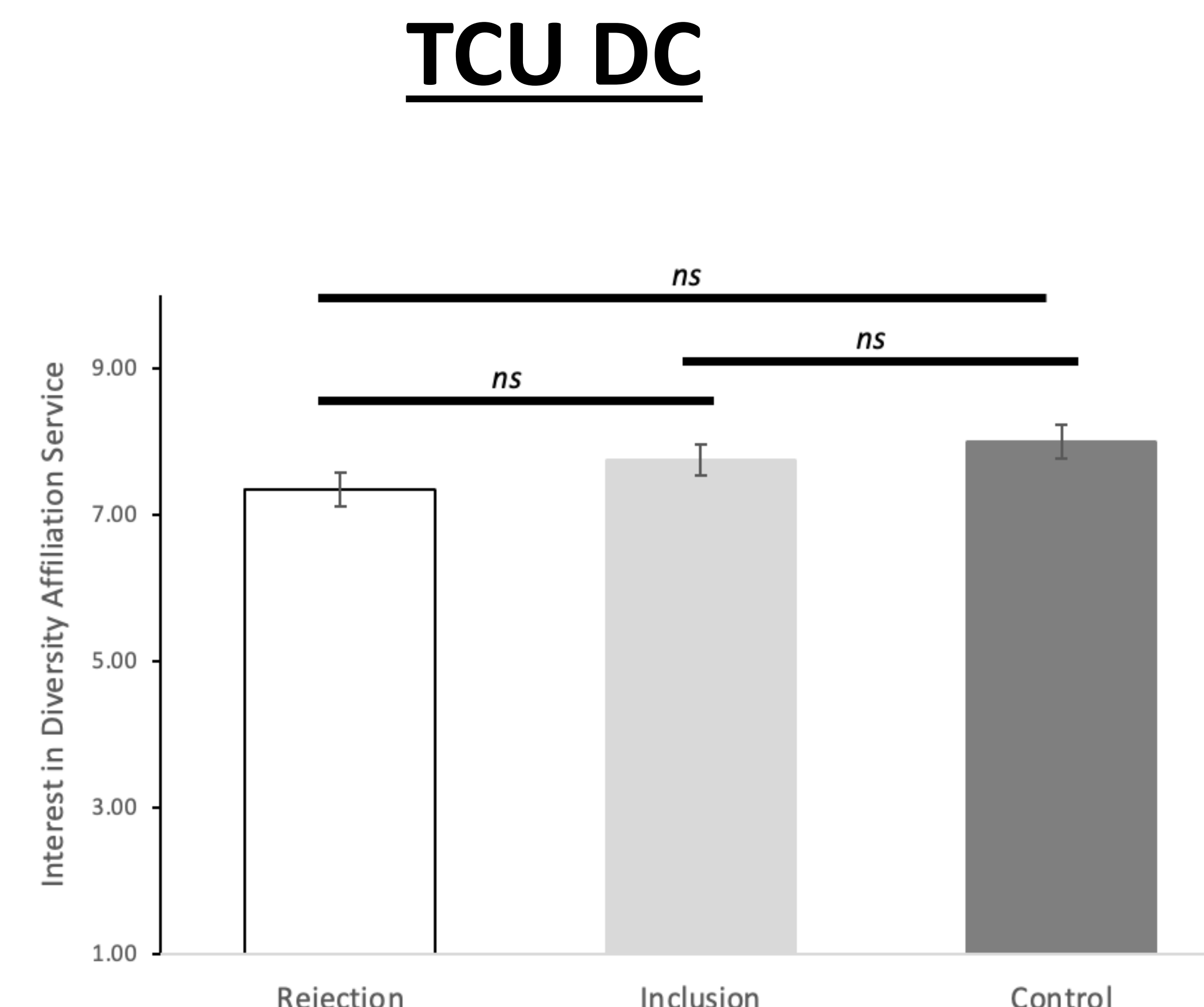
- 254 Caucasian TCU students
- 201 Women, 53 Men (mean age = 19.75 years, SD = 1.82)

PROCEDURE

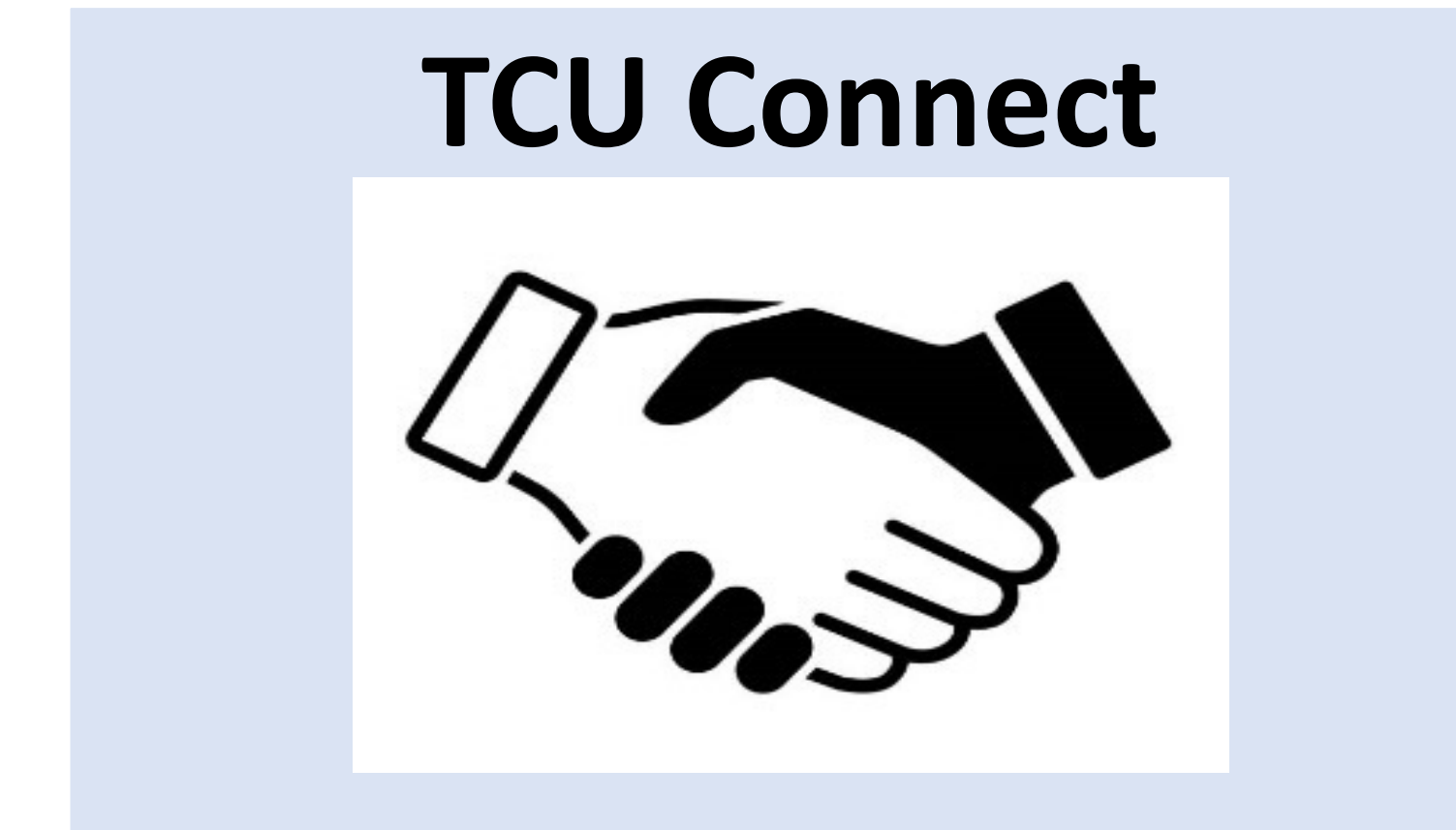
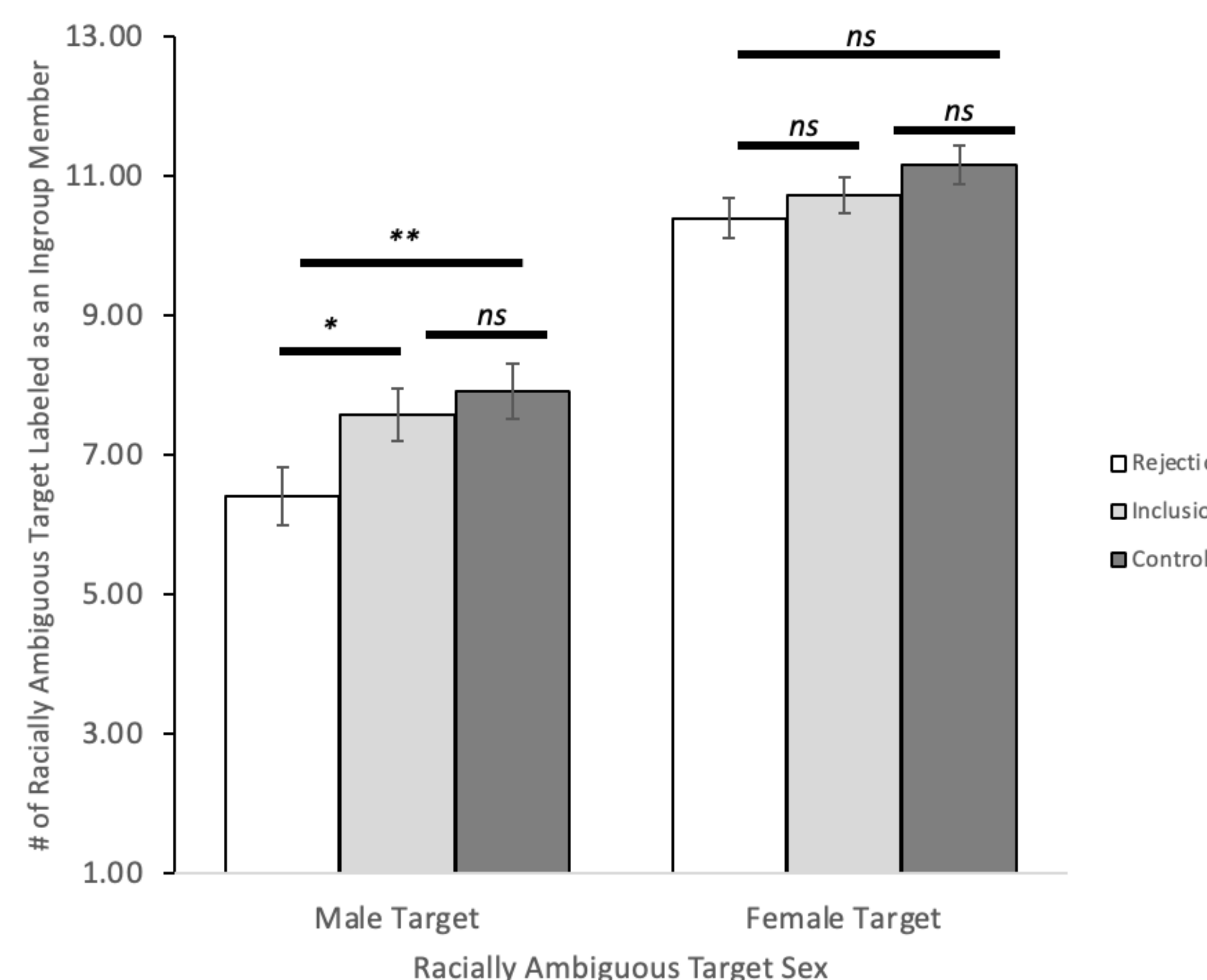
- Participants were randomly assigned to write about a time in which they felt rejected, accepted, or about their morning routine (neutral control)
- Participants were presented with a flyer for a fictional student service that was described as trying to help students on campus form diverse friendships, and completed a questionnaire assessing their interest in using this service
- Results supported the hypothesis that there was no significant difference among the groups in interest in the diversity affiliation service.
- Racially ambiguous faces were generated by blending features from white and black individuals, creating a biracial appearance



Need threat refers to the threat of ones belonging, self-esteem, control, and meaningful existence

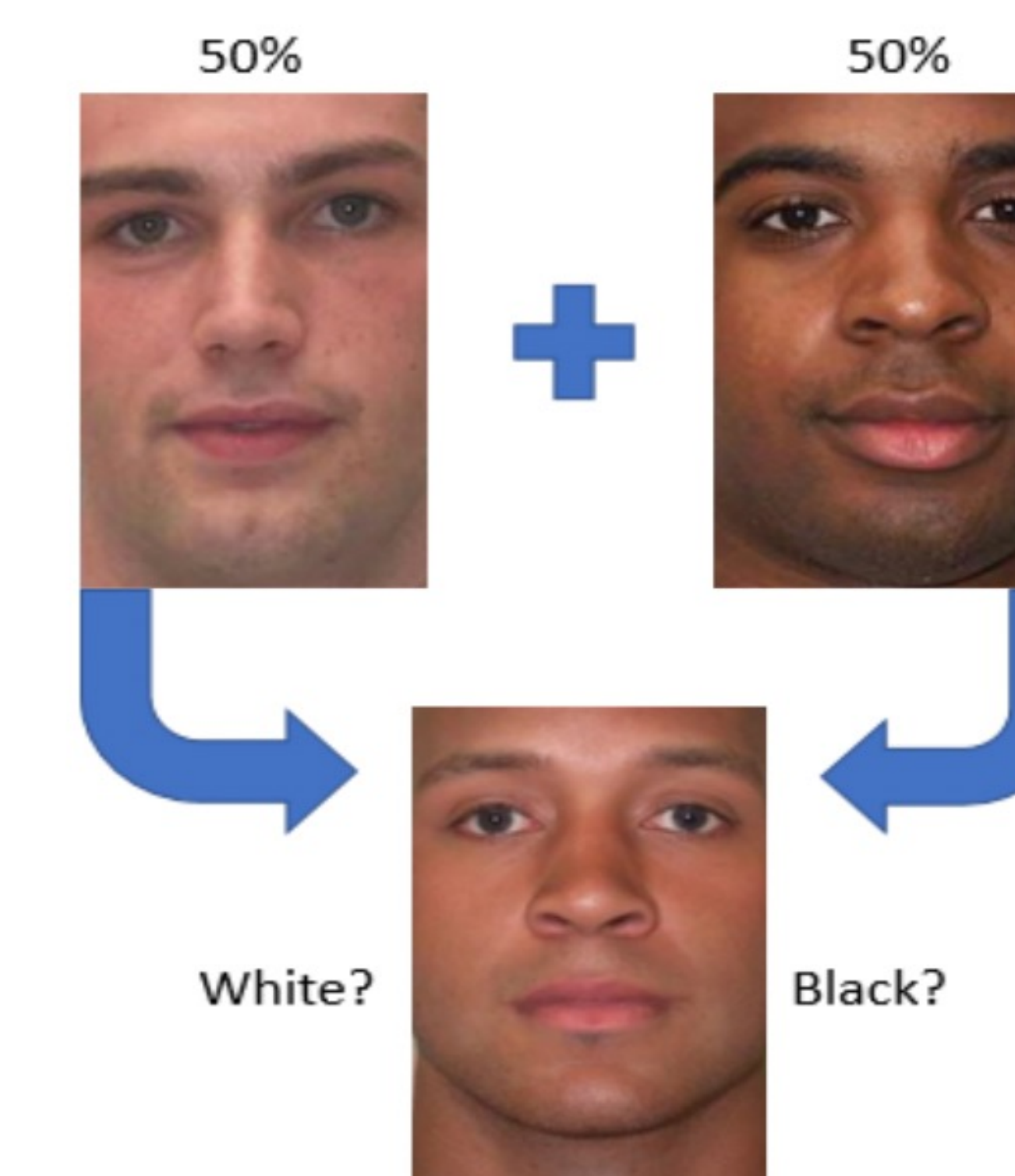


Categorization of Racially Ambiguous Target as an Ingroup Member



“Texas Christian University is considering developing a student service – TCU Connect – that will organize events to connect TCU students connect and form friendships.”

Racially Ambiguous Faces



Note: *** p < .001, ** p < .01, *p < .05