

EXTENDED SUMMARY

- **INTRODUCTION.**

The thought that humans are predestined to death is the result of the rejection of this destiny, taking the form of cultural conceptions that act to counteract biological reality with more meaningful and lasting forms of meaning and value. There are different theories for this, but the one that stands out the most is the Terror Management Theory (TGT).

The TGT, according to the ideas of Ernest Becker, argued that the fear of death is universal and when we are forced to think about the possibility of dying, the first reaction that humans have is usually denial and contempt for this idea. After this initial reaction, defensive behavior kicks in. This answer usually tries to reaffirm the own cultural idea and the own values.

- **OBJECTIVE.**

The objective of our research is to test the Terror Management Theory (TGT), using a task that is part of the paradigm used to be able to observe the effects of this task on what the questionnaires that we have passed to the subjects measure. , mainly focusing on the attitude and behavior constructs.

We measured the attitude in the form of degree of severity, in which the subjects answered how serious the moral dilemma set out seemed to them, reflecting their score from 1 to 7 where 1 is “not serious at all” and 7 is “very serious”.

We measure the behavior in the form of punishment, in which the subjects assigned the years in prison that they believed to the protagonist of the dilemma.

HYPOTHESIS.

1. The fact that in the experimental group and after inducing fear through the mortality salience task, we observed a higher reaction in the punishment variable (behavior) than in the control group. The experimental group assigned greater punishment, more years in prison.
2. The fact that in the experimental group and after inducing fear, we observed a greater judgment in the severity variable than in the control group, that is, that in the experimental group they judged the moral dilemma more.

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- **PROCESS**

The questionnaire consists of 8 moral dilemmas, 4 that are passed at the beginning (before the task), and other 4 that are passed later (after the task). In these dilemmas, there are 2 questions for each of them, one that would be the severity variable (how serious they think the behavior of the protagonist of the dilemma is) and another that would be a punishment variable (how many years in prison they would assign to the person protagonist of the dilemma.)

Among these dilemmas, we have a task. For the experimental group the task is the induction of fear (mortality salience), in which we make them think about their death and we ask them to write to us what they feel.

In the control group we put a neutral image representing a toothache, and we also asked them to write down what they felt.

Finally, the anxiety scale (STAI), the self-centered and narcissism scale, and the self-perception scale (FFMQ) were passed.

Therefore, we passed two types of questionnaires, one with the mortality salience task and the other with the neutral task, but we also wanted to invest the dilemmas in each group before and after the task and make a balance, simply to reinforce the hypotheses a bit more, and we obtained times 1 (before the task) and times 2 (after the task). Therefore, we created 4 types of questionnaires.

Once all the questionnaires were completed by the subjects, we began to capture the responses in the SPSS program, adding the corresponding variables

When we already had our database made, we proceeded to the calculation, through a statistical analysis.

- **SHOW**

The sample consists of 50 subjects between 19 and 57 years old, in which 29 are women and 21 are men. Half of the sample has randomly corresponded to the experimental group, in which we have induced fear through the task (death awareness), the other half has corresponded to the control group to which the applied task has been neutral.

- **VARIABLES**

We have worked with two types of variables. The Independent Variable (VI), which will be the fear that we induce through the task, on two levels (presence (awareness of death) and absence (toothache)).

The dependent variables will be: the dependent variable (VD) of severity (attitude) and the dependent variable of punishment (behavior).

There are other modulating variables that will be those that represent the scales passed to the subjects, which are: anxiety, self-perception, self-centered and narcissism.

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- **RESULTS**

The most relevant results of our research have been the following: on one hand, the subjects of the experimental group obtained higher means in punishment (behavior) in T2 than the control group. however, we observed very similar means in severity (attitude) in T2 in both groups. On the other hand, and regarding sex, we observe that at a general level, men in the experimental group and in the punishment variable (behavior) in T2, obtain higher means than women, which indicates that men assign more punishment than the women. In addition, we observed that the differences in the T1 times of both variables and both sexes and the T2 times in both variables and both sexes, is more significant in the latter, which we expected since in the T2s they have already been subjected to the task of condition.

Finally, performing anova of a factor, with the factor being "group" on the one hand, and "sex" on the other, we obtained that in the punishment variable T2 in the factor "group" there is a level of significance, unlike the result obtained in the "sex" factor, so it can be said that the "group" is more relevant than the "sex"

- **DISCUSSION.**

Once all the data has been analyzed, we do not accept all the hypotheses.

Hypothesis 1: Accepted, since the results obtained in the data analysis have been congruent to the Terror Management Theory (TGT), performing the descriptive statistics of the punishment variable of both groups (control and experimental) and obtaining means of the experimental group of 4.96 and a mean of the control group of 3.22, which indicates a difference of means in terms of punishment in time 2 between both groups. The subjects of the experimental group are more reactive, they punish more after having been subjected to the threat of fear (our independent variable).

Hypothesis 2: Rejected, since in our second hypothesis we wanted to observe that through our independent variable (VI) of mortality salience, we observed an effect on the dependent variable (DV) of severity (attitude) in the experimental group, in which we wanted to see how serious the dilemma seemed to the subjects and we expected from this that after the fear condition they would have a greater judgment, that is, they would judge more through the responses to the dilemmas than in the control group. However, through the data obtained, we did not observe any significant difference between the judgment of the experimental group and the judgment of the control group.

We conclude that the result of our research in relation to our hypotheses has been that the subjects have the same judgment, but not the same reaction.

It should be said that the sex variable has not been relevant in our study variables, but it has provided us with curious data, as well as the modulating variables.

The main limitation in our research has been the size of the sample.

Efecto de saliencia de mortalidad sobre el juicio y el castigo a las transgresiones morales

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INTRODUCCIÓN: El pensamiento de que los humanos estamos predestinados a la muerte es el resultado del rechazo a este destino, adoptando la forma de concepciones culturales que actúan para contrarrestar la realidad biológica con formas de significado y valor más significativas y duraderas. Existen diferentes teorías al respecto, pero la que más se destaca es la **Teoría de la Gestión del Terror (TGT)**.

La TGT esta basada en las ideas de Ernest Becker, que sostenía que el miedo a la muerte es universal y que cuando nos vemos obligados a pensar en la posibilidad de morir, la primera reacción que los humanos tenemos, suele ser la negación y el desprecio a esta idea. Después de esta reacción inicial, la conducta defensiva se pone en marcha. Esta respuesta habitualmente intenta reafirmar la propia idea cultural y los propios valores.

METODOLOGÍA:

OBJETIVO: El objetivo de nuestra investigación es poner a prueba la Teoría de la Gestión del Terror (TGT), utilizando una tarea que forma parte del paradigma utilizado y así poder observar los efectos de esta tarea sobre lo que miden los cuestionarios que hemos pasado a los sujetos (**juicio y castigo**).

El juicio (la actitud) lo medimos en forma de “grado de gravedad”, es decir, los sujetos respondieron cuan grave les parecía el dilema moral expuesto, reflejando su puntuación del 1 al 7 donde 1 es “Nada grave” y 7 “Muy grave”.

El castigo (la conducta), lo medimos mediante la asignación de un castigo, los sujetos adjudicaron los años de prisión que creían al/ a la protagonista del dilema.

HIPÓTESIS:

1. Que en el grupo experimental y después de inducirles el miedo mediante la tarea de saliencia de mortalidad observásemos una reacción más alta en la variable castigo (conducta) a diferencia del grupo control, es decir, que el grupo experimental asignara mayor castigo, más años de prisión.
2. Que en el grupo experimental y después de inducirles el miedo, observásemos un juicio mayor en la variable gravedad a diferencia del grupo control, es decir, que en el grupo experimental juzgaran más el dilema moral.

PROCEDIMIENTO	MUESTRA	VARIABLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuestionario de 8 dilemas morales, 4 antes de la tarea, y 4 después de la tarea; 2 preguntas para cada dilema para medir las distintas variables dependientes. • Escala de ansiedad (STAI), la escala del self-centered y narcisismo, y escala de autopercepción (FFMQ). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 sujetos de entre 19 y 57 años (29 mujeres y 21 hombres) . • Dos grupos: control (tarea dolor de muelas) y experimental (tarea saliencia de muerte). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VI: miedo que inducimos mediante la tarea, en dos niveles (presencia (conciencia de muerte) y ausencia (dolor de muelas)) • VD: la variable dependiente de gravedad (juicio) y la variable dependiente de castigo (reacción).

RESULTADOS:

Tabla 1

Estadísticos descriptivos y Anova de la variable **juicio**.

			Medias	DT	F	Sig	Eta parcial al cuadrado
Gravedad T1	control	Femenino	4,5179	,94800			
		Masculino	3,9773	1,40292			
		Total	4,2800	1,17553			
	experimental	Femenino	4,6667	1,05926			
Masculino		4,0000	1,51841				
Total		4,4000	1,27680				
sexo	Entre grupos			3,166	,082		
	Dentro de grupos						
	Total						
grupo	Entre grupos			,120	,731		
	Dentro de grupos						
	Total						
Gravedad T2	control	Femenino	4,4464	,93633			
		Masculino	4,9091	1,07397			
		Total	4,6500	1,00519			
	experimental	Femenino	4,4500	1,15418			
Masculino		5,1500	1,10680				
Total		4,7300	1,16574				
sexo	Entre grupos			3,660	,062		
	Dentro de grupos						
	Total						
grupo	Entre grupos			,068	,796		
	Dentro de grupos						
	Total						

Tabla 2

Estadísticos descriptivos y Anova de la variable **castigo**.

			Medias	DT	F	Sig	Eta parcial al cuadrado
Castigo T1	control	Femenino	3,4643	2,52079			
		Masculino	3,7955	2,79020			
		Total	3,6100	2,59113			
	experimental	Femenino	3,0833	2,34648			
Masculino		3,8750	4,72324				
Total		3,4000	3,42555				
sexo	Entre grupos			,426	,517		
	Dentro de grupos						
	Total						
grupo	Entre grupos			,060	,808		
	Dentro de grupos						
	Total						
Castigo T2	control	Femenino	3,1071	2,32403			
		Masculino	3,3636	1,13668			
		Total	3,2200	1,86570			
	experimental	Femenino	3,7333	2,00995			
Masculino		6,8000	4,70195				
Total		4,9600	3,60532				
sexo	Entre grupos			3,568	,065	,090	
	Dentro de grupos						
	Total						
grupo	Entre grupos			4,593	,037	,129	
	Dentro de grupos						
	Total						

Correlaciones: **,641**** castigo T2-castigoT1; **-,307*** selfvalidation-gravedadT2

DISCUSIÓN:

- **Hipótesis 1:** Aceptada, medias totales del grupo experimental de 4,96 y medias totales del grupo control de 3,22, lo que indica una diferencia de medias en cuanto a castigo en tiempo 2 entre ambos grupos. Los sujetos del grupo experimental, son más reactivos, castigan más después de haber sido sometidos a la tarea de saliencia de mortalidad (nuestra variable independiente).
- **Hipótesis 2:** Rechazada, no observamos ninguna diferencia significativa entre el juicio del grupo experimental con el juicio del grupo control.
- Concluimos que el resultado de nuestra investigación en relación a nuestras hipótesis ha sido que los sujetos tienen el mismo juicio, pero no la misma reacción.
- La variable sexo no ha sido relevante en nuestras variables de estudio, pero si nos ha proporcionado datos curiosos, al igual que las variables moduladoras.
- La limitación: tamaño de la muestra.

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