

Exploring Reactions to Invasion of Personal Space in University Students

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The present study was undertaken to explore the reactions to personal space invasions among university students, by using field experiment method. A checklist of compensatory behaviors was developed through focus group discussions. There was a treatment condition, in which personal space of participants was invaded and a control condition, in which the participant's personal space was not invaded; by a female invader. Participants consisted of male and female university students (N=101). Two observers recorded observations, satisfactory co-efficients of concordance were found between their observations. Results have shown that compensatory behaviors were exhibited more in treatment rather than control condition, as 88% of the control group showed no compensatory behavior as compared to 6% of the experimental group. Females exhibited more compensatory behaviors than males. More females moved away, stared, leaned away, browsed, and exhibited flight after personal space invasion.

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