

Nonverbal Communication Lab Public Territory Violation

To complete this lab assignment you are asked to intentionally violate the "Public Territory" of **AT LEAST EIGHT** different people. Four of the study subjects must be females, the other four males. **IMPORTANTLY:** the study subjects **MUST BE TOTAL STRANGERS**. Let us understand from the start that this experience is likely going to make you feel 'weird.' That's OK. This is for science.

To begin, you should select a space of PUBLIC accommodation (the Student Center, Library, the Eateries, or a fast food restaurant are likely good choices. But feel free to use other public territories if you wish). If it makes you feel comfortable, you *may* bring someone along to the experiment, however, they **MUST** remain at a distance and cannot become part of the interaction, or be viewed as "being with you."

Once you arrive at your destination: 1) look for individuals who **ALONE**. This is **very** important! They **MUST** be by themselves; 2) they must be seated at a table with an open seat **NEXT TO** them (NOT across, or diagonal) if you cannot find subjects in this specific configuration **DO NOT USE THEM** and **GO SOMEWHERE ELSE**; 3) make sure that they have 'laid claim' to the public space through the placement of 'territorial markers' (coats, books, backpacks, etc.). It is your job to disregard their personal markers and take the open seat **directly next to them**.

Things **NOT** to do:

DO NOT TOUCH THEM OR THEIR BELONGINGS!
DO NOT ASK FOR PERMISSION TO SIT THERE!
DO NOT INTENTIONALLY BECOME A DISTRACTION!
DO NOT ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION WITH THEM!

Should they ask you questions, *briefly* respond, but don't let them draw you into a conversation. Just quietly go about your business (studying, eating, etc.) and covertly make note of what they do. You should also pay close attention to the time, and see how long it takes the subject to respond/react in some manner. (Withdraw, Insulation, Turf Defense, etc.) Once the subject has "reacted," conduct a "debrief" of the subject, inquiring what they were thinking and feeling at the time.

As you will need to conduct this **at least eight times**, you may wish to use different locations and/or observation times. Once you have completed the manipulations, write a 2-3 page (12 point font, double-spaced) Lab Report, *guided by* (but not limited to) the writing prompts below.

Create a SEPARATE SECTION FOR EACH SUBJECT (using prompts 1-5) – THEN AN ADDITIONAL SECTION THAT PULLS IT ALL TOGETHER (prompts 6-9).

DO NOT write the Lab Report in "Question & Answer" Format. These are *Writing Prompts* that you should use to compose a narrative essay.

- 1) Discuss the *context* of the manipulation. Where? When? Describe the scene in detail.
- 2) Discuss *how* the subject laid claim to the space. Markers used?
- 3) Describe in *specific detail* how you violated their Public Territory. Paint the picture.
- 4) Describe how the subject reacted, BOTH verbally and nonverbally.
- 5) Discuss how the subject felt, what they were thinking. This where the debrief is very helpful. Also, discuss how **you** felt?
- 6) Overall, did you find any sex/gender differences among subjects? Age differences? Ethnicity-related differences? Discuss.
- 7) What possible intervening variables might have been present? Describe how/why you believe they may have intervened.
- 8) Other observations/insights. This is your opportunity for critical thinking & maximum points.