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## PERSONAL SPACING BEHAVIOR OF THE BLIND

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## ABSTRACT

This study is undertaken to investigate the personal spacing behavior of the blind. In order to do so, the personal spaces of the normals are also studied so as to provide basis for comparison. There is a total of six variables in the study, five of which are independent variables namely: sex, age, educational attainment, stigma history, and the degree of visual impairment and the other, dependent variable which is personal space. There are eight hypotheses formulated in the study, explaining the causal relationship of size, shape, and permeability of the personal space of the blind to that of the sighted. Through the use of the stratified random sampling, 40 sighted subjects were taken from St. Mary Magdalene School and 40 subjects from the Phil. National Institute for the Blind. An experimental design in a field setting is employed using the stop-distance procedure whereby the subject is asked to say "stop" at the onset of discomfort about the approacher's closeness. There are two conditions which follow the frontal approach. The first is a series of approaches starting with a frontal approach, after which the subject repeatedly turned 45 degrees to the right for eight successive approaches. This provides information on the size and shape of the space required



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by the subject.

The second condition determines the permeability of the subject's personal space; this is done by having the subject halt the approacher at three points during a single frontal approach.

The obtained data was analyzed by making use of the two-factor and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). The two-factor ANOVA shows that the personal space of the blind is significantly similar and identical in size, shape and permeability to that of the sighted. On the other hand, a one-way ANOVA revealed that age, sex, educational attainment, degree of visual impairment and stigma history do not affect the personal space of the blind group.



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