The Power Height Study and the Mental Imagery Transitions Project

Power Height Study

The purpose of this study is to see people’s perspectives on the relationship between a person’s height in correlation to his/her hold of power in the work place. Preparation for this project was accomplished by conducting data research, working with Professor Davis to set up and carry out the experiment, finding and editing specific photographs to be used in questionnaires, and setting up online questionnaires and experiment using MediaLab. The Power Heights Study will continue into the academic year.

Mental Imagery Transitions Project

The purpose of the project was to see whether participant's emotional experiences would change in response to simple changes in the mind's eye in the way they imagined an emotional memory - e.g. Changing the distance at which the emotional event appeared to them. Participants were trained using emotionally neutral stimuli to practice seeing something in their mind's eye at various distances. They then applied this technique to mental images associated with their own emotional memories. This study was also used as a proof of concept regarding whether physiological variables would also respond to the manipulation. Recording monitors and sensors were thus also placed on the participants to record participant’s temperature, heart rate and breathing rate. Twenty-five participants for this project were run over a period of two weeks. Preliminary results suggest that both experiential and some physiological responses were affected by the mental imagery changes.

In order to avoid biases, the experiment participants were trained in advance and every subject was run in the exact same way. A team of research assistants spent about one and a half weeks learning, adjusting and practicing a written speech and following a script. Twenty-five participants for this project were run over a period of two weeks. Recording monitors and sensors were placed on the participants to record participant’s temperature, heart rate and breathing rate correctly. The data collected from these participants was organized and analyzes in 3 to 4 days.