

## **“Sidewalk Chicken”: Social Status and Pedestrian Behavior**

Natassia Harsh, Elizabeth Campbell, Greysi Vizcardo & May Ling Halim

*California State University, Long Beach*

### Abstract

Little research has observed whether people with higher social status act in different ways than people with lower social status. The purpose of this study was to test whether different indicators of social status (gender, race/ethnicity, skin color, attractiveness) impacts everyday pedestrian behavior. It was hypothesized that lower-status individuals would move out the way for higher-status individuals. We observed 200 pairs of individuals who were walking towards each other inside a busy shopping complex. We found support for some of our hypotheses: women trended towards moving out of the way for men, Blacks and Latinos moved out of the way for Whites, darker-skinned women moved out of the way for lighter-skinned women, and unattractive or average-attractive individuals moved out of the way for attractive individuals at greater than chance levels. These results suggest that social status might influence enactments of entitlement or deference in subtle, everyday behaviors.