

Chapter 1: Abstract

The present study investigated the effects of race, power, authoritarianism level, gender on the perceptions of sexual harassment using a sample of 251 university students (mean age 22, 51% men and 49% women). Respondents were asked read a scenario of sexual harassment consisting of ambiguous behaviors and then to complete a questionnaire. Results indicated that respondents perceived the harassing behaviors more negatively when it was displayed by a Hong Kong Chinese than by an American. In addition, a gender by race interaction was found. Female were more likely to blame the recipient harassed by a Hong Kong Chinese than by a US male while the male were in the reverse direction. Results are discussed in light of racial stereotypes and expectation-violation theory. No main effects of gender and power were found.