

Abstract

Sociability was examined as the moderator affecting the relationship between fear of crime and social behavioral responses. The study hypothesized that with increased level of fear of crime, high level of sociability predicts more social behavioral responses, while low level of sociability predicts less social behavioral responses. 142 participants were recruited to finish an online questionnaire including a personality assessment, a fear manipulation procedure, as well as the fear and social responses assessment. Multiple regression was conducted in the data analysis and the result shows that sociability and fear of crime do predict social behavioral responses significantly and the hypothesis is supported. This result may imply that people's coping strategies when facing fear of crime are mainly depending on their own personality, probably sociability.

Keywords: fear of crime, sociability, social behavior, social responses