Student designers have similar perceptions of sustainability problems despite framing them with variations in psychological distance and empathy-invoking nature.

**Research Questions**

- **RQ1:** How do the variations in the formulation of sustainable design problems relate to their perceived psychological distance?
- **RQ2:** How do the variations in the formulation of sustainable design problems relate to their perceived empathy-invoking nature?

**Problem Variants and Hypotheses**

- Socio-Spatially Distant
- Socio-Spatially Near
- With Persona
- Without Persona
- Empathy Neutral
- Empathy Invoking

**Psychological Distance**
- Temporal Distance
- Spatial Distance
- Social Distance
- Hypothetical Distance

**Empathy**
- Personal Distress
- Empathic Concern
- Personal Distress
- Fantasy

**Why could students perceive the problems to be similar?**

- Aggregated assessment instead of component-wise assessment
- Only varied socio-spatial distance and not other components of psychological distance
- Focused on one issue related to environmental sustainability
- Relationship between the perceptions of empathy-invoking nature and psychological distance

**Collaborators**

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