

2. Spatial Distance (40:24.18-43:40.00):

Dr. Milgram found that with increasing distance from authority, disobedience increased. What are some real-life examples of this behavior?

How would you explain obedience that occurs in the complete absence of authority – e.g. obeying traffic laws?

Do you agree with Dr. Milgram's statement that obedience was a result of perception of authority? If not, what explanation would *you* give?

Find instances of research (historical or contemporary) in which participants were harmed (physically or emotionally) in order to conduct a study successfully. Compare those with the Obedience study.

If Dr. Milgram were to conduct his studies today, what would the contexts be?

Given that he would have needed to pass through the Internal Review Board (IRB), what measures could he have taken to ensure that his study was more ethical?

Activities:

a) Find instances in which obedience to authority would have been unethical and instances in which disobedience would have been ethical. Also collect instances of disobedience in which ethics were not in question, but obedience did not make sense logically.

b) Form a mock ethics board and discuss the pros and cons of the obedience experiment.