



editorial

Personal Space

I like to imagine personal space as a circle of chalk around us. Just like we are sovereigns over our own bodies (or, at least, we should be – looking at you, reproductive laws), our personal space, those few meters around us, falls under our remit. But how big is this circle? What's the radius of our personal space?

0.45 metres.

Personal space is one of those things that you're aware of once it's been breached. I still have flashbacks to smelling my classmate's lunch of *ftira bit-tonn taż-żejt* on their breath. *Shudders* Anyway, moving swiftly on, why is it important?

Well, personal space gives us a sense of control in a world where we are increasingly not in control. We feel threatened when someone is in our personal space, like a cornered rat or dog. Our personal space is our own little kingdom, a fusion of our cultural and social norms, as well as our identity and sense of self that dictate how we manage and maintain our space. We might be unable to control what goes on outside the circle, but we can control what happens in those .45 metres. Join us as we open the circle!

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