Perception of randomized security screening at airports

Traditional security checks: Everyone is screened
Random security checks: A random number of people
is selected for screening

Goal

♦ How do different types of security checks
   influence our security perceptions?
♦ How does the communication regarding security
   checks influence the security perception?

Methods

♦ Online experiments using hypothetical scenarios
   "Fly from an airport" "Smuggle illegal objects
   through security check" → measures: security
   perception, choice of security screening

Findings

♦ Traditional security checks are perceived as more
   secure than randomized security checks
♦ Random security checks decrease security
   perception irrespectively of the number of
   passengers selected for screening (i.e., same
   perception whether 30% or 90% are screened)
♦ The preference for a security check remains even
   when the detection probability of illegal objects is
   equal in the traditional and randomized security
   check