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Security Checkpoints at University Campus Entrances and Their Impact on Social Integration: A Case Study of the University of Wasit

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Abstract

Historically, universities are more of an open social and cultural system where interaction, accessibility, and engagement among neighbors are favored. Rise in pressure on security has seen most institutions adopt policies on physical control like security checkpoints at college gates. These interventions are supposed to improve the safety but might create some physical and psychological distance between the universities and the city. In this paper, the researcher will assess how security checkpoints influence the perceived Spatial and Social Impact of Security Checkpoints at University Campus Entrances: A Case Study of the University of Wasit. A combined mixed-method design was employed, creating a spatial analysis of four campus entry points and a structured survey of a questionnaire consisting of more than 40 questions, which was implemented among the students, employees, visitors, and residents of the location. The results show that security checkpoints boost perceived safety in internal users to a great extent. Nevertheless, they diminish the spatial receptivity as well as limit free motion and inhibit impromptu social manifestation. The indicators of social integration, especially the sense of belonging and interaction, have always registered low scores. The non-student users of the campus find it to be hard to enter and very monitored, which further assists in the perception of social and spatial isolation. The research outcomes are based on the findings suggests that although security checkpoints address protective goals, their design and functioning have the significant impact on the campus experience and campus-community relationships. It claims transparency in the checkpoint design; dispersed entrances and well balanced security measures will enhance the social connectivity without jeopardizing security.

Keywords: *Social integration, university campus, security checkpoints, urban barriers, Wasit University.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

The tradition has always viewed the universities as open spaces of a civic nature, which are not limited solely on the educational purpose, but have a dynamic force of cultural interchange, social interaction and their contact with the surrounding community (Hajrasouliha, 2017). University campuses are semi-public spaces that tend to facilitate daily contact between students, staff, visitors, and the local residents and, in such a manner, enhance social cohesion and bond the relationship between academic institutions and their urban context (Mehta, 2013). Campuses can also serve as key points in social life in the city through accessible entrances, joint facilities and open spaces.

Security has become an increasingly important concern in the physical and operational planning of university campuses in recent years many institutions have introduced security measures such as guarded access, checkpoints, identity verification, and controlled entry for both pedestrians and vehicles. These measures are primarily intended to protect campus users, address potential risks, and respond to broader security concerns. As a result, campus entrances have shifted from informal access points to controlled gateways with varying levels of restriction. The major purpose of implementing these measures is to safeguard the users on the campuses, address the risks as well as respond to the security issues at large. This has led to the shift of the campuses entrances to be not the informal access points but the gateway with different levels of restriction.

Although security interventions help to increase safety and institutional control, they pose a problematic tension in the campus settings. On the one hand, checkpoints are incorporated to give students and staff the reassurance and some feeling of protection. Conversely, stringent restricting access can curtail freedom of movement, deter impromptu visits and psychological aloofness between the university and the localities. The over-rule of entry areas is likely to turn campuses into close-to-isolating places, and impact interaction and social integration.

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This stress is quite prominent in the Iraqi scenario as universities are run in the environment of strong traditions of security that is predetermined by the prolonged political and social circumstances. The University of Wasit has high-profile security checkpoints, visible guards and controlled access points at the entrances to the campuses, as shown in Figure 1&2.

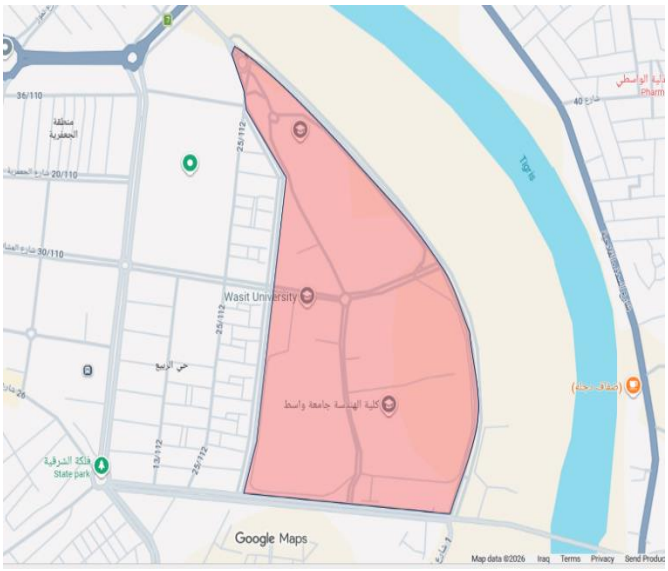

Fig. 1. University of Wasit Map (UWMSSV, 2026)

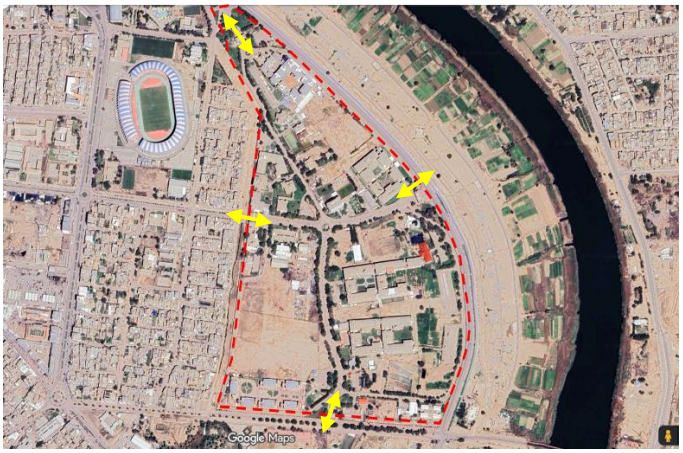

Fig. 2. University of Wasit Satellite View (UWMSSV, 2026)

Although such measures are generally considered the required ones to guarantee security, their social and spatial effects on the routine campus life and campus-community relationships were not investigated thoroughly. The availability of security facilities at the ports can affect the perceptions of students, visitors and residents in regards to access, openness and belonging.

Although the existing literature on campus security and safety has been expanding, it is still evident that there is a gap in literature that is investigating how the entrance design and the presence of security checkpoints would affect social integration and spatial openness(Cozens et al., 2005). The majority of the scientific work existing in the field deals with crime prevention, perception of risks or psychological safety and little has been done regarding the importance of the physical security infrastructure as some determinant of the social interaction and relations between the campuses and the cities (Kitchen & Schneider, 2007). This divide is especially high in the Iraqi and the rest of the Middle East context.

Based on this, this paper seeks to assess the effects of security checkpoints at the University of Wasit entrance on the perceived safety, movement and social integration. The research aims at determining the impacts of the structure and functionality of security checkpoints on the usage of the campus on a daily basis as well as the interaction between the university and the community attached to it. In order to accomplish this goal, the following research questions are considered in the context of the research:
RQ1: In which ways do the various features, the existence and design, and operational specifications of security checkpoints at university entrances influence the perceived safety, movement, and social inclusion among university students in campuses?
RQ2: How do visitors and local residents view security checkpoints as affecting access and openness as well as overall relationship between the university and the community around it?

The paper is organized in the following way. The following part of the paper is the review of the literature and the conceptual framework that the study is based on. This is then coupled with the research methodology, report of findings and discussion thereof. The paper ends up with the main conclusions and recommendations on how to compromise the security requirements with the social integration in building university campuses.

II. Contribution Of The Study

This research has several significant contributions in the academic literature on the campus setting and city design. First, although current studies on university security are mainly related to crime prevention, risk management, and psychological security, little efforts have been given on physical security checkpoints as spatial and social condition. The study fills that gap by studying the concept of checkpoints as devices that ensure safety, as well as architectural forms and functional items, which define the daily social experience.

Second, the research presents a combined analytical theory, which correlates entrance design, perceptions of both users and relations between campuses and communities. Through a blend of spatial evaluation with quantitative perception data, it provides a larger perspective of the way in which the security structure affects movements, belongingness and interaction.

Lastly, the study offers empirical confirmation of a case in the Middle Eastern university setting where security is at its best and seldom analyzed in a societal or spatial scope. The study aids in the knowledge advancement of urban design, urban campus planning, and social integration studies by enacting security checkpoints into the debates of openness, urban gating, and social integration, making campus gateways potentially important locations of safety versus inclusiveness.

III. Literature Review

A. Security Measures and Campus Entrances

When it comes to the security measures and the entrances to the campuses, it is important to state that they are limited only to the particular terms and conditions established by the university administration (refer above).

The entry-level points to the campuses are the sensitive locations where the security policies are converted to physical and operational decisions. University entry points are often equipped with security checkpoints that fulfill various purposes, such as verifying an individual, controlling the movement of people and vehicles in and out of a campus, and watching activities inside premises. These are to be taken to control unauthorized access to avert circulation and to guarantee safety of users and facilities.

Universities around the world use different strategies to secure entrance security in accordance with the conditions, risk perception, and institutional philosophy. Others use minimal security facilities that are based on the surveillance systems and free access, while others have guarded gates with restricted entry processes (Coleman, 2004). In most instances, the institutions strive to provide a compromise between security and accessibility with the aid of transparent buildings, decentralized access points, and dynamic working habits. Such approaches need to be effective based on technical performance but also based on how users experience and live with security infrastructure. This points out a need to look into security measures as their role as a protection mechanism but equally as a spatial factor that creates the everyday experience of campus life (Dovey, 2002).

B. Social Integration and Spatial Openness

Social integration in university campuses is a concept that is described to the extent to which people feel interacted with, included, a sense of belonging and also participating in a given space (Tinto, 2006). Campuses embracing social association are those that tend to promote close interfaces, mutual actions, and direction of movement across various groups of users, such as students, personnel as well as visitors.

The issue of spatial openness is key in the formation of these social outcomes. Environmental psychology and urban design studies show that spatial arrangement affects human behavior, in terms of individual's movement, meeting and interaction (Gifford, 2016). Permeable and open spaces are more likely to encourage social interaction, and the use of spaces with high control or fragmentation will discourage it and decrease participation (Hillier & Hanson, 1984). The designing of the entrances is especially effective in the settings of university campuses, which typically shapes the first impression between the users and the university as well as whether a campus is attractive or closed off.

C. Security Architecture as an Urban Barrier

Security architecture can also act unwillingly as a city deterrent where the physical structure and the intensity of operation restrict access or prevent its use (Giglioli, 2012). Fences, guard booths, check points, and access control systems are some of the elements that provide clear delineation between the spaces of the campus and that of the immediate environment. Although the intended purpose of these elements is to promote safety, they can also create closed or half closed environments (Ellin, 2013).

The symbolic entrance of the campuses, in this case, acts as a threshold. An entry way that is physically open and visually transparent can give the impression of being accessible and inclusive, but a fortified and highly guarded entrance can give the impression of being restricted and controlled (Curti, 2008). These symbolic meanings shape the perception of the users about the campus and their desire to enter, interact, and engage. In cases where security architecture leads in the entrance design the campus stands the risk of being socially disconnected to the urban situation which influences campus-community interactions and patterns of daily use.

D. Conceptual Framework

In accordance with the literature that was consulted, the conceptual framework followed in this study associates the concept of security infrastructure with social integration, with the mediation by perceptual and spatial factors. The independent will include security checkpoint traits, such as whereabouts, physical extent, visibility, and functioning level. These features affect the level of safety perceptions, surveilling or controls perceptions, and convenience of movement within and outside campuses among the users (Averdijk, 2010).

These moderate variables, in their turn, have an impact on the dependent variable of social integration which manifests in the levels of interaction, comfort, participation, and accessibility among the various groups of users. The model presumes that though security checkpoints can improve the perceived safety, an extreme control measure or restricting design will adversely affect movement and the social interaction (Ewing & Handy, 2009).

Combining spatial design, user experience, and social performance, this framework offers a framework of inquiry into the impact of security checkpoints at university access points upon the life in the campus and the relations between the campus and the community. The framework also presents the research questions used in the study that lead the way to the empirical research concerning the balance between security and social integration at the University of Wasit.

IV. Methodology

A. Research Design

This study adopts a mixed-methods design that combines qualitative spatial analysis with quantitative survey-based research, supported by a convergent integration approach to align spatial diagnostics with the statistical interpretation of perceptual constructs related to safety and social integration. The idea of having a mixed-method design is that it will be possible to obtain both the physical reality of campus entrance security check-ups and the perceptions and experience of campus users (Bryman, 2006). The qualitative component is concentrated on the architectural and working features of security checkpoints and the quantitative one evaluates the attitudes of users towards their safety, mobility, and social

incorporation with the help of a structured questionnaire (De Vaus & de Vaus, 2013).

This is achieved by combining the two approaches to enable the investigation to touch on the technology transfer of physical security provisions to social and perceptual consequences. Spatial observations can be used to bring out the context, and survey data can be used to get objective measures of user reactions. This method is especially appropriate in the context of the research on campus settings where human behavior and spatial design are the two variables having direct relationship (Rapoport, 2019).

B. Study Area

The school is located in an urban location and surrounded by some residential districts, commercial and local street networks. Being in this context, the site offers a proper case to consider entrance thresholds, visual permeability, surveillance depth, and controlled access pathways, yet these spatial dimensions would have a more strict evaluation with the help of such a tool as Visibility Graph Analysis (VGA). The campus receives a huge number of undergraduate and postgraduates, staff members, administrative workers, and visitors on a daily basis.

The study has explored four major campus entrances, which had security checkpoints and varied in terms of physical layout, visibility, access control, and the functional role of the entrance to the campuses. To facilitate comparative analysis, these checkpoints have to be distinguished with the help of measurable index of the intensity of security control on the basis of observable characteristics, i.e. checkpoint shape, surveillance, and type of barrier, inspection process, and level of restriction of access to users. It is also the case that the entrances will differ in the number of pedestrian and vehicular access points, and this means that the University of Wasit is the right case to explore the effects that differentiated entry conditions have on movement, accessibility, and social interaction. A more stringent measurement of movement would however entail the use of pedestrian flow modeling to obtain the congestion intensity, queuing and bottlenecks during the peak periods, whereas the analytical framework would be reinforced by looking at the mediation pathways between the perceived surveillance and the indicators of belonging.

C. Spatial Assessment Procedure

A systematic spatial assessment was carried out for all four campus entrances. The process of spatial assessment involves the assessment of spatial data and statistical information, encompassing the territory occupied by people (Kitchin & Dodge, 2011).

Each of the four entrance places of the campuses was evaluated systematically on space factors. This process was divided into three steps. The positions of the entrances were initially mapped concerning the general plan of the whole campus and with surrounding urban environment. The mapping was useful in the determination of spatial hierarchy, connectivity, and proximity to the residential and public space (Porta et al., 2006).

Second, direct observation was used to record the physical features of every security checkpoint. These attributes were the size of checkpoints, shape, building materials, transparency or opaque, external campus visibility, guard booths, barriers, and fences as well as signs. Especially the impact of these components on visual openness and perceived accessibility was being considered.

Third, the procedures in operation were monitored and documented. These were vehicle inspection strategies, how people were screened before accessing the premises, check of their identity, number of security guards present, and average waiting time during the peak and off-peak seasons. The surveys have been made at varying hours of the day to note the differences in usage (Montello & Sutton, 2006). The spatial judgment also allowed comparing the entrances with substantial control rate and more loose accessibility systems. To classify the level of security at each campus entrance, a simple observational index was developed based on key physical and operational features. These included the presence of guards, identity-check procedures, vehicle inspection, physical barriers, surveillance visibility, and the level of access restriction. Each feature was assessed qualitatively and combined to form an overall judgment of security intensity. Entrances with multiple layers of control and restricted access were classified as high-security, while those with fewer controls and more open access were classified as low-security. This classification was used for comparative spatial analysis.

D. Participants and Sampling

The survey group (here constituent of 240 respondents) was performed via a questionnaire survey, with the respondents being chosen to include the representatives of both regular campus users and the representatives of the local community. Respondents were categorized into two.

The former included the internal users (n = 160). There were 120 students in various levels and faculties together with 40 academic and administrative staff in this population. The internal users have been chosen as they deal with campus entrances on a daily basis and are directly impacted by the security procedures as a part of their routine tasks.

The second group included external users (n = 80), which included 45 visitors and 35 residents of the neighborhoods around the campus. These two subgroups were included to make comparisons between those who visit the campus occasionally and those who live around the campus and see the campus boundary and entrance controls more frequently. The marginally higher proportion of residents was explained by their unceasing closeness to the carpal setting, and their continuity of knowledge with its conditions of access. The members of the two groups were recruited directly in growth zones and residential areas. This sample was incorporated to analyze the impact of security checkpoints on the members of the university that do not belong to the internal university academic community. The importance of visitors was the fact that they are the direct recipients of entry procedures when utilizing campus services, whereas the nearby residents were included due to the fact that they are regularly exposed to the conditions of the campus boundaries and could offer an insight into how the security measures affect perceptions of

accessibility and openness and the interaction among the campuses and communities.

To make sure that the purposive sampling strategy was used, the participants were attracted to various entrances and represented the diversity of user's experience. The sample size would be deemed to be adequate, in descriptive analysis, reliability testing and comparative statistical analysis across user groups.

E. Survey Instrument

The information was gathered through the introduction of structured questionnaire designed to be used in this research. The five-point Likert scale used in the questionnaire had the following range; 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The tool was made simple, brief and appropriate to be answered by a respondent of various educational levels.

The questionnaire had three key sections. The initial part was of perceived safety which entailed the attitudes of the respondents towards a sense of protection, reassurance, and trust in the security measures at the campus entrances. The statements that were used as examples were described in terms of the feeling of safety on the first day entering the campus and trust of security officers (Jackson, 2009).

The second part was based on the effect of security checkpoints on the everyday life of the campuses, including the ease of access, waiting time, the smoothness of movement of pedestrians and vehicles, and inconvenience inflicted on people by security checks.

The third area measured social integration and openness, aspects pertaining to perceptions of accessibility, comfort, willingness to visit the campus, possibilities of social interaction, as well as the perceived relation of the university and the surrounding community (Putnam, 2007). The questionnaire was checked in terms of clarity and relevance and then given out.

F. Analytical Methods

The statistical package was used in analyzing quantitative data. Means and standard deviations were computed to provide the summary of responses of the respondents to all the questionnaire items. Cronbachs alpha was used to conduct reliability analysis in order to determine the internal consistency of movement, perceived safety and social integration scales.

In order to establish correlation between variables, correlation analysis was employed in order to determine correlation between securities related perceptions and social integration indicators. The degree to which perceived safety, perceived surveillance, and ease of movement predicted the outcomes of social integration was the next goal that was achieved through the use of regression analysis. Besides, comparative analyses have been done to establish the differences between internal users and external users. These analytical tools are answerable to the research questions and can also be used to interpret the results based on evidence.

V. RESULTS

It is a section whereby the results of the spatial assessment and quantitative survey are presented and give a critical analysis. Findings are organized into three subsections with its spatial configurations, internal users of the campus (students and staff) as well as the external users (visitors and local community). Statistical evidence can be summarized with help of tables and figures in order to facilitate interpretation.

A. Spatial Findings: Security Hierarchy and Spatial Restriction

The spatial analysis demonstrates that there is an excessive level of security intensity at the University of Wasit gateways. The north entrance turns out to be the most fortified gateway with several layers of control which form numerous items such as permanent guard, physical barriers and systematic identity verification. This access can be said to be the main entrance and it focuses most of the movement of people as well as vehicles. On the one hand, this approach is effective as it reduces risk management; on the other hand, the number of security points makes the location psychologically restrictive, especially in the busiest period of time.

The availability of secondary entrances is also underused even though they are located close to the nearby residential environments. A number of gates are either left partly open or closed at times only to enhance dependence on the main gate and the creation of congestion. This imbalance in space adds to the problem of the increased waiting durations and decreases the overall permeability between the campus and its urban environment. Critically, these arrangements reduce security checkpoints to a space filter, selectively controlling access, and re-asserting a feeling of institutional containment.

These results confirm the proposal that security architecture may serve as an urban barrier, not only sort of physical obstruction, but also sort of symbolic signaling of control and restriction. Certain levels of unequal accessibility to the campus are created directly by the spatial hierarchy, which determines the pattern of the user movement.

The spatial assessment of the four entrances highlights differences in security intensity, physical configuration, and accessibility conditions, as shown in Figure 3.

Fig. 3. Gate Entrance (By researcher, 2026)

Figure 3 demonstrates the spatial topography and the functional condition of these campus gates, where the

differences in structure, degree of access control, and functional role can be observed.

B. Student and Staff Findings: Safety versus Social Integration

The combination of the table1 and figure are what give the foundation on which the patterns of movement and accessibility across the campus can be compared based on the design of entrances and security practices, as shown in Figure 4 & Table1.

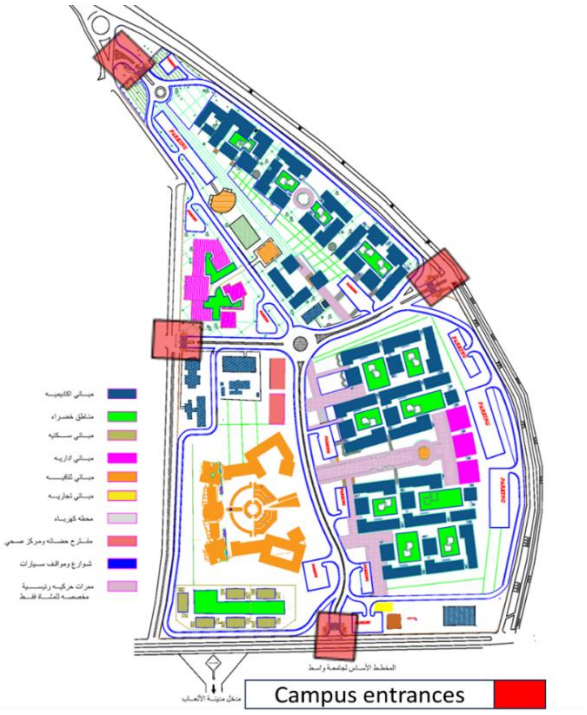

Fig 4. Master plan of the university campus/ access map (AMECWU, 2026)

TABLE I. DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR STUDENT AND STAFF RESPONSES

Variable	Mean	SD
Perceived_Safety	4.025	3.641667
Perceived_Surveillance	3.125	2.954167
Ease_of_Movement	2.983333	2.920833
Campus_Openness	3.045833	0.827988
Social_Interaction	1.162855	1.458276
Sense_of_Belonging	1.470058	1.425901
Overall_Social_Integration	1.407535	1.435497

The descriptive statistical results of students and staff are shown in Table I. These results show that there are apparent differences between the two groups in their views on safety, movement, and social integration. The perceived accessibility and familiarity with campus entry procedures by the students tended to be higher, whilst the response given by the staff was more objective, as it was less skewed in terms of effectiveness of security and restrictions on movement. The findings can be used to explain the spatial and social impact of security checkpoints on internal campus users, as shown in table II.

TABLE II. PEARSON CORRELATION MATRIX OF SECURITY PERCEPTIONS AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION INDICATORS

Variable	Perceived_Safety	Perceived_Surveillance	Ease_of_Movement	Campus_Openness	Social_Interaction	Sense_of_Belonging	Overall_Social_Integration
Perceived_Safety	1	0.001	-0.089	0.111	-0.085	0.038	0.003
Perceived_Surveillance	0.001	1	0.002	-0.041	0.044	0.011	0.063
Ease_of_Movement	-0.089	0.002	1	-0.091	-0.007	-0.071	0.001
Campus_Openness	0.111	-0.041	-0.091	1	0.002	-0.062	0.043
Social_Interaction	-0.085	0.044	-0.007	0.002	1	-0.013	0.009
Sense_of_Belonging	0.038	0.011	-0.071	-0.062	-0.013	1	0.045
Overall_Social_Integration	0.003	0.063	0.001	0.043	0.009	0.045	1

Nonetheless, perceptions of mobility are significantly lower (Mean = 2.98), creating a dissatisfaction with the waiting periods, delays in the processes, and limited movement in the entrances. More importantly, markers concerning social interaction, a sense of belonging, and social integration (in general) are the ones where the lowest mean scores are registered (Means between 1.16 and 1.47). These findings imply that users do have a sense of security though they also experience loneliness and lack of social interaction.

The outcomes of correlation analysis indicate that there are weak interrelationships between the variants of perceived safety and social integration, the coefficients are near to zero (Table II). Regression model also supports the fact that perceived safety, perceived surveillance, and ease of movement do not influence significantly the social interaction, sensation of belonging, and general disposition towards social integration ($p > 0.05$ across models; Table III). Critically speaking, this implies that the operations of security checkpoints are functional and therefore socially neutral- or even inhibiting – interventions, as shown in Table III.

TABLE III. MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION MODELS PREDICTING SOCIAL INTEGRATION OUTCOMES

term	estimate	std.error	statistic	p.value	R^2	Model
(Intercept)	3.426714	0.592087	5.787516	2.26E-08	0.02	Social_Interaction
Perceived_Safety	-0.14819	0.112022	-1.32286	0.187161	0.02	Social_Interaction

Perceived_Surveillance	0.054457	0.079445	0.685474	0.493717	0.02	Social_Interaction
Ease_of_Movement	-0.01447	0.063605	-0.22757	0.820176	0.02	Social_Interaction
(Intercept)	2.861716	0.585426	4.888262	1.88E-06	0.03	Sense_of_Belonging
Perceived_Safety	0.053636	0.110762	0.484248	0.628659	0.03	Sense_of_Belonging
Perceived_Surveillance	0.013097	0.078551	0.16673	0.867725	0.03	Sense_of_Belonging
Ease_of_Movement	-0.06543	0.062889	-1.04037	0.299232	0.03	Sense_of_Belonging
(Intercept)	2.742219	0.597708	4.587894	7.27E-06	0.01	Overall_Social_Integration
Perceived_Safety	0.004566	0.113085	0.040375	0.967828	0.01	Overall_Social_Integration
Perceived_Surveillance	0.07717	0.080199	0.962227	0.336921	0.01	Overall_Social_Integration
Ease_of_Movement	0.001347	0.064208	0.020981	0.983278	0.01	Overall_Social_Integration

The results dispute views that increased safety contributes directly to social cohesion. Rather, they also imply that extreme or inflexible security measures can subvert the social capacities of campuses as of interaction and community living unwittingly. In addition to regression coefficients, R-squared values were added to assess model explanatory power. The results indicate that the models explain only a limited proportion of variance in social integration outcomes.

C. *Visitor and Community Findings: Controlled Access and Conditional Openness*

Feedbacks by visitors and the residents of the area show a different yet similar trend. The scores on ease of entry are always very low meaning difficulties relating to access procedures, uncertainty on entry procedures and perceived inconvenience when at the checkpoint. Although the perceptions of the openness and welcoming nature of the campus are moderate (Mean = 3.05), the results at the same time indicate that the respondents experience a high level of surveillance and controlled access to campus (Mean = 3.13) so that the perception of ambivalence to campus access can be explained as shown in Table IV.

TABLE IV. INDEPENDENT SAMPLES COMPARISON OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL USERS

Variable	estimate	estimate1	estimate2	statistic	p.value	conf.low	conf.high
Perceived_Safety	-0.09375	3.9625	4.05625	-0.83941	0.402456	-0.31427	0.126769
Perceived Surveillance	-0.175	3.525	3.7	-1.11745	0.265425	-0.48421	0.134209
Ease_of_Movement	0.20625	3.2625	3.05625	1.046329	0.296953	-0.18297	0.595473
Campus_Openness	-0.1375	2.8625	3	-0.69422	0.488515	-0.52855	0.253555
Social_Interaction	-0.25625	2.8125	3.06875	-1.30616	0.193426	-0.64378	0.131282
Sense_of_Belonging	-0.25625	2.75	3.00625	-1.33386	0.184161	-0.63567	0.123175
Overall_Social_Integration	0.00625	3.05	3.04375	0.032732	0.973926	-0.37065	0.383148

The independent samples t-tests indicate that there are no statistically significant differences of neither internal nor external users in safety, movement and social integration variables ($p > 0.05$; Table V), as shown in Figure5.

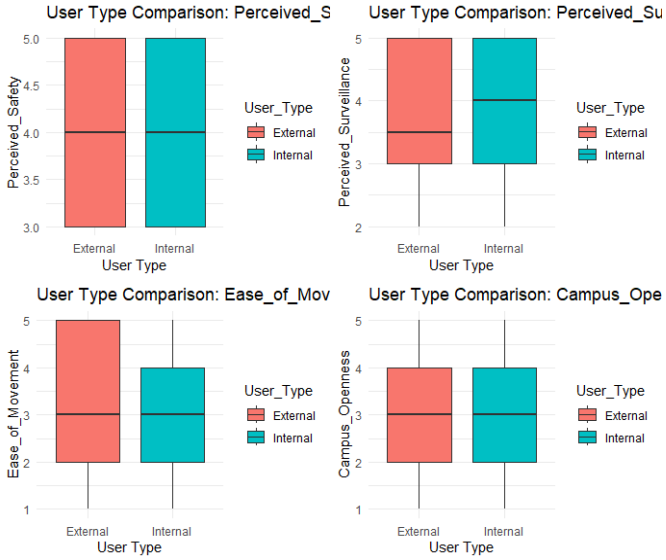

Fig. 5. Comparison

Nevertheless, these scores of lower movement and integration in relation to external users are consistently lower, indicative that there is a qualitative difference in experience. To community residents, security checkpoints are part symbolic boundaries to signify that access is subject to conditioning, and they are unfounded.

Importantly, the evidence shows that even though the campuses are not viewed as completely closed, the entrances do not promote spontaneous visits and community interaction. Security checkpoints are therefore a cause of a semi-open situation where it is only open in theory, but restricted in practice, as shown in Table V .

TABLE V. T-TEST OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL USER PERCEPTION- INDEPENDENT SAMPLES

Variable	Internal Users Mean	External Users Mean*	t-value	p-value	Interpretation
Perceived Safety	4.025	4.004	NR	> 0.05	No statistically significant difference reported
Perceived Surveillance	3.125	3.602	NR	> 0.05	No statistically significant difference reported
Ease of Movement	2.983	3.172	NR	> 0.05	No statistically significant difference reported

Campus Openness	3.046	2.923	NR	> 0.05	No statistically significant difference reported
Social Interaction	1.163	2.925	NR	> 0.05	No statistically significant difference reported
Sense of Belonging	1.470	2.862	NR	> 0.05	No statistically significant difference reported
Overall Social Integration	1.408	3.047	NR	> 0.05	No statistically significant difference reported

Figure 1 shows the mean scores of safety, movement and social integration of the various groups of users. The comparison can reveal that the perceptions of safety are in general higher than the perceptions of movement mobility and social integration. In spite of the internal users having more positive attitudes regarding a stronger sense of safety, external users are more inclined to experience confined access and less openness, meaning that the design and working of the checkpoints affect the groups in a different way.

VI. Discussion

This paper brings out the intricate connection between the security checkpoints and social integration in the college environment making it clear that though security check points improve a sense of safety, they also limit transparency and normal social life.

A. Security versus Openness

The results confirm that there is a tangible conflict between security and openness in the entrance areas of the university campuses. The perceived safety scores are high which means that checkpoints are effective in the reassurance of the students and the personnel, but lower the scores on ease in movement and social interaction implies that checkpoints decrease spontaneity and informal interactions. Security checkpoints do not seem to strengthen social cohesion; instead, they seem to make the environment safer, socially more confining. It corroborates the thesis that the safety-based design approach, made too strict, may jeopardize the social functions of campuses as civic space.

B. Spatial Barriers and Social Isolation

Spatial analysis and survey findings indicate that the entrances are used as socio-spatial filters in determining movement, belonging, and interaction. The clustering on access at the primary gate and the minimal use of the secondary entrances augment the congestion and diminish the permeability. Daily mobility is influenced by these conditions and has been identified to cause low-sense of belonging and cross-group contact. To visitors and local residents, high levels of perceived surveillance strengthen psychological separation and undermine campus-city affiliations, promoting a semi-autonomous campus atmosphere, as opposed to an urbanized place.

C. Relationship to Existing Research

These results are consistent with the literature discussing the concept of campus security and psychological safety because it provides that the presence of visible security boosts the sense of feeling secure but raises awareness of being surveilled. It also echoes the studies on the topic of urban gating and defensive architecture whereby rigid points of entry dislodged the access to social space and restricted free social interactions. This study offers an extension of earlier research in a Middle Eastern setting where there is a dearth of such findings by empirically relating security infrastructure and social integration results (Yiftachel, 2009).

D. Implications for Campus Design and Policy

The research highlights the significance of the design and operationalizing strategies that optimize security and meet the social experience. Psychological restriction can be minimized by transparent check point buildings, open views, and decentered entrances (Van Melik et al., 2009). Simultaneously, the highly trained, communicative security personnel can be a significant factor in enhancing the user experience and ensure that campuses remain secure and as well as inclusive socially.

VII. Conclusion

This paper illustrates that security points at the entrance of university campuses have a two-sided impact that is contradictory. On the one hand, they help a lot in increasing perceived safety among the students, staffs, visitors, and community members. Conversely, they undermine social integration through limitations of movement, limitation of free interaction and the strengthening of the perception of surveillance and control. The research results prove that safety and social openness are not necessarily complementary, and that the security-focused interventions may inadvertently affect the social role of university campuses.

The findings also indicate that physical and procedural attributes of entrances such as visibility, hierarchy of gates, waiting duration and control intensity are decisive factors to determine user behaviour and perception. Campus entrances serve as multiple points of entry as well as symbolic portals signifying receptiveness, constraint or conditional attachment. Subsequently, the experience at the entrance has an outstanding impact on the overall psychological impressions of the university setting and its connection with the external city.

A. Limitations

There are a number of limitations to this research. First, it relies on a case study and this restricts the extrapolation of results. Second, there is the perceptual bias that may be brought by the use of self-reported survey data. Third, the data is a time-based snapshot and the perception might evolve as conditions of insecurity change.

B. Future Research

Further research is needed to compare various universities in various contexts, experiment the solutions in alternative designs of entrance, and investigate the possibility of applying the technologies of smartness and adaptiveness to maintain a better balance between security and social integration.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the findings, the following recommendations are the actionable ones:

1. Reform campus entrance designs with transparent design and open view space to lessen psychological confinement.
2. Trade heavy physical barriers with lighter access systems that are technology-enabled which keeps them safe and enhance flow.
3. Open several gates at campus level and alleviate congestion and space hierarchy and congestion at main gateways.
4. Request the security personnel to be trained on communication and transfer of information and visitors to enhance user experience.
5. Create common areas at entrance points to establish interaction and informal relationships.
6. As a part of campus policy review, periodically evaluate the mental, social and behavioral effects of security actions on campus students and staff.

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