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Anthropology of the Crowd, Blog 12

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Anthropology of the Crowd

<https://rampages.us/michellebzirin/>

Michelle Zirin

Stepping out of My Comfort Zone

In all of my 21 years of life I have never been witness to an event such as the UCI Championships or have participated in a class designed such as this one. To be completely honest, I was anxious and feeling overwhelmed before the even class started. I didn't know exactly what was going to be required of me and I'm not too keen on group work either, which I had a gut feeling would be a part of the curriculum. Once I had successfully contacted everyone in the group I was a part of, the class started to pick up pace and I felt as if I had a better understanding of what I had to do. By the time the race started, I was now entirely out of my comfort zone, talking and working with people I have never had to communicate with before. Shockingly, it went extremely well. The crowd was accepting and helpful and my group definitely pulled through. We as a group came together and I believe were very successful it terms of completing the class requirements thoroughly. I'm happy with the way things turned out and that I was able to be in this class, and also have the opportunity to have Professor Verrelli once again! I believe this course has been beneficial to my growth as a student and has given me the extra push I needed out of my comfort zone.

Posted on [October 5, 2015](#)

The Aspect of the Crowd that I Found Most Interesting

The most interesting aspect of the crowd to me was how polite and patient the participants were while we students were trying to collect data. Not once did someone ask me to hurry up or stop midway through the interview. I did not necessarily expect anyone to do so, but I was just so pleasantly surprised to be met with such a willingness and openness to contribute and help me out. No one was obligated to go through with answering my questions, but they did it anyways and in the best way possible! The easy-goingness of the people I interacted with in the crowd in return made me feel more at ease about the

interview and data collection process. So what initially started as something that gave me anxiety, ended as an insightful and positive experience.



Posted on [October 5, 2015](#)

Benefits to a Holistic Anthropological Perspective on Human Variation

A holistic anthropological perspective on human variation enhances how we are able to understand other individuals and ourselves and recognize the similarities and differences between us. There is no set explanation available of what it means to be human, but by examining all the possible variables of humanity, we are able to gain insight and increase our knowledge of what makes us human. We are not defined by the way we think, talk, look, or act, but as a person we are all of these things combined. Human beings are just too complex to be explained sufficiently by one definition. People can be grouped accordingly to what they have in common and don't, and the possibilities for these

combinations are infinite. Each group of people varies, formed depending on the different variables attached to each individual.



By taking into account the different biological, social, and cultural elements that influence each and every one of us, we are able to create a more full picture of what comprises humanity. It is these elements in combination with our individual circumstances that help to explain human variation. By acknowledging and accepting this, we can draw connections with others and in the process be better equipped to understand the people around us and all over the world.

Posted on [October 3, 2015](#)

A Picture of Physical Variation

Group 1. Veyn Almandelawe, Farah Hasan, Michelle Zirin, Tori Edison, Mohamed Bushra, Ahmad Abdulziz



Posted on [October 2, 2015](#)

Archaeological Assemblage

Group 1



Farah Hasan

Tori Edison

Michelle Zirin

Mohamed Bushra

Veyn Almandelawe

Ahmad Abdulziz

Posted on [October 2, 2015](#)

The Importance of Measuring Variation in a Crowd & What we Learned from this Sample

Measuring variation in a crowd is important because it shows how there are similarities and differences within a group of people who share a common interest or common space. In this particular instance, the focus is on the location of Richmond, specifically the parts affected by the race and the people who are interested in and support this event. By interviewing people in the crowd, we are able to collect more data and gain insight into the characteristics that set people apart or bring them together. We are then able to group people within the larger context of the group as a whole. These subgroups display collectiveness between the people who share a common attribute, that which may be different from another subgroup. The variation gives a clear visual representation of the people who comprise the population and the differences between them. In order to gain or gather some sort of conclusion about the crowd, it is important to look carefully at the variation and what could be the possible causes of this. What we are able to learn about variation from this specific sample is that you need a large enough sample in order to have a good representation of the population and so that you are able to produce results that accurately reflect the significant differences within the sample. This sample we studied definitely displays a noticeable level of diversity and differences among the people within the crowd.

Posted on [October 1, 2015](#)

Comparing the Beginning of UCI to its Final Days

Through the course of the week, there have been waves of many people at certain times and places compared to very few people at others. The week had a slow start in terms of crowdedness, and I was shocked to see Richmond in such an average state. Putting aside all the gates and banners for the race, the city did not change much initially when the race officially started. It was only once the middle of the week hit that I noticed more people. In the beginning of the week, there was a lot of preparation and practice going on as well as a lot of trial times and junior cyclists serving as the main focus. The races for elite cyclists did not start until half way through the week, which obviously attracts way more

attention than the trial runs and competing juniors. Another factor that is important to recognize, is that a lot of the attention for the race is based at the finish line. From what I was able to see, a good amount of people were watching along the course, but I feel that its safe to assume the biggest crowd was located down by the finish line at 5th street in downtown. Something I didn't think about until just now that most likely explains the reason for the low amount of people I witnessed initially is the few locations I chose on those specific days. Some of the locations I chose in the beginning, when I didn't see as many people, were not as popular as the places I went to later on in the race, for example like Libby Hill.



Posted on [October 1, 2015](#)

The Hardest Part of Collecting Data About the Crowd

I believe that the hardest part of collecting data about the crowd was giving the individuals we were interviewing a completely clear understanding of what kind of research we were conducting and asking our questions in a simple way in order to ease the interview process.



Most people got the gist of the questions and what kind of information we were looking for, but in a good amount of cases I would have to circumlocute or find a new way to phrase the question I was trying to ask. It was not impossible by any means, each time there was some difficulty, me and the participant would find a way to reach an understanding. This did not frustrate or bother me at all, but I can definitely understand how it could possibly be annoying for them, especially since they are just trying to watch the race they came to see. Most of the people I interviewed each needed some form of elaboration or a little clarification on one point or another, but in the end I was able to collect all the data that I needed.

Posted on [September 24, 2015](#)

What Do I Wish I Collected

There is so much valuable information that we can gain from the different people in the crowd. Some of which can be very useful in trying to understand the people around us. Recognizing that each individual brings something unique and equally as important to the table leads to the discovery and possibility of obtaining such data and information. One type of data about the crowd that I wish I had collected was whether or not the individual had been brought up to have a strong interest in cyclist racing. Were they introduced to the sport at a young age? Were the people they spent time with growing up interested in the sport of cycling and bike racing as well? Did their parents have an interest? Or did they become interested all on their own? I'm curious to know whether the interest in cycling was ingrained at a young age or formed as the individual got older. I believe this to be an interesting, important part of information that could help when collecting data on people who support and are interested in such an international sport.

Posted on [September 23, 2015](#)

An Inaccurate Reflection of the Global Population

The sample of humanity displayed through the crowd of the bike race does not accurately reflect the global population of the world. I believe that it represents a portion of the global population, but definitely does not reflect it in a worldly sense. It draws on a very specific interest, that being of cycling, which not everyone in the world is interested in. The event pertains to the people who are interested in the race and cycling and draws them in enough to come out and show support. So the majority of the sample we are exposed to are people who share this common interest and ultimately, this makes for a sample that does not display a good reflection. Even though over 70 countries from all over the globe are participating, it still is not enough or a big enough sample to reflect the global population of the world. Not every country has a representative or person participating in the race, so not everyone from around the world is a part of the sample, and therefore displays an inaccurate reflection. There are other people who are not included in the sample, like those who could not make the travel, and those who are not even interested in the event. These individuals who are not included in the sample would make for a better, fuller and more accurate reflection of the global population of the world.

Posted on [September 22, 2015](#)

One Days Worth of Data Collection

The first day of data collection was interesting and extremely new to me since I've never participated in something like this ever before. I decided to be a little more aggressive than I usually am in order to get the crowd to answer my questions. The key to getting people to participate was to be confident while talking and to make the participant feel safe. After my second and third interview, I was becoming more comfortable in approaching strangers, which in return made me feel better about the experience as a whole. I definitely went into it apprehensive and feeling unprepared, but once I put things into perspective and got people to talk to me I realized that it is much easier than I was making it out to be. I noticed that most people would participate in the interview if you tell them it'll take no longer than 2 minutes, so each time I said that and made sure to not take too much of their time. Overall, I think the process of data collection went as great as it could have. The crowd, for the most part, was friendly enough to give me a little bit of their time in order to

collect what I needed. Some people said no or didn't have the time and some who participated were definitely apprehensive themselves, but once I reassured them of what I was doing and how the picture would be non-identifying they complied and continued on. In regards to the way we collected data, I'm not sure if I would change anything. I believe the questions were fitting and appropriate, and that approaching people was the best way to get our data, so I honestly don't have any ideas of what to change!

Posted on [September 22, 2015](#)

Description of the Crowd + Expectations

In the days leading up to the race, I had high expectations for tons and tons of people traveling to be in Richmond for this event. Once the race started, I noticed that many of Richmond's residents had left for the duration of the race and that the amount of people who did travel here did not make up for the absence of the people who live here and left. Richmond is not as crazy as I thought it would be with all this attention. The crowd is pleasant, focused, and respectful of Richmond from what I could tell. Their main concern is the race of course, so not everyone is willing to turn from it to talk to us students. The crowd's age ranges from very young to very old, and everything in between. Many families are here, following and supporting their loved ones who are participating in the race. My expectations for the quality of the crowd were met, with much diversity and dedication to the race, but in terms of quantity my expectations were not reached. Perhaps, more people will show as the week progresses.

Posted on [September 22, 2015](#)

Expectations for the Crowd

I have never been witness to such an event as the UCI Road World Championships. The expectation that I am most sure will be met is that the race and the following it will have will not only be huge, but monumental. I expect there to be thousands of people traveling to Richmond for this event. I expect that the event will be taken very seriously, not only by the participants, but also by the people in the crowd and residents of the surrounding communities the race will run through. The race is expected to have global audience of more than 300 million people; so I can only imagine the crowd following the event will be

a good portion of that number. About 1,000 of the world's top cyclists from about 75 countries will compete this year. All cyclists participating have different backgrounds and lifestyles, and therefore attract a variety of spectators. I expect there to be surge of mass diversity, with everyone talking differently, looking and dressing differently, and acting differently. With all these differences about, there is one thing the people are sure to share, that being a strong interest in the race. Another thing is certain; there will be an enormous diverse crowd.

Posted on [September 4, 2015](#)