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Anthropology of the Crowd, Blog 2

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UCI

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

Veyn Almandelawe

What was the hardest part of collecting the data about the spectators?

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Collecting the data and interviewing people were one of the amazing parts in this experiment. It is always nice to react with people and see who people are reacting toward strangers who interrupting them while they are watching important events. Most of the crowd was easy to talk with, except that fact that when we asked them to take a picture of their hands. That part was completely odd to them and we had to explain the reason behind it, still they all accepted taking a picture in the end.

My technique was, starting by saying hello and smiling at their faces. And after introducing myself to them, I would request their permission to ask them few questions only, so they can guarantee that I would not take a lot of their time nor distract them from watching the event. The interview was more than four questions, and it extended to the level that I got to know some background of their lives and definitely that was the most intimate part.

What was one day's worth of data collection like? How did it go? What would you change about the way you collected data?

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The first day I went to the event was the day worth of the data, as in that day, I discovered how important is to be part of these events. I felt I belonging to that event and was part of it which fill me with a real joy. Watching people around you all happy and enjoying their time make you feel like all the barriers between people break and we are all one nation in happiness.

One data I would love to collect was to take a video with people who I interviewed, so I will be able to convey their feeling as words sometimes are not able to express what you can get from people. On the other hands, asking people's permission to get these videos will make it hard, as it is not easy to find

people who are willing to be in these videos. I honestly, found these questions were very accepted from others and they were short and easy to answer which made people easily cooperate with us.

What aspect of the crowd did you find most interesting?

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The most magnificent part about the crowd who attended this event was, they all were the same when it comes to the way they expressed their feeling and their happiness. You can find group of people yelling and screaming with the same words to push the cyclists to ride faster. And you can find others, slap the boarder, knocking their bells, clapping. It was not like people from the United States have their own way and others have a different way, but more they all have same type of cheering which erases any border when it comes to joy and celebrating happy times.

I enjoyed the diversity of the crowd, I liked the idea of being introduced to new people from different cultures and places, to hear different accents and dialects, to see different flags coloring our beautiful city Richmond.

Do you think the sample of humanity in the bike race crowd accurately reflects the “global population” of the world? Why or why not?

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The sample of humanity in the bike crowd did accurately covered the global population. In fact the people who were in the event were from different ages, colors, genders, and countries. We were able to see kids who were celebrating the events side by side with young and old people. We were able to see women and men alike. People who enjoyed this event were from all around the world. Some of them were from Europe, Canada, Middle East, and different regions from the United States; which shows that people are the same when it comes to joy and sadness no matter where they are coming from, and no matter how they are different.

Most of the people were very excited about that event and they described it by a well-organized event and more, and event that not happens every day. People who were from Virginia were very proud as this event took a place in Richmond which made it center of attention. People who came from different region in the United States were extremely excited as this was their first visit to Virginia, which they found it a very unique place. People from out the United States were happy for all the well preparation

to this event. In the end of the day, they all have their good comment about this event and about all the nice people who helped them through the event.

What other types of data about the crowd members did you wish you had collected?

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Perhaps, the most interesting type of data about the crowd members that I would truly love to collect is, gathering some information about their background, such as what is their favorite sport? What is their favorite teams? What is their favorite athletes? What were their dreams when they were kids? Did they want to be athletes? Did they want to join a specific team? How far now they are from their dreams? What is their expectation? And most importantly what happened to their dreams?

It is very important to study people and see who they develop their dreams though out their lives. These dreams make a huge impact on our lives without we even know that. When people are not able to achieve these dreams, or forget them, they end up growing up with a gap in their lives. Therefore, I believe, asking these people about some of their dreams will be a wake up for them to rethink about the dreams that they once had, and to see if they are still able to approach it in the future.

Why is measuring variation in a crowd important? What can we learn about variation from this type of sample?

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The reason behind collecting the data, is to see what kind of people are interested in this event. Are they all male or female? Are they all young or old? Are they all coming from the same area that hosting the event or there are some people who will take the plane and fly thousands of miles just to be there to enjoy this an important event that is not going to be there every day.

It was not surprising to me to see that huge crowd were waiting for the athletes to start their splendid performance. People who were their watching this event were from all around the world. Additionally, they were from different genders, ages, religions, and colors. This event was not exclusive with specific type of people, countries or ages, but more it was something that united the people and bonded them together with the simplest bond in the world which is joy. Eventually, all the crowd had something in common which is the way they celebrated this event and their passion about sport.

UCI-2015 and More

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For someone who had never been to an athletic event before, the most interesting part was enjoying the time. Anthropology of the crowd class was not a mere class, but it was a reason to push me more into this event and enjoy the time just like any regular spectator. As students, it is very easy to get busy with all the classes we take which leaves no room for free time to get a rest or to have some fun. Also, this class was a way to discover what we might be interested in by simply engaging in this event.

On the other side, it is wonderful how we can learn things from doing simple stuff, such as having an interview with people. One of the most important interviews I had done was, an interview with a homeless. The nice thing about this interview was, not the fact that the homeless asked me to make an interview with him and how he expressed his joy feeling toward this event, but more, I learned something important from him when I asked him about his favorite event that he loves to celebrate. His answer was: "The life itself is my best event that I celebrate every day. I do not need a special event to be happy, as being alive and helping people who are in need is the most important part of being a human being, even if that help was coming from a person who already in need like me." With these powerful words I will end my article about UCI-2015 to let people think about them.

The Great People behind this Event !

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It is amazing how you can find people act in such events. Perhaps, it is time now to mention and thanks all the people who attended this event not only to enjoy it, but more, to help this historical event to be presented in a highly organized way. People who volunteered in this event were from all different ages, levels, colors, genders. You can find old people and young people side by side helping pedestrians to cross the street in a safe way which made this event safe, clean, and organized. You can find men and women from different levels there to guide people to the right spots where they can watch the cyclists while they are racing. Many Churches opened their doors for people in case if they were tired so they could enter inside the churches and get some rest.

Not to mention, the number of the police men who attended this event and how they put themselves first just to protect the viewers and the cyclists alike which created a high sense of safety between the crowd with all the services they provided, and that made this event something we are all proud of. In short, behind the scene there were great people who stayed in the shadow to make this athletic event a spectacular one.