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Anthropology of the Crowd, Blog 3

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Observing the bike race in Richmond

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Victoria Edison

WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT THE BIKE RACE

OCTOBER 1, 2015 LEAVE A COMMENT

For myself the bike race was pretty interesting. I got to talk to people from all over the world. For a town like Richmond to receive so many foreign visitors and host such a huge race was really awesome. I love traveling to different places so to be able to talk to people who live in these places was pretty amazing. I learned that people can come together and cheer for everyone and not just one team, it's the only event that I have really seen; where everyone cheers for everybody. It was kind of like being at the Olympics, because the cyclists would get so emotional if they went up in the rankings or won a high place. It was also interesting to see how empty the college was, the library is usually packed, but it was so quiet and empty. There was no line to get food or if there was it was short. It was actually kind of enjoyable and fun to have the whole campus almost empty. But I also learned about people and where they come from, some would talk about family traditions and they're eyes would light up. I really enjoyed talking to all the people during the race.

VARIATION OF THE CROWD

OCTOBER 1, 2015 LEAVE A COMMENT

Measuring crowd data is important because it allows us to see what kinds of events draw crowds. It allows us to see what kinds of people come to events such as the bike race. For example, the bike race drew in people all the way from South America and from Asia. It allows us to see where people come from because people come from all walks of life and as Anthropologists to study people and what better place than at a huge bike race that draws crowds from as far as China.

It also allows us to learn what types of people come, their ethnicities, their religions, their culture because they all converge in one place. We can learn a lot about people from how they cheer to what type of words they use to describe how they feel. Variation also allows us to see a wide range of variables and collect a good sample of data.

WHAT OTHER DATA WE COULD HAVE COLLECTED

OCTOBER 1, 2015 LEAVE A COMMENT

I feel like we did a good job collecting data, but I kinda wished we had asked some personal questions or asked about where they lived like about the topography of the area and have them describe what it looks like. Maybe ask them more about the social classes in their country. I

think asking about what type of job they had could have been interesting and maybe learn about something different or a special job that is done in that country. I mean there are probably a lot of different things you can ask somebody about what part of the country they live in or what the area looks like. Such as is it made up of rolling hills or if it's completely flat.

ONE DAY OF DATA COLLECTING

I honestly had a bit of a hard time collecting data. The first couple of times I asked for people to participate in an interview they either ignored me or said no. It kind of discouraged me a little, but one of my group members joined me and I was able to work up the nerve to talk to people and ask them if they would let me interview them. As the day went on we continued to ask people if they would like to be interviewed and many people would talk to us. If I had to change one thing about how I collected data it would have been to have been more assertive and ask more people.

WHAT ASPECT DID I ENJOY

I found that the aspect of viewing the crowds enthusiasm for all the bicyclists was quite enjoyable. People just didn't cheer for their team they cheered for all of the cyclists passing by. I really enjoyed seeing little children waving and cheering the cyclists on. As I was walking home I saw the Israeli cyclists and I cheered them on. I was like whoo go ISRAEL!!!!!!! It was just really nice to see all the sportsmanship from the spectators for every team that participated in the race.

GLOBAL POPULATION

In my personal opinion I don't think our data accurately represents the global population. The crowd that we interviewed was mostly American and took up a huge percentage of our global population. I could say that it is to be expected because the race was in the USA, but that is not entirely accurate, because many people came with family and friends. So I believe there we plenty of people to interview, we just got a lot of Americans. I do think we could have done more interviews with international people because we did have a wide variety of people from all over the world, we just did not interview a lot of international people. So I believe our data will be somewhat inaccurate of the global population.
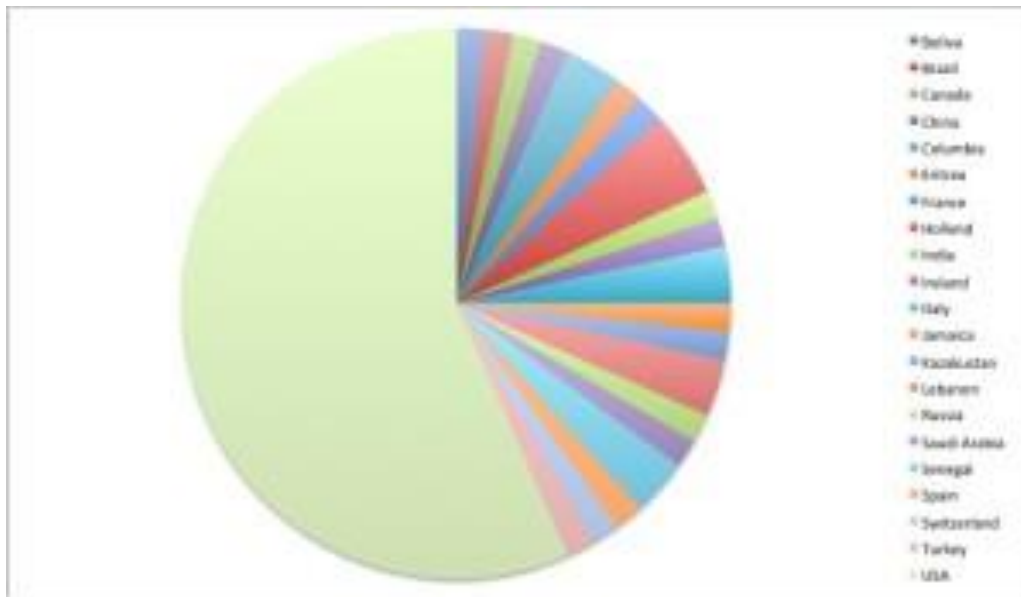
THE HARDEST THING ABOUT INTERVIEWING PEOPLE

First off one of the things that I found to be difficult was the language barrier. Some people understood english enough to be able to hold a conversation with me, but many on spoke Spanish or French, which I am very limited in my Spanish speaking abilities so it was hard to

talk to some of the spectators. Another thing was that I am kind of shy talking to people I don't know so I had to work up the nerve to go talk to some of the people or ask the questions.
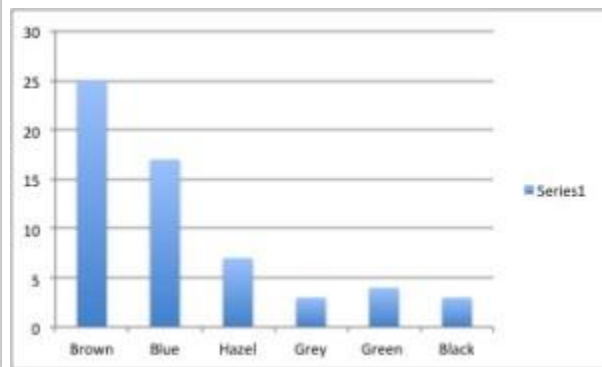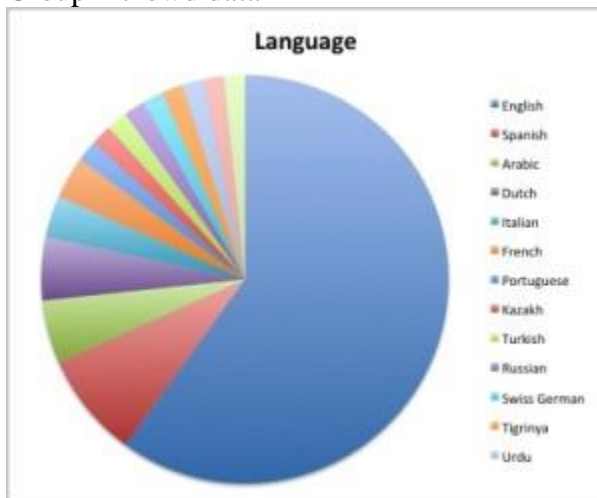
Second, was the fact that some people gave me a phrase and not just one word to describe the race so it made collecting that part of the data harder than most of the others. Third, was just how big the race course was, if you went to Monroe park some days it was full of people and other days it was not. If you headed to the start and finish line there were way more international people there cheering for the cyclists. So it was a matter of finding large groups of internationals and Americans that was challenging some days. Overall most of it was not bad it was just those three things that were difficult that made collecting data a little more challenging. I did enjoy talking to a lot of people though.

GROUP 1 CROWD DATA

Group 1 crowd data

Our group spent the past week interviewing many people throughout the race. We got a wide range of people spanning from Central and South America, Asia, Asia Minor, Europe, and people from all over America. One of the things I found interesting was the fact that we had a large number of Americans, but I also figured that was to be expected since the race took place in the USA, but there were also many other countries represented in the crowd as well. One of the things that I found hard was the language barrier. Some people from other countries knew English and spoke kind of well, but primarily many knew only Spanish. Which is not all that surprising since Spanish is one of the top ten most spoken languages in the world.

I also think it was interesting that many came with there families or with friends to watch this race. It was also interesting to hear all the languages being spoken in a semi-small city such as Richmond. We don't get a lot of internationals as we did for the race, with the exception of Globe. Overall I enjoyed talking with the people that I interviewed and my group members did as well. Just being able to talk to someone from a different place and ask them about what it's like to live there was very interesting and insightful.

The eye color was interesting and predictable because brown and blue eyes are the most common. It was also expected that English would be the most spoken language.

MEETING THE ISRAELI'S

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015 LEAVE A COMMENT

Last night, I had the opportunity to meet the Israeli cycling team. Observing them was quite interesting because their ages varied from 18 to their early 40's. I am Jewish and do not understand nor speak Hebrew very well, but I got to listen to them talk to each other and joke with each other in Hebrew. Many of the American Jews asked them questions about whether they liked Richmond or specific questions about what type of bike they used. Their responses were very insightful. While expressing my desire and urgency in wanting to go back one day. The oldest gentlemen of they're group told me that I am young and have all the time in the world to come back. My father, who also came to meet the Israeli's talked to one about how he desired to go back as well to visit the holy land. At one point the oldest gentlemen described a program he wished he could start to help young boys and girls stay in cycling and sort of create a national team. I asked him about going to his officials or representatives about it and he explained clearly many of the problems with getting the funding for it. Talking to the Israeli's gave me insight into how much they love cycling and how comfortable they were with each other. Joking and laughing and having a good time with us. They even asked us how to say certain words to express things they wanted to say. I honestly had the best time getting to meet people from an entirely different culture than my own and also hear them speak Hebrew with each other and teach us words as well. As a young Anthropologists in the making, I found it insightful to see a wide range of people from the same country and of different ages acting like best friends even though they come from different generations. They acted almost like they're own band system or like an adopted family with one another. So it was very interesting to see them enjoying themselves in Richmond.

MY PREDICTIONS OF THE CROWD

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015 LEAVE A COMMENT

When I first started this course, I assumed that many different nations would be here to participate in the bicycle race. While walking around and observing the preparations for the time trials that day. I saw many people representing countries from Europe, Africa, South America, Asia, and I even met a man from a country in the middle east. It was insightful because I learned that not everyone could speak English, but they could speak Spanish. So I tried my best to remember my Spanish and spoke with each of them the best that I could. My prediction on the crowd was also correct, I saw many people in the crowd cheering for their country and speaking in their native language. It was quite refreshing to hear so many languages being spoken in one place and I thoroughly enjoyed trying to speak to people in Spanish, even if I wasn't very good. It opened my eyes though and taught me that maybe I need to learn another language or two so that I can speak to people from different countries in a language they understand. Over all though I was correct in stating that people from all over the world would come to see this race and that Richmond would become an epicenter of different nationalities gathered in one place.

WHAT I THINK THE CROWD WILL LOOK LIKE FOR THE RACE

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 LEAVE A COMMENT

I like to think that the crowd will be composed of many different kinds of people from all over the United States and even from different parts of the world; like England or Spain, maybe France or Italy. I feel like there will also be a lot of fit people who are in the bike race and than there families and friends will be there to support them. They may be white, hispanic, asian any number of mixed ethnicities could show up to the race. I feel like we will hear different languages such as Spanish and various dialects such as midwestern, pacific ocean, new england accents. I feel like this race will bring all sorts of people from different places and different walks of life together in one place for a little over a week.

HI THERE LET"S GO ANTHRO

AUGUST 26, 2015 LEAVE A COMMENT

I'm so excited to be starting my study of people for Anthropology!!!!!!