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Race, Gender, Sexuality, Ability, Identity and Cycling, Blog 3

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ENDO: transforming cycle culture

Race, Gender, Sexuality, Ability, Identity and Cycling — UNIV 291 SEC 039



About earmanma

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Bike Culture the fixie vs the roadie

by **Earmanma** on [September 29, 2015](#) in **Bike ethnography**

I have been biking for several years now and have seen many different types of bikers. The two main groups that I see around the city are the “fixie” riders and the “roadies.” The fixie rider is called this because they ride a bike that has a fixed gear on it which means that you have to always pedal, you cannot coast on a fixed gear bike. The roadie is someone that rides the really expensive usually carbon fiber road bikes. These two type of riders do not cross over very often.

A fixie rider from what I have observed is usually someone that is more rugged who is not worried about how they look on a bike. When they have something break they usually try and repair it themselves or figure out how to fix it in a resourceful way. A lot of fixie riders are bike messengers and can navigate traffic and cities well. Some would view the fixie rider as the outlaw of the bike community.

The roadie is more of the preppy kid on the block. They usually have their expense bike and their tight outfits. These are the type of people I see on rides that match their outfit from socks to helmet with their bikes. Yes that is right is says bikes much of these guys are very wealthy and have multiple bikes. When they have to get something fixed it is no issue because they are well off. These riders usually have the idea that the world revolves around them and that they own the road.

Both of these are of course stereotypes and aren't to say there is crossover between the two. I know a good number of mostly college kids including myself that ride road bikes and just scrap by keeping are bikes working. There are also fixie riders who ride extremely expensive bikes. But the neat thing is that you can see all these things mix in the city of Richmond. Just walk through and you can sometimes see

a group meeting up for a road ride or the kids doing tricks on their fixes or talking about some deliveries of the day.



Richmond Cycling Corps!

by **Earmanma** on September 22, 2015 in **Artifact Analysis**

The Richmond Cycling Corps is a non-profit program founded in 2010 by Craig Dodson and Matt Crane. Its purpose was to provide leadership and personal development through the great sport of cycling to the kids of Richmond. This company operates on funds from Richmond businesses, volunteers, and the Richmond Bicycle Studio. The Richmond Bicycle Studio is the bike shop that is connected with the corp, run by mechanic Wilson Hale. This shop only makes enough to keep running and all the rest goes to the cycling corps.

The Richmond Cycling Corps (RCC) started out working with Richmond public house back in 2010. It has been growing ever since, and in February 2014 they launched the first inner city cycling team in cooperation with Armstrong High School. The RCC has competed in multiple states in many different cycling competitions, from mountain bikes to road bikes and everything in between. The cycling corps is always looking for a new way that they can help inner city kids get involved with bikes. So far they have made a mountain bike park next to Armstrong High School, started a program that helps kids learn how to fix and maintain their bikes, and created an artists series that let the kids express themselves in what they wear and ride.

For the athletes of the Richmond Cycling Corps, it is about much more than just the bike. In interviews from some of the athletes, they talked about how they weren't good students before RCC. Many of them had poor attitudes and would get in trouble often. Then Craig Dodson from RCC came along and the athletes said that he would always come back. He would talk to them and help them with so much more than riding a bike. Craig's mission is to make his athletes better individuals in and out of the classroom, using bikes as its backbone.

All the great people at the Richmond Cycling Corps, from Craig Dodson to the donors, are what made this work and what will continue to making this work in the city of Richmond. All the people involved with the team have such a great drive that is infectious to their athletes and all the people around them. This program has allowed inner city kids around Richmond to get involved in biking when they otherwise would have never thought of riding around in spandex as an activity that they would do. The RCC motto is their driving force of the program: "Can't Stop. Won't Stop."

All my information and to find out more information visit:

The Richmond Cycling Corps Website: <http://www.richmondcyclingcorps.org/>

or

For more great stories about the athletes visit their Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/richmondcyclingcorps/timeline>

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My Focus

by **Earmanma** on September 17, 2015 in **Introduction/focus selection**

Hi my name is Matt Earman. I am a grad student here at VCU and I am also part of the cycling club at VCU.

- I would like to focus on the growth of women's cycling the past couple years and how it appears have a positive future ahead.
- I would also like to look into all the different types of people that I see in races and spectating races throughout the world championships.

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