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Observing, Recording, Analyzing

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Observing, Recording, Analyzing

Megan Sheehan and Alexandra Castellanos
College of St Benedict | St John's University

Society for Applied Anthropology

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Campus Observations



Evaluating Observation Activities

- Have you done observation activities before this class? If so, in which class(es)?
- What can anthropologists learn from observation?
- What did you learn from your campus observations?
- Did the process of coding in your small group reveal any interesting social dynamics? What?

Discussing Themes

- Student use of technology
- Gendered spaces
- Social interactions

Reflecting on Process

- Team coding
 - Each student has unique perspective
 - Different perspectives enrich what is learned about the topic
- Emotional reflexivity: student discomfort observing fellow students
- Role of observations in broader ethnographic research

Long-term Observations in Capstone



Discussion

- Practical pedagogical lessons
- Contextualizing limited observation activities
- Fostering “critical unlearning” (Okely 2012)

