**SOCI 360 Assignment #4: Observational Research Exercise**

Together with your group in class, do a 10-minute webcam observation of a public space in Japan (see link below). Do the observation with your study group all at the same time since it is a live camera, and you want to observe the same things. Take two kinds of field notes: descriptive notes that capture what is happening similar to a video camera, and interpretive notes in which you try to make sense of what your observations mean in the context of that community and culture. Compare your notes with your group.

Here is an example of descriptive and interpretive notes:

## Example of Descriptive Notes and Interpretive Notes

Date: January 31, 2024 Time: 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Location: City Park

Subject: Children playing on the playground

| Descriptive Notes | Interpretive Notes |
|---|---|
| 1. Two boys, approximately 7-8 years old, wearing blue and red jackets, respectively, are engaged in a game of tag. They are running around the playground equipment, laughing and shouting.<br>2. A group of three girls, around 6-7 years old, wearing colorful dresses, are playing on the swings. They take turns pushing each other and giggling.<br>3. A boy, approximately 5 years old, is sitting alone in the sandbox, quietly building a sandcastle. He seems focused, occasionally glancing around at the other children.<br>4. A girl, around 9 years old, is reading a book while sitting on a bench nearby. She appears absorbed in her reading, occasionally | 1. The dynamic game of tag between the two boys reflects their energetic and competitive spirit, as indicated by their laughter and quick movements. It demonstrates their need for physical activity and social interaction, highlighting the importance of play in their development of social skills and physical coordination.<br>2. The group of girls on the swings demonstrates cooperative play and social bonding. Their laughter and shared enjoyment suggest a sense of camaraderie and mutual support, contributing to the development of friendships and interpersonal relationships.<br>3. The boy in the sandbox exhibits solitary play, engaging in independent exploration and creativity. His focused attention on building a sandcastle indicates his imagination and fine motor skills development. While he plays alone, he is still observant of the other children, suggesting an awareness of his surroundings and potential interest in joining group activities.<br>4. The girl reading on the bench demonstrates solitary leisure activity. Her choice to read amidst the active playground environment reflects her preference for quiet engagement and |

| | |
|---|---|
| looking up to observe the other children. | intellectual stimulation. It also indicates her ability to find solace and enjoyment in solitary pursuits, fostering a sense of independence and intellectual curiosity. |

**Upload your field notes and describe what you noticed about the differences in the observations of your group. Use this template:**

Name:

**Field Notes**

Setting:

Time of observation:

| Descriptive Notes | Interpretations |
|---|---|
| | |

What were some of the differences in what your group members observed?