

## RESC 098 TECHNOLOGY EQUALS PROGRESS?

### Ethnographic Project: cell phone use during meals

1. Using the information provided by Professor Clare Sammells of the Sociology & Anthropology Department, make some ethnographic jottings of your observations regarding cell phone use during meals. Select a 30-minute period during typical meal times at the Bostwick Cafeteria.
2. Translate your jottings into field notes and share them on our class' Google document.
3. Study the collection of field notes, along with the associated analyses. The class will summarise some key observations before breaking into small groups for more focused research.
4. In groups of four, complete the following research report:
  - a. Identify a particular observation that appears in multiple reports, e.g., *emergence of multiple cell phone use triggered by a single person*.
  - b. Sort through the available data to investigate other correlated observations, e.g., *appears only in groups with women*.
  - c. Develop possible sociological/ethnographic reasons to explain these connections, e.g., *social norms can be redefined by an individual when ...*
  - d. Devise a program for gathering more observational data to assist your research question, e.g. *observe groups with several women at a table*.
  - e. Gather your additional data and convene your group to prepare a brief report on your findings.
  - f. Your report should contain four paragraphs, with each member assuming responsibility for preparing the group's work report in one category:
    - (i) a brief statement describing what your observations revealed. This should be more than a re-statement of your initial observations; rather, it should attempt to connect your observations with the underlying cause(s). [research findings]
    - (ii) a brief description of the additional data sought by your group and a summary of what it revealed, if anything. [additional data]
    - (iii) a summary of your methods, i.e., the number of observations made by the class, by your group, specific details noted as relevant or important, etc. [methodology]
    - (iv) a brief discussion of possible future work that could advance your original research question. [future work]
  - g. Include the names of your group members at the end of your report, together with their specific writing role. Have each member proofread the final report and sign their name before final submission.

ADVICE: State your findings clearly and early. Be explicit when providing your evidence and be sure to make the connections between the evidence and your claim.