

Protest, Social Movements and Public Policy
PLSC 497B
Spring, 2008

Pedestrian Observation and Research Report Assignment

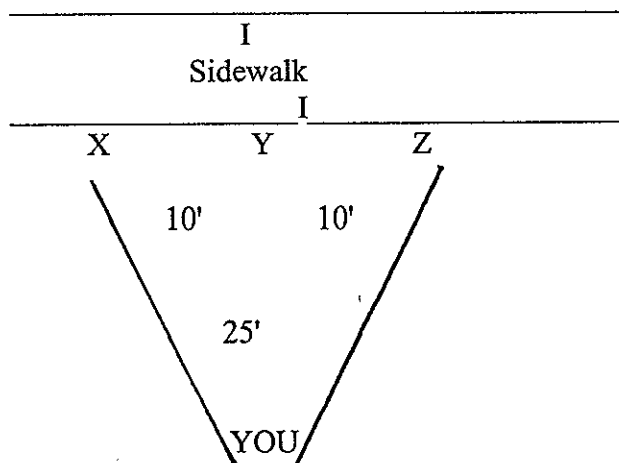
Observing/Recording Pedestrian Clusters

We will each observe people in public places as pedestrians walking along sidewalks. We will record those observations and aggregate our separate observations. This aggregated data set will serve as data for your research report.

1. Where to Observe/Record. Pick a sidewalk with a traffic flow of at least 10 pedestrians per minute. (How to determine this rate of flow? Count to yourself, one, one thousand, two, one thousand, and so on slowly and deliberately until you get to sixty, one thousand, all the while counting the number of pedestrians who pass through your observation zone once you have established it. If five people have not passed through your zone by the time you get to sixty, one thousand, look for a more heavily traveled sidewalk).

2. Establishing your Observation Zone. Position yourself, preferably in a seated position, perpendicular to but at least 25 feet distant from the sidewalk on which the pedestrians are passing. Pick some point on the sidewalk over which you can draw an imaginary line "Y" across the sidewalk. Pick an additional point ten feet to the left of Y and another point ten feet to the right over which you can draw imaginary lines "x" and "z" respectively. Draw an imaginary triangle from your position at the apex to the baseline where "x" and "z" mark the opposite edge of the sidewalk. This will be your observation zone.

Observation Zone



3. What to Observe and Record. Make some practice observations and on pedestrians moving in one direction (e.g., from your left to your right) on the first tally sheet. Observe the pedestrian(s) from the time they cross your "x" line until they cross your "z" line. Are two or more (1) moving in the same direction? (2) At the same velocity? (3) Are they walking in-step? (4) Are they touching one another? (5) Are they talking? (6) Orienting in the direction of one another? If two or more persons are walking together as "a with" (what we will call a **pedestrian unit**) they will almost always meet the first two criteria (though not necessarily the third) and they may meet one or more of the additional criteria as well.

Tally **pedestrian units** by unit size. After five minutes practice on the first tally sheet, turn to your second tally sheet and systematically record pedestrian traffic for **30 minutes**. Depending on the volume of traffic and your confidence in judging the size of units, you may elect to record traffic moving in only one direction. Be sure to record which you did on the tally sheet on the appropriate line (right to left = r, left to right = l and both ways = b).

4. How to Record. Become familiar with the "Tally Sheet." The first column, **Unit Size**, refers to the number of pedestrians in a **pedestrian unit**. The second column, **Tally**, is the space in which you will record each **pedestrian unit** observed. You will do so by making a mark (/) for each and then cross each four marks to indicate five units. The third column, **Frequency**, provides you a space to enter the total number of **pedestrian units** observed for each size category.

5. How to Summarize Your Observations.

- a. Enter the date, the time, and the approximate temperature when you started your observations. Indicate the community/city/town in which you made your observations.
- b. Record how far you were from the sidewalk being observed?
- c. Special Comments: What word or words best characterize or name the setting in which you made your observations? Indicate any information you may have of unique or special points of origin or destination for the flow of pedestrians through your observation zone.
- d. Sum your tallies in the Frequency column of your tally sheet.
- e. Make sure to put your name on the tally sheet, and keep your copy of the observation assignment directions. You will need them to write your research report.

Name: _____

TALLY SHEET
Pedestrian Observation Project

<u>UNIT SIZE</u>	<u>TALLY</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15+		

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Temperature: _____ Distance from Sidewalk: _____

Pedestrian Direction: _____ Special Comments: