

LOCUS Observational Research

A lecture for an IP



A World of Stranger – Lyn H. Lofland

- **Privatizing public space:**
 - through body language
- the entrance sequence Entering somewhere: three steps
- Waiting styles. What do people do when they wait in public space?



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A WORLD OF STRANGERS

order and
action in
urban public
space



The entrance sequence

- checking for readiness
- taking a reading
- reaching a position



Waiting styles

- The sweet young thing
- The Nester
- The investigator



General principles of privatizing public space in cities

- Minimize expressivity
- Minimize body contact
- Look before you sit:
- Minimize eye contact minimal eye contact
- When in doubt, flee
- When in doubt, disattend

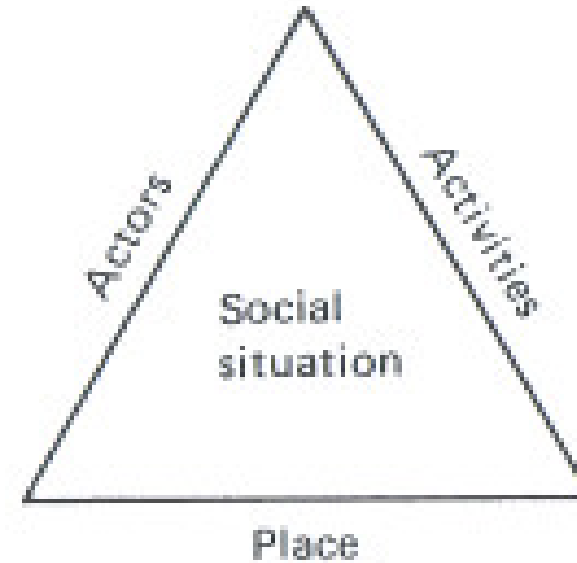


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Social Situation

- A Social Situation is the combined total of
 - Place
 - Actors
 - Activities



Spradley and Lofland

- Why does the work of both these authors fit so well together?



Assignment cafeteria

- Dive into the student cafeteria and observe a Social Situation for 20 minutes?
 - Describe the actors, activities and place. Make fieldnotes and a small map which includes you as the observer
 - What entrance sequences do you see?
 - What waiting styles do you see?



Back in class

- How did this go?
- What was something that stood out?
- How does Lofland hold up in today's time? What has changed?



Preparing observation research

- In front of you is an observation plan. In the next hour we are going to fill this in.
- In groups you will pick a topic, and search online for literature on why this is relevant for Social Work.
- For topics think of:
 - Buildings, people, green spaces, facilities, public transport, leisure spaces, culture, consumption, etc.
- After doing this, you will formulate a research question that interacts between your chosen topic, public space and Social Work.

• Then you will fill in the rest of the observation plan.



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