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Identity and Acceptance: Desires and Issues Within the Computer Gaming Subculture

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Poster Presentation P70

IDENTITY AND ACCEPTANCE: DESIRES AND ISSUES WITHIN THE COMPUTER GAMING SUBCULTURE

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This poster presentation features photographs of, and ethnographic interviews conducted with, two college-aged computer gamers and focuses on several main issues surrounding the computer gamer subculture. The ethnographic interviewees bring to light the intense degree of socialization crucial to computer gaming, the necessity of establishing a positive identity within the gaming world, and the degree to which computer gaming is beneficial to those who play. Computer gaming is a worldwide phenomenon and these issues are relevant to many cultures, in real life as well as in the gaming world. As desired by the interviewees, this presentation is designed to promote understanding of the computer gamer subculture by non-gamers by creating parallels between gaming and other hobbies, and highlighting the many skills: social, mental, and physical, that are learned through computer gaming.