Roll with It: Exploring Pen and Paper Role-Playing Games as Collaborative and Experimental Fiction Through Visual Anthropological Methods

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ROLL WITH IT: EXPLORING PEN AND PAPER ROLE-PLAYING GAMES AS COLLABORATIVE AND EXPERIMENTAL FICTION THROUGH VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL METHODS

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Using the visual media of photography and collaborative ethnographic research methods, this poster presentation aims to facilitate discussion about the collective and experimental fiction elements of Pen and Paper Role-Players at IWU. By examining the photographs taken by the ethnographer’s participant-observation of weekly gatherings, the Pen and Paper Role-Players have concluded that the continued success of their activity is based on their group effort to create a great story. The research highlights the cooperative elements of story-building in addition to the significant portion of story line that is left to chance, which lends a level of realism and unpredictability to the process.