



Apr 18th, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

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

Sara Thome
Illinois Wesleyan University

Rebecca Gearhart, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Thome, Sara and Gearhart, Faculty Advisor, Rebecca, "Roll with It: Exploring Pen and Paper Role-Playing Games as Collaborative and Experimental Fiction Through Visual Anthropological Methods" (2009). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 28. <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2009/posters/28>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Poster Presentation P55

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

Sara Thome and Rebecca Gearhart*

Sociology and Anthropology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

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.