Visual Perspectives of the Twin City Chess Club

Morgan Tarbutton  
Illinois Wesleyan University

Rebecca Gearhart, Faculty Advisor  
Illinois Wesleyan University

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

Part of the Anthropology Commons, and the Sociology Commons

Tarbutton, Morgan and Gearhart, Faculty Advisor, Rebecca, "Visual Perspectives of the Twin City Chess Club" (2010). John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference. 31.  
https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2010/posters/31

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.
While conducting collaborative ethnographic research with the *Twin City Chess Club*, the world views of avid chess players become apparent. Visual ethnographic methods, including the use of photographs in the interview process and in participant-observation highlight the practices, values, and aspirations of the Club members. The weekly meetings and frequent tournament play solidifies the transition between chess being just a game to becoming a way of life. This research examines the members' struggle to understand their position in society in terms of both their own self-identities and the external views of them. They have to deal with social stigmas and issues facing chess players today such as the absence of women in the game. Nevertheless, the Twin City Chess Players passionately share their vast knowledge of the game in the form of easily understandable tactical strategy to each other and anyone else willing to learn.