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Visual Perspectives of the Twin City Chess Club

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Poster Presentation P53

VISUAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE TWIN CITY CHESS CLUB

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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.