Apr 14th, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Education, Evolution, and Power Through Ink: An Ethnographic Photo Essay on Tattooists in Normal, IL

Elizabeth Daniels  
Illinois Wesleyan University

Rebecca Gearhart, Faculty Advisor  
Illinois Wesleyan University

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

Daniels, Elizabeth and Gearhart, Faculty Advisor, Rebecca, "Education, Evolution, and Power Through Ink: An Ethnographic Photo Essay on Tattooists in Normal, IL" (2012). John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference. 7.  
https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2012/posters/7

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.
This poster presentation aims to illustrate how methods of visual anthropology were employed to gain insight into the culture of tattooists working at Artkore Tattoo in Normal, Illinois. It demonstrates how the use of collaborative methods of participant observation, formal interviews, photography, and informal interaction were used to create text and images that accurately represent issues that concern the tattooists. The essay highlights the importance tattooists attribute to their continuous education that facilitates in the evolution of their work and skills. It discusses why some members of the tattoo community view themselves as “craftsmen” rather than “artists.” The presentation also approaches the subject of power among the tattooists and how this affects their relationship with their clients.