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

## **Pushing the Limits: A Visual Ethnographic Exploration of Indoor Rock Climbing**

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Poster Presentation P15

**PUSHING THE LIMITS: A VISUAL ETHNOGRAPHIC EXPLORATION  
OF INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING**

Katherine Filippo and Rebecca Gearhart\*

Sociology and Anthropology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Through the use of photographs and collaborative ethnographic research methods this poster presentation raises awareness about the multi-faceted nature of indoor rock climbing and the Upper Limits climbing community. Utilizing participant-observation, formal interviews, and informal interaction, I worked collaboratively with climbers at Upper Limits to create both text and images that define the way in which these climbers create a sense of community. The aim of this poster is to highlight the physical, mental, and social aspects of indoor climbing, which are central to a climber's identity. This research allows the climbers to showcase their own abilities and experiences in an effort to promote the benefits of indoor climbing to the public.