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## "Just Playing Army?": An Ethnographic Examination of the Warhammer Community in Bloomington-Normal

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Poster Presentation P46

**“JUST PLAYNG ARMY?”: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF  
THE WARHAMMER COMMUNITY IN BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

Robert Diehl and Rebecca Gearhart\*

Sociology and Anthropology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

This poster presentation aims to generate discussion of the community surrounding the fantasy war-game Warhammer through photography and collaborative ethnographic methods. Utilizing participant observation of weekly gaming sessions, surveying, and formal interviews, the author worked with players to create a visual and textual representation of Warhammer players as a social community that transcends the boundaries of the game. This research highlights the dynamic between fun and competition, explores the surprising demographics of the player base, and dispels some of the common stereotypes about players.