# TBAT setup and run the Learning Practical

## Observation: age factors in mobile phone usage

## Hypotheses

* Experimental: *there will be a significant difference in the number of people aged 60+ observed using a mobile phone in a public place than people aged 18-35*
* Null: there will no significant difference participants aged 60+ and 18-35 in observed, public, mobile phone use
* IV: age
* DV: whether participant is observed using mobile phone in public or not.

## Other participant data to record

* Gender, whether in group > 3, time of day
* Qualitative notes: what was happening – talking on phone, texting and talking to children/others, listening to music etc.

## Design

* Non-participant, covert, naturalistic observation
* It will be done in a café, park or other *public* place where you can record passers by

## Initial design/ethical decisions

* Exclude anyone difficult to fit into age group.
* Qualitative data – you will record what people are doing, not what they are saying!!
* Presumptive consent: behaviour is public so therefore can be observed/recorded.

## Your decisions

* Where will you observe from?
* How will you ensure participants are not disturbed?
* How will you keep your observations ethical?
* How long will you observe each participant for?

## Ethical and practical issues

* Don’t identify individuals – no names, photographs – keep rules of confidentiality and privacy.
* Make sure you feel competent to do the observation and record the data – practice!
* There won’t be a debrief – it would be more upsetting to tell people you were observing them after the fact!
* Be aware consent is presumptive not informed.

## Risk Management

* Risk to participants
  + Only record information you need.
  + Don’t make people feel you are spying on them.
* Risk to researchers
  + Put yourself in a place where you can record notes and it won’t seem strange or be risky (e.g., café, park, etc.)
* Risk to others
  + Little risk here – but don’t use children in the study or record them as participants (they might be interacted with by your actual participants though)

## Recording sheet example

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **P** | **Age** | **Using mobile** | **In group > 3** | **Time** | **Qual notes** |
| ***1*** | 18-35 | Y | Y | 11 AM | Talking on phone animatedly. With children in pushchair and another adult (female). Focused on phone conversation, occasionally waving at children to be quiet. |
| ***2*** | 60 + | N | N | 3 PM | Male, walking with female of similar age. Speaking to one another. No visible mobile. |

## Running the pilot and main study (deadlines)

* End of this week
  + Run a pilot study.
  + Record any changes you make to your process: where you observe, what you record, justify decisions you make.
* September (first lesson)
  + Collect data from at least 20 participants (25 is better)
  + Bring in recording sheets ready to combine data to create full data set in your groups.