

Participant Observation

This text is a follow-up to Spradley's ethnographic research handbook, *The Ethnographic Interview*, and guides readers through the technique of participant observation to research ethnography and culture. Spradley shows how to analyze collected data and to write an ethnography. The appendices include research questions and writing tasks.

THE DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH SEQUENCE

- Step 1. Locating a Social Situation*
- Step 2. Doing Participant Observation*
- Step 3. Making an Ethnographic Record*
- Step 4. Making Descriptive Observations*
- Step 5. Making a Domain Analysis*
- Step 6. Making Focused Observations*
- Step 7. Making a Taxonomic Analysis*
- Step 8. Making Selected Observations*
- Step 9. Making a Componential Analysis*
- Step 10. Discovering Cultural Themes*
- Step 11. Taking a Cultural Inventory*
- Step 12. Writing an Ethnography*

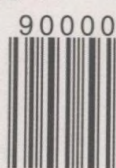
JAMES P. SPRADLEY (1933–1982), a professor of anthropology at Macalester College, wrote or edited 20 books on ethnography and qualitative research in 12 years, including *The Cultural Experience: Ethnography in Complex Society* (with McCurdy; 2/E with McCurdy & Shandy), *The Ethnographic Interview, Participant Observation, The Cocktail Waitress: Woman's Work in a Man's World* (with Mann), and *You Owe Yourself a Drunk: An Ethnography of Urban Nomads*, all available from Waveland Press. He was among the first cultural anthropologists to study modern U.S. life and to apply distinctly anthropological concepts and methods to address real-world problems like occupational stress, deafness, and homelessness.

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