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GREY MATTERS

A GUIDE TO COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH WITH SENIORS

Nancy Marlett and Claudia Emes

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A Guide to Collaborative Research with Seniors

Nancy Marlett and Claudia Emes

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Appendix 4

Observation Workbook for Field-Work

Name: _____
Phone: _____
Team: _____

Going into the ‘field,’ to settings where seniors gather, to observe what is happening there. Record what you see, not what you think is happening!

A. Description of the Site

Name and address of site:

Dates of observations/collections

Relationship of observer to site/collection

What is generally done here?

Who is being observed and why?

What is the role of the seniors/staff/others?

B. Observations and Recordings

On each page, do one recording. If you need more pages, duplicate these pages. You have been allotted one page for each recording; please feel free to use the back of the page if you need more space. You may want to take notes on sheets in a binder and transfer them to this page.

Space: (describe the size, furniture and décor of the space.)

General description of activity:

Time of observation:

Recording of activity and interaction	Comments

Repeat page for each observation.

Evaluation of Your Observation Experience

- How did you feel recording and what were people's reactions to you? How did you handle inquiries, etc.?
- What were the major challenges to getting good data in this process?
- What do you think you learned about healthy aging from doing this observation?
- What did you learn about yourself as a researcher from doing this observation?
- How might this work for other seniors, what might have to be changed to make it more enjoyable and productive as a research process?

*It sure is good to talk about this;
it's funny how great it feels to know you
had the same experience. Don't try to stop
us; we need to do this, we can handle it.*

(CP 2004)



Janice Kinch

This project was learning in action – for all of us. The importance of community collaboration and participation are key to health, health care, and justice for all. The learning from the project has stayed with me and found a way into my life as an educator and as an aging woman every day.