

(and what to look for in)

HOW TO TELL IF IT'S A SUBCULTURE



Group Identity (*Fieldworking* p. 3)

- Sense of loyalty and belonging
- Dissonance between “Insiders” and “Outsiders” (*FW* p. 2, 7)
- Colonized spaces (*FW* p. 4, 265)

Social Organization (*FW* p. 8)

- Leaders and followers (although these roles can change)
- Cooperation and resistance
- Rules for conduct
- Interactions
- Involvement

Informants (*FW* p. 19)

Rituals & Cultural Data (*FW* p. 18)

- Initiation/rites of passage
- Common practices
- Special events
- History (may or may not be documented elsewhere)

Sense of Space (*FW* p. 217, 230)

Language & Communication (*FW* p. 2, 302)

- Common topics of discussion
- Jargon, dialects, and “code”-shifting (*FW* p. 106)
- Slang or insider terms
- Non-verbal gestures and body language (*FW* p. 294)
- Kinesic and proxemic postures

Cultural artifacts (*FW* p. 3, 128)

- Focal points (*FW* p. 217)
- Physical objects (that have social or political meaning)
- Recurring objects (with meaning beyond just daily use)
- Collectable data (such as photographs, brochures, maps, etc.)

Legends & Lore (*FW* p. 40)

- Myths
- Urban legends (*FW* p. 315)
- Stories within the subculture
- Perceptions of the Subculture