



### Digital Bridge during the Coronavirus Pandemic

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### Understanding Bridge



Four people sit at a table  
Partners play opposite each other

1. Bidding
2. Playing a hand/Dummy
3. Defending
4. Scoring/Winning/Losing


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### Bridge in the Time of Covid: Methods

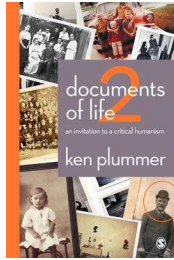
Data collected from 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

- **Participants** = 134
- **Diary Accounts** = 296
- **Age** = 94 Participants over 50
- **Nationalities** = 19
- **Gender:**
  - Male=76
  - Female = 55
  - Other =3


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### Researcher-led Diaries



- Pre-Printed Diary with questions
  - Sullivan (1997) Gendered Time
- Free Text Diaries
  - Elliot (1997) Experiences of Illness
- Continuous Accounts
  - 5 Regular Contributors



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### Everyday Life during a Pandemic

Everyday is:

- Repetitive, routine and taken for granted
- Everyday life can seem 'prosaic and parochial' (Hall & Holmes, 2020: 2)
- Researching everyday combines micro and macro concerns.
- The everyday in a pandemic becomes a site of uncertainty and disruption






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### Bridge during a Pandemic

BBO & RealBridge



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### Embracing Digital Bridge

- Many participants love online bridge
- 'I am playing more now than ever before.' (Male, 70s, UK)
- 'Don't need to be stuck in the car driving to my bridge club.' (Female, South Africa)
- Can play from the safety of home
- Being able to learn and watch the pros
- Playing with people all around the world

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### 'Online is better than nothing'

- Many participants long for a return to face-to-face
- Miss the social interaction – this was the important part of playing bridge
- Tired of days in front of a screen
- Technological glitches/learning putting people off
- Online is a poor substitute

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### Bridging the Everyday in a Pandemic

'Has online bridge helped me, not really, only given me a routine that I had to follow, but it really was no different than playing bridge on my iPad. I have never suffered with depression, don't get me wrong I don't think I had depression, but if any[one] tells me they are down and feeling depressed I will not be so quick as to say, get a grip and do something. I realise you can't. Mornings some days I did not get up until 11.00, 12.00 o'clock, not bothering to shower and dress. A pretty sad state of affairs...

Saturday I was invited to a close friends for a game of bridge in the garden. We had our masks, hand sanitizer, large table, carried our bidding boxes with us every time we moved places. The cards were-last used 2/3 years ago in our friendly league so were only touched by one person. Brilliant I almost felt normal.'

(Female, 70+ England, July 2020)

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### References

- Plummer, K. (2002) *Documents of Life 2: An Invitation to Critical Humanism*. London: Sage
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- Elliot, H. (1997) The use of diaries in sociological research on health experience *Sociological Research Online* 2 (2)
- Sullivan, O. (1997) Time waits for no (wo)man: an investigation of the gendered experience of domestic time *Sociology* 31 (2)



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