

Methods of investigating

Over the past three weeks, I have observed a park called Bingfield. During this time, I noticed that people's choice of where to walk their dogs made me think about how pathways or terrain influence behavior patterns. Through observation and record-keeping, including diagrams, I aim to explore how terrain divisions affect people's behavior in Bingfield Park.

Initially, I focused on the circular seating area on the right side of the park, as it seemed to be a memorial for a young boy. However, as I continued my observations, I noticed something even more interesting: a central pathway divides the park into two sections. The left side is dedicated to a children's playground, while the right side, which includes the circular seating area, is where many people choose to walk their dogs.

Curious about this phenomenon, I decided to use diagrams to track where people walked their dogs at different times of day. I discovered that, almost without exception, people preferred to walk their dogs on the right side, near the circular seating area. In this process of choosing areas, the pathway plays a crucial role. It acts as an invisible boundary or space divider, subtly guiding people to stay on one side of the park rather than crossing to the other.

What's even more interesting is that the dogs' behavior seems to be influenced by the pathway as well. They rarely cross the path to the other side. The path appears to function not only as a physical divider but also as an implicit "behavioral recognition system" (1999), guiding both people and animals. Although there are no explicit rules, everyone seems to follow the same "unspoken rule," treating the path as a natural boundary.

Through this observation, I've realized that terrain divisions, especially pathways, can

subtly influence movement patterns within the park, shaping the behavioral boundaries of people.

In considering how to present these ideas and experiments, I created a map to document how different areas of the park are used by people. Agnès Varda's documentary *The Gleaners and I* (2000) had a profound influence on my approach to expression. In the film, Varda contrasts the act of bending down to gather items across different eras, which made me realize that even the most common, everyday behaviors can be observed and explored from a unique perspective. This is precisely what I hope to achieve in this project, and in my future work.

References

Perec, G. (1999) *Species of spaces and other pieces*. London: Penguin. (Originally published in 1974), pp. 46-56. Varda, A. (2000) *The Gleaners and I*. Directed by Agnès Varda. Paris: Ciné Tamaris.