

Ann Finkel
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Volunteer Report

This summer I conducted research for my senior honors thesis in Human Evolutionary Biology. I worked with Felix Warneken and Katie McAuliffe through the Warneken Lab for Developmental Studies to develop this study, entitled "Third Party Intervention: Cross Cultural."

I spent my first two weeks training my Research Assistant, Lillian, who is a scholar at Kasiisi. I had her do the online CITI Ethics Training, I showed her videos of me doing the study in the U.S., and then had her practice the study on me, in English. Then she translated the study into Rutooro, and practiced and memorized the translated script on me and other volunteers.

We, along with Debi Hoege, spent the next week visiting the head teachers of Kigarama, Kiko, Kyanywara, and Kasiisi Primary Schools, and telling them a bit about my research, as well as giving them some small donations for the schools to say "thank you" for welcoming us. We then held meetings with parents of students in P1-P4 (and a few in higher grades as well) to tell them about the study and what the children would do in the game, and then had the parents sign consent forms giving their children permission to participate.

After I obtained IRC approval, for the next several weeks we visited each of the four schools (I rode a bike and Lillian rode a boda) and we ran the study on the students there whose parents had come to the meeting. Each study took about 15-20 minutes, so we ran about 6-10 kids a day. We ran over 100 students in total.

This study was designed to look at how children think about resource distribution. Each child sat across from Lillian, and Lillian showed the child different distributions of candy (Skittles), and the child had the opportunity to accept or reject these distributions. The child also made decisions about his or her own collection of candy, and each child got to take some candy home at the end of the study.

At the end of my time here, I wrote a two-page report of my research and delivered it to the head teachers of the schools to distribute to the parents.

When I was not doing my own research, I helped some of the other volunteers to build a fire pit at the guest house, visit schools to give out sanitary products, and organize and run the MDD competition. We also spent time watching heat lightning across the forest, playing football with the P7 team, and taking a road trip to Kigali.

I've had a wonderful time at Kasiisi this summer, and I'm so grateful to everyone who welcomed me here and helped me along the way. It's been absolutely amazing.