

# Participant Observations

Participant Observations:

P.E.T.	Advantage	Disadvantage
<b>Practical</b> Time, Research Opportunity, Money, Access to Participants, Personal Characteristics of researcher		
<b>Ethical</b> Deception, Right to Withdraw, Informed Consent, Social Sensitivity, Protection from Harm		
<b>Theoretical</b> Positivist or Interpretivist Quantitative or Qualitative Reliable or Valid Generalisability		



**Mairtin Mac an Ghail (1988)**  
**'Young, Gifted and Black'**

Mac an Ghail carried out two ethnographic studies in inner-city educational institutions where he worked. The first study looked at the relations between white teachers and two groups of male students with anti-school values – the Asian Warriors and the African Caribbean Rasta Heads – and the second study looked at a group of black female students, of African Caribbean and Asian parentage, called the Black Sisters.

**What issues might Mac an Ghail have faced when investigating these groups?**

Methods in Context Link

# Non Participant Observations



Non- Participant Observations:

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<b>Practical</b> Time, Research Opportunity, Money, Access to Participants, Personal Characteristics of researcher		
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<b>Theoretical</b> Positivist or Interpretivist Quantitative or Qualitative Reliable or Valid Generalisability		

Methods in Context Link

Keddie (1971) Unequal Access to Classroom Knowledge (Status as knowledge)

Keddie found that teachers do not distribute knowledge evenly within the classroom but are more likely to give high ability students 'High Status Knowledge' whilst lower ability students are more likely to be given 'Low Status Knowledge' – this information was gathered through non-participant observations of staff meetings and classes.

**How might teachers have reacted to being observed?**

**How might students have reacted to the presence of a researcher?**