OMG! R u texting in class?
Factors Observed in Student Texting In College Lecture Classes
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Introduction

Texting is a growing controversy in college classrooms
Cell phones are a large part of students' lives
Professors find cell phones to be a nuisance (Gonzalez, 2009)
Harley, Winn, Pemberton, & Wilcox (2007) suggested that texting could help students adjust to college setting

Three Hypotheses

More females would be found texting compared to males due to the demographics on campus and the stereotype that females are more 'chatty'
Texting would be more frequent in large class sizes due to the fact that students may be less likely to be caught by the professor
Texting would occur more towards the end of the week compared to earlier because students may be making plans for the weekend

Results

Kappa: 1.00 for class size, sex, and time of week
Kappa: 0.91 for texting in class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Size vs. Texting</th>
<th>Sex vs. Texting</th>
<th>Time of Week vs. Texting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chi-Squared</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\chi^2 (1, N = 123) =$</td>
<td>.28, $p = .60$</td>
<td>1.00, $p = .32$</td>
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<td>Cramer's V</td>
<td>.15</td>
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Discussion

An overall texting rate of 10% of students per class was observed regardless of class size, sex, or the time of week
Internal Validity = moderate-high
Low observer bias due to operational definitions
External Validity = low
Only at one campus, low sample size, & small time frame

Method

Participants

123 UWEC undergraduate students
32% male; 68% female
Three class sizes: small, medium, & large
Two lower level psychology classes & an Intro to Religions Class

Setting

Lecture style classroom
Researchers observed from back of the room

Procedure

Naturalistic Observation (using operational definitions)
Texting- having phone out and pressing buttons while moving fingers across the keypad
Texter- any student engaging in texting
Observers scanned the room to find students texting
Clock time and location of room was recorded on the coding sheet
Method of texting was also recorded
Interrater agreement was calculated after observation period

Shout Outs

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Learning and Technology Services & the Differential Tuition
Dr. Blaine F. Peden for mentoring us
Dr. Mary Beth Leibham and Prof. Steven Spina for allowing us to observe classes