

**From:** Shalini Misra shalini@vt.edu  
**Subject:** Re: Research - First assignment!  
**Date:** September 2, 2021 at 9:35 AM  
**To:** Abdelgawad, Norhan norhan@vt.edu, Norhan Abdelgawad norhan.abdelgawad@gmail.com

SM

Hi Norhan,

I reviewed the "in progress" spreadsheet you shared with me last week. I have marked the articles that relevant in green. Please download and share those articles with me through Github or another way so that I can take a look. You need not download the others since they are not relevant to the research questions.

For next steps, I would like you to focus on the types of articles that I have marked as relevant. Remember to zero in on the questions we are interested in:

- (1) the **impact of digital technologies on people's interactions with places** (different types of settings) (particularly interested in the methods used)
- (2) the **impact of digital technologies (smartphones, social media, apps) on people's objective and subjective experiences in physical settings** (particularly interested in the methods used)
- (3) the **use of digital technologies in wilderness settings and outdoor environments (like parks and trails) and the impact on visitor experiences (particularly social experiences) and perceptions as well social experiences (particularly interested in the methods)**
- (4) validated **scales to measure motivations for long distance hiking (Important)**
- (5) validated **scales to measure digital technology use before, during, and after hikes (Important)**

Items (3), (4), and (5) are more important and you should focus on them first. I would like you to create a google doc with the scales / measures you find in those articles. That is,

- (a) Measures / scales for motivations for long distance hiking
- (b) Measures/scales for digital technology use (before, during, after hikes)
- (c) Measures of social experiences on the trail

Let me know when I can expect to get these items from you to review.

Thanks for your efforts.

Best,

Shalini

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On 8/20/2021 12:09 PM, Shalini Misra wrote:

Hi Norhan,

So glad to hear that you have arrived safely. I hope you enjoy these first few days together with your husband as classes start next week (I wish the weather was a little better though).

I have an assignment for you to get you started on the Appalachian Trail Research Project (trail behavior and digital technology) since you expressed clear interest that particular project. I'd like you to start by scoping out the literature on the topics I list below and develop an annotated bibliography. I am attaching a sample annotated bibliography here, but you should include a column about the relevance / your notes on what the article is about. Please familiarize yourself with VT Libraries. You will have access to all the databases and articles with your VT PID and password. **The goal of the annotated bibliography is to develop a set of research questions and hypotheses and determine the appropriate methods for the empirical part of the project**

(interviews and surveys).

I am interested in learning how **digital technologies reconfigure embodied experiences and interactions on the trail environment and what impact these experiences have on social experiences and well-being.**

With this overall direction in mind, I want to you to search for literature on:

(1) the impact of digital technologies on people's interactions with places (different types of settings) (particularly interested in the methods used)

(2) digital technologies (smartphones, social media, apps) on people's objective and subjective experiences in physical settings (particularly interested in the methods used)

(3) the use of digital technologies in wilderness settings and outdoor environments (like parks and trails) and the impact on visitor experiences (particularly social experiences) and perceptions as well social experiences (particularly interested in the methods)

(4) validated scales to measure **motivations for long distance hiking (Important)**

(5) validated scales to measure **digital technology use before, during, and after hikes (Important)**

You are welcome to organize your work however you see fit. For example, you can create a shared google drive where you collect pdfs of articles and make notes on your spreadsheet about how the particular article connects to the five points above. As I note above, I am interested in the methods used (including novel methods beyond ethnographies and surveys), including validated scales to measure different constructs. I am sure you will have questions, so don't hesitate to ask. Feel free to check in with me and share preliminary work to check if you are in the right direction. It's important to be systematic and rigorous in your approach so that you are not going down rabbit holes or becoming overwhelmed with the information or losing focus on the primary goal of this literature review.

We will talk more on Friday, Aug 27 and / or Wednesday Aug 25 before class. I am on the 5th floor so let me know if you are planning to come by. I am not sure you will have access to that floor, so you might have to go to the second floor and request the receptionist to call me by mentioning my name. Then I can come down and get you. Let me know.

Best,

Shalini

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