

DomesticScience

Get counting!

Normally one way we can count organisms or colonies of organisms is using a Hemocytometer which has a known area and depth. By observing an area of the grid, it is possible to count the number of objects in a specific volume of fluid, and thereby calculate the concentration of cells in the fluid overall

For our workshop we are going to be a bit less accurate than that. We are going to observe the yeast and Euglena on our slides and then take a picture with a smartphone to act as a sample of the population in an environment we've made on the slide.

Tweet your image and count to @cheapjack on Twitter or Instagram with #ProtistProtest #LivMF19 hashtags!



Vinyl & Agarose Street Slides Follow some of the creatures as they navigate their environment. This one uses cut vinyl to make a 'mould' of street like mazes made out of Agarose. Agarose is one of the components of Agar, used in molecular biology to separate DNA. Find a good image of one of the big spaces where protesters might congregate.



Old Long Playing Record Vinyl & PDMS Slides This is a lab-hack that uses fragments of old vinyl records to make a 'mould' of consistent parallel channels made out of PDMS. Making PDMS silicon moulds for microfluidics and lab-on-a-chip tech can be difficult but this recycles old media into ready made channels to hold model organisms like nematodes while biologists observe them. In our metaphor for protest, these might be either very organised protesters or represent holding pens for those arrested like the 1100 people arrested in London. If enough organisms congregate it becomes unfeasible and absurd to arrest and punish them. Maybe we'll need a whole other planet for that many protesting dissidents!