

## What is EDC?



## Introduction

Practice of collecting, organizing, documenting, photographing



Object particularity, an obsession with things



Consumption and the internet; the online EDC craze

## The Study

- Ethnographic interview study using qualitative research methods
- Data collected includes 9 short-form open-ended interviews, 1 small focus group, and 9 photographs of study participants' EDCs
- Analysis conducted through an inductive framework

## The Research Question

- How EDCs help us move through our daily lives
- How EDCs represent identity or personal significance
- The *how* and *why* we equip ourselves with our essential tools



## Themes

**Theme #1: EDC as Unavoidable Carry**  
Items such as life-saving medical devices, bodily maintenance items, and sensory comfort. These items are indispensable and become essential by force of circumstance.



**Theme #2: EDC as a Tool for Preparedness**  
This includes items to facilitate access and mobility including efficiency and daily task production. These items become equipped when we realize the need and benefit of carrying something.



"[This] lip balm has been with me since I was a teenager ...if I don't have it, I'm deeply uncomfortable...you've probably seen me put it on, it's like a habit. Maybe it's from all the years of wearing lipstick. And now I've got like, chronic dryness in my lips, but. I can't go about it"

"...It's super easy to open boxes [with this knife] at work, I can't really pull out an 8 inch pocketknife."

"There's just little things packed in here that, yeah, it's one thin little card, but it can represent ten minutes of connection with somebody I know or someone I'm meeting for the first time"

**Theme #3: EDC as a symbol of personal value and identity**  
Items reflect the values of individuals, their social alignments, and outward displays of identity. Many of these objects come into the daily carry through a generational practice, custom, or ritual.



## Methods

RIT IRB Training and HSRO Approval

Background research, EDC literature review

Study design and informed consent

Ethical interviewing, awareness of risks

Recording device, hand written/typed notes

Describe transcription service, Nvivo coding software

Read and developed codes, 2nd round of coding

Developed themes, found exemplars, written analysis

Assembly of final product (ArcGIS Storymap) and development of ethnographic narrative