

Jessica van Deursen - Passenger

Find a space where you can sit comfortably for 10 – 15 minutes. Make sure that your position, as well as the way you sit, is non-theatrical (meaning: it's not the purpose that people notice you per se, although this may happen, and that's okay too. Just make short eye contact or smile briefly and look away as that happens and go on to look for the next person to observe). This seat can be a bench in a street, a chair next to a window at home (should you decide to stay indoors), a bench at the bus stop...

Observe the people who are walking by. Choose to observe someone who is not walking by too fast. You'll need about 12 seconds at least to observe the person. Focus on one person at a time. Focus on adults of different ages and kinds.

This is what you'll try: imagine what the person you picked to observe might have looked like as a child. Look at their faces. Look at their posture and the way they walk and how they hold themselves.

Is there some clumsiness you can trace in those walks? What is the essence in the look of their faces, and what of that was there already, when they were still children? It might take a while before you get a hang of it. So I invite you to keep trying for at least 10 minutes.

And lastly, afterwards, ask yourself: what did this performance mean for you?

Jolanda Jansen

20 min.

Location: facing the market from the chair of the telecom company.

It is difficult to take a good look at the passers-by because people walk by so quickly. The behaviour is more noticeable in combination with appearance.

- ● Man who hesitantly walks by - [insecure child?](#)
- ● Man who walks quickly and lightly - [happy and busy child?](#)
- ● Older couple walking by slowly, introverted - [nagging little children.](#)
- ● Curious smaller older man slowly walks by. He seems to have no goal, he seems to have all the time - curious child? He comes back as if he couldn't find something. He looks around all the time - child who cannot concentrate? He goes to his bicycle and unlocks it and looks at people standing next to him (man and woman with dog), who are also loading stuff on their bicycle. He tells them that he has a Bulldog and asks if their dog pulls when they cycle - [lonely child who falls outside the group and seeks connection and always tries even if he is rejected.](#)
- ● Tall young man stumbles on paving stone, walks as if he's more in his head and not on the street, head first and then the rest of his body - [lanky tall boy who's very busy.](#)
- ● A somewhat firmer young woman standing next to her parked bicycle has been looking in her bag for a long time, looking for a key, when she starts walking next to her bike she walks a bit slower, a little limp, very carefully and swinging she gets on a bicycle - [as a child, also firmer and very modest and shy](#)
- ● Parents with children - in children you can easily see copies of the parents - [ordinary children.](#)
- ● A masculine looking woman with bicycle and dog walks by - the dog makes contact with people and the woman ensures that she makes as little as possible contact - [withdrawn little girl who looks like a boy...](#)
- ● Sturdy woman with flowers and less attractive appearance - [bullied child, shy and crying](#)

a lot.

- Chic ladies with sunglasses and chic clothing and little daughter - [jumpy but whiny kids with pigtails](#).
- Young man with beard and a lot of tattoos and handsome appearance, suntanned, takes up space and comes across as secure. He tells girlfriend that he has spilled on his shirt - [a tough, busy boy, enthusiastic and with many friends, he likes to have many things as a boy](#).
- Woman in wheelchair passes by - I immediately wonder if she was born with a disability or not and realise that when something happens to you, your appearance and your essence in the world are very much in contrast before and after. You recognise less of how the person would have looked like as a child.
- Thoughtful, calm man with longer hair on the side and bald from above, bit on his own - [withdrawn little boy who is good at learning and glasses](#).

Conclusion:

You enlarge things when you imagine people in your head as children.

You judge and condemn very quickly when you imagine people as children.

After a while of doing the action, it becomes annoying to do the imagination game because of that. On the other hand, you see much more energy and the innocence and curiosity in people. Everyone was an innocent little child. The market space gained the energy of a children's class if you look at it this way for a while. Everything becomes chaos. I also think about discrimination and how quickly and easily it gets into your subconscious.