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The lived experience of the popular music festival-goer

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- Executive summary of my PhD research given that we have 15+5 minutes
- What you might like to discuss with me:
 - Why 'lived' and not 'live'
 - Multi-inter- disciplinary nature of event research + or -?
 - The predominance of positive psychology and Happiness Studies

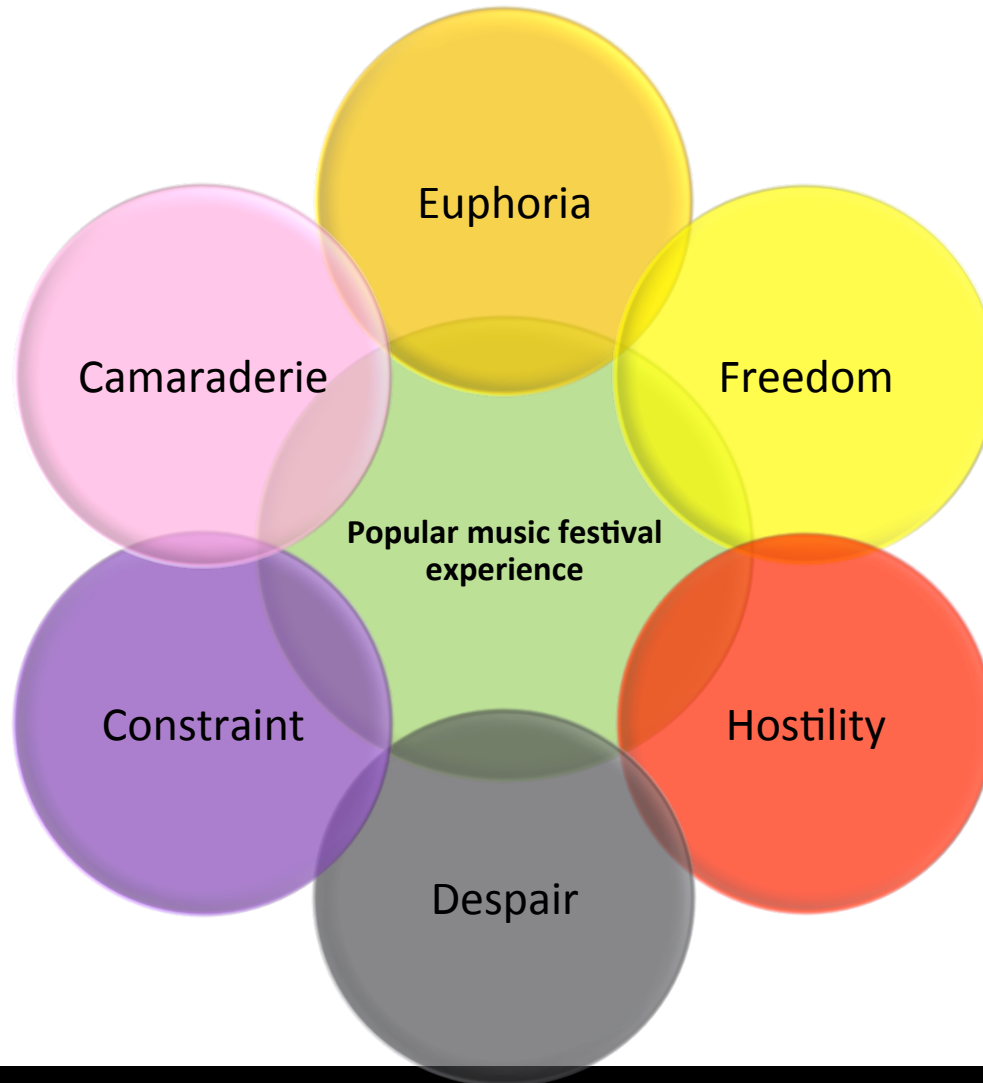
Methodology – descriptive phenomenology

- in-depth study of the lived experience of popular music festival-goers in the UK
- grounded in the philosophical roots of both experience and descriptive phenomenology
- Specifically the use of Giorgi's (2009) staged and transparent method for analysing situated experiences that give insight into a phenomenon. In this case the experience of the popular music festival-goer.

Findings - Stage 1 – Structure

The constituents discovered that form the structure of the phenomenon of the popular music festival experience can be drawn as polar opposites:

The lived experience of the popular music festival-goer



Findings – Stage 2 - Understanding

However the nature of the experience is more about the mixed valence of emotions and the need to accept negative as well as positive emotions in a holistic view of the experience.

State of mind

Escape

Choice

Novelty

Paradox of freedom

Freedom

Free will

Independence

Liberation

Personal agency

Mundanity

Enculturation

Constraint

Restraint

Anxiety

Shock

Embodiment

Performativity

Carnavalesque

Hedonism

Utilitarian behaviour

Edgy behaviour

Liminoid

Intersubjectivity

Intimacy

Intimate interaction
Intimate relationships
Dysfunctional intimacy

Camaraderie

Comradeship
Intimacy

Solitude

Hostility

Antagonism
Enmity

Sociality

Socialisation
Communitas
Negative sociality

STATES OF EMOTION

Emotional states

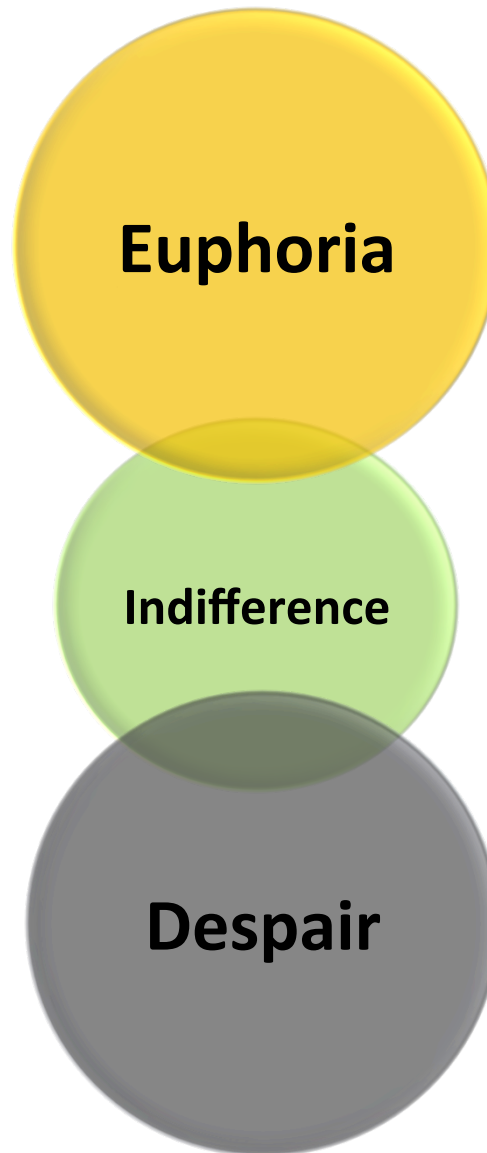
States of arousal

optimal arousal

Despair

bi-polarity

coping mechanisms



The sublime

Stebbins (2006) may have referred to leisure studies as the 'happy science', but this study not only identified the highs experienced by the participants but also their depths of despair.



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References

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- Stebbins, R.A., 2006. Leisure Reflections No. 14. Leisure Studies: the Happy Science. *LSA Newsletter No. 75*. Eastbourne: Leisure Studies Association, 20-22.
- Todres, L. and Holloway, I., 2010. Phenomenological Research. *In: Gerrish, K. and Lacey, A., eds. The research process in nursing* 6th edition. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 177-187.