GETTING STARTED AND PICKING RESEARCH CONTEXTS

9 Making contexts matter: selecting research contexts for theoretical insights

Eric Arnould, Linda Price and Risto Moisio¹

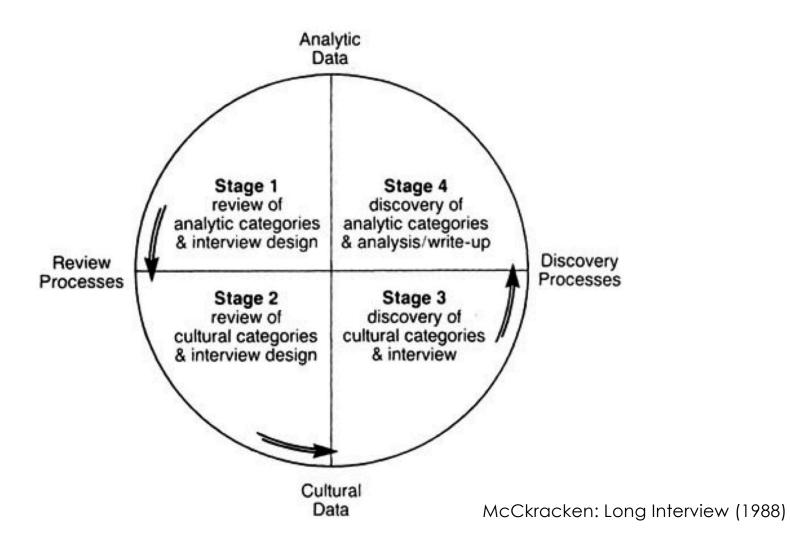


WHAT IS A RESEARCH CONTEXT?

- It is the research setting that drives your theoretical question
- Finding a match between what you want to study and where you should be studying it is central to good qualitative research!
- You want to be able to say (ideally): "In no other context could you have studied this as effectively!"
- Addresses issues of the "generalizability" of qualitative findings

TWO WAYS OF FRAMING CONTEXT

- 1. This context is new and interesting: what can it us teach about consumers / markets /marketing?
 - E.g., new technology, new trend, new political phenomenon, new...
 - "From context to theory" a more grounded theory approach
- 2. I am interested in X, which has not been explained in marketing / consumer research: where should I study this?
 - E.g., bringing new theories from other sciences into marketing
 - "From theory to context"



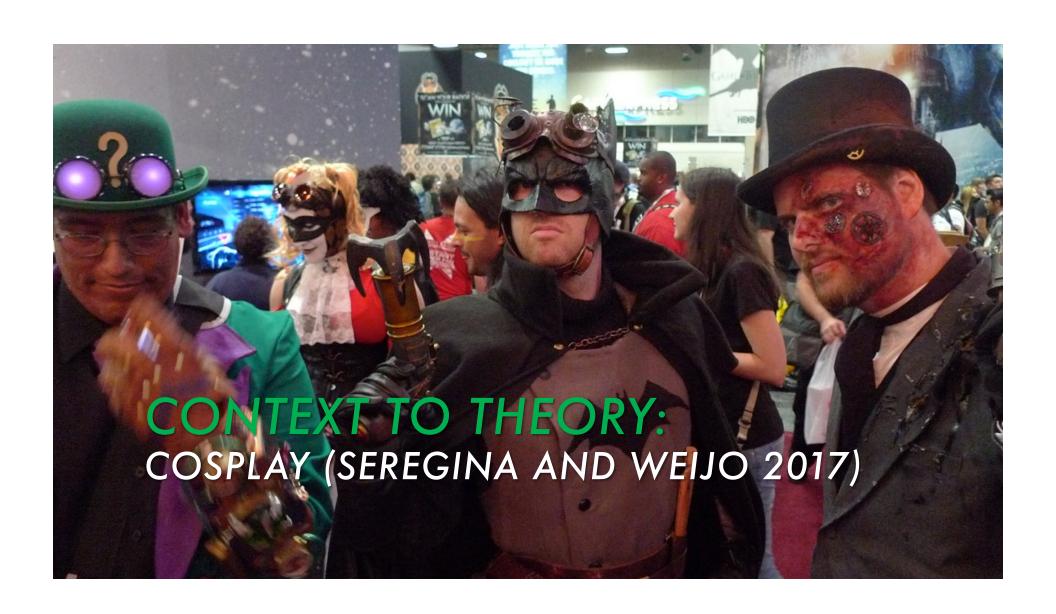


- 1. Some exploration of context to orient yourself
- 2. Reviewing enough literature that you can start gathering data
- 3. Creation of research protocol or interview guide
- 4. First batch of data gathering (e.g. 2 interviews)
- 5. Early evaluation of data (i.e., am I getting "good stuff"?)
- 6. More data gathering, more comprehensive analysis
- 7. Re-engaging with the literature; critically rethinking research idea
- 8. Identifying blind spots and evaluating data saturation (negative cases?)
- 9. Finalizing data analysis; begin writing up final report
- 10. Finalizing report, revising research idea, literature etc.

THESIS TIP #6:

If you qualitative research, accept that your thesis process will involve a lot of back-and-forth between literature, data gathering, and analysis





COSPLAY

- Cosplay ('costume play'), a form of masquerade, exploding popularity in the last five years
- Emphasis on self-crafted outfits based on pop culture source material plus performances at related events, namely comic book conventions
- Exemplifies "playful" consumption: experimentation with identity, immersion, innovation etc.
- Highly time-consuming activity, costly
- Still somewhat stigmatized, "not useful leisure"
- So what does this context allow you to study, theoretically?



COSPLAY

"Cosplay is highly time-consuming and costly (Gunnels 2009). Outfits can take multiple months or even years to build, with potential costs reaching thousands of dollars. Cosplay's growing temporal and monetary demands invariably become problematic. Thus, we see cosplay as an ideal context for studying how ludic communal experiences are produced and sustained when consumers are faced with increasing instrumental costs."



Play at Any Cost: How Cosplayers Produce and Sustain Their Ludic Communal Consumption Experiences

ANASTASIA SEREGINA HENRI A. WEIJO

> Communia consumption is often described as inherently playful; previous a search flocuses mainly on successful full communial experiences and lenging disregards the protestful pibliss. Memorien: the manager is usually uses as to perregards the protestful pibliss. Memorien: the manager is usually uses as to perconsumer. This activities deprises how consumer produce and suitable fullcine consumer. The activities deprises how consumer produce and suitable fullcine consumer. The activities of period in the face of growing instrumental costs. It as surreption community experiences in the face of growing instrumental costs. It as a time and resource-instructive ferm of pop culture malagerates and cost for a time and resource-instructive ferm of pop culture malagerates and cost for a time and resource-instructive ferm of pop culture malagerates and cost for a time and resource-instructive ferm of pop culture malagerates and cost for a time and resource-instructive ferm of pop culture malagerates and cost for a time and resource-instructive ferm of pop culture malagerates and cost for a time and experience-instructive ferm of pop culture malagerates and only the activities of the popular cost of the protest and contained and activities of the contained and the popular cost of the protest and contained and cost of the cost of the protest and contained and cost of the protest

Keywords: ludic consumption, cosplay, play, communal consumption, pract

THEORY TO CONTEXT:

"The role and performance of maintenance practices have not been studied within consumer research. Therefore, an ideal context for studying consumer maintenance would be..."



RESEARCH CONTEXT AND METHOD

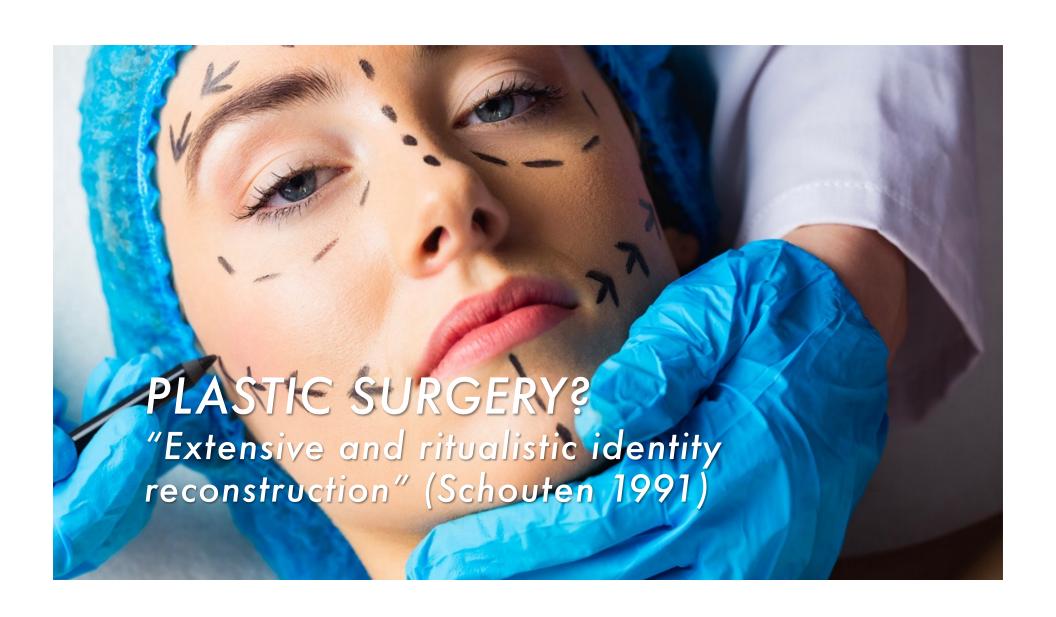
Context: Sailing and Boat Maintenance in the Baltic Sea Area

"A boat is a hole in the water into which money is poured." -Maritime proverb

Sailing is a popular leisure activity in Finland. Official reports estimate that Finland, a country of 5.6 million inhabitants, has at least 50 000 sailboats (Askola, Takala and Tefke 2017). Finnish sailors also come from socio-economically diverse backgrounds, as heavy state and municipal subsidies through cheap land rent for boat clubs and public harbor services keep the costs of sailing reasonable. For studying maintenance practices, sailing proved ideal. Sailboats require extensive and time-consuming maintenance due to the significant wear and tear from harsh winds and corrosive saltwater (Martin et al. 2019). Boats are often owned for long time periods and well-maintained boats can remain in use for as long as 60 years. Most boat sales indeed take place through second-hand markets. For example, the law states that boats longer than 5.5 meters have to be added to the official Finnish registry, and in 2017 the registry listed 13 942 of such sailboats of which only 29 were first-time registrations for new boats (Askola et al. 2017). The average age for sailboats was 27 years and a survey of registry members further found that 80% of sailboat owners did "most, if not all" of maintenance themselves, with an average annual maintenance spend of 1 801€ (ibid.).

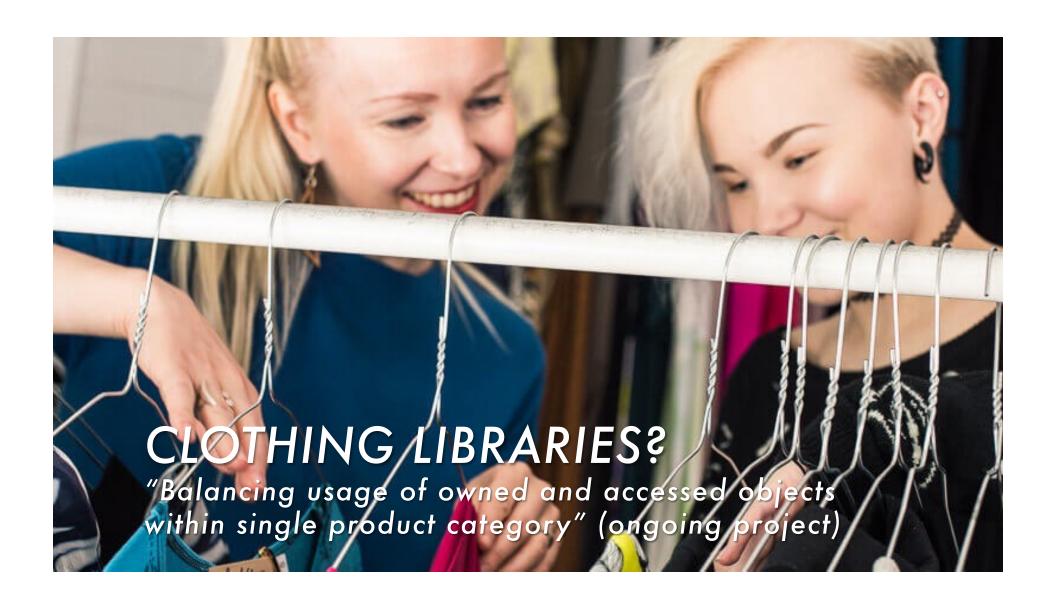
Foreground variations across spatial or temporal circumstances What is different that we can What is different that we understand about some can understand about consumer phenomena by some consumer examining the interaction of phenomena by studying understudied consumers and consumers in this context? spatial and temporal conditions? Coulter, Price and Feick (2003) Kozinets (2002) Crockett and Wallendorf (2004) Tian and Belk (2005) Foreground Background What is different that we can What is different that we can variations in variations in understand about some understand about some consumers consumers consumer phenomena by consumer phenomena by examining how understudied applying a different consumers respond? metaphorical or theoretical template? Allen (2002) Fournier (1998) Adkins and Ozanne (2005) Coupland (2005) Background variations across spatial or temporal circumstances

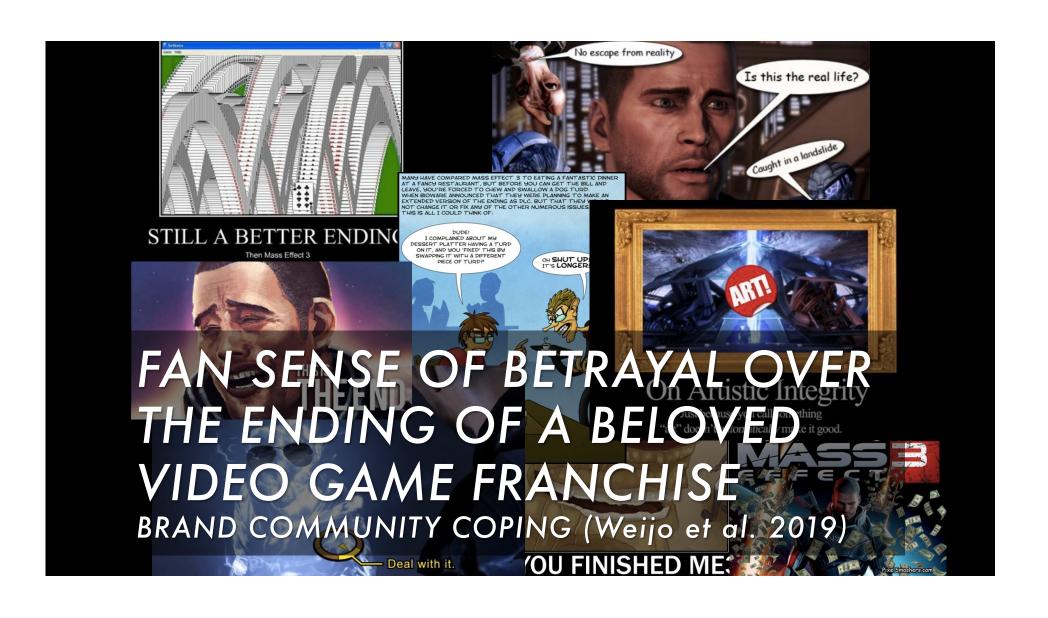
A great research context intensifies some element of human behavior, making it easier to perceive and study!













Pelin's Master's Thesis Experience

- · Research interest in food & health
- Inspired by former medical research on self-diagnosed gluten sensitive patients
- Focused on context itself too much, resulted waste of time and energy
- "Role of adapting diets in consumer's life"
- Started fieldwork simultaneously with readings
- Used different Foucauldian concepts to explain the themes – overdid mix & match







RECENT MASTER'S THESIS PROJECT

- A student wanted to do a project on students' alcohol consumption
- Took ages to get them out of "I study alcohol"
- What was the ultimate focus?
- "Consumer management of risk in edgework consumption"





In Search of the "Meta-Maven": An Examination of Market Maven Behavior across Real-Life, Web, and Virtual World Marketing Channels

Stuart J. Barnes University of East Anglia

Andrew D. Pressey

ABSTRACT

Recently, a new set of channels for consumer and husiness interaction have emerged—three-dimensional "virtual" worlds. This study attempts to better understand the nature of market maven behavior (diffusers of general marketplace and shopping information) across three different channels—virtual worlds, the Web, and real-life—and to examine the extent to which market maven behavior is trunsferable across channel context (i.e., "fluid") or channel dependent. Using data from two surveys (one in the virtual world "Second Life" and a follow-up Web survey for the same two surveys (one in the virtual world "Second Life" and a follow-up Web survey for the same partial least squares analysis, the findings indicate that market maven propensity is transferable across channels (i.e., high-scoring market mavens retain this across channels, the findings demonstrate that maves propensity is influenced by the channel context. Consequently, individuals with high maven may be used in the product categories, but also the channel itself (i.e., maven behavior remains fairly constant—or fluid—across channel). The findings also point to possible characteristics that may be used in the identification of market mavens market mavens typically have greater cognizance of other mavens, are technology-savys and individualistic, are of either gender and tend to be older and more intensive and experienced users of Web platforms and study contribute to understanding market maven behavior, and provide an insight into the practices of mavens is an amultichannel context, particularly in the case of the emerging channels that are virtual worlds. © 2012 Wiley Periodicals, Inc.

Journal of Consumer Behaviour, J. Consumer Behav. 14: 325–334 (2015)
Published online 9 June 2015 in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/cb.1523

The satisfaction and stress of being a market maven: A social network perspective

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ABSTRACT

Compared with the average consumer, market mavens possess a unique set of characteristics including a greater deepth of knowledge of the marketplace and its products, as well as a strong social network. Based on a field study of an emerging social network of Clausdian undergaduate students (N° 971), we examine the level of satisfaction and stress that market mavens experience as a result of their network participation. First, market mavens (versus non-mavens) are more satisfied with their network if they occupy central network positions. First, market mavens have a lower more stress if they occupy these central positions. Further, market marens have a lower rate of network growth and build a more a selective network of like-included other over time. This suggests that market mavens seek to interact with other market marens more so than with non-mavers about product-related and interd-related information. Together, we provide new insights into the personal outcomes of market mavens' network positions and their networking behavior. Copyright © 2015 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Lawrence F. Feick & Linda L. Price

The Market Maven: A Diffuser of Marketplace Information

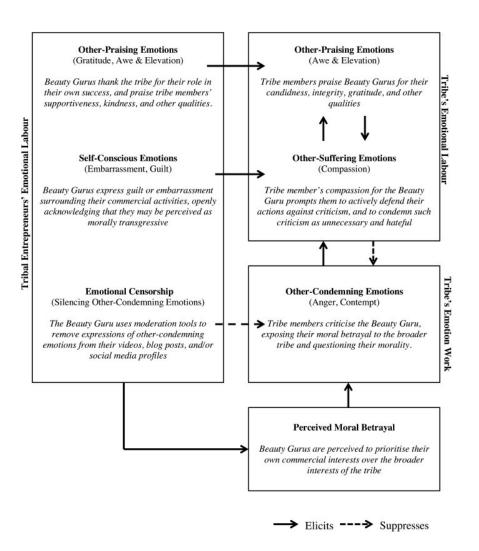
The research focus is individuals who have information about many kinds of products, places to shop, and other facets of the market, and initiate discussions with and respond to information requests from the control of the control



The Megaphone Effect: Taste and Audience in Fashion Blogging

EDWARD F. MCQUARRIE JESSICA MILLER BARBARA J. PHILLIPS

The megaphone effect refers to the fact that the web makes a mass audience potentially available to ordinary consumers. The article focuses on fashion bloggers who acquire an audience by iterated displays of aesthetic discrimination applied to the selection and combination of clothing. The authors offer a theoretical account of bloggers' success in terms of the accumulation of cultural capital via public displays of taste and describe how the exercise of taste produces economic rewards and social capital for these bloggers. The article situates fashion blogging as one instance of a larger phenomenon that includes online reviews and usergenerated content and extends to the consumption of food and home decor as well as clothing. In these instances of the megaphone effect, a select few ordinary consumers are able to acquire an audience without the institutional mediation historically required.





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YouTube Beauty Gurus and the emotional labour of tribal entrepreneurship

Rebecca Mardon ^a 🎗 😇, Mike Molesworth ^b 😇, Georgiana Grigore ^b 🖾

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FAMILY DO NOT WATCH THIS VLOGMAS DAY 3

Key point is looking at same context with a different theoretical perspective and finding a gap!

Further research ideas on influencers?

How brand choose which influencer they'll work with?

Influencers perceived identity among high / low cultural capital consumers?

Influencers as consumers or marketers?

Credibility of influencers?

Ethics of influencing?

Planning the interviews

MYTHS AND TRUTHS...

MYTH: Qual research is less rigorous or reliable than quant! I mean look at those small sample sizes!

TRUTH: Sample size is entirely dependent on research project; even small samples can produce saturation

"Based on our analysis, we posit that data" saturation had for the most part occurred by the time we had analyzed twelve interviews. After twelve interviews, we had created 92% (100) of the total number of codes developed for all thirty of the Ghanaian transcripts (109) and 88% (114) of the total number of codes developed across two countries and sixty interviews. Moreover, four of the five new codes identified in the Nigerian data were not novel in substance but rather were variations on already existing themes. In short, after analysis of twelve interviews, new themes emerged infrequently and progressively so as analysis continued.

How Many Interviews Are Enough? An Experiment with Data Saturation and Variability

GREG GUEST
ARWEN BUNCE
LAURA JOHNSON
Family Health International

Guidelines for determining nonprobabilistic sample sizes are virtually nonexistent. Purposive samples are the most commonly used form of nonprobabilistic sampling, and their size typically relies on the concept of "saturation," or the point at which no new information or themes are observed in the data. Although the idea of saturation is helpful at the conceptual level, it provides little practical guidance for estimating sample sizes, prior to data collection, necessary for conducting quality research. Using data from a study involving sixty in-depth interviews with women in two West African countries, the authors systematically document the degree of data saturation and variability over the course of thematic analysis. They operationalize saturation and make evidence-based recommendations regarding nonprobabilistic sample sizes for interviews. Based on the data set, they found that saturation occurred within the first twelve interviews, although basic elements for metathemes were present as early as six interviews. Variability within the data followed similar patterns.

Keywords: interviewing; saturation; variability; nonprobability sampling; sample size; purposive

TABLE 4
Internal Consistency of Code Frequencies

4	Rounds	Interviews	Cronbach's Alpha
Ghana only			
•	1–2	1-12	.7048
	1-3	1-18	.7906
	1–4	1-24	.8458
	1-5	1-30	.8766
Ghana and Nigeria			
	1–6	1-36	.8774
	1–7	1-42	.8935
	1-8	1-48	.9018
	1-9	1-54	.9137
	1-10	1-60	.9260
μGhana, μNigeria			
	1-30, 31-60	.8267	

TABLE 5
Presence of High-Prevalence Codes in Early Stages of Analysis

Frequency after R10 (Sixty Interviews)	Number of Codes	Percentage Present in R1 (First Six Interviews)	Percentage Present after R2 (First Twelve Interviews)
High	36	94	97
Medium	39	56	83
Low	39	62	82

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More interviews are needed when...

The more unstructured the interviews are
The more heterogeneous the interview sample is
The more complex the research topic is
The more researchers there are in a team
The less experienced the researchers are
If the interviews necessitate a special setting

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Keywords: interviewing; saturation; variability; nonprobability sampling; sample size; purposive

ARE WE THERE YET? A TECHNIQUE TO DETERMINE THEORETICAL SATURATION

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TABLE 2. Theoretical Saturation with confidence level

Data Sets	ThS at 95% confidence	ThS at 99% confidence
Set 1	10 Interviews	18 Interviews
Set 2	10 Interviews	17 Interviews
Set 3	13 Interviews	27 Interviews



TABLE 1 RESEARCH DATA SOURCES

Name	Sources	Dataset	Purpose
Ethnographic notes	Notes from fieldwork at conventions: San Diego Comic-Con 2013; Rhode Island Comic-Con 2014; Boston Comic-Con 2014, 2015, 2016; Anime Con Boston 2015, 2016.	53 double-spaced pages	Gaining understanding of context, and especially of conventions, as leisure locations and materiality. Organized cosplay activities.
Photography	Photography during fieldwork.	908 photographs	Elaborating the intricacies of costume crafting and taste structures based on aesthetic merit.
Recorded interviews	Cosplayers at conventions. Interviews ranged from 5 to 90 min- utes (average length 20 minutes).	64 interviews, 312 double-spaced pages	Understanding the process of and emotional engagement in costume crafting, including difficulties and sense of achievement.
Netnography in online community	Cosplay.com archives.	145 discussion threads, 4,278 double-spaced pages	Deeper study of themes through key- words emically identified, particu- larly in negative cases; boundary conditions, sensitive topics, and anxieties often undisclosed in interviews.
Other netnography	Blogs (CosplayDad, cosplay.ph), Cosplayer Facebook profiles (Kamui Cosplay, Yaya Han), niche media (Kotaku, Buzzfeed).	12 blogs, 9 profiles (16 double- spaced pages of notes)	Understanding deeply engaged cosplayers and their online interactions. Learning from tutorials. Discerning construction of cosplay fame.
Newspaper articles	New York Times, Wired, The Guardian, Financial Times.	10 articles, 67 double-spaced pages	Contextualizing cosplay within mar- ketplace and understanding emerg- ing mainstream interest 2010 and after. Studying advocacy practices.
Documentaries	Cosplay! Crafting a Secret Identity (WPBA); Comic-Con Episode IV: A Fan's Hope (Mutant Enemy, Thomas Tull Productions, Warrior Poets); My Other Me: A Film about Cosplayers (M.O.D. Entertainment and High Deaf Productions).	3 films	Identifying cosplay as an overall phe- nomenon and gaining deeper knowledge of embedded entrepreneurs.

Play at Any Cost: How Cosplayers Pl and Sustain Their Ludic Communal Consumption Experiences

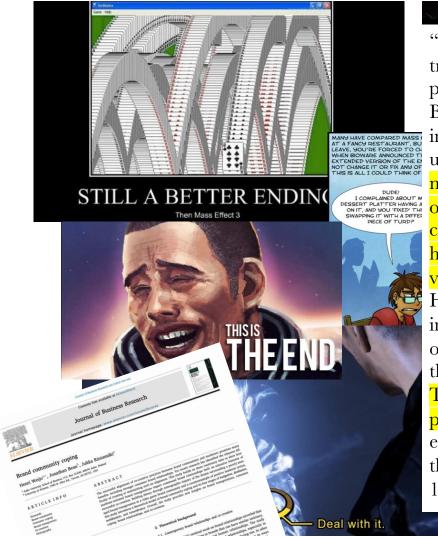
ANASTASIA SEREGINA HENRI A. WEIJO



TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF DATA SOURCES

Description	Sources	Dataset	Purpose
Ethnographic fieldwork	Fieldwork at Restaurant Day events between May 2011 and May 2014	57 minutes of audio field notes	Recording and elaborating on emergent fieldwork impres- sions and insights
Photography	Photographs taken during fieldwork	126 photographs	Illustrating variety of event expressions and symbolic elements
Ethnographic inter- views (recorded)	Interviews during fieldwork, ranging from 5 to 45 minutes	51 interviews, 118 double- spaced pages	Understanding behavior and motives of event participants
Netnography	Restaurant Day's social media presence and related dis- cussions, food blogs with dedicated coverage of Restaurant Day (The Untrendy Food Blog and Hanna's Soup Blog)	58 entries, altogether 432 dou- ble-spaced pages	Understanding participant reactions and discussions outside of events, understanding behavior of creative curators and critics
Videography	Supporting fieldwork at November 2012 and February 2013 events	130 minutes of footage	Understanding material practi- ces, grand tours of restau- rants, heterogeneity of event expressions, partici- pant movements, elicitation during interviews, emotions
Media coverage	Finnish and international main- stream media articles, local media articles, radio inter- views (transcribed)	78 articles, 204 double-spaced pages	Understanding media framing of creation and greater audi- ence reactions
Long interviews	Restaurant Day founders, cul- tural activists, politicians, government officials, police officers, and journalists, av- erage length around one hour	14 interviews, 279 double- spaced pages	Understanding behavior and motives of various market actors behind and affected by the creation





No escape from reality

"The first and third authors began following the transgression first out of personal interest as both had played through the ME trilogy and the third author was a BSN member. Personal interest turned into collaborative inquiry in April 2012 when the transgression was still unfolding. We gathered data through non-participatory netnographic observation predominantly in the BSN online community (Kozinets, 2010). [...] The BSN community data set consisted of approximately two hundred threads dedicated to the transgression (length varied from a few replies to hundreds). Following Weijo, Hietanen, and Mattila (2014), we also expanded our inquiry outside of BSN by following incoming and outgoing links to other sites, which led to insights into how the transgression was perceived outside the community. These secondary sources consisted of videos, images, blog posts, and news reports. Data gathering, analysis, and engagement with previous literature all overlapped throughout the research project (Miles & Huberman, 1994)."

OU FINISHED MES

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"Feeling in Control": Optimal Busyness and the Temporality of Organizational Controls

Ioana Lupu 📵, Joonas Rokka 🗓

Published Online: 13 Sep 2021 https://doi.org/10.1287/orsc.2021.1486

Go to Section

Abstract

Abstract

This study extends prior research seeking to understand the reproduction and persistence of excessive busyness in professional settings by addressing the relationship between organizational controls and temporal experiences. Drawing on 146 interviews and more than 300 weekly diaries in two professional service firms, we develop a framework centered on the emerging concept of optimal busyness, an attractive, short-lived temporal experience that people try to reproduce/prolong because it makes them feel energized and productive as well as in control of their time. Our findings show that individuals continuously navigate between different temporal experiences separated by a fine line, quiet time, optimal busyness, and excessive busyness, and that optimal busyness that they strive for is a fragile and fleeting state difficult to achieve and maintain. We show that these temporal experiences are the effect of the temporality of controls—that is, the ability of controls to shape professionals' temporal experience through structuring, rarefying, and synchronizing temporality. Moreover, we find that professionals who regularly face high temporal pressures seek to cope with these by attempting to construct/prolong optimal busyness through manipulating the pace, focus, and length of their temporal experiences, a process we call control of temporality. Our study contributes to a better understanding of the reproduction of busyness by explaining why professionals in their attempts to feel in control of their time routinely end up overworking.

Back to Top Next >



THESIS TIP #7:

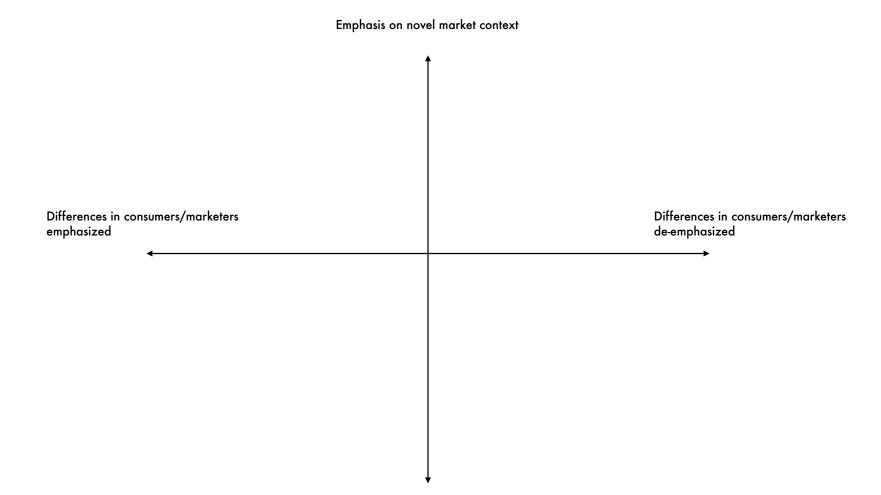
When preparing your thesis project, try to think in terms of:

"My master's thesis studies

in the context of

It is an ideal context for the study, because





Market context de-emphasized

Let's go to break-out rooms!