

Voyages from the centre to the margins: An ethnography of long term ocean cruisers.

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Voyages from the centre to the margins: an ethnography

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[Jennings, Gayle Ruth](#) (1999) *Voyages from the centre to the margins*. Thesis, Murdoch University.



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Abstract

Long term ocean cruisers are self defined as people who have live aboard their own sailing vessels, have independent means of transport of departure for an extended period of time. As a group, they are...

Why do people choose to adopt a cruising lifestyle? Using the findings of this study, it was found that cruisers were motivated by a variety of extrinsic and intrinsic factors. Their background and status in society. Cruisers were motivated by their home society as well as to pursue a lifestyle which offered them to add some adventure or challenge to their lives or to fulfil a desire for autonomy, commitments and a desire to travel and experience new cultures. The study found that, in order to fulfil their motivations, cruisers exhibited personal agency, moving from the centre of mainstream western societies to one in the margins.

Overall, cruisers were found to be social actors who exhibit agency. Whether or not to maintain a sense of 'connectivity' with and feelings of anomie and alienation in their home societies, to the individual level, and to their need for belonging with a partner. The decisions regarding the negotiation and direction of their own lives. Participants in this study, such agency and self governance can be defined as Empowered connectivity is the action of exhibiting agency in an individual currently finds her or himself. It can be both a personal and a social. Empowered connectivity is not a 'theory' per se, but rather a practice. 'Plurality, multiplicity and difference' (Tong 1989) in the action...

priority, multiplicity and difference (Long 1999) in the actual spaces they choose to occupy.

Moreover, this study informed by the interpretive social sciences an indepth understanding of cruising women's experiences to experiences. Subsequently, cruising women became subjects interpretive social sciences paradigm and 'feminist methodology' particular, to use both emic and etic perspectives in data collection.

This ethnographic study of cruisers was conducted between 1998-2001. The study involved participant observation, semi-structured interviews relating to socio demographics, vessel inventories, budgets and

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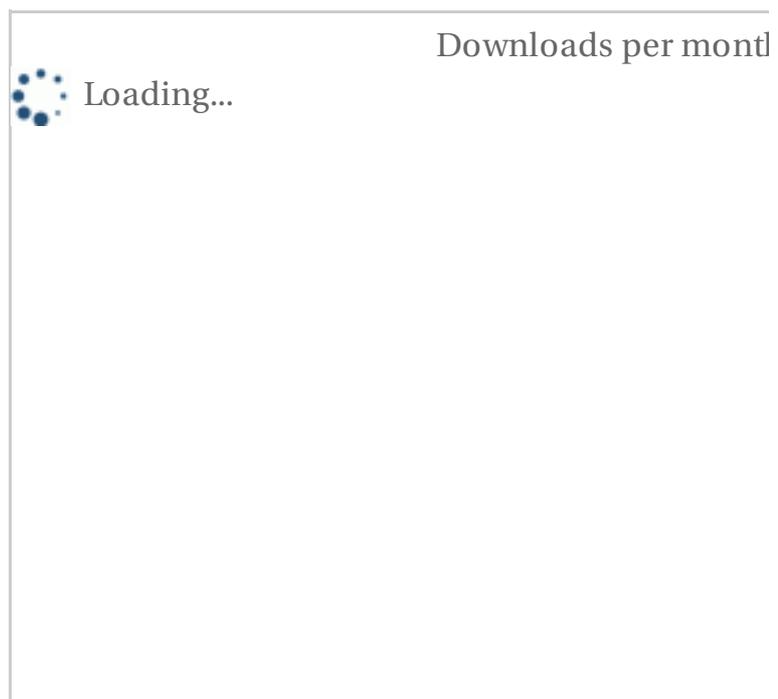
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