Investigating ‘senses of home’

*What critical understanding of ‘home’ can be gained though ethnographic research?*

Spaces within the home and the relationships that people have with them.

Spatial relationship with home -> Objects/materiality (Identity, experiences, connections)

* What understandings and experiences of home did you find in your research?
* What factors mattered in the makings of these meanings?
* How would you describe the senses of home that are present in the particular home that you looked at?
* How do these link to geographical ideas that you’ve been considering on sense of place?

Ethnographic Observations:

* Researcher role
* Reflexivity

Ethnographic mode of attention:

* What does the place feel like?
* What is its material makeup (architecture, furniture, signs/posters)?
* Who uses this place?
* What do they do there?
* What kind of interactions do people have there?

Field notes:

* Locate an ethnographic setting – where is it? What is the background character of that setting? How would you describe it?
* Describe the physical space – size and shape, main physical characteristics, did the space change over the course of observation
* Describe others’ interactions within that setting – who were the people present? What were they doing/talking about? How did they interact?

Interview:

Semi-structured

Report:

Aim: To critically reflect on the use of two key human geography methods (auto-ethnography and interviews), to analyse personal fieldwork material to discuss how your field site might be understood through geographical ideas of ‘Senses of Home’

Structure:

Title: Investigating senses of ‘home’

Research Question: What critical understandings of ‘home’ can be gained through ethnographic research?

(200 Words) Introduction: Introduce field work, designated locations, particular geographical aspects of the site

Why is it relevant to study ‘Senses of home’ What can be learned from this study?

Where did the fieldwork take place? Describe the area and spaces focused on

How has the report been focused? Particular approaches? Particular focuses?

(400 Words) Auto-ethnography reflection: Critically reflect on uses and challenges of auto-ethnographic observation

Reflect on strengths and weaknesses of approach to method

Self-reflexivity

Engage with literature

(400 Words) Interview reflection: Critically reflect on uses and challenges of interviews

Reflect on strengths and weaknesses of approach to method

Engage with literature

(800 Words) Fieldwork findings: Critically analyse the particular ways ‘Senses of home’ matter

Consult geographical ideas of home

Include quotations

Analyse ethnographic observations and interview

Include visuals/notes

Depth of analysis

(200 Words) Conclusions: Summarise key findings of research

Combined methods and what they tell us about sense of home

Reflect on report methodology

Consider future approaches to ethnographic methods

Relate key arguments to wider geographical debates

Reference List

Appendix: Typed Transcript, other photos, fieldnotes