



How to research on movement, body and senses? *Moving interviews* and *mental maps* as methodological approaches to the mobile practice triathlon

Yonca Krahn

University of Zurich
Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies
Popular Culture

14.11.16

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“For sports, it is rather characteristic that in many cases sports allows an unconditional identification that by all means they triggers a commitment, comparable almost only alike to that romantic relationships might create.”

(Bausinger 2015, 13)

„Für den Sport ist es aber auch charakteristisch, dass er in vielen Fällen zur rückhaltlosen Identifikation verlockt, dass er jedenfalls ein Engagement auslöst, wie es sonst fast nur in Liebesbeziehungen zu finden ist“

(Bausinger 2015, 13)





Physical practice.... Needs physical methods

- Involvement of the body
- Involvement of the senses
- The actual happening in the moment
- Emotions and affects



Triathlon as Practice to experience Space



Theories on space:
Bausinger 1988,
Merleau-Ponty
1966, Bollnow
1963, Foucault
1990,...

Methodological Approach

Plural
Methodological
approaches

(Interviews, Participating
Observation,
Photoethnography,
Autoethnography)



Moving
Interviews/
Mental Maps



Moving Interviews (Keding, Weith 2014)

Training together (swim/bike/run)

Understanding of situative actions by being allowed to ask questions right when they appear in the situation

Ask explicit questions

- the actual actions
- kinaesthetic, multi-sensual experience in general
- ephemeral Perception
 - i.e. breathing: awareness of...
... Depth? Duration? Timing? Mouth or nose? Additional sounds?



Challenges of moving interviews

No interview structure, no questionnaire

Things can be left out

Physical exhaustion

How to record them (I don't do audio recordings, I take notes (mainly afterwards or on my phone)

Surroundings can be giving negative inputs (weather, distraction, scary situations)



Advantages of moving interviews

Doing sports together offers no problems regarding bias

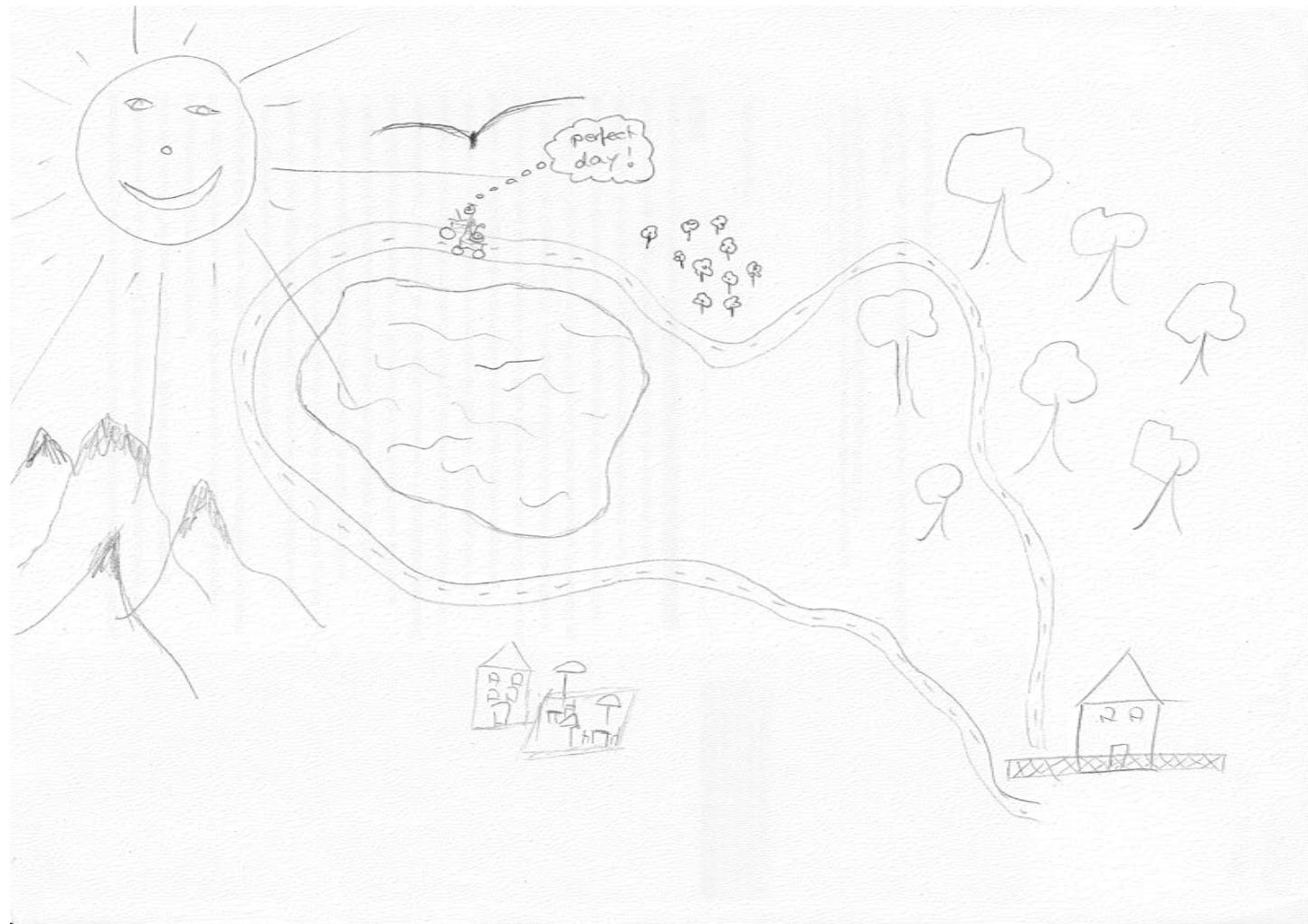
Offers importance to topics I was not aware of before

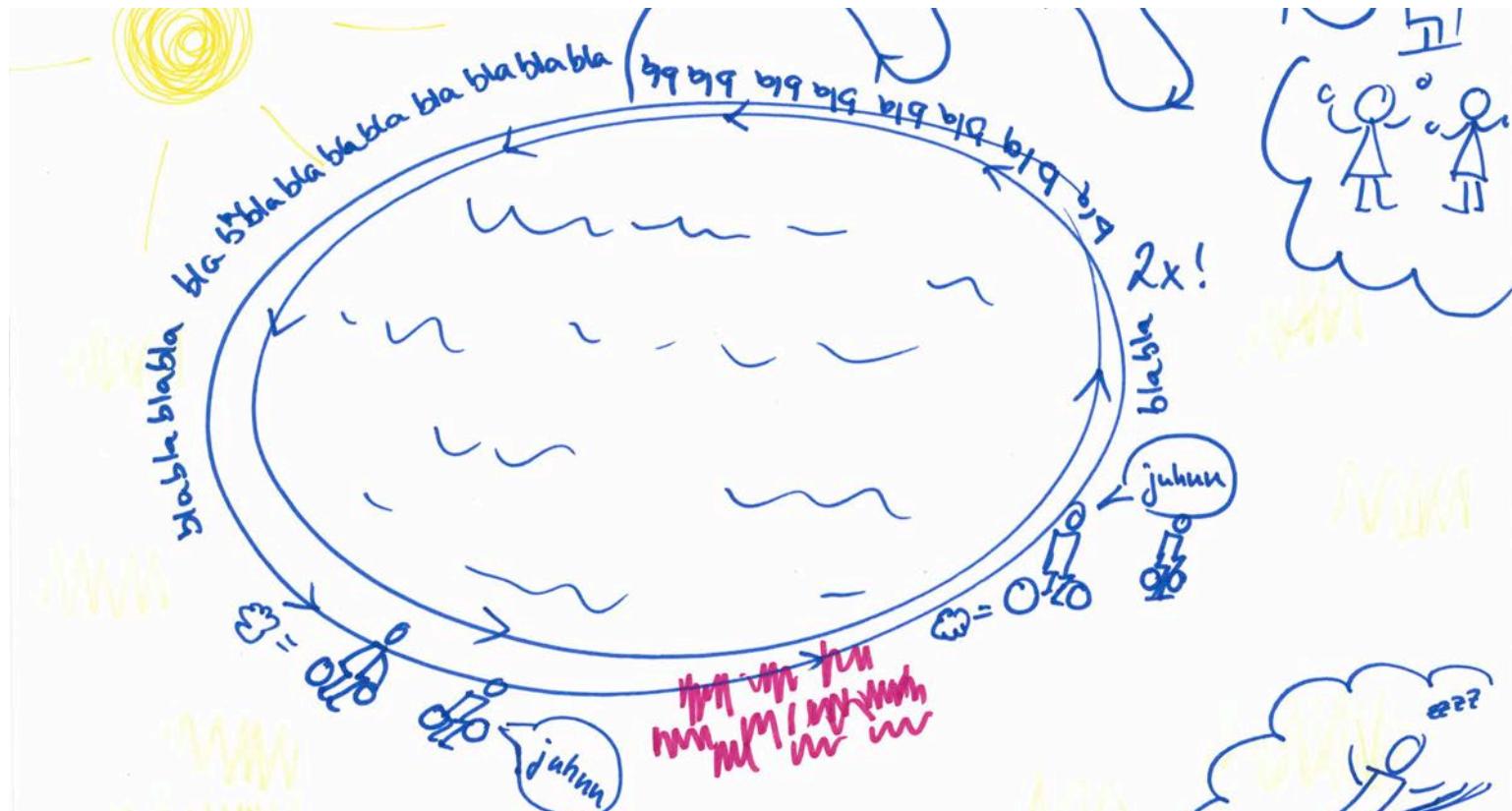
Surroundings can be giving positive inputs

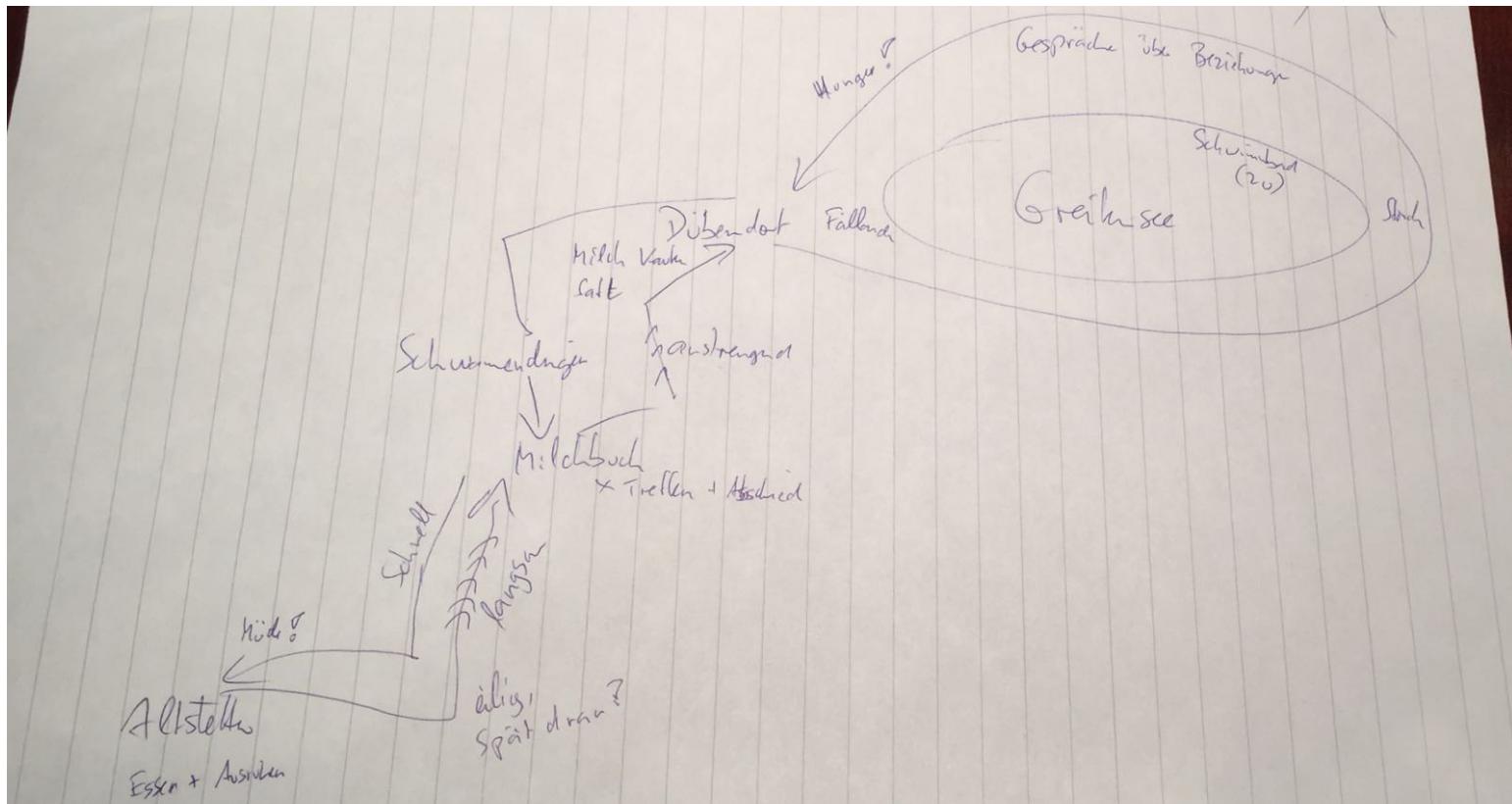


Mental Maps

- Focuses on how mobility is presented and understood in the immobile practice of drawing mental representations.
- Multiple translation of understandings: researcher asks the person to draw/draft something on paper – person translates his/her thoughts into drawing/draft – researcher reads the drawing/draft...









Challenges of mental maps

How to introduce method?

Who makes it?

What is important for the person?

What is useless material? (And who decides this?)

Is it a challenge or a benefit for the researcher to know the course of which the map is drawn?



Benefit of mental maps

Tracks are perceived differently

You see important parts of the tracks (could be landscape, talk, correlation of imagined distance...)

Shows an actual movement (orientation in a topographical sense)

Shows individual meaning of places and objects

-> The method should be part of a triangulative research methods



Conclusion

Methods...

- ... do not rely foremost on language
- ... a combination of methods is needed (for my research)
- ... offer hints to become aware of aspects



Thank you for listening





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