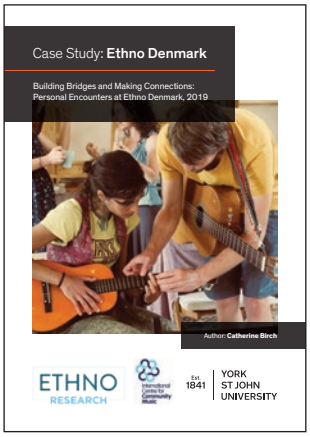
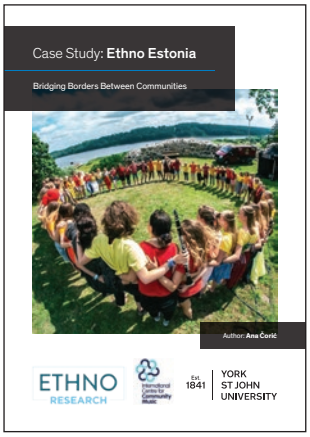
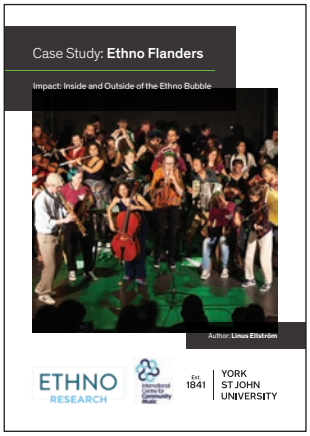
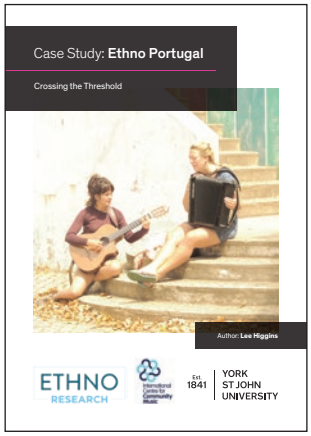
Key Findings

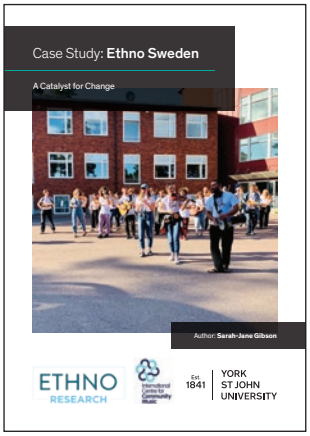
Ethno Research Pilot Case Studies 2019











Author: **Lee Higgins**

ETHNO RESEARCH

International Centre for Community Music

Est. 1841 | YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

Figure 1: Word Cloud

Ethno Research
Pilot Case Studies 2019

INTRODUCTION

During year one of a three-year investigation, Ethno Research commissioned seven pilot ethnographic case studies at Ethno gatherings located in Europe and the Nordic countries.

The statements articulated in this document are the result of a thematic analysis across all seven reports. Intended for an audience whose first language is often one other than English, the prose attempts to be jargon-free and focused. As the projects first published outcomes, the statements raise critical questions and as such point toward future research strategies, essential questioning, and philosophical inquiry.

Figure 1, Word Cloud, reveals the most common words used to describe Ethno experiences. Figures 2, 3, and 4, Mind Maps represent the thematic coding categories, a method of organizing research findings into similar concepts and ideas. Figures 5 and 6, Word Tree, illustrates 'connections' and 'intercultural' as examples of the context through which each key terms and words was investigated.

Image: Ethno Flanders © Linus Ellström

Image: Ethno Denmark © Richard Holzmann

KEY FINDINGS

Effective practices see musicians with an understanding of group-work create a space that is both suspended from the participants everyday while also grounded in 'real-world' professional and personal growth and development.

Participants arrive with a variety of histories from many different countries. They want to play folk music alongside other musicians and to spend time with those from places and cultures other than their own.

The living and working environment is respectful, open, playful, and intense, creating opportunities to share. For many participants, this hospitable environment enables connections to others that can be both temporal to the current gathering or long-lasting.

The social aspect of an Ethno gathering evokes a strong sense of belonging to a discreet community that has connections to a wider network. When led by skilled facilitators difference is embraced through the generosity of musical exchange and can lead to heightened awareness and deeper understanding of how other people live. This engagement can lead to self-reflection with the potential to impact the development and affirmation of self-identity.

Beyond the gatherings, participants leave with a more extensive professional network and a broader group of friends. Most participants have significant connections with others, and for some, this results in conscious critical reflection, which can have a profound impact on life choices.

> Respectful, open, playful, and intense, creating opportunities to share.

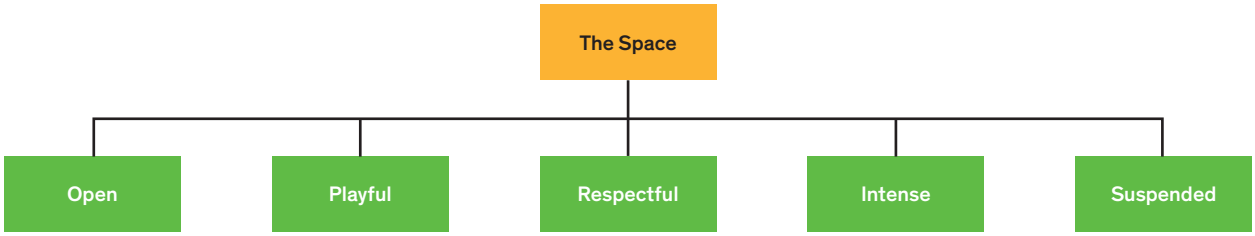


Figure 2: The Space

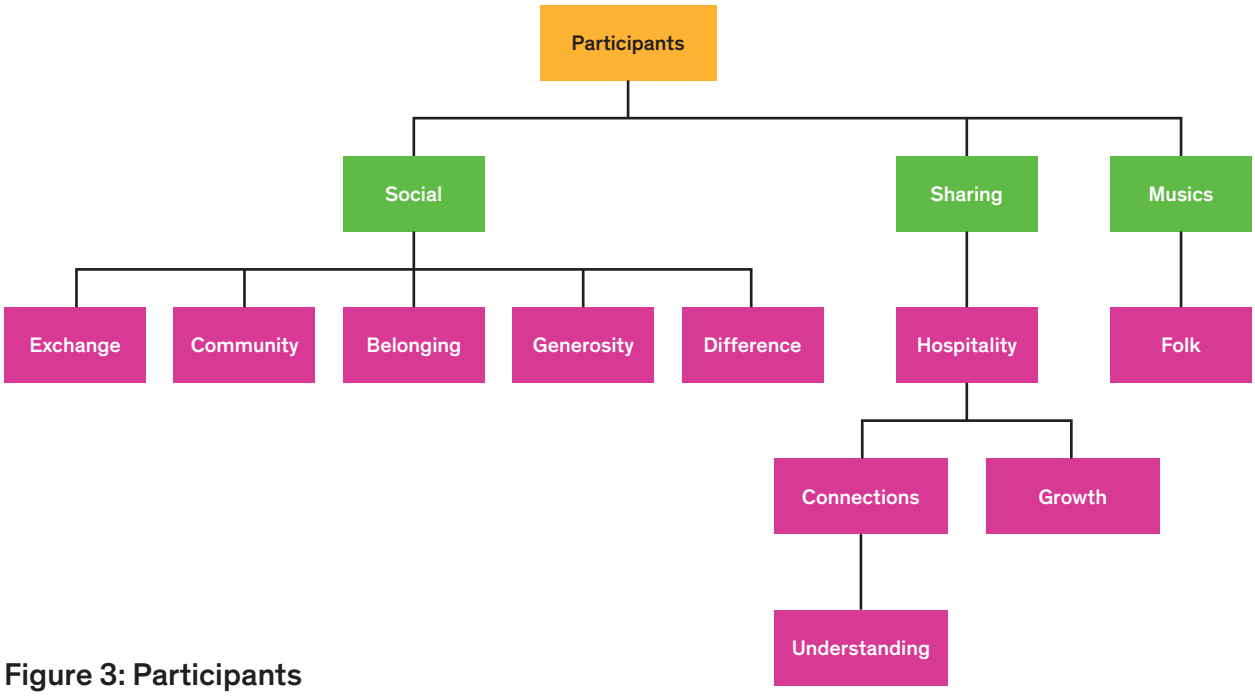


Figure 3: Participants

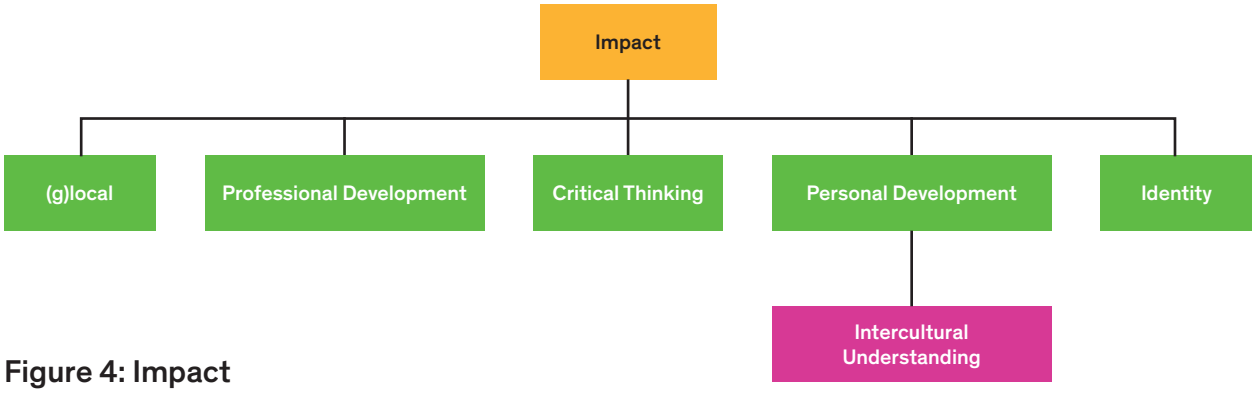


Figure 4: Impact

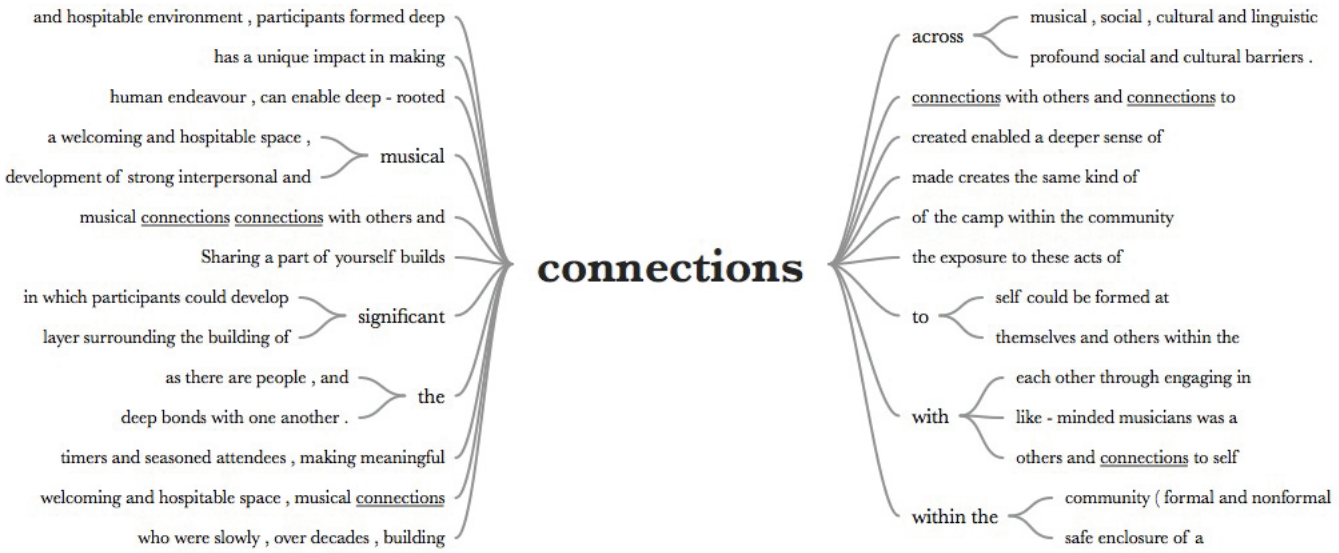


Figure 5: Connection Word Tree

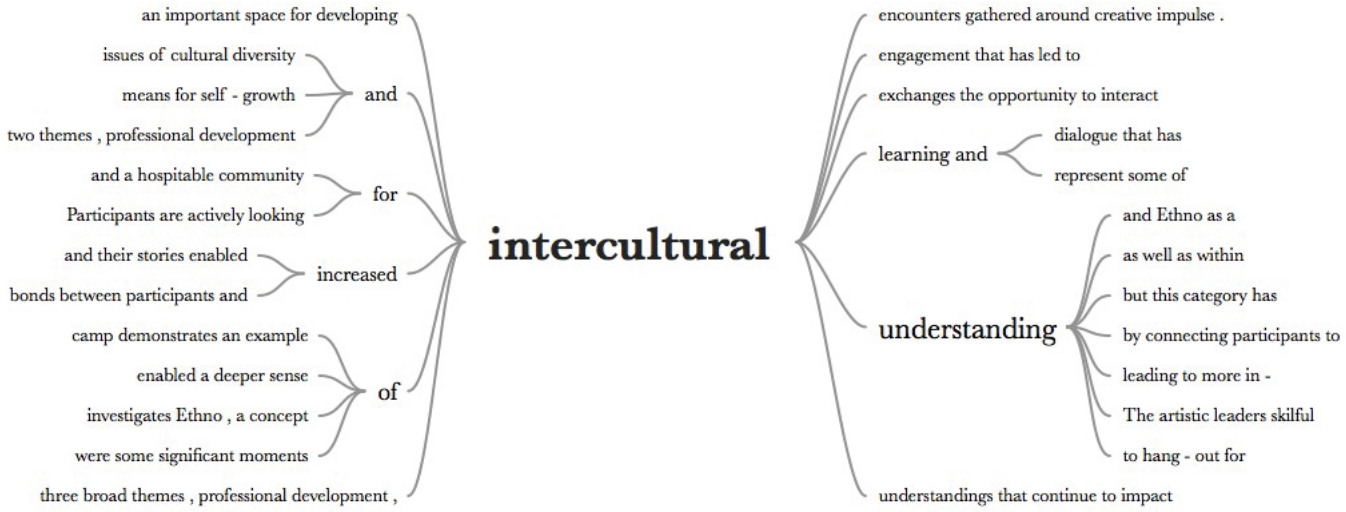


Figure 6: Intercultural Word Tree

ETHNO RESEARCH

www.ethnoresearch.org

The 3-year Ethno Research project, led by the International Centre for Community Music (ICCM) at York St John University in collaboration with JM International (JMI), is made possible through a grant from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

JM International
Official Program