**Investigating humour in music therapy Nicky Haire**

This interpretivist study aims to generate new knowledge around humour in music therapy. I am interested in how humour enables moments of contact with people who have dementia in music therapy, and how music therapists experience, perceive and embody humour in music therapy?

My literature review surfaced a phenomenon that is taken for granted in music therapy and so moving towards an understanding of how it enables contact with persons with dementia, and how music therapists view humour and use it in their work, will lead to important new knowledge about interactional processes in music therapy.

My planned length of PhD project is September 2017 – September 2020. However, the end-date for the PhD project has changed due to the fact that I have begun working as a lecturer on the MSc Music Therapy, Queen Margaret University, two days per week, therefore I have gone from full-time study to part-time PhD study. My earliest new end date: August 2021.

This is an interpretivist study rooted in hermeneutic phenomenology and arts-based methodology. My supervisory team are Prof. Raymond MacDonald, Prof. Jonathan Wyatt (University of Edinburgh) and Dr. Rachel Darnley-Smith (University of Roehampton).

Data collection methods used included focus groups with music therapists and interview-encounters with people who have dementia and their music therapists. Participants n=17.

The response to the project so far continues to be hugely positive and support for the innovative methods used to make sense of and share the data have attracted widespread support from peers. The music therapists involved in the focus groups, and the interview-encounters continue to be interested in the study, and since being involved have observed and commented on humour in their work. I have not yet sent the initial findings of the data analysis to the people with dementia, so am yet to comment on the impact this had for them.

**Dissemination/publication so far:**

I published my literature review in the Nordic Journal of Music Therapy

**Haire, N.,** & MacDonald, R. (2019). Humour in music therapy: A narrative literature review. *Nordic Journal of Music Therapy*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08098131.2019.1577288>

And I am planning to publish findings from my Focus Groups and Interview-encounters in the next year.

I also presented some findings from my Focus Group analysis at the symposium *Humour Me!* which I co-organised with another PhD candidate at the University of Edinburgh. This formed part of my analysis but also acted as a way to disseminate and share the findings. In addition to this, I presented the initial findings from the analysis of the focus groups at Victoria University, Wellington, and Melbourne University, Melbourne.

**Breakdown of how MTC costs were allocated**

This grant was used specifically to cover part of the data collection. The costs are as follows:

**Interview-encounters with music therapist and client dyads**

Researcher travelling from Edinburgh (return) to:

Cambridge: £150

Shetland: £310

**Focus groups**

Researcher travelling from Edinburgh (return) to:

London: £90

Travel expenses for focus group participants:

4 participants in London (travelling from Bristol £65, Kent £25 and greater London £12.70 X2) = £115

Hire of BAMT office = £21

**Accommodation** required for researcher:

London (1 night): £100

Cambridge (1 night): £64

Shetland (2 nights): £150

**Total: £1000**