talking about escape

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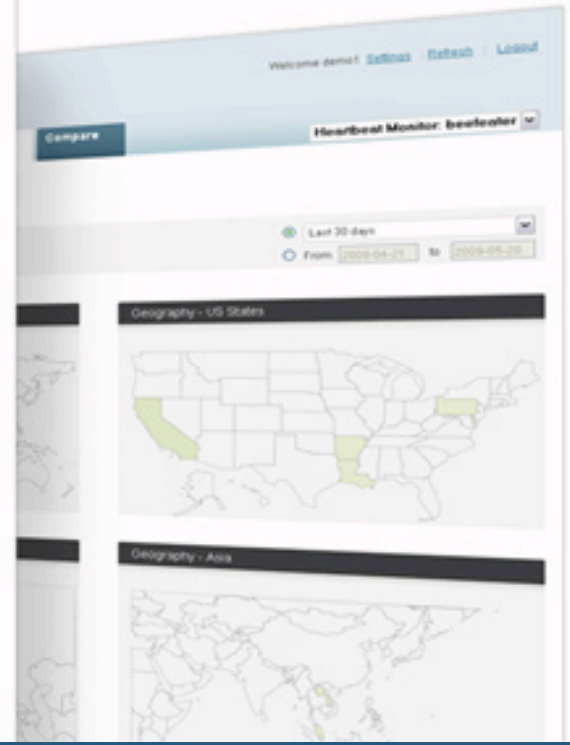
Uncovering aspects of the individual in the everyday - a commendable commitment to ethnographic detail…

In pursuit of this contextual view we travelled with football hooligans to away matches, wandered around the shop floor with industrial saboteurs, slept on the beaches of Clacton with Mods and Rockers and simultaneously took notes about our own 'normal' deviance: smoking dope with our students, organizing anti-Vietnam war demonstrations, watching porno movies.

(Cohen and Taylor, 1992: xi; first edition 1976)

Cohen, S and Taylor, L (1992) *Escape Attempts: The Theory and Practice of Resistance to Everyday Life*. London: Routledge.

Talking about escape on a large scale

Data accumulated between 20th July 2011 and the 26th of August 2011 volume of social media content that talks of escape
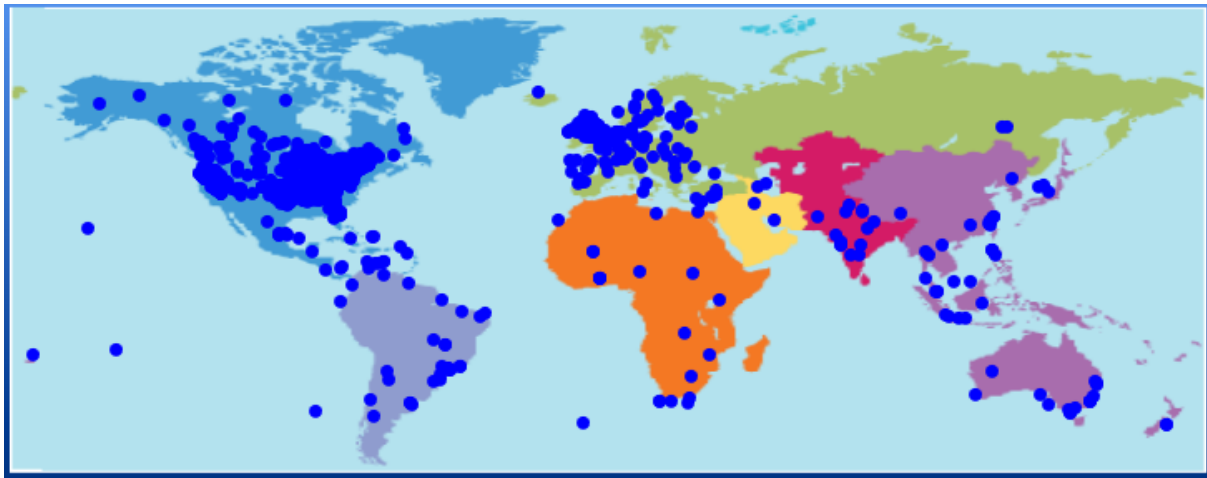

Figure 1: a map of social media content containing the word escape or escaping.
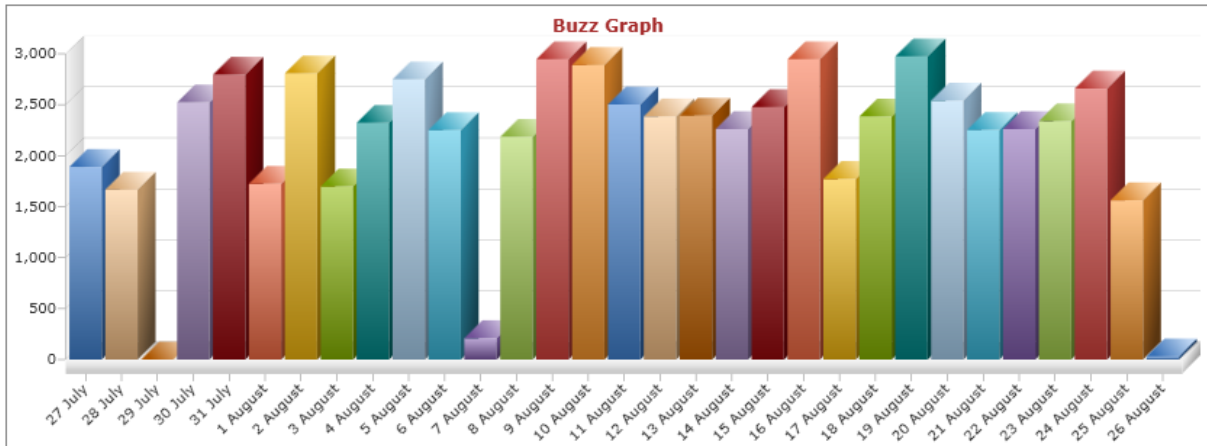

Figure 2: The quantity of posts on Twitter containing the word escape or escaping – 50,000 instances.

Figure 3: a word map showing words that are commonly associated with escape and escaping in social media content.

Talking about escape on a small scale

Three overarching themes: **1.** *temporality*

oh, hahaha. in that case, i'll be escaping
that for the next 4 years. it goes both ways

Being able to escape the competitiveness,
the backstabbing and the long hours of
the rat race

It's time to escape.. If only it was that
easy..

2. *emotionality*

No matter how much I intoxicate
myself, there's no escaping the fact that
I'm just not happy.

Life Skills Master Class Lesson #365: If you
dream of escaping everyday, you are not
happy.

Yall dont ever feel like escaping your BODY?

3. *territoriality*

Escaping the mad house.

Escaping this world for now

Escaping reality.

Escaping the world for a bit

'interruptions or break from paramount reality
don't last long' Cohen and Taylor (1992: 40).

'To get through the day'

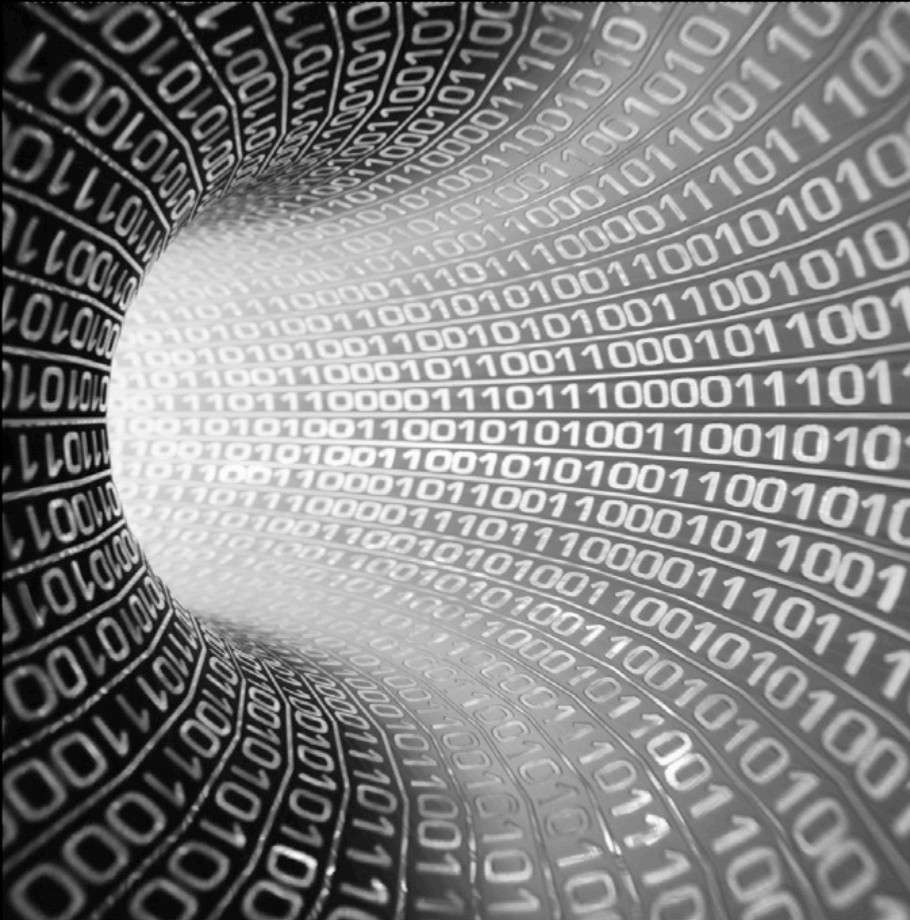The research is not directly about the actual practices and strategies of (it might point towards these). **It is about the way in which escape is talked about in everyday contexts and interaction –** where we overhear individual's widespread and routine discussion of escape and escaping.

As a way to stimulate interaction and/create content.

Expression of shared experiences.

Social media as an outlet for escape... Surely the very thing that individuals may seek to escape from?

new media & society

Beer, D. and Hardey, M. (forthcoming) Talking about Escape, for New Media & Society.

end.