Doofing and the Politics of Survival in the Byron Shire

A recent ethnographic study of young people growing up in the Byron Shire (Canosa, 2016), found that attending doof parties in secluded areas, away from the mainstream tourism party scene, holds deeper symbolic meaning for young locals. This new study seeks to build on these findings to explore if doof membership is still prevalent among young adults over the age of 18 years who have the right to attend the pubs and nightclubs in Byron Bay but who may still choose not to because they find the neo-tribal nature of doof affiliation more satisfying.

Research Design
Very little research explores how young people negotiate space, identity and belonging when growing up in a popular tourist destination. This project seeks to explore the deeper symbolic and political meanings attached to the non-conformist consumption choices made by these young people in the face of a heavily regulated night-time tourism economy in Byron Bay. The research is of a qualitative nature involving in-depth interviews with approximately 15-20 participants between the ages of 18 and 25 years residing in the Byron Shire and attending doof parties.

The project team is currently conducting in-depth interviews with participants.

Research Team
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Outputs to Date
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