Why do we love some places more than others?

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LECTURER IN ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY



SENSORY EXPERIENCES

PLACE ATTACHMENT AND MEMORY

CITIES AND WELLBEING

I focus on the *how and why,*

and the *role of the person*

'Environment in a shoebox' by Tom Haughton MSc Environmental Psychology 2021/22



Birds

• This article is more than 10 years old

Beat winter blues with birdsong, National Trust urges

Birdsong can conquer the gloom of shorter winter days, says the trust as it launches an online audio guide to Britain's best-loved species

Listen to the birdsong audio here



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A male robin singing. Photograph: Getty Images

Tweeting birds...

Ratcliffe, E. (2021). Sound and soundscape in restorative natural environments: A narrative literature review. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, 570563.

Ratcliffe, E., Gatersleben, B., & Sowden, P. T. (2020). Predicting the perceived restorative potential of bird sounds: The roles of acoustics and aesthetics. *Environment & Behavior*, 52(4), 371-400.

Ratcliffe, E., Gatersleben, B., & Sowden, P. T. (2016). Associations with bird sounds: How do they relate to perceived restorative potential? *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 47, 136-144.

Ratcliffe, E., Gatersleben, B., & Sowden, P. T. (2013). Bird sounds and their contributions to perceived attention restoration and stress recovery. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 36, 221-228.



Favourite places...

Korpela, K. M., & **Ratcliffe, E.** (2021). Which is primary: Preference or perceived instoration? *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 75, 101617.

Ratcliffe, E., Subiza-Perez, M., Korpela, K. (2020). *Nature as a support to mental health: Memories of favourite natural places.* In G. Christos and W. S. Shin (Eds.), Forests for Public Health, pp. 56-78. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars.

Ratcliffe, E., & Korpela, K. M. (2018). Time- and self-related memories predict restorative perceptions of favourite places via place identity. *Environment & Behavior*, 50, 690-720

Ratcliffe, E., & Korpela, K. M. (2016). Memory and place attachment as predictors of restorative perceptions of favourite places. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 48, 120-130.



Tamala Anderson's prize-winning poster



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Restorative environments, favourite places, wellbeing and health





Journal of Environmental Psychology Volume 78, December 2021, 101706

Exploring psychological restoration in favorite indoor and outdoor urban places using a topdown perspective

Mikel Subiza-Pérez *, ⁶ A 🖾, Tytti Pasanen ^{6, d}, Eleanor Ratcliffe ⁶, Kate Lee ^F, Anna Bornioli ⁰, Jessica de Bloom Kalevi Korpela ^d

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2021.101706

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Highlights

- Homes and bars, cafés were the most commonly described favorite indoor settings.
- Urban parks and forests were the most popular outdoor settings.
- Favorite outdoor places were rated higher on restoration and indoor in place bonding.
- · Personality variables were hardly related to experienced restoration.
- A third of the sample experienced more restoration in the indoor setting.

Favourite indoor & outdoor places (Subiza-Pérez et al., 2021)

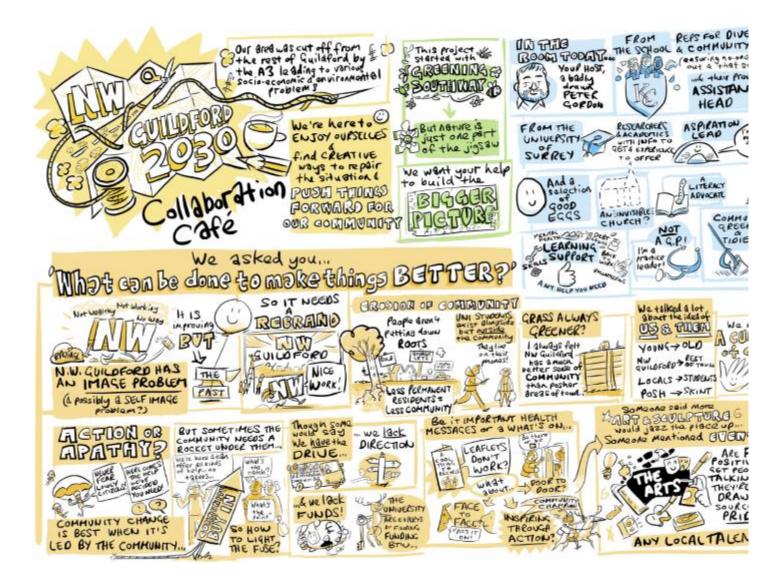
N = 945 (primarily student) participants in 5 countries identified and described two favourite places in their city: **one indoor**, **one outdoor**

Rated these places on perceived restoration, place attachment (+ other appraisals)

Favourite outdoor places rated as more restorative

- Also predicted by nature-orientedness
- But! One-third of sample reported more restoration in their favourite **indoor place**
 - These participants tended to show more urban-orientedness

Place attachment significantly predicted restoration in both outdoor and indoor places



Community empowerment

A particular street in NW Guildford shows physical signs of neglect, e.g., littering, unattended planting

Digging deeper, we've understood the **real issues** are around community resources, empowerment, and relationships

Implications for environmental psychology – not just individual person/environment transactions – involves community factors too!

Thank you!

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