

# Closing Words

-- Leonie Persyn --

Doctoral School on Sound & Listening  
May 2019  
Ghent

Dear all,

We started our week full of expectation with the following quote by Gallagher and Zahavi:

In phenomenology perception is not a simple reception of information, but it involves an interpretation which frequently changes according to the context. Phenomenology starts with experience rather than by what we expect to find, given our theoretical commitments. It asks us not to let pre-conceived theories form our experience, but to let our experience inform and guide our theories. In phenomenology we are interested in how the things appear as correlates of our experience. (Gallagher and Zahavi 2008, 10- 25)

Starting off with a theoretical quote does not really equal a phenomenological approach one could say...but still it was the beginning of our doubts, ambiguities and struggle. As the week evolved, we managed to let our pre-conceived theories loosen up.

The mappings we created throughout the week visualise how things appeared as correlates of our experience. We made parallel movements; we crossed each other's paths. But most of all we shared our listening experiences. We gained trust in each other. We started to play. The mappings were our field guides to getting lost.

Each day we pulled and pushed the edge between music, performance, film and new media through sound and listening. We made it into a place of encounter, a home, a space for dwelling and lingering. In the encounter of performance, film and new media – of academic theories and artistic practices – we allowed sound to be promiscuous. We fully expanded it as a network that teaches us how to belong and find space as well as how not to belong and drift.

We intimated, meaning that we didn't add to the complexity, but we allowed its presence. Such moments of allowance often turned into complexidences, instants in which incidentally insights and understandings emerged. Those complexidences were the encounters between our brain and our gut feeling. They mark the moments in which tensions sparked, experiences and thoughts were grounded. When complexidences occurred, hesitation persisted and prevailed and an intimate knowledge was suggested. The complexidences did not give answers or solutions. They slowed down our (re)search, untangled our process and accelerated our thinking.

For all of that I want to thank the scientific committee for making the encounter possible: Pieter-Jan Maes for bringing in a different, quantitative perspective, supervisor Christel Stalpaert and co-supervisor Martine Huvenne for the freedom and unconditional support they have given me. *Just do it* is not only the slogan of Nike but also the reason why I highly appreciate our collaboration.

And of course, last but not least, I want to thank all of you, the attendees and contributors, for being generous and greedy at the same time.

Thank you!  
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