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The Prevalence of Sexual Harassment in the Nightlife of Groningen and the Potential Effects on the Perception of Safety among Students

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Abstract

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This paper examines the extent to which sexual harassment is prevalent among students in the nightlife of Groningen, the Netherlands, and whether this influences their perception of safety regarding the day of the week. To do so a mixed method approach has been conducted, consisting of a questionnaire distributed among students in Groningen to gather an understanding of the topic and a nightlife diary of one specific night out in Groningen which has been kept by four participants, in which they gathered photo, video and audio material to portray the way they saw the night and their experiences in it, followed up by a semi-structured interview a few days later on the nightlife diary and their general experiences with the nightlife of Groningen. Using the insights from these interviews together with personal experiences of the researcher these results were written down using an autoethnographic story telling approach. It may be argued that sexual harassment is quite prevalent among students in the nightlife of Groningen as 73,8% of the questionnaire responded has on at least one occasion experienced sexual harassment in the nightlife, among female respondents this number lay at 83%. Perception of safety regarding the day of the week was most prevalent on Friday and Saturday night, due to an increase in nightlife tourists changing the dynamic of the night. A clear comprehensive policy should be implemented on how to respond to sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen, in order to remove the uncertainty currently existing.

Introduction

Groningen is a city with 234.916 inhabitants (OIS, 2023), of which over 65.000 consists of students (CBS, 2022), resulting in Groningen having a very rich student population and student life. The nightlife in Groningen is quite exceptional when compared to other cities and countries as it consists of numerous bars which are all located within two streets, creating one big 'going out' location in which people can switch between bars and hangout in the streets. Creating a space where people solely visit one bar for the entire evening, instead creating a 'barhop' culture in which switching between bars is the norm. Besides, many of the bars are open seven days a week, do not have set closing hours, and do not charge entry fees. This results in students having the possibility to conduct themselves in the nightlife scene at all days of the week, leading to a general positive atmosphere in this nightlife area. However, in the nightlife of Groningen non-consensual sexual attention and sexual harassment are present, resulting in the municipality of Groningen currently working on a plan to prevent (sexual) intimidation within the nightlife setting (Gemeenteraad Groningen, 2022). In recent years research on how to prevent and/or reduce sexual harassment and unwanted sexual interactions has become more evident, however, preventative measures have mostly been focused on how victims can prevent sexual harassment from happening to them, instead of shifting the focus to prevention of the 'perpetrators' conducting sexual harassment.

"Though studies of urban tourism do not always specifically address nightlife, and likewise studies of the night and nightlife do not always examine tourism, both bodies of research overlap in important ways" (Eldridge, 2019, p422). In order to speak of nightlife tourism in Groningen it is important to have a clear distinction on the definition of tourism, in this study the following definition will be referred to: "tourism is a social, cultural, and economic phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business/professional purposes" (UNWTO). This definition of the UNWTO is quite broad, implying that those visiting Groningen from elsewhere to partake in the nightlife scene without spending the night fall under the term tourism as well, in this case nightlife tourism. These nightlife tourist in Groningen are predominantly present during the Friday and Saturday night, changing the dynamic and balance of the nightlife atmosphere, shifting the social and cultural value of the night (Nofre, 2020).

To gain a better understanding on the extent of sexual harassment occurring in the nightlife of Groningen, the following research question has been formulated: "To what extent is sexual harassment prevalent in the nightlife of Groningen and does this affect the perception of safety among students?" To help answering this research question, three sub questions have been formulated:

1. To what extent is sexual harassment prevalent in the nightlife of Groningen, is it a problem and if yes, to what extent?
2. Is there a difference in students their perception of safety in the nightlife of Groningen regarding the day of the week or nightlife venue?
3. What kind of preventative measures could be implemented within the nightlife of Groningen to increase students their sense of safety?

Previous research has been conducted on the feeling of safety and occurrence of sexual harassment focused on one bar within one place, no study has yet been conducted on a nightlife area with the same set-up as Groningen, where the focus shifts to all the bars in the nightlife area for all the nights of the week. By not conducting individual research per bar, but

for all the bars combined, together with mapping whether there is a difference per night of the week or per bar a research gap is identified. This research could help gain a more in-depth knowledge on the perception of safety in the nightlife of Groningen regarding sexual harassment, and what measures could, according to the students, be implemented to reduce the amount of sexual harassment and increase their sense of safety. This knowledge could be of assistance to the municipality of Groningen, which is currently working on a plan to prevent (sexual) intimidation in the nightlife scene together with the night major of Groningen (Gemeenteraad Groningen, 2022). This research will be conducted by first creating a general overview of the occurrence of sexual harassment through an online quantitative questionnaire, after which a more personal note will be added by participants conducting a 'nightlife diary' consisting of visual and audio material to portray their night out, followed up by a semi-structured interview regarding this particular night out and their personal experiences with the nightlife of Groningen in general.

Literature Review

Unwanted sexual attention, sexual harassment, and sexual violence are known to be prevalent in the nightlife setting and in nightlife venues. These places are generally considered as highly sensual and sexual social places, places where sexual scripts have been highly normalised (Becker, Tinkler, 2014). A growing body of conducted research is suggesting that young adults, particularly women, are very likely to encounter a form of sexual violence on a night out (Fileborn, 2017). Even though research is suggesting that mostly young women fall victim to sexual violence, this does not mean that only women can experience sexual violence. People of all genders and all sexualities can become a victim of sexual violence. Within this paper and literature review the focus will often lay on the women as the 'victim' and the man as the 'perpetrator', since most research has been conducted within this gender narrative.

In order to write about unwanted sexual attention and sexual harassment it is important to have a clear definition of the term. Throughout this paper two different definitions of sexual harassment will be referred to. The first definition is defined by Kelly (1988) as 'any physical, visual, verbal, or sexual act that is experienced... at that time or later, such as threat invasion or assault, that has the effect of hurting her [sic] or degrading her and/or takes away her ability to control intimate contact (p.41)'. This definition is therefore part of a very broad concept, one that goes beyond 'just' the physical attacks of sexual harassment. The second definition of sexual harassment comes from the FRA, the fundamental rights agency of the European Union. After analysing numerous definitions of sexual harassment found in official EU documents and other official international documents, they found that sexual harassment, regardless of definition, "... constitutes a breach of the principle of equal treatment between men and women and its practical realisation and is therefore recognised as discrimination on the grounds of sex." It further concludes that sexual harassment should be understood as "... a form of gender-based violence and, hence as a form of sexual abuse" (FRA, 2014, p. 96).

Even though the indications have been made that all genders are projected to potential sexual harassment, it is found that sexual harassment is the only victimisation type that has a disproportionate impact on women. Making gender the main risk factor for victimisation (Kavanaugh, 2013). Looking back in time, to the origin of the patriarchal society, it is stated that the nature of manhood is power, and the nature of womanhood is subordination to power (Seidman, 2009), this resulted in an imbalance in power and status between men and women

in society (Mellgren et al, 2018). According to the sociocultural model, sexual harassments originated from this patriarchal society (Rospenda, Richman, & Nawyn, 1998), as sexual harassment perpetrated by a man reinforces men's dominant position over women as present in a patriarchal society. This power differential between the genders plays quite a central role as well in unwanted advances and unwanted sexual attention in the social drinking contexts of nightlife venues. Within the nightlife setting the more traditional roles of masculinity and femininity are still present, shaping the social constructions of gender in such contexts that the male sexuality is associated with competition and conquest, whereas female sexuality is associated with passivity and restraint (Connell, 1995). This definition of masculinity is not a static characteristic, as masculinity is a fluid construct subject to change between the agency of the individual and the structure of social institutions (Connell, 1995).

When setting these constructs of masculinity and femininity as 'set', the male sexual behaviour and the correlating feminine vulnerabilities are casts as inevitable forms of gendered configuration, thus stalling unwanted sexual attention in the nightlife setting as a 'fixed reality' (Brooks, 2011). When these types of unwanted sexual attention are normalised in this case in the nightlife context, such behaviours become, at least to a certain extent, expected (Kavanaugh, 2013). Resulting in sexual victimization occurring on a continuum of severity (Basile, 1999). Unwanted sexual attention becomes accepted as a normal part of participating in the nightlife scene, creating a cultural atmosphere where this kind of behaviour is 'accepted' (Kavanaugh, 2013). Thereby, the likelihood of punishment or negative consequences for the perpetrator are very slim, as the victim often does not report this kind of behaviour (Graham et al, 2014).

Sexual harassment originates from these differences in gender characteristics, from this more patriarchal society, however, it does not stand on its own, it arises from gender-related microaggressions. According to Sue (2010) gender microaggressions are 'brief and commonplace daily verbal or behavioural indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative gender slights and insults that potentially have a harmful impact on women' (p164). The danger in this gender related microaggression is that quite often that the one making the comment or movement is unaware of this microaggression, and therefore what role they play in the infliction of psychological harm on females. An example of microaggression is a man who is wanting to exit a train, in front of him is a woman who is about to exit the train as well. The man lays his hand on the lower back of the woman, in order to assist/help her exit the train through the crowd. The man is probably trying to be considerate and helpful, however this movement can be very triggering and perceived as a form of control by the woman. This form of gender-related microaggression runs deep in society, making it hard to address. It often leaves the 'victim' in a no-win scenario, as the perpetrator, the man in the train scenario, insisting he meant no harm with this moment (probably truthfully), leaving the victim, the woman in the train scenario, feeling unheard or over-reacting (Sue, 2010). It becomes even more complicated when unwanted sexual attention and touching is not always negatively experienced, especially within the nightlife atmosphere/setting. Where due to its highly sexualised atmosphere, these types of advances can also be perceived positively, or leaving the person feeling flattered even though the advance in general was unwanted.

The way people respond to unwanted sexual attention has been highly researched, in different settings. As stated before, responses to unwanted sexual attention and advances can be very complicated, as it does not always only provoke negative responses. Within the research of

Graham et al (2016) about one quarter of the respondents said they felt flattered, with about half of the respondents stating that they did not take the incident seriously. Indicating that to a certain extent becoming victim to unwanted advances and touching has become normalized. However, within the same research almost all respondents reported at least one negative feeling in response to the act (Graham et al, 2016). The response to unwanted sexual attention or sexual harassment is influenced by both the act and the feelings it provokes as well, a small act could recall a lot of feeling and emotions and vice versa. Overall, in research, 'women describe a feeling of degradation, disrespect, and disappointment with the fact that they experience that sexual harassment is so common that even the women who are subjected to it have normalised it (Mellgren et al, 2018). In general victims of sexual harassment, in the case of the research of Graham et al (2016) women, were mostly quite clear and direct in their response/refusal. Indicating that perhaps prevention strategies should focus more on the perpetrator's perspective instead of the victim's perspective.

In order to decrease the amount of sexual unwanted attention and sexual harassment within the nightlife setting prevention strategies need to be implemented. Fileborn (2017) created a prevention strategy consisting of three stages. First, primary prevention is needed in order to prevent the act of sexual harassment to take place at all. Secondary prevention is needed to target the groups 'at risk', of both the 'victim' as well as the 'perpetrator' group. Finally, tertiary prevention is needed to address the sexual harassment after it has occurred. Correlating with the first stage, the primary prevention, it was proposed that official policies needed to be implemented within the nightlife setting. These policies can be underdeveloped in two categories, policies regarding patron behaviour and policies regarding staff responses. By increasing awareness among patrons, the likelihood of people addressing one another on unwanted behaviour increased. Within drinking venues and bars a clear overview of how staff is to respond to both consensual as well as non-consensual sexual interaction or contact at the venue needs to be created and implemented. According to Fileborn (2017), this will enlarge the probability of victims reporting such behaviour to bar personnel, creating a larger feeling of safety within the venue.

Methodology

Within this research the decision was made to make use of a mixed-method approach, consisting of a quantitative questionnaire and a qualitative nightlife diary, followed up by a semi-structured interview. This way, a general overview of to what extent sexual harassment occurs in the nightlife of Groningen gathered by quantitative data, could be followed up by a more personal approach and personal experiences regarding sexual harassment. Bringing the numbers to life, as behind each 'yes' reported on if sexual harassment occurred to them, a personal experience and story can be told. By writing down the personal experiences a voice is given to the otherwise 'flat' numbers, hopefully doing justice to the seriousness of the matter.

Study area

With a student population of 65.000 people, accounting for around 25 percent of the entire population, Groningen is a city that is shaped by its rich student life (CBS, 2022). Compared to other cities in the Netherlands, in 2018, Groningen ranked second in the highest percentage of student households within the municipality (CBS, 2018). The student population is a very diverse group of people, as Groningen is home to one (academic) university, one applied science university (HBO in Dutch), and multiple post-secondary vocational education (MBO in Dutch) locations.

The nightlife culture of Groningen is quite substantive and one of a kind. The high density of bars is mainly located in two streets within the city center, the Poelestraat and the Peperstraat, forming 'the heart' of the nightlife area in Groningen. In contrary to other countries and cities, there are only a few clubs who charge an entry fee, the rest of the bars you can walk in-and-out freely creating a 'bar hopping' atmosphere. The high density of bars in these two streets, combined with, especially during the weekend, a high number of people standing, chatting, and dancing outside in the streets makes for a very busy and crowded communal space. Another important notion on the nightlife culture of Groningen is that most bars are open seven days a week, and do not work with strictly set closing hours, they close their doors when most customers have gone home, whether this is at 2 AM or at 7 AM. In other cities in the Netherlands general closing hours are in place, often around 2 or 3 AM.

Quantitative research method

The quantitative data used has been gathered through primary data collection in the shape of an online questionnaire, created using Google forms, regarding sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen. An online questionnaire approach is useful when collecting data from a specific group within the population (Regmi et al, 2016), in the case of this study: students. A benefit of conducting an online questionnaire is that respondents can fill them in on their own time schedule, besides it leaves the opportunity for open text answers, increasing the amount of valuable data and insights that can be gathered (Regmi et al, 2016).

This questionnaire has been distributed among both current students as well as ex-students who live or have lived in Groningen during their studies, using the Social Media platform Instagram and WhatsApp group chats to distribute the questionnaire among the student demographic in Groningen. The online link to the questionnaire was first shared through the personal Instagram account of the researcher, multiple followers reposted the link to which the population that was reached increased. The questionnaire consisted of 21 questions, divided among six different sections. These six sections consist of, in chronological order: introductory demographics, group dynamic, perceived safety, (unwanted) sexual attention, sexual harassment, and general questions regarding Groningen as a nightlife city. Questions that could revive sensitive information of the respondent were not obligatory to fill in, if a respondent did not feel comfortable or capable of answering this question, they were free to skip the question. In the section where respondents were asked on their potential experiences regarding sexual harassment, the website for victim support Netherlands was mentioned and linked in case reading and answering these questions triggered memories on past events.

In order to ensure the confidentiality and anonymity of the respondents only the absolute necessary personal information was asked, such as age, whether they are enrolled as a student, and whether they reside in the city of Groningen. With this limited amount of personal information, it is not possible to identify the identity of the respondents, giving them the space to answer the questions without risk of it being referenced back to them.

Data instruments

In total, 61 respondents filled in the questionnaire, ranging between 18 and 26 years in age. In general, a minimum of 30 responses is needed to be able to make claims regarding validity (Burt et al, 2009). With 60 responses this minimum is being met, therefore, claims on validity and significance can be made in the quantitative data analysis. The data has been analysed using SPSS, running tests on the descriptive statistics as well as multiple linear regressions. A significance level of 95% was selected to measure the relation between the dependent and independent variables, described below.

For the regression analysis the following hypotheses have been formulated.

H0: In the population there is no relation between reported sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen and the perceived sense of safety.

H1: In the population there is a relation between reported sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen and the perceived sense of safety.

Variables

For the statistical analysis one dependent variable and two independent variables have been identified. The dependent variable within this analysis is 'have you ever experienced sexual harassment in a bar/nightlife setting'. The two independent variables have been identified as 'is there a difference in your perception of safety per day of the week' and 'is there a difference in your perception of safety per bar'. The first independent variable is a categorical variable where the respondents could choose between three different answers, being 'no', 'yes, Sunday until Thursday safer', or 'safer on Thursday'. 'Safer on Thursday' is a separate answer option as the Thursday in Groningen is considered the 'student night', a night where it is often quite crowded, but with almost exclusively students. This is a night that is often referenced to as one of the favourite nights of the week for students to go out in Groningen. The second independent variable is a binary variable, in which respondents could either answer 'yes', or 'no'.

Qualitative research method

Feminist ethnography is a form of ethnography which emerged from anthropology, a discipline that 'examines the lived experiences of a community "in its natural habitat"' (Ghosh, 2016). Ethnography seeks to understand "lived experiences" in all its specificities and attempts to give a voice to its subject by working together on the final report. It is different from the strict social science practice of third-person narrative, which is an aim of feminist research (Ghosh, 2016). By using an ethnographic approach to the qualitative data gathering a more personal story to the more anonymous quantitative data will be told.

Four participants, ranging from 18 to 25 years old, have conducted a 'nightlife diary', meaning they kept a photo, video, and audio diary during a night out in Groningen to capture the moments that marks the nightlife culture of Groningen. Whether this was a photograph of the Poelestraat, or a video of them dancing and singing in a bar, as long as it captured the night how they saw and experienced it (Amsden et al, 2010). The instructions given to the participants were short, capture the way you experience your night out in the way that feels most authentic and comfortable to you, whether this is through writing down notes on your phone or by video recording the night every step of the way. The only requirement was that they needed to conduct this nightlife diary in one night, not compose it over multiple nights out. A few days after the participants gathered their nightlife diary a follow-up semi-structured interview was conducted, to together talk about that specific night out, and their perception on the nightlife of Groningen in general. With whom were they there, which bars did they go to, how was the atmosphere in the city, did they have a fun night etcetera. The setup of a semi-structured interview was chosen as it would ensure that all the aspect of the research would be covered but would leave room available for other material that might be brought up by the participants, as well as leave room for the researcher to ask elaborative questions (McIntosh, Morse, 2015). The duration of the interviews ranged between 25 minutes and 38 minutes and were conducted at a location that felt comfortable for the interviewees. One interview was conducted at the researcher's home, one at the participant's home, the remaining two interviews were conducted over FaceTime due to them having moved to a different city in the Netherlands. It was of great importance that the participants felt comfortable at the location of their interview as several questions regarding their own experiences with unwanted sexual attention and sexual harassment were asked, which could potentially be triggering. The nightlife diary was brought up after the introductory questions, to help them remember this

specific night out (Johansson et al, 2002) and to ease the way into the questions regarding their own potential experiences with unwanted sexual attention and/or sexual harassment.

The research participants were gathered through a convenience sampling strategy, meaning the research participants were included in the study as they were members of the target population that met certain practical criteria (Etikan et al, 2016). The practical criteria being that all four of the research participants are either friends or acquaintances of the researcher, are/were all students in Groningen, and their willingness to participate in the study. Due to them knowing the researcher on a personal level the likelihood of them feeling comfortable enough to share and openly talk about their experiences in the nightlife of Groningen increased. The participants were first contacted mid-April with the question if they were willing to participate in the study, four to five weeks before the interviews took place in order to give them time to consider their participation. Participants were allowed to withdraw their participation at any time, which two participants did. One due to a concussion, the other due to not having enough time to conduct the nightlife diary. These participants were replaced with two other participants, who immediately agreed to partake in the study. Before the interview took place the four respondents signed an information sheet and informed consent sheet, in which they stated they were well informed on the study and consented to their interview being audio recorded. A signed copy of the consent forms can be found in the appendix.

The semi-structured interviews have been recorded, in order to be transcribed and coded using the qualitative data analysis software Atlas.ti. Six different folders consisting of multiple codes have been developed in order to analyse the interview transcripts. The six different folders were assigned as follows: Demographics, Relationship influence, Nightlife specifics, Nightlife diary, Sexual harassment, and Policies. Within the folder of the nightlife specifics codes such as 'preferred night of the week', 'least favourite night of the week', 'favourite bar', and 'least favourite bar' were assigned. Within the folder of sexual harassment codes such as 'personal experiences of sexual harassment', 'reaction to sexual harassment', 'instance of sexual harassment that stayed with you', and 'witnessed sexual harassment by others' were assigned. Based on these codes themes that frequently reoccurred, such as covid, and the nightlife etiquette, could be identified.

Qualitative writing method

The qualitative analysis has been written in both a narrative voice as well as an analytical voice, to enlighten the ethnographic approach to the qualitative data, as inspired by Johnson and Samdahl (2005). The narrative voice is inspired on both personal experiences of the researcher as well as personal experiences of the four nightlife participants and is meant to give a more personal note to the impact and emotions sexual harassment can cause. This style of qualitative writing blends the boundaries of social sciences and humanities, and 'breaks down the wall' between social science and literature (Ellis, Bochner, 1996). Inspiration for the qualitative analysis were drawn from two autoethnographic papers by Payne (1996) and Tillman-Healy (1996), in which they switched between autobiographical literature writing and academic writing, connecting their personal experiences to the literature.

The qualitative analysis is divided into six different themes, which appeared to be the main re-occurring themes in the interviews. Within two themes a narrative, autoethnographic, voice has been written in italics which came forward after listening to the experiences of the nightlife diary participants combined with personal experiences of the researcher. Together they portray the effect and feelings that can occur during and after your boundaries are disrespected in the case of sexual harassment.

Ethics

This study is conducted on a very sensitive topic, sexual harassment, meaning that the safety of the participants needs to be taken into consideration to ensure that the data shared by the participants remains anonymous and could not be directed back to them. In the case of the quantitative questionnaire, only the demographics such as age, gender, sexual orientation and whether or not they are currently a student is being asked. This data is necessary for the analysis but ensures the participants that their identity cannot be traced back to them on an individual level, their full anonymity can therefore be guaranteed. The data retrieved from the questionnaire is stored in Google Forms, SPSS and on the personal computer of the researcher, after the research has been concluded the data will be deleted from all locations.

Ensuring the research ethics are being met in the qualitative data analysis is a bit more complex as it consists of multiple aspects. The collaboration of the nightlife diary participants is on a completely volunteer basis, meaning that the participants could withdraw their participation at any time during the research. Each participant has been asked to sign an information and consent form, ensuring that they are aware of the context of the research and what the audio recording of the semi-structured interview will be used for. This audio recording is only accessible to the researcher and will be deleted after the research has been concluded. The Atlas.ti file consisting of the transcripts and codes of the nightlife diary interviews is only accessible to the researcher and will be deleted after the research has been concluded as well, to ensure the personal information that was shared to remain anonymous and cannot be traced back to the nightlife diary participants. Regarding the nightlife diary, photo, video, and audio material of the night out will only be stored on the participant's phones, these materials have only been shown to the researcher during the follow-up interview to help recall and discuss the night out. As other individuals might be identifiable on these recorded materials, the researcher will not have further access to these materials, nor will they be implemented in the written results of the research. After the research has been concluded the participants will be asked to delete the recorded materials of their night out.

Results

Quantitative results

Characteristics of the respondents

In the first two sections of the questionnaire characteristics of the respondents were gathered, to be able to understand the demographics of the sample. 61 respondents filled in the questionnaire regarding sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen, of these respondents 47 identified as female, whereas the other 14 respondents identified as male. With 61 respondents of which 77% identifies as female, the questionnaire gives a skewed insight into the experiences on sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen, as it leaves out a large part of the 65.000 students and a high percentage of the other genders. However, it still portrays an insight into the perceived safety of students and their experiences regarding sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen and is in line with the literature which focus is primarily on the experiences of women regarding sexual harassment and violence.

Of the respondents 75,4% are currently enrolled as students, indicating that the remaining 24,6% either has finished their studies, stopped their studies, or has not (yet) started their studies. A very large majority, 80,3%, of the respondents are currently living in the city of Groningen, as such they do not have to travel far to partake in the local nightlife. The remaining group who is currently not living within the borders of the city of Groningen is subjected to a larger travel time to partake in the local nightlife, as it is unknown what their current place of residence is, no claims can be made on the amount of travel time that needs to be conducted in order to partake in the nightlife of Groningen. The mean age of students in the Netherlands

in 2022 was 22,6 years (Landelijke Monitor Studentenhuisvesting, 2022), the mean age of the respondents of the questionnaire lay a bit lower at 21,92 years old.

Data analysis

The third section of the questionnaire focused on the perception of safety of students participating in the nightlife, both their perception of safety during the different days of the week and their perception of safety per bar in the nightlife area of Groningen. Slightly over half of the respondents (31 vs 30) found that there was a difference in their perception of safety regarding the day of the week, of those 31 respondents who indicated a difference 2 stated that the Thursday felt the safest, the remaining 29 respondents indicated that it felt safer on Sunday until Thursday, stating that they perceived the weekend, Friday, and Saturday, as unsafer. However, slightly less than half of the respondents indicated that their perceived safety on a night out remained the same, regardless of the day of the week. Of the 31 respondents who stated that their perceived safety differs per day of the week 24 identified as female, whereas 7 identified as male. This is similar to the 30 respondents who stated that their perceived safety does not differ per day of the week, to which 23 respondents identified as female and 7 identified as male. Suggesting there is no gender component to whether or not people their perceived safety differs per day of the week.

Within the questionnaire the respondents were asked as well to their perception of safety regarding the bars in the nightlife area, whether or not there was a difference and if so, which bars felt unsafer. 35 respondents, or 57,4%, indicated that they perceived a change in their safety depending on which bar they would be at, the remaining 26 respondents indicated no change in their perceived safety depending on which bars they would go to. Of the respondents 61,7% of the females indicated that there is a difference in their perception of safety per bar, 38,3% of the females indicated that there is no difference in their perception of safety per bar. These results were rather interesting, as 55 respondents also responded with at which particular bars they felt unsafer, two of those bars which are mostly exclusively visited by the student population, especially throughout the weekdays, were named quite frequently, both making up about 10% of the responses. Three other bars which were frequented in 16%, 14%, and 10% of the responses are bars that are visited less by the student population, and which have been associated with illegal activities on numerous occasions.

In the fourth and fifth section of the questionnaire the focus lay on whether or not respondents had ever experienced a form of sexual harassment within the nightlife of Groningen and whether or not they had ever reported this behaviour to bar personnel or security. 45 respondents, or 73,8%, indicated that they have on at least once occasion experienced sexual harassment within the nightlife of Groningen, of these 45 respondents, 39 identified as female and 6 identified as male, all but 8 of these 45 respondents had experienced sexual harassment at least one time within the last six months. Respondents had the opportunity to elaborate on their experiences with sexual harassment if they felt comfortable doing so, 38 respondents made use of this space, the most occurring form of sexual harassment was getting groped, the unwanted touching of females their bum and/or breast. On multiple occasions the respondent added to this experience that this was not that violent or serious and that it had become a common occurrence they almost gotten used to. Other frequent comments relating unwanted sexual comments were that the perpetrator did not stop after the respondent indicated that this behaviour was not tolerated, in a few cases the respondents were followed and kissed against their will. Of the 45 respondents who indicated to have experienced sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen, 29 have never reported their perpetrator to bar personnel or security, which is almost 60% of the respondents. When asked why they did not report this behaviour one respondent answered she rather try to ignore it or go to a different bar.

In the second and fifth section of the questionnaire respondents were asked whether or not they take preventative measures when going out, such as sending a text message when they

get home, have pre-arranged hand gestures with friends, eye contact and/or shielding their drinks. Out of the 61 respondents only 4 answered that they do not take any kind of preventative measures during their night out, meaning 93,5% of the respondents takes at least one kind of preventative measure, with the most answered being sending a text message once they got home safely. Two respondents even took more 'drastic' measures, by walking home with their keys between their knuckles and/or carrying a small alarm device which is connected to emergency contacts and in some cases the emergency call centre.

Statistical analysis

For the statistical analysis the quantitative data analysis program SPSS.29 was used to conduct the multiple linear regression test. This test was chosen to predict whether or not there is a relation between having experienced sexual harassment in a nightlife setting and ones perceived safety during different weekdays and bars. The dependent variable in this case was ascribed to 'having experienced sexual harassment in a nightlife setting', the independent variables being 'is there a difference in your perception of safety per day of the week' and 'is there a difference in your perception of safety per bar'. The first independent variable is a categorical variable where the respondents could choose between three different answers, being 'no', 'yes, Sunday until Thursday safer', or 'safer on Thursday'. The second independent variable is a binary variable, in which respondents could either answer 'yes', or 'no'.

Below in figure 1, the ANOVA, and in figure 2, the Coefficient, table showcase the results of the linear regression analysis. With a significance of 0.005 the ANOVA test is significant, indicating that there is a relation between experiencing sexual harassment in a nightlife setting and their perception of safety regarding the day of the week and bar. In figure 2 can be seen how both independent variables show a significant result, with a significance for 'is there a difference in your perception of safety per bar' of 0.013 and a significance for 'is there a difference in your perception of safety per day of the week' of 0.032. Indicating that, with a significance level of 95%, not only together, but separately as well, there is a relation between experiencing sexual harassment in a nightlife setting and the perception of safety per day of the week and per bar.

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1.987	2	.993	5.870	.005 ^b
	Residual	9.816	58	.169		
	Total	11.803	60			

a. Dependent Variable: Ever experienced SH in a bar?

b. Predictors: (Constant), Is er een verschil in jouw gevoel van veiligheid per dag van de week?

Is there a difference in your perception of safety per day of the week? , Verschil in veiligheid per kroeg ja/nee

Figure 1: ANOVA-analysis

Coefficients ^a								
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.	95,0% Confidence Interval for B Lower Bound Upper Bound	
1	(Constant)	.630	.232		2.713	.009	.165	1.095
	Vershil in veiligheid per kroeg ja/nee	.273	.107	.307	2.563	.013	.060	.486
	Is er een verschil in jouw gevoel van veiligheid per dag van de week?	-.207	.094	-.263	-2.195	.032	-.396	-.018
	Is there a difference in your perception of safety per day of the week?							

a. Dependent Variable: Ever experienced SH in a bar?

Figure 2: Regression analysis

Qualitative results

Understanding the nightlife etiquette.

The nightlife of the city of Groningen is very vibrant, one where especially during the weekend, Friday and Saturday night, the students, and the people from outside of the city of Groningen come together to participate in the nightlife scene. Resulting in the nightlife area being rather crowded and busy, especially compared to the weekdays, from Monday till Thursday. The four interviewees, all, or until recently, students in Groningen, indicated that they prefer Wednesday and Thursday over Friday and Saturday to go to the bars due to the bars being too crowded and a large sum of people from outside the city being present and putting their stamp on the evening. It alters the balance of the nightlife crowd, which is noticeable in how people interact with each other.

“For them (the people from outside the city) it really is more of an happening to go out. So, they go all the way, feeling like it is some sort of an ‘escape’, everything is possible, everything is allowed, it really is like a weekend away. And this translates into their behaviour.” (Participant, 25 years old)

During the weekend people who live in the villages surrounding Groningen travel to the city to get some drinks and to visit the bars. As the quote above indicates, it often shows that they are not frequent visitors of the nightlife of Groningen, which translates into their knowledge on the nightlife etiquette, on how to behave. When getting intoxicated their behaviour is more likely to become antisocial, resulting in pushing people around, responding agitated, and pressing a stamp on the atmosphere of the nightlife. It is not that students do not partake in this kind of antisocial behaviour, as this type of behaviour is present at every night of the week, however, according to the interviewees, students are more used to being intoxicated and are more aware of the etiquette of the nightlife, resulting in a different atmosphere during the weekdays. The combination of this antisocial behaviour combined with the crowdedness of the nightlife during the Friday and Saturday night, it is not unlikely that (verbal) confrontations take place during these nights.

“It is more that whenever I am in a bar on a Saturday evening, it is often very crowded. And I love to just dance around and have fun in a bar, whenever there is no space to do this, I dislike it.” (Participant, 22 years old)

Sexual Harassment in the nightlife of Groningen

Whenever I am going out with friends of mine, it has almost become a normal occurrence that at least two set of hands touch my butt, which is pretty disturbing. Drunk people do stupid stuff, but it should not be, it is not an excuse. The fact that this behaviour is kind of normalised, and I am not surprised anymore when it happens, saddens me. It makes me feel both enraged and

tired. How hard is it to just behave yourselves and keep your hands to yourselves, or just ask, it is just so unnecessary. Some nights it makes me want to ignore it and to just go to a different bar with my friends, other nights it makes me feel really angry. The feeling that somebody feels entitled to blatantly cross my boundaries and feels like they are entitled to touch my body as if it were theirs to take, it makes me feel dirty. It enrages me, makes my adrenaline go up. High in this adrenaline I chose to respond to this person, in the case I can identify them, rather than to walk away. One time I flipped someone off in my immediate response, which shook me even more than it did the other person. Other times I just tell them directly what my feelings are on the matter, and I get angry at them, tell them to stop touching me, to which I often just get a shoulder shrug, or an "It is not that big of a deal, calm down".

Sexual harassment is prevalent in the nightlife of Groningen, one of the interviewees suspected that every woman participating in the nightlife has at least experienced some form of sexual harassment once in her life, ranging from verbal harassment to being unwillingly touched at her body. As noted above, this kind of behaviour has become normalised to a certain extent, where one being touched at their butt or breast is not seen as that 'serious' or shocking, with some people even downplaying their experiencing saying they were 'lucky' that was all they had experienced.

"One time that really stuck with me was in the Negende Cirkel, I was there with some friends and had my jacket tied around my waist. The jacket covered my butt, in my eyes there is nothing sexual about that. And a guy thought it was necessary to put his hand under my jacket and very firmly grab my butt. I was perplexed, because why would you do that? Go to the trouble of putting your hands under my jacket, I don't know, it just really stuck with me." (Participant, 22 years old)

Covid and the nightlife etiquette.

I already had my eyes on him, something in his body language told me that he was at a point of being intoxicated where he could not control himself anymore, so I put my guard up. The fact that my friend just told me he had grabbed her breast without her consent only acknowledged this further. A little while later he comes up behind me, puts his hands on my hips and tries to drag me into him, I manage to shake myself loose of his grip, give him an angry look and walk away. I do not want to deal with this right now, hopefully distancing myself from him will be enough, something he apparently does not agree with as he comes up to me again and pulls me into a tight hug, resting his hands on my hips. I push him away, hard, yelling at him that he cannot just do that, that he cannot just grab me like that. Apparently, he does not register this as he tries to touch my arm again, completely ignoring my boundaries, again. I try to walk away from him, scanning the room if I see any of my friends nearby who could intervene when he comes up in front of me. Within a split-second I register his left hand on the side of my face, while he rests his other hand on my lower back, I look up and see he is about to kiss me. Quickly I move my head to the side to avoid his lips and push him away, fuelling my anger, he did not just try to kiss me, how could he actually think that is an okay thing to do? Besides, why is he still inside the bar? How has nobody kicked him out yet? I look around and see someone who works at the bar, "please kick this guy out of the bar right now, he has grabbed my friend's breast and has not only felt me up, he also just tried to kiss her. He seriously needs to be kicked out, or else this will escalate further". The answer I get? "I can't do anything about it, I need at least two complaints on him before I can kick him out."

Due to the 1.5-meter distance rule during Covid the nightlife of Groningen came to a stop, bars had to close their doors. Once these restrictions were lifted and bars could reopen their doors again, the etiquette on how to behave had 'not been taught to the younger generation and temporarily 'forgotten' by the others'. Resulting in a period where, according to one of the interviewees, it became 'free for all'. In this period after the Covid restrictions were lifted, sexual harassment occurred more often to the interviewees, one interviewee was even grabbed by

her butt three times in one single night. "It felt like they had forgotten the rules, people had become harder and did whatever they desired, not taking others into account anymore" (Participant, 25 years old).

Sexual Harassment targeting queer people.

Sexual harassment against queer people is something that occurs in the nightlife of Groningen, alongside 'heterosexual' sexual harassment. One of the interviewees identifies as queer, when she and her girlfriend go out together, they are subjected to a lot of comments, people standing near them, people trying to join or even touching them, most often these are heterosexual males. Asking where she thinks this harassment comes from, she thinks the strong sexualisation of two females together among heterosexual males definitely plays a role. In the last couple of years however, the amount of harassment she and her girlfriend experienced in the nightlife of Groningen has decreased. The realisation of how often she experiences harassment due to her being queer became apparent when she went to a queer nightlife establishment, here the atmosphere is more inclusive, everybody is welcome and consent and personal boundaries are highly respected, people will only touch you when you have consented to this instead of these boundaries being crossed in the 'regular' nightlife establishments.

"They make a lot of comments, or they move in closer and start howling at me and my girlfriend. One time a guy even wanted to join, he just came up to us and tried to kiss us while we were kissing each other." (Participant, 25 years old)

Reporting sexual harassment

The nightlife establishments in Groningen currently do not have a clear policy together regarding the number of warnings needed in order to kick someone out of the establishment, some venues do have individual policies but a cohesive policy for the entire nightlife sector has not been composed yet. This lack of clarity became apparent in the interviews, where none of the interviewees knew whether or not bars worked with policies regarding sexual harassment, often leading to them barely reporting this behaviour to bar personnel or security. In most cases they would either try to ignore the person responsible for this behaviour, try to handle it themselves, or go to a different bar.

"I just do not like the hassle of reporting someone, especially when, which is an advantage of the nightlife of Groningen, another bar is located 20 meters away which is just as fun." (Participant, 22 years old).

In certain bars interviewees had experienced that multiple complaints were necessary in order to remove someone from the bar, one complaint they were told was not enough to get someone removed. When the interviewees were asked on their opinion on this, their reactions differed, on the one hand they found it understandable, as it is unwanted if someone were to be removed from the bar without proper reason, on the other hand they disagree, as one person experiencing sexual harassment and feeling unsafe should be reason enough to have someone removed. Besides, before someone reports this type of behaviour to bar personnel or security it has often occurred for quite some time, meaning the reporting was not on a stand-alone incident. When making the decision to report the sexual harassment to bar personnel, especially in larger establishments, you often have to wait in line to report it, which can feel as if it might not be worth the time and energy, feeling as if it is easier to relocate to a different bar and ignore the situation.

"I have never reported this behaviour to bar personnel when it happened to me, only when it happened to friends of mine. I actually do not know why; I think I might be too busy processing what has just happened to report it." (Participant, 25 years old)

Policy suggestions

As described above, the nightlife of Groningen currently lacks one clear comprehensive policy regarding how personnel should respond to sexual harassment, after how many strikes one should be removed from the establishment. By designing and implementing one clear policy all stakeholders involved will know what to expect, bar personnel will know how to handle complaints, and nightlife participants will know how their complaint will be processed. However, in order for such a policy to be effective, the message of this policy has to be widely spread and become known under the wider public. One of the interviewees suggested to put up posters in the bathrooms of the nightlife establishments, explaining the policy and what actions they can take regarding reporting unwanted behaviour. Currently these poster spots are mostly used for advertisement, however they could be used to serve as an educational purpose. An 18-year-old participant mentioned to set up a social media campaign, in order to reach the nightlife participant demographics with posts on Instagram and TikTok. However, as a 25-year-old mentioned, due to the strong algorithm on Instagram and TikTok, there is a possibility that the message will only reach those demographics who are already very much aware of the policy and the occurrence of sexual harassment within the nightlife of Groningen and will lack to reach those groups who are unaware of the policies and are most in need of this information.

This kind of behaviour, of unwanted comments and touching, is not only prevalent in the nightlife setting, but it occurs in all aspects of society; the nightlife setting is 'just' a place where it becomes more evident. Making the nightlife setting a perfect place to get people to address unwanted (sexual) behaviour when they see it, call out their friends on their behaviour and keep the conversation on this matter alive.

"I mean, it comes down to sexism. And I think it will really help to address unwanted (sexual) behaviour if you see it, however it is a society wide problem, one that will remain for a couple of generations." (Participant, 22 years old)

Policies and regulations to decrease the amount of sexual harassment happening in the nightlife of Groningen is needed, and when implemented correctly will have a high chance of decreasing the amount of sexual harassment. However, as stated before, it is not only prevalent in the nightlife setting, it is a societal wide issue, one which already starts at the upbringing of the new generations, and according to the interviewees will take a couple of generations to adjust to. In the meantime, policy regulations and becoming aware of the issue will already play a role in reducing the amount of sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen.

Discussion

Difference night of the week

Within both the questionnaire as well as the conducted interviews the question was raised whether or not students felt safer or unsafer at certain days of the week, to which the 'verdict' was 50/50, around half of the respondents felt unsafer during the Friday and predominantly Saturday night, the other half did not sense a change in safety. However, all reported that during the Friday and Saturday the bars were more crowded, especially with people from outside of the city of Groningen, the nightlife tourist. Which, as said by an interviewee, are not as aware of the nightlife etiquette and how to behave themselves in the nightlife space. This is in line with Nofre (2020) who claimed that these nightlife tourists do not respect the local norms and etiquette of the nightlife scene, resulting in the displacement of local nightlife partakers to other areas of the city, or in the case of Groningen, to other nights of the week, predominantly the Wednesday and Thursday night.

Occurrence of sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen

73,8% of the questionnaire respondents reported to have experienced sexual harassment at least once in the nightlife of Groningen, under just the female respondents this number lays even higher at 83%. On multiple occasions the respondent added to their experience with sexual harassment that luckily, they never experienced any 'serious' sexual harassment, 'just' people grabbing their butt, which had become such a common occurrence they almost had gotten used to it. Which is in line with Mellgren et al (2018) their findings, stating that sexual harassment has become so common that even the women who have become subjected to it have normalised it. Looking into the literature to why this type of behaviour has become so normalised, the sociocultural model in which sexual harassment originated from the patriarchal society becomes evident (Rospenda, Richman, & Nawyn, 1998). This dominant position of the men over the women originated from the patriarchal society translates into Sue's (2010) gender related microaggression, where small subtle actions, such as a man placing his hand on the lower back or hip of a woman when passing by in a bar, can have a harmful impact on her. Resulting in an imbalance in power and status between this man and woman, with the man having the power and the woman having to subordinate to this power (Mellgren et al, 2018) (Seidman, 2009).

Response to sexual harassment

60% of the questionnaire respondents who had experienced sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen had never reported this to bar personnel or security, which is a very high number. Reasons for not reporting this behaviour differ, some respondents do not like the hassle of reporting someone, it puts a stamp on the evening, and they rather just forget it, especially since there are so many bars in close proximity of each other in Groningen. Another reason for not reporting this behaviour is that a clear policy regarding the reporting of sexual harassment is lacking in most venues, creating confusion among both personnel as well as nightlife participants, resulting in a large number of people refraining from reporting this behaviour. Which is in line with the study of Graham et al (2014).

Even though the sexual harassment is often not reported to bar personnel or security does not mean it does not affect those subjected to it, in both the questionnaire and the interview it became prevalent that it puts a negative stamp on the evening. Depending on the severity of the harassment, the respondents answered they could either shake it off easily and go on with their night to feeling so hurt and angry that their boundaries were disrespected that they rather would go home. Relating to the study of Mellgren et al (2018) in which women who experienced sexual harassment describe a feeling of degradation, disrespect, and disappointment after it occurred.

Proposed policies

In order to decrease the amount of sexual harassment in the nightlife of Groningen policies need to be implemented. In line with Fileborn (2017) these proposed policies can be divided into a three-stage prevention strategy. Starting with the primary prevention, focussing on preventing the act of sexual harassment to take place at all. In multiple interviews it came forward that the sexual harassment can be connected to sexism, which is still prevalent within society, in order to prevent sexual harassment from taking place at all sexism in society needs to be addressed. Unfortunately, sexism is still so strongly embedded into society, it will take multiple generations to alter this way of thinking, if it is even possible to alter this completely. The conversation on reducing sexism needs to be kept alive, and this type of behaviour needs to be addressed when seen, hopefully this will generate an impact. Secondary prevention is focused on targeting the groups 'at risk', by supplying information on what one can do or how to react when experiencing sexual harassment, increasing the knowledge on the matter. Besides, more information needs to be shared with the 'perpetrators', by switching the focus from how victims can prevent it from happening to them towards how perpetrators can prevent

conducting this behaviour. Multiple interviewees opted for a Social Media campaign, focussing on what falls under sexual harassment, and what kind of impact this can have on somebody. Awareness on the matter is the first step in reducing this behaviour. Finally, tertiary prevention is needed to address the sexual harassment after it has occurred, as it became prevalent in both the questionnaire and the interviews, there is a need for one clear comprehensive policy for all the nightlife venues of Groningen on how to respond to sexual harassment. For both the bar personnel and security, to have one clear policy on how to react to sexual harassment, but for everyone partaking in the nightlife as well, such a policy enables everyone involved to know the steps towards evicting someone from the bar. For example, two persons need to report somebody to bar personnel, after the second notification the person will be evicted from the bar, creating clarity and transparency for everyone involved.

Conclusion

The aim of this research was to identify to what extent sexual harassment is present in the nightlife of Groningen and whether this affects the perception of safety among students. In order to answer this research question three sub-questions were formulated, the first focussing on identifying the extent to which sexual harassment is present in the nightlife of Groningen, the second focussing on whether or not there is a difference in students their perception of safety of the nightlife regarding the day of the week or nightlife venue, and finally the third focussing on what kind of policies could, according to students, be implemented within the nightlife of Groningen to make it a safer space for students.

From the 61 respondents of the questionnaire 73,8% reported to have experienced sexual harassment at least once in the nightlife of Groningen and under just the female respondents this number is even higher at 83%. Even though the questionnaire is not representative for the entire student population, it does give an insight in how sexual harassment is frequently occurring within the nightlife of Groningen. Regarding the perception of safety of students within the nightlife the responses are very divided, half of the respondents indicate that they feel unsafer during the Friday and Saturday night, the other half of the respondents does not experience a change in safety regarding the day of the week. However, they all indicate that during the Friday and Saturday night the atmosphere is different, as more nightlife tourist are present whom do not always apprehend to the nightlife etiquette, resulting in the students rather avoiding these two nights.

One clear comprehensive policy for all the nightlife venues in Groningen on how to respond to sexual harassment would be highly appreciated among the students who partook in the questionnaire and nightlife diary. Currently it remains unclear for students what is needed to get someone evicted from the bar, and how their complaint will be handled. By creating a comprehensive policy, transparency will be given to all actors involved, from the bar personnel and security to those partaking in the nightlife, uncertainty regarding the reporting of sexual harassment will be removed.

Further research should be conducted on the development of such a policy, by involving both the bar owners as well as the municipality in the research process. Working together on further identifying the issue at hand, and the needs and wants of the bar owners and municipality, to in the end resulting in the writing of a clear comprehensive policy on how to respond to sexual harassment within the nightlife of Groningen.

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Appendix

Interview guide: Nightlife Diary participants

Date: ...



university of
 groningen

Interviewer: Jikke Halsema

Interviewee:

Instructions for the interviewer:

- Use audiotape on a mobile phone and laptop to be secure of having the audio after the interview.
- Make sure that the information letters are read, and the consent form is signed before the interview takes place.
- Note the time directly before asking the first question and after finishing the interview.
- Be well prepared to conduct the interview. Read up on information that can be used for the interview.
- Begin the interview by introducing the interview and subject for research.

I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me today. The interview should take approximately 30 minutes. Do you have any questions about the subject already or the research before we start?

Current time:

Start audio recording!

Opening questions

1. Demographics:
 - a. What is your name?
 - b. What is your age?
 - c. What study are you currently enrolled in?
 - d. In which year of your study are you?
2. Are you in a (romantic) relationship at the moment?
 - a. Yes/No, has this altered the way you behave on a night out?
(Change in body language?)
3. On which nights of the week do you typically go out?
 - a. Do you notice a difference in your sense of safety per day of the week?
 - b. Do you notice a difference in your sense of safety per bar?
4. When going out, do you ever approach someone you are interested in?

- a. What 'clues' do you look for before approaching someone? (Body language, conversation, dancing etc)
- b. In the questionnaire eye contact was mentioned as very important, is this important for you as well?

Key-questions, Nightlife Diary

5. For the nightlife diary you have captured a night out. Can you talk me through this night?
 - a. Which day of the week did you go out?
 - b. With whom did you go out?
 - i. Do you go out in this composition more often?
 - c. Which bars did you went to?
 - i. Are these your 'typical' bars?
 - d. During what time period did you go out?
 - e. How was the atmosphere in the city center? Was it a pleasant and fun night?
 - f. Did any less pleasant events occur?

Key questions, Sexual Harassment

6. Looking at the nightlife and going out in general, did you ever experience any unpleasant situations? /Sexual unwanted attention/sexual harassment
 - a. Or did you ever saw it occur to someone else?
 - b. In case yes, did you step in?
7. In case you experienced unwanted sexual attention:
 - a. How did this make you feel?
 - b. Which situations has stayed with you the most?
 - c. Why did this situation stay with you?
8. Did you undertake action towards this person or report it to bar personnel/security?
 - a. 60% of the respondents of the questionnaire report that they do not report it to bar personnel, how do you think we can decrease this number?
9. Do you have signals or agreements with your friends if someone is need of help?
 - a. Did you ever have to use these signal yourselves/your friends?

Closing questions

10. What do you think bars/security/nightlife participants can do to reduce this kind of behaviour or penalize it more severely?
11. Do you have any closing remarks or questions?

Consent form

Sexual Harassment among students within the nightlife of Groningen

Dear,

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research. This letter explains what the research entails and how the research will be conducted. Please take time to read the following information carefully. If any information is not clear kindly ask questions using the contact details of the researchers provided at the end of this letter.

What is this study about?

- This study focuses on identifying the extent to which sexual harassment occurs among students in the nightlife of Groningen and what kind of effect this might have on the sense of safety among these students. By conducting a 'nightlife diary', you are being asked to gather photo, video, and audio material of your night out in Groningen, to help portray your typical night out. Afterwards during an interview this night out will be analysed, and some additional questions will be asked. With this data a more personal note will be added to the answers and the analysis of the questionnaire data.

What does participation involve?

- Participation involves gathering photo, audio, and video materials (nightlife diary) during a night out in Groningen. Afterwards an interview of approximately 30 minutes will take place.

Do you have to participate?

- Participating in this study is on complete volunteer basis, you are not obligated to participate. At any given time, you can withdraw your participation from the study, and/or choose not to answer certain questions during the interview without having to provide reason.

Are there any benefits to participating?

- There are no direct benefits to participating, but the research may contribute to further knowledge on sexual harassment within a nightlife setting.

How will information you provide be recorded, stored, and protected?

- The data gathered during the nightlife diary will remain on your phone, this data will not be shared directly with the researcher, besides during the interview.
- The interview will be audio recorded, and stored on the phone of the researcher, during the study only the researcher will have access to this audio file. After the study has been concluded, this audio file will be deleted.

What will happen to the results of the study?

- The data from the nightlife diary and the interview will be used in the study, which, once concluded, will only be published on the RUG server.

Ethical approval

- This research study has obtained ethical approval from the Campus Fryslân Ethics Committee. The researcher of this study will uphold themselves to relevant ethical standards.

**In case of any further questions, please contact the researcher at:
j.halsema@student.rug.nl**