Project Summary:

Aims:
This project aims to advance our understanding of the relationship between music, place, and space by analysing audio memories of ageing ravers. The Lapsed Clubber Audio Map (https://www.mdmarchive.co.uk/map/the-lapsed-clubber-audio-map) was launched in June 2018. Since then, several hundred audio memories have been recorded onto the map. The project explores and analyses these memories with regard to their commonalities and differences by identifying recurring themes as well as unique, place-based phenomena.

Objectives:
- Online training for Nvivo (provided for free by MMY through Lynda.com) to conduct computer-assisted qualitative data analysis
- Transcribing, cataloguing and analysing (part of) a data set consisting of 600 audio memories
- Conducting a literature search on existing research (maps, memories, rave culture, Manchester)
- Presenting findings in a format that informs a publication

Outcomes:
The project is part of the wider Lapsed Clubber Project. It will complement the analysis of an online survey (currently under review at the Journal of Leisure Sciences), by feeding into another publication (to be submitted to Popular Music and Society) and at least one conference presentation (annual conference of the British Sociological Association). The presentation and publication will first identify and then explore themes relating to life course events, values, community and identity.

What will the Scholar do?

Overview of key weekly tasks

Tasks for Week 1:
- Research team meeting to outline aims and objectives of project
- Transcription of 300 audio memories
- Co-production of cataloguing measures for audio memories
- Cataloguing audio memories (manual)

Tasks for Week 2:
- Research team meeting to discuss data set and aims of exploration
- Software training for computer-assisted qualitative data analysis (Nvivo) – online course
- Data analysis: install software, import data set
- Preliminary descriptive analysis of data (in collaboration with lead researcher)
- Formulating research questions/hypothesis
Undergraduate Research Scholarship

Tasks for Week 3:
- Research team meeting to discuss the creation of nodes and cases (containers for coding by theme or topic) – proposed by student researcher
- Literature search to identify existing research (memory research, Manchester, maps)
- Data analysis: Creating nodes and cases (geography and tags)

Tasks for Week 4:
- Research team meeting to monitor and reflect on data analysis (to date) and to discuss findings from literature search
- Data Analysis: nodes and cases – new themes and topics arising from analysis; child nodes – proposed by student researcher

Tasks for Week 5:
- Research team meeting to reflect on learning and skills development for future projects/dissertation/PG study
- Completion of preliminary data analysis
- Preparation of student report, blog post and poster
- Training by lead researcher in how to interpret, report and present qualitative data
- Concluding meeting

Skills required by the Scholarship holder:

Essential:
- Knowledge of club culture and Manchester as a place for music
- Excellent time management skills
- Ability to work independently
- Willingness to undertake online training as well as face to face training
- Ability to order information/data according to specific criteria

Desirable:
- Knowledge of the history of rave culture in Britain/Greater Manchester
- Knowledge of computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software

How will your project benefit the Scholarship holder and your research?

The scholarship is an excellent opportunity for a second year student to

(1) have direct involvement in an ongoing research project – The Lapsed Clubber Project. You will be supported in your personal and professional development through training, discussions, feedback and reflections.
(2) learn and apply new ways of cataloguing and analysing original data. Your work will inform other scholars’ work.
(3) receive training and gain experience in the use of Nvivo (Computer-assisted qualitative analysis), which might help you to conduct your own independent research (data collection and analysis) in your final year.
(4) receiving personal, tailored guidance on how to further develop your research skills, which will prepare you for conducting independent research in your final year.
(5) experience the process of conducting empirical research and gain an insight into what postgraduate study and an academic career might involve.
(6) learn how to present qualitative data and relate the results to existing research, which should help you with your literature review in your final year project.
(7) learn to interpret qualitative data and propose further studies/research/your final year project.