

Rodway-Swanson, Sarah and Youngson, Annabel ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1482-0029> (2023) Occupational marginalisation in everyday life from fear of gender-based violence. In: Occupational Science Europe (OSE) 2023 Conference: Situated Occupation and Everyday Life, Towards Environmental, Economic, Social Inclusiveness and Sustainability, 24-26 August 2023, Odense, Denmark. (Unpublished)

Downloaded from: <http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/7375/>

Usage of any items from the University of Cumbria's institutional repository 'Insight' must conform to the following fair usage guidelines.

Any item and its associated metadata held in the University of Cumbria's institutional repository Insight (unless stated otherwise on the metadata record) may be copied, displayed or performed, and stored in line with the JISC fair dealing guidelines (available [here](#)) for educational and not-for-profit activities

provided that

- the authors, title and full bibliographic details of the item are cited clearly when any part of the work is referred to verbally or in the written form
 - a hyperlink/URL to the original Insight record of that item is included in any citations of the work
- the content is not changed in any way
- all files required for usage of the item are kept together with the main item file.

You may not

- sell any part of an item
- refer to any part of an item without citation
- amend any item or contextualise it in a way that will impugn the creator's reputation
- remove or alter the copyright statement on an item.

The full policy can be found [here](#).

Alternatively contact the University of Cumbria Repository Editor by emailing insight@cumbria.ac.uk.

Occupational marginalisation in everyday life from fear of gender-based violence.

Sarah Rodway-Swanson
and Annabel Youngson,
Institute of Health,
University of Cumbria,
United Kingdom.

Introduction

Whilst the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) in the UK is low compared to global rates, feminist scholars suggest that *fear* of GBV is enough for women to change their behaviour (Yodanis, 2004).

Rudman (2018) challenges occupational science to critically situate and politicise occupation.

- Situate** - viewing as inseparable from the social environment.
- Politicise** - addressing systemic power dynamics that affect access to occupation.

The purpose of this study was to describe the impact of fear of gender-based violence on occupational participation.

Note: there is a continuum of GBV, from more subtle violations like catcalling to serious assault and rape. The term GBV recognises that people who identify outside the gender binary as well as women, including transwomen, may be victims.

Method

A descriptive phenomenological approach was used to reveal the fundamental 'essence' (Finlay, 2011) of participants' collective experience.

Participants: The study was open to anyone 18+, currently living in the UK who identified as a woman or non-binary. From passive online recruitment, 8 people took part. 7 participants identified as cis-women and 1 as non-binary.

Procedure: Semi-structured interviews were conducted online via Microsoft Teams. Interviews were digitally recorded and transcribed in full.

Analysis: Transcripts were analysed following Colaizzi's seven-step method as described by Shosha (2012).

Findings

3 themes and 6 subthemes were distilled from participant interview data. These are shown in Figure 1 below alongside key illustrative quotes.

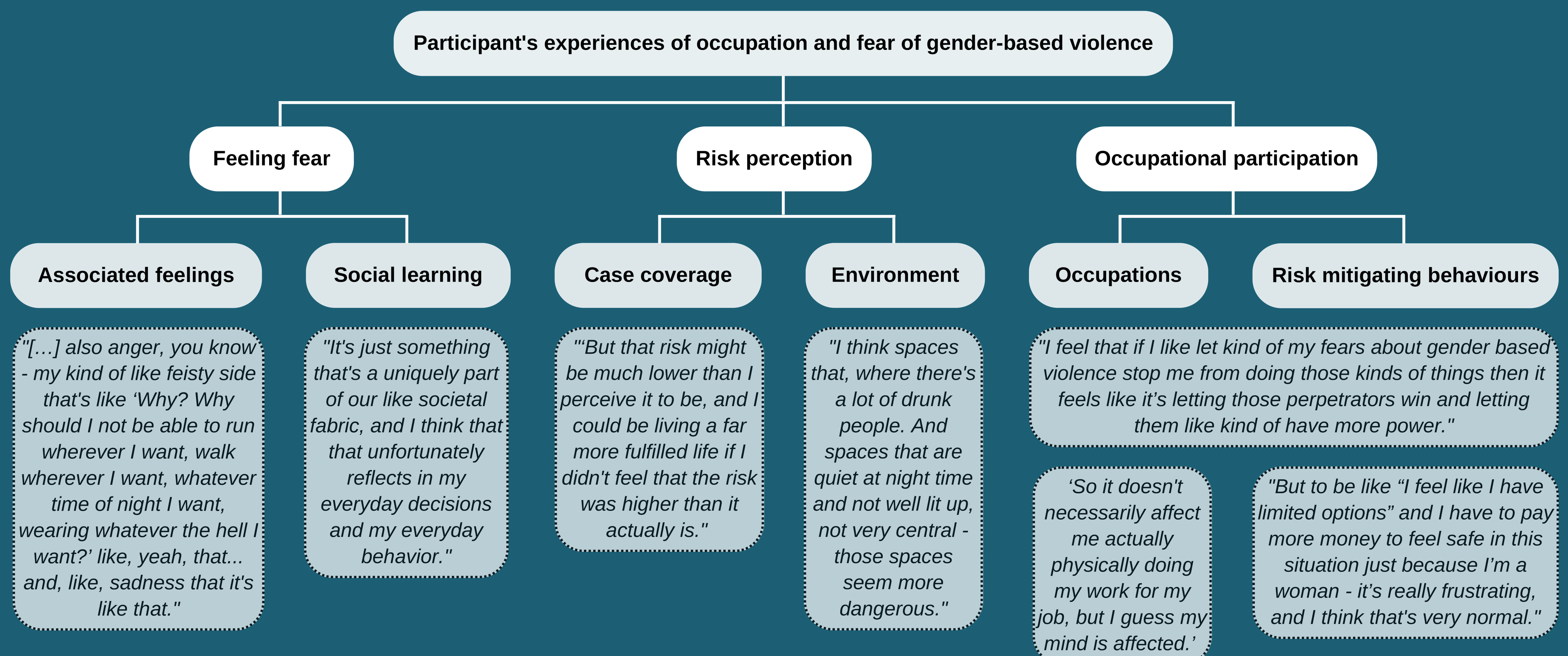


Figure 1: Thematic map of collected data with illustrative quotes.

Discussion

Participants described experiences that indicate occupational marginalisation - a type of occupational injustice characterised by restricted choice and control (Townsend and Wilcock, 2004) through conditioned cultural norms and societal attitudes. People change when and how they participate, and introduce risk mitigating behaviours.

Conclusion

This study supported feminist scholars' supposition that people change the way they participate in occupations due to *fear* of GBV, suggesting they experience occupational marginalisation in everyday life.

Implications for Occupational Science

- Encourage utilisation of research for activism and social transformation.
- Supports the idea that injustice does not always arise from overt forces.
- Moves beyond individualism and person-environment dualism.

Findings support a transactional view of occupation (Dickie, Cutchin and Humphrey, 2006). People use doing as a way of negotiating the person-environment relationship and mitigating fear. Occupation can also be used as a site of resistance, through participant's continued participation. Person and environment are co-constitutive. Participants learnt fear from their social environment, but the way people participate in everyday occupations may also inadvertently perpetuate fear and marginalisation.

References

- Dickie, V., Cutchin, M. P., & Humphry, R. (2006) 'Occupation as Transactional Experience: A Critique of Individualism in Occupational Science', *Journal of Occupational Science*, 13(1), pp. 83-93.
- Finlay, L. (2011) *Phenomenology for Therapists Researching the Lived World*. Hoboken: Wiley.
- Shosha, G. A. (2012) 'Employment of Colaizzi's strategy in descriptive phenomenology: A reflection of a researcher', *European Scientific Journal*, 8(27), pp. 31-43.
- Townsend, E., & A. Wilcock, A. (2004) 'Occupational justice and client-centred practice: a dialogue in progress', *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 71(2), pp. 75-87.
- Yodanis, C. L. (2004) 'Gender inequality, violence against women, and fear: A cross-national test of the feminist theory of violence against women', *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 19(6), pp. 655-675.

Ethics: The conduct of this research was fully approved by the Rehabilitation Ethics Committee at the University of Cumbria.

Contact: Sarah Rodway-Swanson, Institute of Health, University of Cumbria, Carlisle, United Kingdom CA1 2HH. Email: sarahcrs10@gmail.com



University of
CUMBRIA