**“Wir Gan Dookin’!”Negotiating ‘Authentic’ Open Water Swimming Bodies in the North-East of Scotland**

From marathon swims to early morning, *‘cal dooks’* (cold dips), Open Water Swimming (OWS) has surged in popularity across the UK during the pandemic years. However, how does the act of wading into known and unknown bodies of water affect the way in which swimmers perceive their own bodies? Based on three and a half months of ethnographic research in a small, coastal village in the North-East of Scotland, this thesis explores how the implicit, more-than-human entanglements and “correspondences” within OWS broaden perceived limitations of the body. The discussion will consider how these limitations are embedded within socio-cultural understandings of gender; as open water swimmers are shown to be split between those who *‘dook’* and those who swim ‘properly.’ In taking the ‘body’ as the focal point for the discussion, this thesis will approach the reinvented ‘trend’ of OWS through a phenomenological and hydrofeminist lens. Further delving into how swimmers navigate risk, gender and authenticity, the argument shows how stigmatised conceptions of the ‘ageing’ body (i.e., menopause, disability) are encountered, ratified, and disregarded within OWS communities.

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