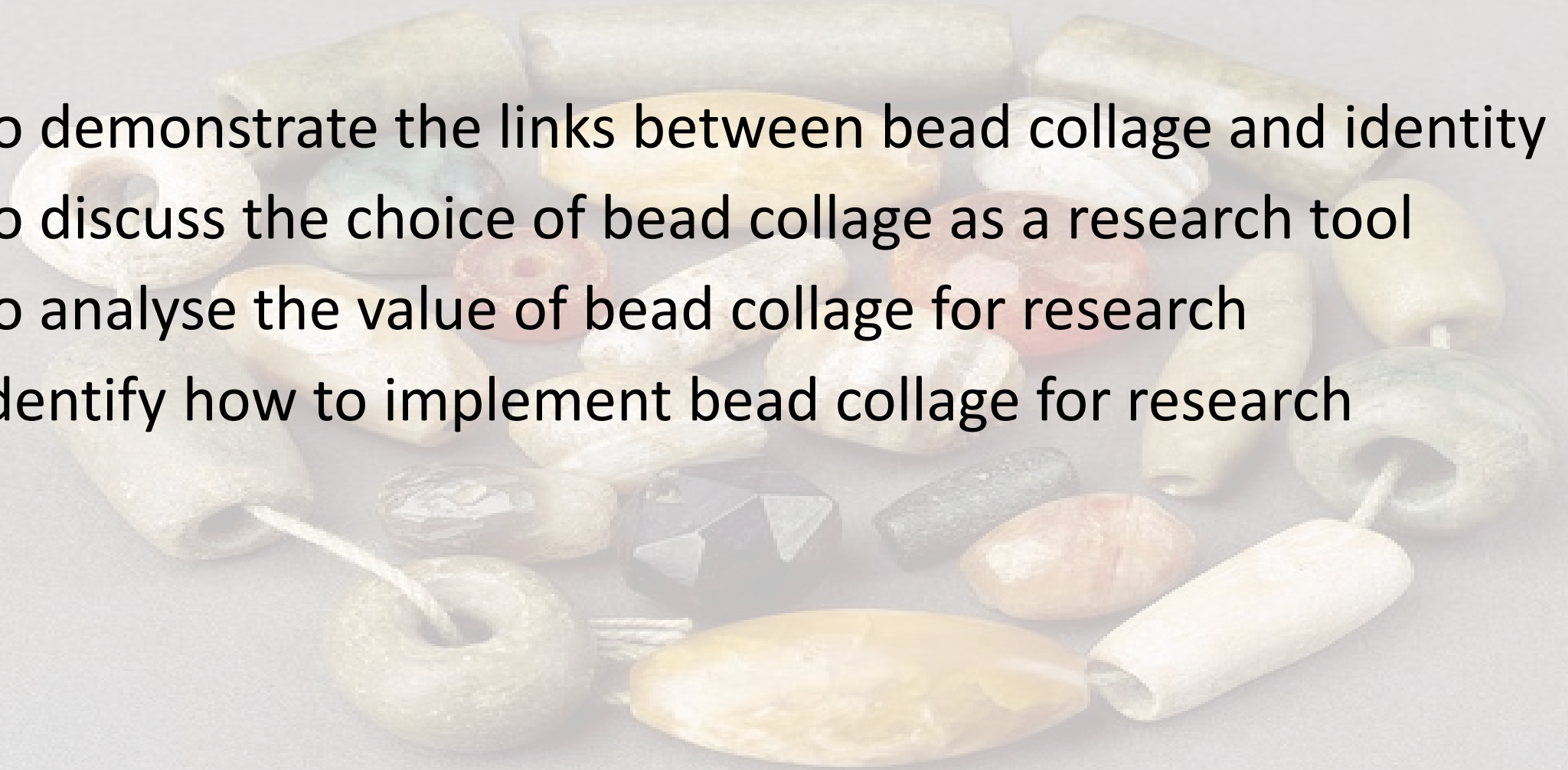


Bead Collage as a method for research

By Alison Milner

Objectives

- To demonstrate the links between bead collage and identity
- To discuss the choice of bead collage as a research tool
- To analyse the value of bead collage for research
- Identify how to implement bead collage for research



Context and Choice

- Uniting identity with bead collage draws on feminist ideals, gaining appreciation of interpretation, exploration and reformatting of ideas for the future, in this case academic identity (Hookway, 2017).
- The main tenets of feminist theory stated by Ropers-Huilman and Winters (2011) acknowledge change, radicalising practice to discover feelings and beliefs previously hidden.
- Collage and bead collage transform consciousness where previous interpretations of identity were challenged, creating new meaning and understanding (Kay, 2013).

Bead Collage

- Traditionally, collage is adopted in the arts for exploration of beliefs, ideas and conceptualising understanding (Leavy, 2009).
- The use of collage in this study is the same; the underlying difference is the use of beads as a medium to foster the development of meaning.
- The undemanding use of bead collage as Bager-Elsborg and Loads (2014) state is the juxtaposition of creating an artefact with symbolism to reveal insight.

What is Bead Collage?

- The bead collage comprises a selection of beads of different materials, size, colour and shape.
- Together with different threads such as silk, laces, ribbon, string on which to thread, and or, mount the collage.
- Alternatively, card of different colours and sizes will be available on which to display the bead collage, without sticking.
- The choice of threading/framing the bead collage will be decided by the participant as part of their exploration of academic identity.

Uncovering meaning

- Loads (2009) highlights the use of collage as a means of slowing down the processing of meaning.
- Collage enables participants to engage on a different level, sharing thoughts and views (Loads, 2009).
- The subsequent discoveries the individual may uncover could facilitate a different appreciation for identity and self as an academic in CHE.

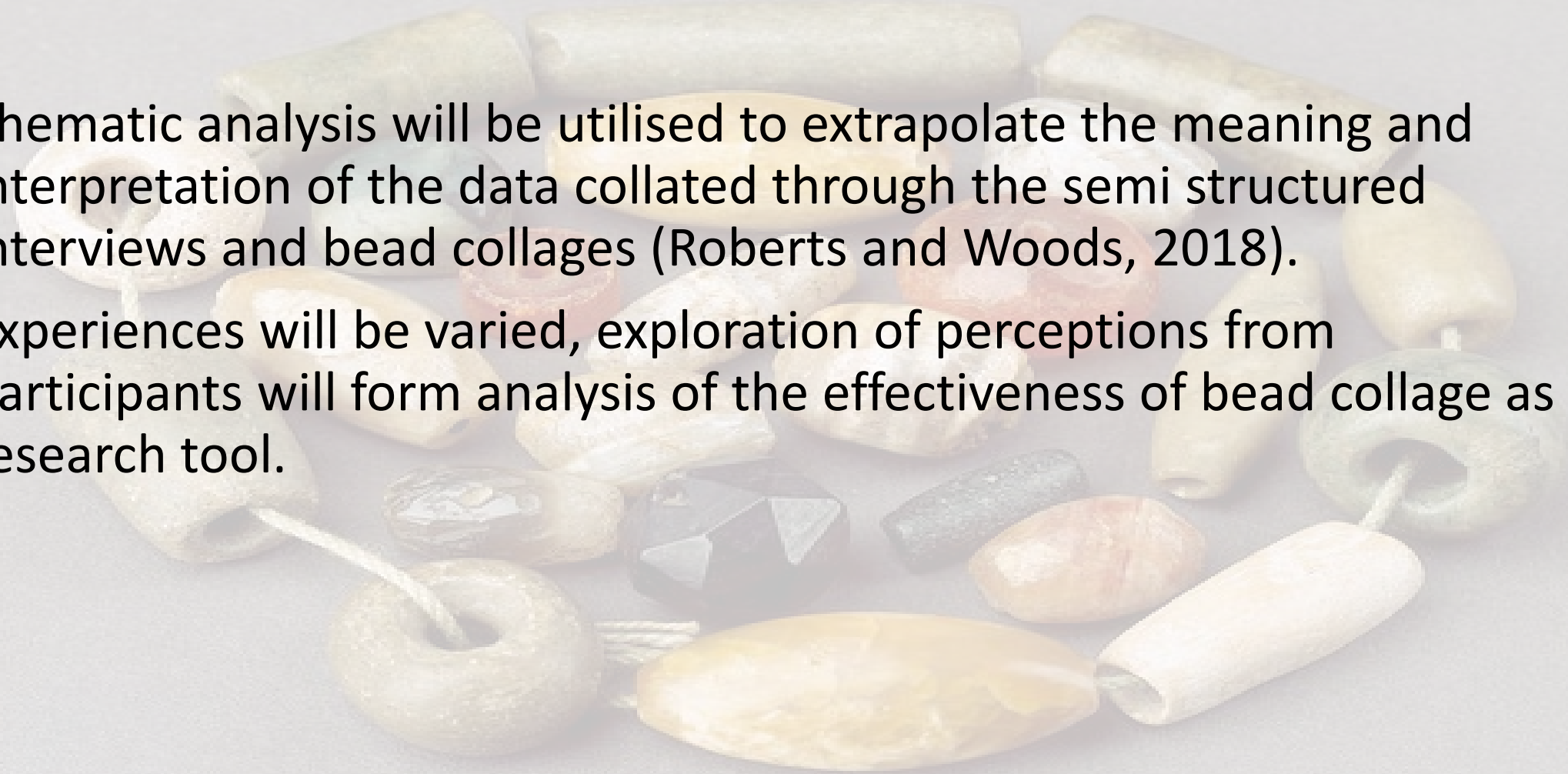
Bead Collage Research



- Initial pilot study incorporating three strands:
 - autoethnographic researcher perspective
 - supervisors
 - colleagues
- Main study:
 - 4 focus groups with 6 participants in each from CHE community
- Focus groups:
 - Bead collage activity – Semi-structured interviews will be audio recorded. Participants will be invited to answer indicative questions to be audio recorded. Photographs will be taken of the bead collage as further evidence to support the audio recording.
 - ‘Chance to Edit’ focus group – participants will be invited to return and share reflections, thoughts along with any changes to be made on their initial bead collage.

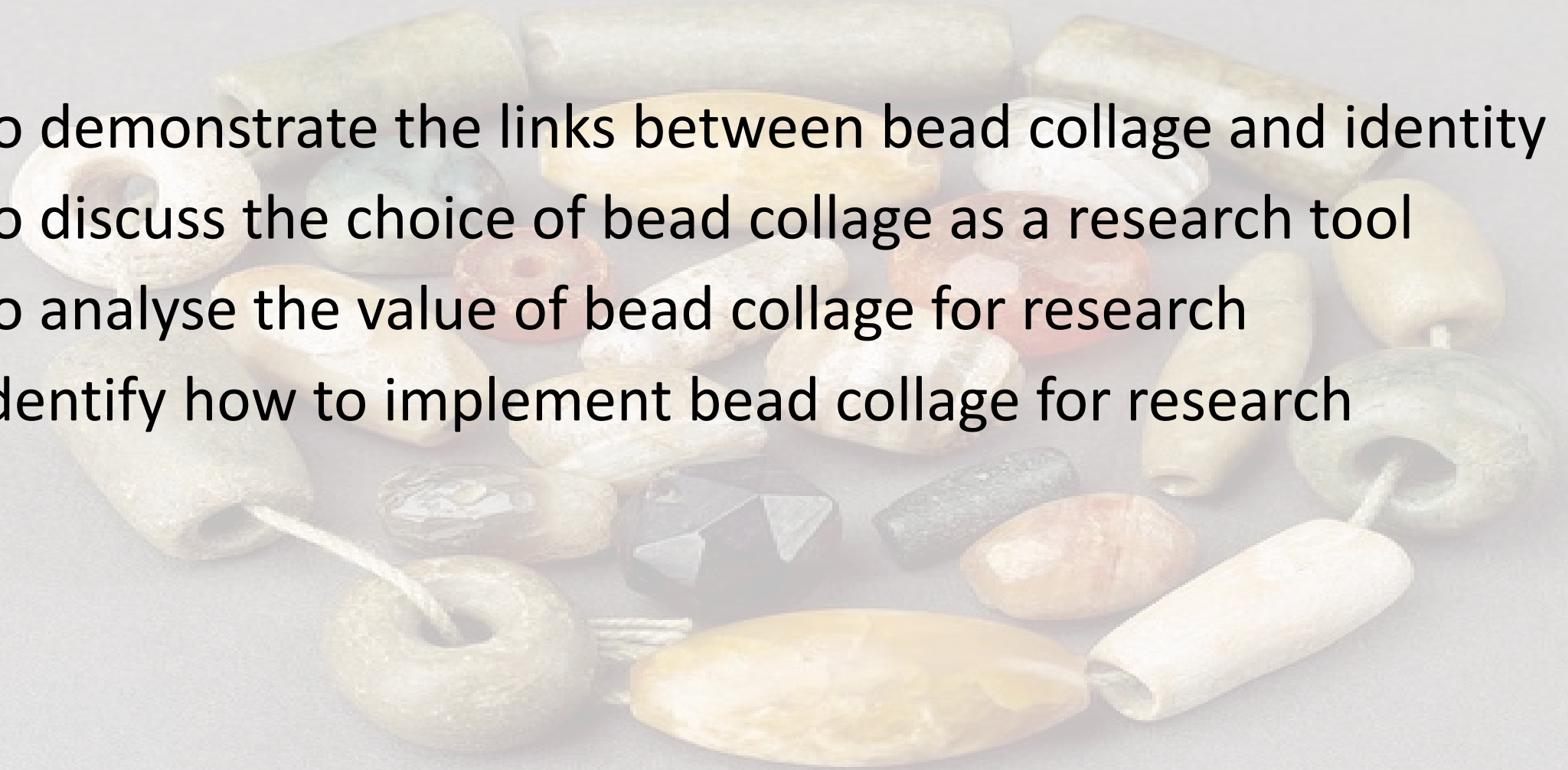
Analysis of Bead Collage

- Thematic analysis will be utilised to extrapolate the meaning and interpretation of the data collated through the semi structured interviews and bead collages (Roberts and Woods, 2018).
- Experiences will be varied, exploration of perceptions from participants will form analysis of the effectiveness of bead collage as a research tool.



Conclusion

- To demonstrate the links between bead collage and identity
- To discuss the choice of bead collage as a research tool
- To analyse the value of bead collage for research
- Identify how to implement bead collage for research



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