

## Investigation about the personality, the motives and the social-economic situation of liveaboards:

Hi everyone,

My name is Peter and I am busy with the human sciences research project for the last year of high school at the centre for adult education in Ghent, Belgium.

The theme liveaboards isn't chosen at random, I live myself on a boat for more than 25 years now. During my studies I got interested in sociology and I would like to get more knowledge about the people who, like myself, have chosen to make their home aboard a boat.

Several articles about the "ideal boat" have already been published in the past, but the people who live aboard and sometimes travel with these boats for long periods of time and quite far haven't received very much attention. The very few I could find give a very one-sided picture of the "cruiser", the successful middle-aged man cruising the world with his, typically very classy, sailing yacht. But there are the others of us too, much less interesting to the nautical industry, the "poor" liveaboards not immediately leaving for a world cruise or realizing their dreams with relatively simple and inexpensive craft. Liveaboards are from all social azimuths, from the ones living on social benefit, not having a cent left at the end of each month and with quite small, derelict boats to the multi-million dollar gentleman living on his super yacht with some 20odd permanent crew and private cook. But most of us are somewhere in between these extremes, luckily!

This survey won't give an accurate description of the modern liveaboard either. Third degree education offers only a very superficial insight into sociology, so I can't pretend having a profound knowledge of it and am not able to formulate scientifically accurate conclusions as yet. Another point is that it all has to happen in a very short time; I must hand in my work begin of June 2010 and can't take answers into account arriving after +/- May 10<sup>th</sup>. But I'll do my best.

Only question 16 is no multiple choice, there are as much possible answers as there are people in the world and I didn't want to be too suggestive. Also question 22 isn't an easy one; you'll need quite a bit of self-awareness to answer it. The other ones shouldn't be too much of a problem.

Who can participate? Everyone who has decided to live year-round aboard a boat, be it a sailing- or motor yacht or a (transformed) commercial craft, whether on a world cruise or never leaving your mooring, from whatever social background and class, your boat being 6 or 60 meters long, ... I want to give a very broad representation of the liveaboard.

How can you participate? Simply by putting your answers in a file, mentioning the number of the question and your answer: 1=A; 2=E; 3=D; 4=A; ... Then the best and most easy way is to send it by e-mail. You just copy your answers into the window for the messages and send it to:

[petervandenhirtz@hotmail.fr](mailto:petervandenhirtz@hotmail.fr) .

If necessary you can also write them down and post them by ordinary mail to:

Peter Vandenhirtz

Griendijk 3

B-9000 Gent, Belgium

There are no questions whose answer could identify you or your whereabouts. Moreover, this survey is not meant to be published. I will not communicate your e-mail address to anyone, nor will it be mentioned in my final report. So I think your privacy guaranteed. Of course, you are very welcome with any questions or commentary.

Ok? Here we go:

**Personal data:**

1.) You are a:

A. Man	B. Woman
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2.) Your age is:

A. Under 20	B. Between 20 and 25
C. Between 25 and 30	D. Between 30 and 40
E. Between 40 and 50	F. Between 50 and 60
G. Between 60 and 70	H. Over 70

3.) How much time do you live aboard?

A. Less than 5 years	B. 5 to 10 years
C. 10 to 20 years	D. Over 20 years

4.) Family situation: do you live ...?

A. Mostly alone (singlehanded)	B. With a partner
C. With a partner and ... children	D. With changing partners/crew

5.) Used facilities: do you live mostly ...?

A. Permanently moored at a wharf with permanent shore power and water distribution facilities	B. Permanently moored in a Marina with facilities
C. Permanently moored without facilities (river/canal, ...)	D. Without a permanent mooring ) at anchor, underway, ...)

**Material means:**

**The boat:**

6.) Are you the owner of the boat you live on?

A. Yes	B. No	C. Co-proprietor
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7.) Is your boat a ...?

A. Motor yacht	B. Sailing yacht	C. Ex-commercial craft
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8.) How long is your boat?

A. Under 7m (23')	B. 7 – 9m (23' – 30')
C. 9 – 11m (30' – 36')	D. 11 – 13m (36' – 42')
E. 13 – 16m (42' – 52')	F. 16 – 20m (52' – 65')
G. 20 – 25m (65' – 80')	H. Over 25m (80')

9.) How did you acquire your boat?

A. Bought from new	
C. Bought second hand	1. In good shape
	2. In less good shape/to restore
D. Self build	1. From a bare hull
	2. Complete self build

10.) Build-in comfort: your boat has (more than 1 possible answer):

A. Permanent shore power and water	B. A power generator next to the main engine (diesel, wind generator, sun panels, ...)
C. A fixed heating device	D. Air conditioning
E. A baking stove	F. A micro wave oven
G. A fridge	H. A freezer
I. A water maker	J. Pressurized cold and warm water
K. A shower bath	L. Washing machine, dish washer or other electric household machines
M. A computer with Internet (also wireless)	N. A television set

11.) How often/far do you sail/cruise?

A. Very seldom/never	B. Sometimes/regularly, day/WE trips
C. Coastwise cruising/vacations	D. Bigger tours / crossings
E. Ocean crossings /world cruise	F. Others

**Financial means:**

12.) How big was the first expenditure for your boat? (please specify: €=1; £ GB=2 ;\$ US/CAN=3)

A. Under 5,000	B. 5,000 – 10,000
C. 10,000 – 20,000	D. 20,000 – 30,000
E. 30,000 – 50,000	F. 50,000 – 80,000
G. 80,000 – 120,000	H. 120,000 – 200,000
I. 200,000 – 300,000	J. Over 300,000

13.) How big is your total budget on a yearly base? (please specify: €=1; £ GB=2; \$ US/CAN=3)

A. Less than 5,000	B. 5,000 – 7,500
C. 7,500 – 10,000	D. 10,000 – 15,000
E. 15,000 – 20,000	F. 20,000 – 30,000
G. 30,000 – 50,000	H. Over 50,000

14.)How do you go about to finance your lifestyle (more than 1 possible answer)?

A. Regular work	B. Occasional work
C. Self-employment	D. Artistic/journalistic activities
E. Charter/sailing school with your own boat	F. Savings/investments
G. Social benefit/retreatment	H. Others

15.)Do you have any difficulties to finance your lifestyle?

A. Yes	B. No	C. Sometimes
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**The reasons for and consequences of your choice of life:**

16.)Can you very shortly explain your 3 most important reasons/ideas for the choice of your lifestyle?

A.
B.
C.

17.)How much time did you need between the decisions to the actual realizing of your plan?

A. It was a spontaneous decision/realization	B. Less than 1 year
C. Between 1 and 3 years	D. Between 3 and 5 years
E. Between 5 and 10 years	F. More than 10 years

18.)Which were the reactions of you (former) friends/relations?

A. Very positive/ encouraging	B. Less positive/neutral
C. Rather skeptical/neutral	D. Negative/discouraging
E. Unbelief/no understanding	F. Rejecting/you must be crazy

19.)Do you ever feel any discrimination towards you during your contacts with official instances or looking for a job?

A. Yes, for sure	B. No, certainly not	C. I'm not sure about it
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20.)How do you feel now?

A. Better than before	B. Less good than before	C. I don't know/it doesn't make much difference
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21.)In hindsight, would you, make the same decisions again?

A. Yes	B. No	C. I'm not sure
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22.)Now something more complicated: during the 1960ties, the American sociologist Robert Merton presented an operational definition of the socialization process. He made the distinction of 5 different behavior patterns for adaptation to the dominating culture, even today very much used to explain deviant (abnormal/criminal) behavior. But there must also exist something like "positive deviance", it just doesn't receive very much attention. Of course, there is no such person answering only one single pattern, in fact all of us are a mix of all the five, but they are not equally represented within our personality.

You see me coming? I want to ask you to place yourself within these 5 patterns and to rate them. The one you recognize most in yourself gets the number 1, the next one the 2, and so on until number 5.

<p><b>A. Conformity:</b> is a non-deviant adaptation where people continue to engage in legitimate occupational or educational roles despite environmental pressures toward deviant behavior. That is, the conformist accepts and strives for the cultural goal of material success by following institutionalized means. Merton suggests that most individuals, even those who do not have easy access to the means and goals, remain conformists.</p>
<p><b>B. Innovation:</b> involves acceptance of the cultural goal but rejection of legitimate, institutionalized means. Instead, the innovator moves into criminal or delinquent roles that employ illegitimate means to obtain economic success. Driven by the dominant cultural emphasis on material goals, mostly lower-class persons use illegitimate but expedient means to overcome these structural blockages.</p>
<p><b>C. Ritualism:</b> represents quite a different sort of departure from cultural standards. The ritualist is an over-conformist. Here, the pursuit of the dominant cultural goal of economic success is rejected or abandoned and compulsive conformity to institutional norms becomes an end in itself. This individual goes through the motions of getting an education and working hard, yet is not committed to the goal of accumulating wealth or power. This adaptation is exemplified by the role behavior of the bureaucratic clerk who, denying any aspirations for advancement, becomes preoccupied with the ritual of doing it “by the book.”</p>
<p><b>D. Retreatism:</b> involves complete escape from the pressures and demands of organized society. Merton provides few clues as to where, in the class structure of society, this adaptation is most likely to occur. Instead, Merton’s analysis of retreatism has a more individualistic flavor than does his discussion of other types of adaptation. Retreatism is presented as an escape mechanism whereby the individual resolves <i>internal conflict</i> between moral constraints against the use of illegitimate means and repeated failure to attain success through legitimate means. Subsequently, Merton’s conception of retreatism as a private way of dropping out was given a more sociological interpretation by theorists in the subcultural tradition.</p>
<p><b>E. Rebellion:</b> the rebel not only rejects the goals and means of the established society but actively attempts to substitute <i>new</i> goals and means in their place. This adaptation refers to the role behavior of political deviants, who attempt to modify greatly the existing structure of society. In later work, Merton uses the term <i>nonconformity</i> to contrast rebellion to other forms of deviant behavior that are “aberrant.” The nonconforming rebel is not secretive as are other, aberrant deviants and is not merely engaging in behavior that violates the institutional norms of society. The rebel publicly acknowledges his or her intention to change those norms and the social structure that they support in the interests of building a better, more just society.</p>
<p>Inspiration: James D. Orcutt, <i>The Anomie Tradition</i>, 2002  <a href="http://deviance.socprobs.net/Unit_3/Theory/Anomie.htm">http://deviance.socprobs.net/Unit_3/Theory/Anomie.htm</a></p>

A. =	B. =	C. =	D. =	E. =
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**The future :**

23.)How long will you continue to be a liveaboard?

A. I wished it was over!	B. Less than 1 year
C. Between 1 and 3 years	D. Between 3 and 5 years
E. Between 5 and 10 years	F. Between 10 and 20 years
G. Lifelong	H. I don't know

24.)Do you think you could "fit in" again?

A. Yes, no problem	B. Yes, but not without difficulties
C. No	D. I don't know

25.)Do you plan to change boats?

A. No	
B. Yes	1. More than 20% bigger
	2. More than 20% smaller
	3. About the same size

Many thanks for your time and patience,

Peter Vandenhirtz