

Leisure Studies Association Conference 2019
Book of Abstracts



Dr David Brown



David Brown is a Reader in the Sociology of Sport and Physical Culture at the Cardiff School of Sport and Health Sciences, Cardiff Metropolitan University. David's research focuses on the development of interpretive sociological understandings of the body-self-society relationship in the fields of sport and physical culture. His current research interests include Eastern movement forms as body-self transforming practice and the relationships between physical culture, spirituality and sustainability. Previous research has included enquiry into a range of sporting and physical cultures including, male bodybuilding identity and body projects, surfing culture, Higher Education sports cultures and physical education teacher education. David has co-authored the monograph *Surfing and Social Theory*, and published research articles in a range of journals including; *Cultural Sociology*, *Ethnography*, *Leisure Studies*, *Leisure Sciences*, *Space and Culture*, *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise and Health*, *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, *Sport Education and Society* and *Journal of Rural Studies*.

Changing Lives through Leisure: A practice sociological perspective

In postindustrial neoliberal societies, it is probably uncontentious to claim that leisure has become a formative arena for shaping lives and identities of individuals and communities, as well as driving force for re-shaping both urban and natural environments. With the rigidities of 'modernity' giving way to high, post or 'liquid' modernities, the old binary work/leisure relationships have long since imploded and are now very often bewilderingly polysemic and individuated in nature. Engagement in leisure practices and consumption of leisure products are now so interwoven into the fabric of our everyday lives that our ontologies, bodies, identities and communities have become irrevocably altered in the process. However, if leisure, particularly in its modern consumer capitalist form, changes lives, then what can we say about how it changes them and more critically, how it should?



Any response to such questions has to account for a critical materialist reading of leisure, which necessarily opens up uncomfortable truths as well as some positive and even more utopian possibilities. Sometimes uncomfortable because of the socio-economic privatisation of leisure. The gradual retreat of state funding of leisure provision and spaces and the replacement of this provision by for-profit leisure organisations, re-positions the body-at-leisure as 'individualised units of consumption' to be maximally utilised and differentiated according to an individual's ability to pay. This leads to growing leisure inequalities. In addition, technological advances in the automisation of work will place an even greater emphasis on the provision of leisure at the same time as this privatisation is differentiating access on socio-economic grounds. In short, we have to remain critically cognisant of how leisure does change lives, but that these changes might be enabling and positive for some and constraining and negative for others depending on the intersections of their social, economic and cultural positions. In addition, while leisure markets offer us mesmerising choice and opportunities for individuation and realisation through leisure, it can also ensnare us in leisure practices which can significantly impact our wellbeing and identity. However, at the same time a more utopian vision of the potential of leisure endures and I shall argue rightly so. Empirically, leisure can change lives in many positive ways and continues you do so, in spite of, and sometimes because of these same societal and market forces.

In this spirit of this paradoxical and somewhat deliberately polemical juxtaposition, the session draws from a broadly practice sociology perspective to consider a range of ways how leisure changes lives and how this might help us focus on identifying elements of positive change as well as critique the not so positive. More specifically, it identifies various scientific disciplines from neuroscience to psychotherapy to sociology are seemingly converging on the impact that social practice has on the brain and the body. This has enormous implications for how leisure, seen as social practice, can be harnessed to transform bodies, ontologies, and as a consequence, give rise to enlivened identities and lives of both individuals and communities alike.

The final part of the session draws on this conceptual background to focus on one particular set of changes that are happening right now. Those related to climate change and the imperatives of the 'greening of societies' as Beck (2010) puts it. These elements are already beginning to have a profound impact on the kinds of lives, communities and identities we can construct around leisure and also the kind of leisure that may be possible and / or desirable in the future given our rapidly decaying ecosystem. Consideration is then given to the relationship between leisure practices and the idea of an ecological habitus constructed in and through leisure practices. It concludes that understanding forms of leisure which foster a supportive ecological habitus must form a foundational part of the leisure studies research agenda, as it necessarily underpins all forms of positive change.



Michael Hall



Mike specialises in the design of complex sports facilities for FaulknerBrowns, a practice that has been pioneering sports and leisure facilities for over four decades. He is an advocate of developing expertise as a springboard for innovative solutions in this specialist field, where the social spaces are as valuable as the fields of play. Notable examples include, Lee Valley White Water Centre for the London 2012 Olympic Games, the sustainability-motivated sports facility of Portsmouth University, University of Stirling Sports in addition to both Derby Arena and Derby's 50 metre swimming pool complex. As well as being an authority on athletic architecture, Mike has a fundamental understanding of community-facing sports education and leisure developments, such as the Beacon of Light in Sunderland and Coventry's brand new waterpark. Mike has travelled widely, researching and benchmarking facilities around the world and brings a national and international perspective to this field. He is a regular speaker at international conferences and is an active member of the International Union of Architects (UIA) sports and leisure working group.

Abstract

Strategies for facility provision are in constant need of change as they respond to the evolution of societal needs, environmental requirements and financial models. To create buildings and places that promote activity and societal wellbeing, we employ a process of innovation which is supported by a number of critical design concepts.

Mikes talk will look at each of these concepts in detail including the principles of active design, the smart stacking of leisure facilities, multipurpose and flexible social spaces, and the pioneering use of technology to enhance the sport and leisure experience. To demonstrate these concepts in action, Mike will refer to a number of relevant projects including Hebburn Central, Beacon of Light, University of Stirling Sports, The Wave and a new facility for the University of Portsmouth.



Kirsty Cumming

Engagement and Policy Manager, Community Leisure UK



With over 5 years' experience in the public leisure sector, Kirsty has worked closely with leisure trusts, local authorities, local and national government, NHS and a wide range of partners to advocate the role of public leisure services.

Kirsty passionately believes in the power of public leisure services, and the charitable trust model to deliver effective, integrated solutions across a range of priority areas through close collaboration and partnership working with a range of partners.

Synopsis

Local authorities are facing unprecedented budget challenges, whilst demand for health, education and social care priorities continue to grow. Coupled with external pressures, such as austerity and Brexit, how can investment in public leisure services best tackle multiple inter connected priorities?

Community leisure trusts are rooted in the local communities they serve, with services co-designed and implemented to support those most in need. This type of true collaboration between those who deeply care about public services, not shareholders, can yield great public value. But how can we achieve this? This session will explore these partnerships, discussing who public leisure services should be for and how we can drive greater public value through public leisure.



The forward facing flaneur: a fresh look at information seeking for the beer festival attendee

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Dörk, Carpendale and Williamson (2011) review the Flaneur (Baudelaire, 1863) in contemporary settings, positing the information flaneur as representing a new way of thinking about information seeking. We adapt and extend this and consider the future scope of the flaneur – embedded but not entombed as the leisurely and vigilant urban stroller (Wrigley, 2014), suggesting how the flaneur has evolved in correspondence with new environments becoming a more critical device than its origin as a cultural spectator. Technology is a particular, but not a sole, factor contributing to contemporary environments where the enshrining of turbulence and potential for transformation is simultaneously creating wariness and uncertainty. This produces forward facing reflections, i.e. visions, as the spirit of Baudelaire's loafer becomes something that is more symbiotic and cognisant of the dangers around him/her in our socio-economic turbulent time (Devine & Devine, 2012; Getz, Andersson, & Larson, 2006; Larson, Getz, & Pastras, 2015; Van Niekerk & Pizam, 2015).

Chalcraft and Magaudda (2013) explain how festivals offer occasion for values, cultures, aesthetics and politics to come together. They opine that these festival-related interactions can impact positively outside of the festival as transformation. The beer festival in its many guises as a leisure phenomenon is, as other festivals, both significant and signifier in the unsettled state society currently sits (Robertson, Hutton & Brown, 2018). In this paper we give projections of the transformative capacity of beer festivals. First, we review global and national drivers of change, and discuss signposts and signals that may determine what the Beer Festival looks like in the future. Second, based on the identification of drivers, signposts and signals we critically evaluate the transformative capacities that beer festivals may have.

This exploratory work is the basis of a large study in which two communities, in England and in Scotland, envision their own futures through the prism of existing beer festivals. The research adds to a body of knowledge that has grown with the Flaneur, the social significance of festival activity, and the attributes of visioning futures to aid resilience in volatile social-economic times.

The application of a future scoping process, identifying drivers, signposts and signals are forwarded are valuable tools in this process.



Incorporating Private Stakeholders in the Decision-Making Process: A Case Study of Bangladesh Tourism Board

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Tourism is one of the sectors of the economy with the greatest potential in Bangladesh because the country has vast natural beauty, a rich historical background and archaeological resources (Das & Chakraborty, 2013). Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC), a national tourism organisation, was established in 1973 to develop tourism infrastructure and to strive to make Bangladesh one of the best tourism destinations in the world (Rahman, 2012; Karim, 2014). The government of Bangladesh established an independent Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism in 1975 and became a member of the World Tourism Organisation in the same year. However, following demands of private stakeholders who felt excluded from the decision-making process of the BPC, the Bangladesh Tourism Board (BTB), was formed in 2010, as a parallel national tourism organisation.

This paper explores the context in which the private stakeholders were incorporated in the BTB. It analyses critically how private stakeholders were participating in the decision-making process in 2018 and documents some of the complex relationships between the government and the private stakeholders that exist in the BTB. One significant finding that emerges is the mismatch between the expectations of the private stakeholders and the reality of the BTB. Among the seventeen members of the BTB, only five members come from private organisations; others are from the different ministries in the Bangladesh Government. Using interviews with key stakeholders that were conducted in their native Bangla, thematic analysis identified themes relating to the new, supposedly more open, organisation (BTB). Eight years on from the establishment of BTB, in 2018, private stakeholders felt that they had limited power to raise their voices and to establish their arguments in the decision-making process in the BTB.

This study is one of the few studies focussing on a stakeholder of a national tourism organisation in a lower middle-income country, like Bangladesh.



The Georgian Prison: Inquisitive and Investigative Tourism

Allan Brodie

Historic England

Tourism in the Georgian period could be prurient, satisfying the need to witness punishment, suffering and even death, but there was also potentially an educative element even to a casual visit; hopefully the youthful Charles Powell's visit to Maidstone in 1823 taught him that crime would not pay. However, a more constructive form of tourism also existed in the 18th and 19th centuries undertaken by a range of people seeking to record the state of prisons and by doing this seeking to introduce reform. Most famous among these was John Howard who crusaded to improve prison conditions until his death in 1790, but a generation later his heroic effort had still not improved all England's prisons, forcing the British government to look to America for ways to improve the prison system.

This paper will particularly delve into John Howard's famous *The State of the Prisons of England and Wales* as a source to explore one form of contemporary tourism, rather than as is usually the case as an indictment of the state of England's prisons. It will contrast his serious research programme with the frivolous visits of holidaymakers, squeezing in a quick visit to a prison while on their seaside holiday. It will also discuss how his touring dramatically changed England's prisons and the lives of inmates in the late 18th century.



Living to tell the tale: Solo travel, old age and life writing

Josephine Burden

Independent

The milestones of old age may be measured in years but are also determined by the stories we tell, the places and communities that surround us, and the traumatic events that we may or may not experience. At 50, I learned from my PhD about older women and the construction of leisure; at 64, that famous Beatles' milestone of old age, I turned my back on a changing academic world where young people were constructed as customers rather than citizens, and began to write my own story; now, at 75, when all of life is leisure and the end of my journey is rapidly approaching, urgency has crept into the writing of my story. My project now concerns the construction of my own life in ways that might contribute to a society that will benefit the people who remain when I have moved on. In old age, I have used writing to reflect on my life and abstract meaning on embodiment as an old woman. In this paper, I draw on this body of work to explore how when all of life becomes leisure we may discover new ways to improve our quality of life and benefit our communities. In *Washing up in Malta* (2012, 2014) I explore how memory and place shape who we are. In *Songs for a Blind Date* (2013) I wonder about midlife and the academic process of writing a PhD. In *Middle Sea Dreaming: Short stories on a long journey* (Pending) I use the heroic myth of travel to reflect on the ageing process and imagine a world where women's stories are granted prominence in equal measure with men's.



Making the Connection: Leisure, Heritage and the Caledonian Railway

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Among the many different types of heritage activities, railways have been drawing interest from researchers over recent years (Halsall, 2001; Rhoden et al., 2009; Bhati et al., 2014) with the focus ranging from volunteering to sustainability. This paper aims to discuss the importance of local community engagement and the dedication of their leisure time to the benefit of local heritage sites. This discussion focuses on the engagement between the Caledonian Railway and the local community in Brechin, Scotland. Caledonian Railway is a steam and diesel heritage railway, which runs on four miles between Brechin and Bridge of Dun and is operated and managed entirely by volunteers and community members. The railway is a non-profit organisation, with funds being reinvested into restoration and preservation and is one of the most visited tourist attractions in Angus. In this sense the participation and effort of the community is essential for the survival of the heritage site and activity. Using Action Research as the methodological approach this project followed the process of a recurring spiral of planning, acting, observing (or evaluating) and reflecting (Cain et al, 2007). The results from the Action Research identified a series of positive practice such as the dedication of volunteers and the sharing of best practice among them; an inclusive and inter-generational approach to recruit and retain volunteers; the engagement with the volunteer's families as an extension of the organisation activities; the matching of activity at the Railway and leisure interests. However, the Action Research also identified areas for learning and reflection such as the necessity to support volunteers to develop new skills; extending the social and leisure activities for volunteers; and sharing resources with other community activities that rely on volunteering. The Action Research contributed to re-think the development of the Railways activities as a transformational leisure experience to locals and recommended focusing on fostering social cohesiveness with stronger links with schools and other community groups.



A Exploration of Care and Touch in Gymnastics

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Coaches play a key role in individuals' leisure activities. They are central to sustained and good quality sport participation. Coaching is also leisure activity for many (voluntary) coaches. However, in sports that require touch as a means of developing safe and skilled practice, such as gymnastics, coaches are becoming increasingly anxious due to culturally desensitised and unrealistic policy (e.g., 'no touch zones'), and contradictory messages from governing bodies and safeguarding courses. This is made worse by contemporary moral panic around child abuse in sport. Since the conclusion of the largest abuse case in gymnastics to date - the conviction of former USA Gymnastics' Team Doctor, Larry Nassar - there has been little research on gymnastics coaches' views on contemporary safeguarding legislation, policy and practice. Therefore, using a Foucauldian lens, the aim of this research was to form an understanding of how gymnastics coaches experience issues of care and touch in their practice. Six focus groups were conducted with male and female gymnastics coaches of various ages, experience and disciplines. Using a thematic analysis, five themes were identified - gender differences in practice, safeguarding education, touch-based practice, discipline differences, and moral panic of child abuse in sport. Findings suggest coaches felt increasingly anxious about touch-based practice. They didn't feel well equipped to understand and implement procedures and policies. Male coaches felt increasingly vulnerable to false allegations. Additionally, male and female coaches had varied opinions on what was considered appropriate practice. In sum, more focus on safeguarding policies is needed to ensure coaches feel confident to deliver gymnastics sessions. This must include additional care for male coaches where there is a fear of false allegation. Gymnastics needs a sustainable coaching workforce that operates in a safe leisure space. Future research should explore safeguarding education courses and policy, to understand how delivery and context could be improved, to better support coaches.



Leisure Gone Wild- Walking the Line with Jesus of Nazareth

Jeff Crittenden

University of Ottawa

It can be said that the early Church engaged in a variety of deviant, and counter-culture, leisure activities - defined as forms of leisure that went against norms and expectations of Roman society. In his letters, the apostle Paul instructs communities of Jesus' followers to live together in a Roman culture, yet with different values. In light of this it can be argued that Paul's explanation of a meal (the Eucharist) that is neither Greek/Roman (Symposium), nor Jewish (Shabbat meal), nor focused on Caesar as a cult figure, but rather focused on the life and teachings of Jesus, renders the Eucharist an act of deviant leisure of the highest order. Using the framework of Historical Leisure in Spracklen's, 'Constructing Leisure' and Chris Rojak's, 'Leisure Theory', it will be demonstrated how according to Streett's 'Subversive Meals', Smith's 'Symposium to Eucharist', and Kloppenborg's 'Early Christians and their Associations', the Eucharist, as expressed in 1st Corinthians, offers a unique introduction to a new meal practice. In light of this, and by means of a systematic analysis of the Greco-Roman literature and the New Testament, this paper will argue that this simple meal - a leisure experience - transformed both communities and individuals' lives in the ancient world. That it can do the same today suggests an urgency to the project of contemporary re-engagement.



Olympics Games: The organisation, The history, The committee, The projects. Rome 1960-Barcelona 1992: From a dream to the Olympic model

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The choice of analysing the Olympic Games of Rome 1960 and Barcelona 1992 belongs to the conflicting and diverse impact generated on the two cities. These two editions created a big urban transformation, which allows for a new critical perspective, concerning public services and management measures. I will examine how management models will either prevent or increase the exploitation of the intangible benefits, necessarily associated to the Olympic event. Olympic venues are at the hearth of the Olympic planning, as they constitute the citizens' Olympic legacy. In fact, these venues' sitting capacity and their technology determinate their future use and value among the citizens, possibly enhancing the sportive practice within the local community. The Olympic venues design, supported by a strong, public transportation system, is therefore of pivotal importance in order to develop a new and stable city economy able to imply its own resources and to limit the environmental impact as like as cost instability. My critical analysis, regarding these two mega-events, is carried out through the development of 13 guidelines, aiming to offer effective criteria in order to guarantee not only an economic revenue but also intangible, future benefits. This investigation shows how cities should favour from these intangible benefits, which develop as a consequence of both, the Olympic bid's success and the infrastructural evolution. Only thanks to these new philosophies, cities and regions, as a consequence, could profit from the intangible benefits, belonging to the Olympic game, such as: employment, structure and infrastructure use, tourism, job offers, SME, cultural development, decision making, and trade.



Parkour, graffiti and the politics of (in)visibility in the leisure-oriented city

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In the last few decades, the production of leisure-oriented, aesthetically pleasing and consumption-enticing cityscapes has become the core of post-industrial urban economies. The “hegemony of vision” (Zukin, 1997) characterising these urban processes has also implied the spatial removal and/or containment of bodies and practices deemed “unsavoury” in rebranding urban areas. Drawing on two sets of ethnographic studies on parkour and graffiti in two Italian cities, this paper articulates the sensory and political dimensions of (in)visibility to unpack the multifaceted dynamics of contemporary urban politics through the lens of leisure. Parkour and graffiti’s capacity to cut across definitions of what is (il)legitimate and (un)desirable leisure in regenerating cityscapes will provide a unique perspective over the less-than-coherent rhetoric’s of “creative” urban rebranding, as well as over the temporary and tactical reconfigurations of the regimes of visibility operating in contemporary urban and leisure-oriented scenarios. The discussion of writers and traceurs’ situational re-appropriations of accessibility, publicness and (in)visibility in/of urban spaces will thus illuminate yet-to-be explored facets of the unfolding and contested redefinitions of leisure, space and community in contemporary cities.



Outdoor recreation and nature policies: Possible interventions that change kiteboarding practices

Timo Derriks

HZ University of Applied Sciences

Compared to the Mediterranean or the tropics, North-western European coasts are characterised by colder water, less sun, more wind and a more rough outlook. Still, just being at the seaside is a popular leisure activity. In addition, horse riding, hiking, or cycling along the cold water coasts are of appeal to both residents and visitors. It is therefore no surprise that soft adventure is seen as a popular niche in seaside resort reinvention. The surrounding with its experienced sense of freedom and perceived positive health effects also attracts adventurous water sports practitioners. The province of Zeeland, the Netherlands, uses the availability of extensive coastlines for coastal product improvement and destination image enhancement. Zeeland is seen as an ideal province to practice kiteboarding, due to a variety of conditions. In last decades, kiteboarding became more and more popular. The sport could be seen as extreme and even dangerous but yearly many residents and visitors practice the sport along the regional state's coastlines. Parts of this coastline are determined as sensitive nature areas. Some zones, like those labelled 'Natura2000', need to be protected from outdoor recreationists. One particular kiteboard spot under pressure due to its location close to protected nature is 'De Oesterdam': a popular spot which is crowded during favourable conditions and practitioners do not seem fully aware of regulations. The spot is situated at a dam, just a few inches away from a busy main road. Informed by practice theory and conceptualised by the visitor journey, the practices of kiteboarders are studied by mixed methods as kiteboarder surveys, kiteboarder interviews, observations and desk research, including the analysis of social media posts. By studying their practices, insights into the extent of obeying regulations became evident. Regulations only allow kiteboarding during high tides so that the fragile intertidal zone is protected and could welcome wading birds. Key findings show that kiteboarders, however, were under the impression that they were only allowed to kiteboard during low tides, which is the exact opposite of what regulations prescribe. The interviewed kiteboarders were very surprised that regulations actually do not allow anybody present in the intertidal zone. Although familiar with the general notion of kiteboard spots being pressured because of foraging birds, they did not relate known but other 'regulations' to nature conservation. Instead, they were certain that kiteboarding during high tide was not allowed since it causes dangerous situations since space would be too limited to launch a kite. Potential hazards relate to traffic accidents and injuries as kiteboarders need sufficient clean space, without rocks, to get started. These and other insights resulted in possible policy interventions that could change practice.



Exploring Womens Motivations for Starting and Maintaining Participation in CrossFit

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CrossFit is an increasingly popular leisure activity for women. It is unusual in the sense that it consists primarily of weight bearing activities, which have a number of benefits for women (e.g., stronger bones, muscles and joints, aids flexibility, balance and coordination). Moreover, there is an emphasis on body awareness and competence in these activities. Traditionally women have been drawn more towards cardiovascular activity, shying away from resistance and weight-bearing activities because of the masculine embodiments associated with these activities. Thus, the aim of this work was to form an understanding of women's motivations for starting and maintaining participation in CrossFit in the hope that lessons could be learnt in how to attract more women to these types of activities. Frank's typology of body usage was used to inform how women understood and experienced their embodied lives in CrossFit spaces.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 13 women aged 19-60 years old to capture rich detailed data on women's experiences of the early to mid-stages of their CrossFit 'career'. A thematic analysis produced 3 themes – Community, Social Media and Health.

The findings have shown that participants enjoy the environment within the gym, the classes are full of support from both coaches and other CrossFitters, and everyone shows kindness and friendship throughout. The workouts always encourage teamwork, and no matter which level each person is completing at, everyone congratulates, and encourages each other throughout every class. These interactions also happen outside the CrossFit gyms, through the use of social media and competitions, developing a national and international CrossFit community, to share development, progressions and support for all CrossFitters. Through understanding the impact of CrossFit on womens lives, and their motivations to participate, sporting individuals, organisations and physical activity initiatives can promote womens engagement in a physically active and health lifestyle.



Constraints' Factors for Women's Position in Iran Sport Organisation

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This study examines women's position in Iran based on Iran sports organisations. It is argued that the so-called-neutral promotion process is biased against female candidates and in the end, serves the purpose of reinforcing a male-dominated top management (Aitchison, 2003; Mckay, 1996; Shinenew & Arnold, 1998).

The data was collected by self-administered questionnaire ($\alpha=.87$) in 2015. The results showed that several key factors are in evaluating candidates for promotion. The factors of higher education, organisational commitment, political skills, family support, ICT skills, psychological and sport management skills ranked the upper intermediate level for the female managers, but organisational environment stood at the lower level ones.

Despite these factors, women are absent from senior leadership positions and their powerlessness in hierarchy of Iranian sport organisation is evidently shown. It is suggested that sport organisations should reduce constraints factors and bring about some changes aimed at supporting the women managers in fulfilling their needs.



Polluted Leisure in the AnthropOcean

Clifton Evers

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Oceans and seas are dying. Those who surf, fish, dive, and swim in them now think, feel, and act with the rhythms, flows, surges, and throbbing of not only the water but pollution. What happens when such leisure becomes orientated through the AnthropOcean? In what ways does pollution reshape any associated wet knowing of leisure? What mutations emerge as people resign themselves through their leisure to the everyday realities of the current state of affairs and trajectory? In this talk I discuss some changes to water-based leisure enthusiasts' lives and environments as they undertake 'polluted leisure' in the AnthropOcean. The concept 'polluted leisure' refers to the embodied, sensorial, emotional, intellectual, spatial, and technological busyness of pollution—material and social; harmful and non-harmful; actual and perceived—through leisure. Here, pollution is treated as a key agent, in this case influencing ways of leisure-based knowing and being in dying oceans and seas. The discussion proceeds through a feminist 'vital materialism' paradigm that amplifies the liveliness of materialities and the significance of relational becoming's. A key issue explored is how some enthusiasts double-down on toxicity, an outcome of intoxication through pollution. The presentation is performative, and attached to a photo exhibition. Study sites are international.



Towards a Better Quality of Life: Value Co-Creation with the Active Elderly in Leisure Service

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Ageing society is an emerging global issue and it is connected to the improvements on living conditions and the progress on medication (WHO, 2015). It is projected that by 2030, the global population aged over 60 is going to reach 2.1 billion (UN, 2015). Therefore, the leisure industry has to invest in facilitating and creating environments where this age group can spend in leisure time. To cope with the challenge, this project by applying qualitative research, aims to explore the value co-creation between active elderly and leisure service providers. This study introduces the contact theory and activity theory into the service experience studies. The contact theory states that personal interactions can lead to favourable outcomes such as equal status, common goals, cooperation and support from authorities. This enables to understand the possible outcomes of co-creation in this study. The activity theory argues that the increased discretionary or free time of the elderly provides them with the opportunity to maintain high activity levels or roles that are essential for life satisfaction and enrichment (Lefrancois, Leclerc and Polin, 1997). 30-40 participants are targeted from the active elderly group and 20 participants from the leisure business sector for the data collection. The data collection will be conducted from March to May 2019. With the in-depth exploration, the study expects to identify the scope of co-creation activities between the active elderly and service providers and possible suggestions that will lead to better service experience and to design and facilitate an interactive social space for this age group in the leisure industry.



Oh Basil! Not again! An analysis of performed identities in the leisure service encounter

Miriam Firth

University of Manchester

This presentation is based upon research completed for doctoral study and submitted within a forthcoming textbook entitled 'Service Encounters for Tourism, Events and Hospitality' (Multi-lingual matters series). It will address performance elements noted by graduates when creating and delivering service in leisure businesses (such as hotels, restaurants and offices). Drawing from services marketing theory (Nyquist and Booms, 1987; Strauss and Mang, 1999) Service Encounters are a well-known foci of research for leisure disciplines (Solomon et al. 1985; Bitner et al, 1990) as they are the point in which the intangible service is created by staff and perceived by customers.

I will highlight emerging issues seen from staff creating service encounters. The emergent issues link particularly to performative requirements of the staff and how these conflict with their own identity. Performing Emotions (Hochschild, 2012; Seymour, 2000), Performing Aesthetics (Witz et al, 2003; Warhurst and Nickson, 2007) and Performing Humour Use, (Pabel and Pearce, 2015; Pabel and Pearce, 2018; Pabel and Pearce, 2016; Pearce and Pabel, 2015) are all noted by graduates as problematic and contrary to their own identities.

As this research utilised narrative research (Connelly and Clandinin, 1990) using the critical incident technique (Flanagan 1954) I will offer audio excerpts from participants to evidence how these issues were identified and perceived by the graduates.

Through offering examples of graduate perspectives on emotion, aesthetics and humour use in service encounters this presentation will problematise these known concepts to identify how performed identity can negatively affect staff. A new model of service encounter will also be offered to identify how performed identity requires further research in leisure contexts to support graduates and new entrants into the leisure labour market.



The Street Child Cricket World Cup: Social impact, advocacy and vulnerable young people

Thomas Fletcher

Leeds Beckett University, UK

Street Child United (SCU) aims to 'change the way the world sees and treats street-connected children'. Since 2010, they have organised the Street Child World Cup (SCWC) ahead of the FIFA Football World Cup, using the 'power of football' and the arts to raise awareness and tackle the widespread stigma faced by street-connected children - aiming to inspire countries, governments and communities to better protect, respect and support them. In addition to the three World Cups they also held the Street Child Games in Rio in 2016. In May 2019, the UK will hold the first Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC). This paper is based on research undertaken with players, organisers, volunteers and team sponsors during the event. It explores the impact and transformative potential of participating in the SCCWC on the players, the organisations that support them and the communities they come from. It is particularly concerned with questioning the power of events in the long-term advocacy of vulnerable young people.



Women's enactment of multiple identities through sport, trauma and mental health and emotional wellbeing

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Women's mental health and emotional wellbeing is gendered. While sport has been seen as a site for improving or sustaining mental health, within the literature and current media discourse there has been a greater focus on men's experiences. However, using a feminist lens, we show sport can be a problematic space for women's wellbeing. We explored women's participation in field hockey alongside their mental health and emotional wellbeing, specifically the enactment of multiple identities through sport, trauma and mental health and emotional wellbeing. A two-year ethnographic and auto ethnographic case study of a women's section of a metropolitan field hockey club, using two single session one-on-one in-depth interviews with 15 women over two years (for 30 interviews) and ethno-graphic observation. In this presentation we draw upon nine of the 15 women who participated in interviews as well as auto ethnographic data from the first author. Narrative and thematic analysis was framed by post-structural and feminist theoretical frameworks. Three narratives were particularly highlighted: forging an empowered self through sport following trauma; living with and resisting motherhood; and negotiating wellbeing whilst undergoing In Vitro Fertilisation. Both motherhood and IVF narratives highlighted how women's embodied sporting selves continue to be marked by gender power relations that are often invisible to others but profoundly affect how women feel and what they do. The study showed the importance of playing hockey for these women, but it also raised challenges women faced as they navigated multiple identities through who they were, who they are and who they want to be. Ultimately, we argue that sport can be a problematic space for women and their wellbeing.



Leisure and Tragedy: Local Resident Response to Homegrown Terrorism

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Dark tourism occurs when individuals “travel to tourist sites associated with death, suffering or the seemingly macabre” (Stone, 2006, p. 146). The term “dark leisure” on the other hand involves people moving away from mainstream leisure in favour of leisure that allows individuals to “identify themselves as liminal, deviant, alternative, rebellious non-conformists” (Spracklen & Spracklen 2012, p. 350). However, there is a type of leisure not necessarily covered by either of these two definitions namely, when local residents choose to visit sites associated with tragedy in their own home environment. Such activity could be viewed as “leisure” as it is freely chosen but strictly speaking cannot be described as tourism as the participants have remained in their home environment.

This paper considers two examples of this type of “dark” leisure activity which occurred in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia following two domestic terrorist attacks in Melbourne’s central business district, namely the January 2017 Melbourne car attack (which resulted in 6 deaths) and the November 2018 Melbourne stabbing attack (which resulted in 2 deaths, including the attacker). The immediate response from the local residents to the January attack was to lay an enormous number of flowers close to the place where the attack occurred which the state government allowed to remain in place for a week before being removed. The second terrorist attack caused the death of a well-known and much-loved Melbourne café owner and resulted in floral tributes being laid around the murdered café owners shop and his state funeral was attended by hundreds of mourners, many of them long term customers of the café. The paper suggests that recognition of the phenomenon of locally based “dark” leisure activities can help residents and community leaders respond to and manage contemporary tragic events in a local environment.



The Role of Leisure in Growth and Recovery for Suicide Survivors

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University of Alberta

Suicide is a global health concern with approximately 800,000 people dying by it annually. Research suggests that for every suicide there are six people left to mourn the loss; although this figure can reach as many as hundreds of people. The literature describes such individuals as suicide survivors; that is, anyone who is significantly negatively impacted by a suicide loss, and whose life is changed because of it. Some literature suggests that suicide survivors may experience barriers to recovery including poor mental health, stigma, and feelings of disempowerment and hopelessness. Yet there has been limited research examining how individuals living through such experiences might cope with and grow from this loss. Leisure has been found to promote empowerment and resiliency that can help individuals to negotiate life's trials and tribulations (Chun & Lee, 2010; Moore et al., 2015; Trussell & Mair, 2010). It can also provide them with opportunities to reflect and grow, facilitating their coping with and/or healing from trauma (Heintzman, 2008; Kleiber et al., 2002). In tandem with this year's conference theme Changing Lives through Leisure, we present our initial findings of a phenomenological pilot study examining the role of leisure in the recovery process of individuals grieving suicide loss. Here we highlight how leisure may help suicide survivors to nurture love, sustain hope, and release pain to facilitate their healing, and transform the suicide event from a tragedy to a more positive renewal (Fielden, 2003).



Exploring the Stigma of Urinary Incontinence in the Physical Activity Environment

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Abertay University

Epidemiological studies report female urinary incontinence (UI) prevalence is approximately 68%, but little is known of whether UI affects a woman's ability to participate in physical activity (PA). This study's purpose was to determine whether UI is a barrier to PA and understand UI's impact on PA participation. A mixed-methods approach was taken. A survey to gauge UI's prevalence in physically active women yielded 891 responses. In addition, ten urinary incontinent physically active women (age ≥ 18 years) participated in semi-structured interviews to provide rich detail on the patterns identified in survey data. Data was analysed using thematic analysis and Goffman's theoretical ideas on 'stigma' were used as a framework to explain findings. Survey data revealed 72% of women felt UI affected PA participation. Three key themes emerged from interview data: awareness of symptoms, fear of disclosure and failure to manage bodies. Participants reported UI symptoms were not given due consideration by PA professionals. Feelings of embarrassment hindered participation and worries over coping strategies decreased enjoyment of PA. Women with UI deem it a barrier to PA. Helping women overcome the stigma of UI is important if PA participation in women is to be increased.



Young activists in political groups. Drivers and frames between engagement and leisure

Carlo Genova

University of Turin

Focussing on the European context, research about youth and politics often highlights that nowadays few young people are personally involved in political groups, and mainly explains this either as a consequence of the weak relevance attributed to politics and of the weakness and fragmentation of collective political worldviews, or as a consequence of the interaction of these values and worldviews with other factors – such as the lack of trust in political institutions and the costs of participation – which interfere with their translation into forms of action.

In most studies, youth involvement in political groups is then understood as the actualisation of a set of values (concerning ‘how reality should be’) through their translation into specific aims and means (concerning ‘how reality can be changed’) on the basis of correspondent wider worldviews, that is representations of society and human beings (concerning ‘how reality is’).

As a result of research conducted in Italy through forty qualitative interviews with young activists (age 19-29) involved in political groups, the paper aims at challenging this interpretative approach. More specifically, through an in depth analysis of young activists’ narratives, the article calls into question the often taken for granted assumption that their involvement in political groups can be integrally interpreted as a form of political participation, and suggests that it often represents also – or even mainly – a form of leisure, connected with complex and variegated frames and drivers (at least) partially external to perspectives of political engagement.



A Five Year Integrative Review of the Leisure and Gender Literature: Part Six of a 40 year Project

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Over the past 40 years, comprehensive literature reviews of the English language peer-reviewed journals have analysed the major trends in research on women, (gender) and leisure in five year increments (Henderson, 1990, 1996; Henderson & Hickerson, 2007; Henderson & Gibson, 2013; Henderson, Hodges & Kivel, 2002). In the latest of this series, 125 papers were reviewed from nine leisure journals spanning the period 2011-2015. A consistent approach was adopted across the six reviews (e.g., journals included; content analysis), although the more recent reviews include a broader conception of gender. The timing of this latest review encompasses an era where feminist work was entering a fourth wave (Parry & Fullager, 2013). Thus, an overarching question was to what extent had gender research in leisure embraced fourth wave feminism? The methods used across the 125 papers showed that the use of qualitative approaches (primarily interviews) begun in the mid-1990s had increased since the 2013 paper, but there was also a growing diversity including auto-ethnography and the use of mixed methods. There was also a decrease in the number of conceptual papers. In comparison to the previous papers some topics remained consistent such as the use of leisure as a context for resistance and empowerment. Studies on family, physical activity, social support, and space were also present, as was leisure as a site for wellbeing. In 2013, a growing focus on intersectionality was noted and continued in these papers. New contexts for leisure were noted including belly dancing, surfing, and roller derby; however, the overwhelming shift was the focus on leisure as a site for identity construction and affirmation among a diverse array of people including those who identified LGBTQ, as well as those peoples from the Global South. While there was some evidence of fourth wave feminism, this was not the primary approach.



The “aquatic carnivalesque” and retheorising the life-cycle model of event evolution: Barge Day on the River Tyne

Paul Gilchrist

University of Brighton

Mikhail Bakhtin’s notion of the ‘carnavalesque’ has been applied to studies of events and festivals in order to identify transgressions from societal conventions and the temporary suspension of regulatory forces. Scholars working in leisure and events have turned to the carnivalesque as an important aspect in the evolution of rituals, events and festivals, tracing the interplays between excess and licentiousness and moral and regulatory intervention over time. Typically, the empirical cases emerge from land-based locations including street processions down major thoroughfares, or events located in town squares, marketplaces or other urban commons. The intention of this paper is to shift the focus onto the water, by considering the evolution of an annual ritual event on a major river in a large provincial English city. The paper centres on Tyneside’s Barge Day ritual. This annual Ascension Day custom, which ended in 1901, was a major public holiday and transformed the river into a festive space as Newcastle’s mayor, civic dignitaries and trade guilds processed along the River Tyne to assert riparian water rights. Using original archival sources that have helped to reconstruct the history of Barge Day, the paper seeks to capture the ‘carnavalesque’ atmosphere of the event and its meanings, drawing out the heterotopic qualities of the ritual as experienced in Tyneside, alongside a more measured evaluation of the ritual’s contribution to the performance and consolidation of the power and privileges enjoyed by local political and commercial elites. I will trace that evolution of the ritual and will consider the specific contribution of the river location and properties of water to the evolution of the event. The paper will conclude by suggesting that the model of the life-cycle of carnivalesque events needs to be refined in order to better account for the geographic and experiential differences of “aquatic carnivalesque” characteristics.



Identities in Visual Art – Embodied and Reflexive Responses towards Male and Female Nudity in Artistic Photography

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Erasmus University Rotterdam

Nude models – both male and female – have been common in art for ages. While the female body in contemporary society is often sexualised and objectified, this is arguably far less the case for the male form. We therefore expect that people are less used to male nudity and also consider it less permissible in artwork. Still, how people view artistic nudity depends on their attitudes towards sexuality, background, gender and familiarity with the arts. For example, people who have learned to appreciate art for art's sake, are less likely to regard artistic nudity as offensive. Using a set of artistic nude photographs, we assess the differences in responses to male and female models. We aim to shed lights on if and how artistic nude photography may represent and be associated with humans' cultural identities.

Current debates in cognitive sociology stress that cognitive processes occur in stages. While judgement based on implicit, automatic and deeply embodied processing is fast, reflexive and deliberate processing takes more effort and is somewhat slower. If evaluating artistic nudity as non-offensive indeed depends on embodied skills, it will require less cognitive effort and thus happens faster. For instance, people with conservative sexual attitudes are more likely to dislike artistic nude photographs with fast cognition. If the opposite preference occurs, they are likely to respond slower. By including response latency measures in our questionnaire, we aim to capture the nuanced differences in people's cognitive processing when viewing the photographs. Based on a pilot study, we have found that people of various backgrounds and with different attitudes indeed process (tempo) and evaluate (appreciation scores) photographs of artistic nudity differently, which corresponds with our theoretical assumptions. To further strengthen reliability, we are currently collecting additional data and will be able to report on final findings at the conference.



2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and Lifestyle Sports: What is the current state and issues of life style sports in Japan?

Yoshifusa Ichii

Ritsumeikan University

This presentation will report on the present situation and issues of lifestyle sports in Japan. At the IOC General Assembly held in Rio on 3rd August 2016, skateboarding, surfing and sports climbing were approved as the official competition of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. The International Convention “FISE (Extreme Sports International Festival)” gathered urban sports popular among young people such as skateboarding, sports climbing, BMX and parkour held in Hiroshima City for three days from 5th April 2018. In order to bid FISE to Japan, a new sports promotion organisation called the Japan Urban Sports Support Committee (JUSC) was established on 11th December 2017. JUSC is promoting the spread and development of urban sports in Japan, aiming for the success of Tokyo 2020 convention and the creation of legacy. Indeed, towards the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, the promotion of lifestyle sports is proceeding rapidly. However, in order for lifestyle sports to become a popular sport in Japan, there are some problem that has to be overcome. Firstly, there is a big question whether lifestyle sports are understood as sports for Japanese people. Since around the 1960s, sports were created as an alternative to “achievement sports” in Japan, and “sports” which had become popular abroad was imported to Japan. Indeed, the imported sports included skateboarding and surfing. Though Media used the word “New sports” as a generic term for various types of creative sports and imported sports, they regard “New Sports” as recreational sports that anyone can easily participate. Therefore, they understand that lifestyle sports are highly competitive by being approved as the Olympic Official Games. In other words, they do not understand the feature of lifestyle sports as alternative to achievement sports. In my presentation, I will clarify conflicts over sportisation and institutionalisation of lifestyle sports in the Japanese sports situation.



Informal Sport and Leisure Policy Tensions

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Participation trends suggest that many Australians are rejecting traditional forms of sport and physical activity in favour of informal activities that are characterised by self-organisation outside of established structures (ABS, 2014; CSIRO, 2013). A developing research base has illustrated the social and health benefits associated within informal sport and also noted its potential to facilitate participation amongst diverse populations (Gilchrist & Wheaton, 2017). Furthermore, there have been increasing calls for policy makers and stakeholders within sport and health to consider the ways in which informal sport could be better utilised and supported (Gilchrist & Osborn, 2017). However, studies have noted that involvement by policy makers and sporting organisations within informal settings can lead to a structuring and regulating of informal sport that contradicts its purpose and value (Wheaton & O'Loughlin, 2017). Drawing on the concept of liquid leisure (Blackshaw, 2010; King & Church, 2017) to conceptualise informal sport, this paper presents initial findings from interviews conducted with key stakeholders within sport development, local government and community groups. The findings illustrate both the value stakeholders place on informal sport within communities but also the tensions and difficulties they encounter engaging and supporting participants through the lens of traditional sporting structures.



A conspicuously consuming men's club? An exploration of women's participation in road cycling in Denmark

Jette Lykke Jensen

University of Southern Denmark

This paper explores the lived female experience of amateur road cycling in combination with analyses of the portrayal of gendered identities and their consumption practices in media on road cycling in Denmark. Road cycling, or race cycling, has in recent decades gained popularity as a leisure activity reflected both in increased numbers of competitive “amateur” racers affiliating to clubs and self-organised road cyclists. As sporting practice road cycling has a long, male dominated history embodying ideals of endurance, competition and (hierarchical) team spirit. Popular media and recent studies posit amateur road cycling as a masculine activity particularly attracting middle-aged men; the so called MAMILS, with disposable income to spend on cycles, gear and computers (Sirna, 2016; Falcous, 2017). The male-dominance in road cycling also applies to Denmark: cycling nation number two in Europe and otherwise characterised by equal gender participation in cycling in general. However, currently Danish women are also taking up road cycling and various national and local initiatives from cycling and sport organisations are encouraging their participation by establishing women's clubs, rides and courses within cycling clubs. Based on participant observation and interviews in a female road cycling group, this study explores the female experience of road cycling and how women are reshaping or negotiating the gender identities and expectations often ascribed in and through cycling culture. Furthermore, this study considers the relationship between the material culture of road cycling, e.g. the gendered nature of cycling equipment, consumption practices such as tinkering and display of status, and how this influences the leisure meanings for women cyclists. Finally, the paper provides a discussion of the performance of identities in road cycling and proposes some of the ways in which the sport and related niche media could enable egalitarianism of participation.



Lessons Learned from Bridge Lessons: A Sociological Exploration of the new University of Stirling Bridge Club

Kevin Judge

University of Stirling

The establishing of a new community of play is beset by various challenges, of which many can be real or imagined. Even as a source of leisure, the card game of Bridge can be confronted with competing perceptions of access, inclusion and identity, and stand in stark contrast with the sense, and acceptance, of belonging associated with community. Leisure, similarly, possesses the inherent contradictions that free time is unburdened from labour, production or work, yet a commitment and intensity is volunteered when learning a new sport. Based on a qualitative approach, this paper will draw upon open-ended questionnaires and participant observation, by the researcher, that provide an early insight into the experiences and reflections of new players. The purpose of this paper is to argue the compatibility of Bridge within leisure studies. This discussion will develop an initial understanding of the perceptions and interpretations of new players as they identify with a community at play.



Avant-garde and leisure: The art critic as intermediary 'specialist in verbalisation'

Alex Law

Abertay University

In his utopian 'thought experiment' on leisure excitement processes Norbert Elias (2018) described leisure as a small island of physical and emotional release engulfed by a vast ocean of impersonal routine and self-restraint. Drawing from examples of jazz, dance, and art, Elias argued that leisure productions typically pass through a relatively unrestrained, informal and experimental phase to become more refined and codified as they make contact with wider figurations, culminating in more fully formalised, routinised and consciously planned 'kitsch' leisure models. Leisure professionals in film, television, sport, and the arts enjoy increased authority to determine the standards and models of cultural value and taste. It remained unclear to Elias that a habitus orientated to the necessities of work could be adjusted without guilt or shame to the spontaneous pleasures of innovation and creativity in conditions of a greatly enlarged potential for leisure. A diffuse population of non-specialists lag behind leisure specialists and find themselves excluded from the excitement potential of large fields of leisure enjoyment and enrichment. Intermediate professionals, like critics, commentators, promoters and journalists, act as 'specialists in verbalisation' to articulate and circulate new models of taste through what Elias described as 'a kind of internal public opinion, a competitive estimate of each other's achievements and values, an internal status order of their production and performances'. This paper revisits Elias's sociology of leisure to examine the intermediary role of art critics to articulate and circulate models and standards of aesthetic taste for avant-garde artworks that appear incomprehensible to wider publics lacking any common criteria to register aesthetic judgements beyond untrained, highly subjective and personalised sentiments concerning the relative merits of leisure performances and productions.



“I am not your guru”: Digital leisure, self-health management and internet celebrity in the postbroadcast era

Stefan Lawrence

Newman University

For a decade or so actors in the late modern moment have gradually been moving away from consuming scheduled broadcasts on radio and television, and content hosted on CDs, DVDs and Blu-ray, and toward streaming or downloading podcasts, series, movies and games, all of which are available 24/7 at the swipe of a finger. Not only has there been a change in the way media is stored and consumed but so too has there been a change in the types of people achieving notoriety via these emergent media forms indicative of the postbroadcast moment. From TV comic and film star turned existential thinker, Russell Brand to Joshua Fields Millburn and Ryan Nicodemus, aka the Minimalists, social media are places witnessing a notable growth in ‘guru’ or ‘life coaching’ content in the form of podcasts, Facebook pages and Instagram accounts.

Taking its title from the ironically titled Netflix docufilm “I am not your guru” featuring life coach Tony Robins, this conceptual paper attempts to understand the popularity of such people and argues that, what I refer to as, the ‘digital media guru’ is a logical cultural phenomenon of late modern digital cultures insofar as they are occupying the lacuna created by the breakdown in social authority and the rise in neoliberal self-health management discourse. In order to do this I outline some of the prevailing social (pluralism of moral authority), cultural (the problematics of consumerism and celebrity) and economic (shift to informational modes of capitalism) conditions of the (hyper)digital moment and discuss how and why they have helped establish this new kind of celebrity/ life coach and what this means for digital media as a form of leisure and its role in mental health and well-being discourse.



Physical Education expert or Sport Development Officer: what do we expect from our PE subject leaders?

Kim Longbon

Sheffield Hallam University

Previous sport policy in schools identified PE and school sport (PESS) as the two areas of focus for resources. However, involvement from three government departments in the PESS policy arena has crowded the space and the role of PESS has been extended to PE, school sport and physical activity (PESSPA) (Carse, Jess & Keay, 2017; Houlihan & Green, 2006). A 'PE trinity' to help address students' health and physical activity levels is being implemented through and alongside PE and sport (Petrie & Hunter, 2011). Its organisation is primarily the role of the PE Subject Leader (PESL) (Dean, 2003; TTA, 1998).

Griggs & Randall (2018) state that historically, subject leaders were considered "experts" in their subject. As one-year PGCE courses were introduced, the levels of specialism decreased and this change, compounded by a period of austerity, saw the number PE advisors within local authorities reduce (Griggs, 2007). More recently, funding invested in primary schools through the Primary PE and Sport Premium (PESP) has given schools the freedom to buy-in the expertise they feel has been lost as an alternative to providing it in-house (Griggs & Randall, 2018).

The additional focus of physical activity within schools, the lack of expertise within PE subject leadership and the PESP has caused the PESL role to move away from that of PE expert (Jones & Green, 2015). The role now includes commissioning external organisations to deliver PESSPA services within schools, developing partnerships with providers, arranging competitions and teams (Jones & Green, 2015; School Games, 2018), as well as managing and accounting for the PESP budget - activities that more closely align with the traditional role of a sport development officer.

With the added dimension of health, the pervasiveness of administrative tasks and funds to bypass educational tasks such as teaching and curriculum design, this research investigates who best fits the role of PE subject leader - a pedagogue who understands child development or an administrator who understands social and community sport and physical activity development.



Is care work fair work? The politics of leisure in (and for) labour

Kimberly J. Lopez

University of Waterloo

Neoliberalism works insidiously to the swing the pendulum of responsibility for well-being, as a moral imperative, from a collective charge to largely an individual one. In caring professions, self-care and leisure are integral for reenergising self, creating space, and finding balance in one's life (Iso-Ahola & Mannell, 2005). Though necessary, time and resources needed to facilitate leisure and self-care practices for counteracting stresses associated with caring (Skovholt & Trotter-Mathison, 2011) are often inaccessible for individuals engaged in reproductive work (i.e., labours of cooking, cleaning, and caring).

Many personal support workers (PSWs) are minoritised women who require overtime hours and/or multiple jobs to sustain living (Bernard, et. al, 2002; Brown & Warner-Smith, 2005; Chambers, 1986). Systematisation of social locations (e.g., race, gender, class) play out through oppressive structures of work (e.g., work overload, low compensation and appreciation) creating invisibility through marginalisation, which place self-sustaining social programs and time (e.g., services, activity, and time free from obligation) out of reach. When time is allocated for rest and restoration, it is often bound up in other forms of care (e.g., family, home, community service) or the need to decompress from labour in preparation for labour. Navigations of limited resources and limiting structures, that create stress and symptoms of burnout, are exacerbated by deferrals of rejuvenating time and activity for minoritised women engaged in caring.

The present discussion does not intend to conflate leisure with what work is not. Rather, it creates opportunities to reflect on the ways workplaces can make space for leisure moments through work towards sustainable labour practices. Grounded in critical race, feminist, and intersectionality theories, and in pursuit of care and leisure for all, this conceptual paper examines politics of leisure in (and for) labour and structures of work that suspend leisure for individuals engaged in precarious labours of caring.



Critical reflections on the use of sport within youth social policy in remote Australian Indigenous communities

Ryan Lucas, Ruth Jeanes

Monash University

This presentation will critically examine the role of sport as a tool to support the development of Indigenous young people throughout remote communities of the Northern Territory of Australia. The presentation explores the use of sport as a policy lever in these contexts for the achievement of a range of stated outcomes, including improved educational outcomes, reduced substance misuse, reduced engagement with the criminal justice system, amongst others. The research considers assertions from Hartmann (2003, 2015) and Coakley (2002, 2011) around the distinctions between the use of sport for upper, middle and lower-class populations, and challenges whether sport in this context serves as a mechanism for social development or whether its primary function is to serve as a mechanism for social control and containment. Whilst acknowledging the role that sport plays in producing benefits for some who engage with it, this research also explores the similarities between the historical diffusion of sport as a colonising tool, and more recent attempts to utilise sport in the pursuit of social development of Indigenous populations. This presentation will conclude by considering how future research may contribute to addressing the issues raised, and further explore Indigenous perspectives on the issues outlined above.



Changing lives through walking football: recruiting and retaining older men to physical activity programmes

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University of the West of Scotland

Those over 50 years of age carry the greatest proportion of the global chronic disease burden, and symptoms of loneliness and low self-esteem often arise in later life, posing an array of social and economic challenges to public health organisations. Cost-effective strategies to improve health and wellbeing are therefore highly desirable. Walking football (WF) has recently emerged as a physical activity option targeted at older males to enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing. Recent studies (Arnold et al, 2015; Reddy et al, 2017) have considered the physiological impact of WF with older (60 years +) and mixed gender participants, but whether WF would be suitable and attractive to younger male participants (aged 50 and over) has not been examined in a holistic way. This is an important distinction as findings from Scotland suggest that males in the most deprived areas can only expect to be in good health up to the age of 43.9 years, thus targeted health interventions are required earlier in life. This study looked into the feasibility of recruiting and retaining males aged 50 years and over to a WF programme in a professional football club. Physiological and psychological outcome measures were obtained onsite at the football club facility (aiding compliance and retention) at baseline and following 8-weeks, from both an intervention and control group. Semi-structured interviews were conducted after the 8-week programme and 1 year later, to explore motivations for engagement. Results showed that the opportunity to engage in football and the link to a professional football club were key attractions. Adherence was strong, with the forming of new social connections cited as key reasons for maintaining engagement. It is argued that WF is a feasible, cost-effective method of recruiting and retaining older men to physical activity programmes to enhance physical and social wellbeing.



A grounded theoretical exploration of surf therapy within a developmental post conflict setting; a Liberian example

Jamie Marshall

Edinburgh Napier University

Surf therapy is an increasingly popular form of intervention that has been utilised to tackle a range of health and social inequalities. One setting included is post conflict settings such as Liberia where social and individual trauma associated with poverty, the legacy of civil war and the Ebola epidemic remain prevalent. While an increasing amount of evidence has been gathered demonstrating the effectiveness of surf therapy, there has been limited theoretical exploration as to how it achieves its outcomes. Such theoretical exploration is important as it allows for service optimisation, monitoring and further proliferation. Furthermore, plausible and testable mechanisms add strength to the intervention's claims of effectiveness. The aim of this research is to adopt a grounded theory approach to explore and understand underlying theories of change within a developmental post conflict context.

Grounded exploration will be carried out alongside Waves for Change based, a surf therapy charity working alongside young people facing challenges associated with living in a developmental and post conflict setting in Harper, Liberia. Participants will be interviewed in person about their experiences of surf therapy. Data will be analysed through constant comparative analysis and memo writing in line with established grounded theory practice.

Pending, data collection and analysis currently ongoing on site in Liberia. The aim is to produce a comprehensive logic model of programme theory within the intervention.



Digital health trackers, Indigenous women and participation in physical activity: What's the fit?

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Drawing on a strengths-based empowerment approach and the Indigenous tradition of 'yarning', this research explores how digital health technologies can contribute to Indigenous women's increased levels of physical activity (PA). While people have long regulated their bodies, traditionally through the use of diaries and weight scales the use of digital technologies to self-track one's bodily states, processes and activities is expanding. No previous studies have addressed how digital health tracking technologies influence PA among Indigenous Australian women. This research contributes to an under researched area of health promotion concerned with understanding the social, narrative and affective facets of individuals' practices and experiences using digital health technologies. The research question is: How can wearable technologies enhance the experiences and outcomes of physical activity among Indigenous women? The research team consisted of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous women who worked with a group of eight Indigenous Australian women from an Indigenous College in Sydney, Australia, from July to October 2018. Following the study's theoretical and methodological framework the practice of self-designed physical activity programs was employed. Individualised activity and health goals underpinned the study's approach, and each participant decided how best to achieve her goals with the assistance of the health tracker. The participants self-managed their experience in a culturally safe and appropriate manner. They tracked their physical activity by wearing a digital health tracker and diarising their activity types, amounts, experiences and thoughts across an eight-week period. Key findings emerging from the research include intersections between the use of digital health trackers and Indigenous women's enhanced health literacy, increased motivation for activity and lifestyle choice. Discussions around the quantitative self, governance by micro nudge and health trackers increasing power and agency for the women arose from the data.



Illuminating the life-changing nature of park spaces through multimethods research

Alex McDonagh

University of Salford

This paper discusses a multimethods research project that explores how park spaces impact everyday lives. The project engaged with participants directly in the park as well as through the co-production of a digital heritage interpretation of the park. The paper uses examples from interviews and field visits with participants to reveal how the park space has had an impact on their lives. In addition, the research discussed here demonstrates how co-productive approaches to heritage interpretation can facilitate meaningful engagement with participants that also create significant impacts on political, family and community lives.

Firstly, the paper will provide context for the research, outlining some of the literature and the methodology behind the multimethods (Hunter & Brewer, 2015) and co-productive (Graham, 2016) approaches to this project. Interview and field visit data will then be used to demonstrate the impact that park spaces can have on everyday lives, affecting work and leisure, as well as mental and physical wellbeing. Here, focus will be placed on three participants whose narratives relay the role of the park at key points in their lives, demonstrating the importance of public park spaces for the support of individuals and communities. The paper will go on to discuss the project's co-production of a digital heritage interpretation of the park and the impact of this process on the participants. This paper will therefore also demonstrate how multimethods approaches to heritage and leisure research can circumvent power to give greater agency and voice to park users. To conclude, some future applications of this research approach will be proposed that aim to shed light on the potential for heritage sites to change lives in their local communities.



Co-creating new event formats: The case of Glasgow 2018 European Championships

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Over recent years, we have witnessed increasing criticism over the costs associated with bidding for, and delivering, existing sport event formats. Concerns have been raised about over-promised benefits, underestimated costs, lack of transparency and accountability, and the absence of tangible local legacies. Negative publicity has forced awarding bodies to reconsider their approach to event bidding and delivery, opening up the space for new approaches that limit costs and maximise benefits. Debate has also been generated around the need for new event formats that encourage co-hosting, profit sharing, and more effectively aligning the interests of the host destination with that of the awarding body. In this paper, we discuss the creation of a completely new sport (and cultural) event, which was established without the need for a formal bidding process. The inaugural European Championships was hosted by Glasgow and Berlin in the summer of 2018, bringing individual European Championships for seven sports into one event over the course of 11 days.

We analysed media reporting pre-event and during the delivery stage, interviewed key actors in both host cities pre- and post-event, and observed the event during the live hosting period. We found that the co-creation of a new event format afforded both event organisers and the awarding body a unique opportunity to increase local accountability, leverage 'local' benefits more effectively, and make better use of existing expertise than is normally the case with existing sport event formats. However, we also found that the newness of the event format produced vagueness, informality, and uncertainty that led to organisational tensions, limited audience awareness, and challenges for evaluation that undermined the overall success of the event. In conclusion, we argue that co-creating a new event format looks attractive to both hosts and awarding body (if it exists), but there are also significant risks associated with co-created, collaborative ventures when feasibility is difficult to assess, budgetary allowances are difficult to attribute, and expectations are ambiguous and unclear.



Identifying the Social Return on Investment from children's participation in community circus-arts training

Richard McGrath, Kristen Stevens

University of South Australia

The early and middle years of childhood are recognised as being pivotal in ensuring good cognitive development throughout life, resulting in healthier societies. Healthier societies can mean a reduction in lifestyle related illness and therefore potentially reduce reliance on healthcare resources. Furthermore, healthier societies have been shown to be more economically productive. The purpose of this study was to forecast the Social Return on Investment (SROI) associated with children's participation in a circus-arts program on their mental health and well-being.

Adopted a mixed method approach for this study, children aged between 8-14 years were involved in self-completed surveys and participated in focus group interviews, prior to and after, six months of circus-arts training.

The questionnaire used was the internationally validated Kidscreen-27. The focus group interviews asked children their beliefs about how circus made them feel and benefits of participating in circus-arts training.

Based on findings from the surveys and focus groups a subsequent SROI analysis found that for every one dollar invested, \$7 of social return may be generated due to participation in a circus-arts program. Improvement occurred across four key areas concerning children's mental health & well-being; stress relief, self-esteem, confidence and socialisation.

Findings from this study indicate the value of investment in the performing arts, highlighting the importance the circus-arts on children's mental health. Associated impacts to improving children's self-esteem, confidence along with relieving stress are identified as decreasing the potential costs of treating associated illnesses: such as depression and anxiety. Improvements in socialisation have been linked to costs associated to social dysfunction: such as crime victimisation and incarceration.



Unravelling linkages between leisure and health discourses

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Presently various discourses of 'health' link to theoretical and practical domains of leisure. Within the health field there are contrasting discussions involving biological, medical, psychological, sociological, economic, environmental and political ways of constructing meaning. These often overlapping discourses occur in the domains of bio-medical treatment and health promotion. The bio-medical perspective frames 'health' as the prevention or remediation of disease/illness/injury. Consequently, the bio-medical perspective views 'leisure' as a tool through which to reduce risk or assist in recovery. Conversely, the health promotion perspective of 'health' is focused more holistically, i.e. views 'health' as socially constructed. While mainstream health promotion research and practice also views 'leisure' as a tool through which disease/injury risks can be minimised, an alternative health promotion perspective (referred to as salutogenesis) locates 'leisure' as a resource from where 'health' can be built. Within the leisure field, two dominant discourses have evolved concerning 'health'. These discourses relate to the biopsychosocial benefits of 'leisure' and the human rights aspects of 'leisure'. The biopsychosocial 'leisure' discourse focuses on 'health' within a well-being framework and moves beyond the confines of the physical body. This discourse recognises physical, psychological (mental, emotional and spiritual) as well as social aspects of 'health'. Within the human rights 'leisure' paradigm, 'health' is located within a broader social domain, i.e. societies are 'healthy' through the ability of nation states to create and support 'leisure'. Locating 'leisure' within broader understandings of 'health' aligns closely to a salutogenic perspective of 'health' (Antonovsky, 1979). This paper seeks to unravel the complexities in relation to discourses and practices concerning 'leisure' and 'health'.



Changing lives through the development of good practice coaching strategies for adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder in a school based Multi-Sports Program

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Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are more sedentary than other young people in the broader population. As a consequence, adolescents with ASD have an increased risk of heart disease, obesity and diabetes. Current literature indicates that physical activity, such as involvement in sport, can help to alleviate some of health risks for adolescents with ASD. However, coaching adolescents with ASD can be difficult because of common issues associated with the condition, such as a limited attention span, behavioural outbursts and lack of social skills.

This study sought to develop good practice sport coaching strategies in order to assist coaches and physical educators who work with adolescents with ASD. Multiple observations and reflections from coaches of a multi-sport program delivered to adolescents were analysed to identify a number of good practice coaching strategies.

Three core strategies were identified that enable adolescents with ASD to participate in sport training sessions more effectively. These strategies focused on ensuring clear communication through the use of visual aids, as well as demonstrating activities first, using distinct markings of coaching aids (such as cones) and overcoming sensory needs.

Findings from this study can assist coaches and physical education practitioners to incorporate a number of good practice sport training strategies can support and engage adolescents with ASD to continue to participate in sporting activities.



Finding Motivation in “others”: Exploring human-animal inter-relationality in Canicross

Stephanie Merchant

University of Bath

In this presentation I draw on qualitative survey data gathered from 166 canicrossers (people who run with dogs), to explore their motivations to take up the sport, and their subsequent experiences of it. Throughout, I draw comparisons between the participants’ traditional running experiences and those specific to canicross. Thus, a case is made, to examine the influence of canine companionship on the practice, performance and emotional response experienced by the runners. I conclude by arguing that the various examples presented can be mobilised to trouble traditional identity categorisations, lending themselves as they do, to a new materialist interpretation of interspecies world making (Haraway 2016). As such, I seek to highlight the importance of thinking about significant others in sport and leisure activities who are often the means and/or the motivation for maintaining physically active lifestyles (Merchant, 2019). I argue that this focus, on what can be thought of as a fourth wave ‘more-than-human’ study of spatial practice (Hovorka, 2017), is needed and underexplored in sport/leisure contexts, not solely for analysis of human-animal engagements, but also pertinent to the wider discussion and advancement of identity politics debates.



The Negative Effect of Gambling on Well-being for Adults in Midlife: Buffered by Leisure Complexity

Steven Mock, Anna Dawczyk

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Although recreational gambling is associated with fun and excitement (Shaffer & Korn, 2002) and is a source of social integration and well-being (Desai et al., 2007; Hope & Havir, 2002), problem gambling may cause negative personal, social, familial, and financial consequences (Currie, Miller, Hodgins, & Wang, 2009; Darbyshire, Oster, & Carrig, 2001). What might help ameliorate these negative effects? Recent cross-sectional research by Hilbrecht and Mock (2018) suggest that leisure complexity (i.e., engaging in a variety of leisure activities) may help lessen the negative impact of problem gambling on well-being. However, what remains to be seen is causal evidence that leisure complexity buffers the negative impact of problem gambling for adults in midlife.

To examine the effect of leisure complexity in buffering the potentially negative impact of problem gambling on well-being over time, we will draw data from the Leisure, Lifestyle, and Lifecycle Project (LLLPP) (El-Guebaly, et al, 2015). The LLLPP is a five-year longitudinal survey of factors influencing change in gambling and problem gambling over time with 1,808 participants from western Canada. Gambling will be assessed with the Problem Gambling Severity Index (CPGI), well-being with the Personal Wellness Index, and leisure complexity with The Family Environment Scale (FES; Moos & Moos, 2002), that assesses participation in diverse forms of leisure (e.g., movies, sport events, camping). Findings will contribute to a better understanding of potential buffers against the negative effect of problem gambling and will suggest treatment options for those who provide mental health support for problem gamblers.



The Racial Order of Leisure: Segregation, Alternation, Buffering and Restriction in Recreation Provision in the United States

Rasul Mowatt

Indiana University Bloomington

While the role of segregated forms of leisure and recreation provision (Savoy, 2016; Taylor, 2016), ranging from restaurants, hotels, and swimming pools, within the United States is quite known there continues to be little focus on this practice within the broader leisure literature (Finney, 2014; Mills, 2016). A concentrated focus on these practices based on a close reading of related literature and other materials locates four forms of exclusion: 1) Segregated Spaces; 2) Alternating Use; 3) Landscapes Used for Buffering; and, 4) Restricted Places. Segregation as a system within the public and private sectors provided non-White citizens separate spaces that approximated the outdoor and indoor leisure experiences of White citizenry but at an inferior level (O'Brien, 2015). While some sites operated in a system of alternating days and times to accommodate the two different citizenry (Bond & Sherman, 2003). In some cases, while engaging in segregated practices, some parks and recreational spaces were constructed as physical buffer zones between the White and non-White racially designated populations (Wolcott, 2012). But firmly there is a long history of restriction, absent of any segregated provisions, which are entrenched in the design of recreation and public space (Floyd & Mowatt, 2014). Spaces in urban locations have steadily found ways to erase people, particular people of colour. The latest trend in cities towards Urban Re-development, New Urbanism, and "Placemaking" are cautioned by this history and practice, as indicators lean towards the continued practice of cities, and their spaces and amenities, as being segregated by design. This session aims at presenting evidence to this reality and its implications for the field in research and teaching.



Seizing the centre pass – Assessing the motivation of participants to attend and engage in England Netball’s ‘Walking Netball’ programme

Claire Mulvenna, Anika Leslie-Walker

St Mary’s University

Recognising the motivation individuals have for attending and participating in sport is imperative to allowing suitable physical activity sessions to be planned and delivered successfully. The consequence of continued attendance at physical activity sessions can lead to increased activity levels and both physical and mental wellbeing being increased. Self-determination theory (SDT) states that when an individual participates in an activity, the reasons that underpin their decision to participate vary from being internal and incorporated within the individuals self to being related to external outcomes. SDT identifies three universal, innate and psychological needs: competence, autonomy, and psychological relatedness. Various social factors are present in the sport environment that can have an effect on a participant’s motivation (Vallerand & Losier, 1999). The relationships that are outlined in SDT suggest a participant’s basic psychological needs can be promoted and developed by various social conditions including specific coaching behaviours (Alvarez, Balaguer, Castillo & Duda, 2009).

This study aimed to identify the motivations of participants starting and then continuing to take part in England Netball’s ‘Walking Netball’ programme. ‘Walking Netball’ has been designed so that anyone can play it regardless of age or fitness level and it aims to engage individuals in regular low-intensity physical activity. 12 ‘Walking Netball’ participants were interviewed from one England Netball coordinated session alongside two coaches and a Regional England Netball Development Officer. Semi structured interviews were used to allow the researcher to probe and investigate the different motivations for participation which focused on social identity and the affective consequence of participating in the sessions.



Collective Memory Work as Critical Pedagogy in the Leisure Studies Classroom

Mary Parr

Kent State University

Over the years, calls for a critical “turn” in leisure studies have highlighted a need for scholarship that engages in continuous questioning of policies, practices, and assumptions. One aim of a critical leisure studies is to interrogate “power, dominance, and resistance in the face of oppression” in leisure contexts (Mowatt, unpublished manuscript, p. 5). Mowatt asserts a critical approach is necessary to address systemic and institutional oppression; extending efforts surrounding diversity/equity/inclusion which are primarily aimed at matters of equitable access. An intervening process between critical studies and fields of practice is the academic preparation of future service providers. Spracklen (2014) proposed that introducing a “strong dose of criticality” into curricula would yield pedagogical, ethical and political improvements. Limited discussions of critical pedagogy have occurred in the tourism studies education (e.g., Belhassen & Caton, 2011; Grimwood, et al., 2015) and experiential education (e.g., Breunig, 2005) literatures, but is virtually nonexistent in the leisure studies education literature. Collective Memory Work (CMW), based in social constructionism, seems well-suited to be an effective critical pedagogy tool. One aspect of critical pedagogy is the use of “intentional experiences” that allow for reflection, analysis, and action (Breunig, 2005). CMW uses individuals’ accounts of their lived experience as “data” for analysis by the group; “challeng[ing] assumed understandings of experience and established facts, with particular attention to power structures and relations that affect the lives of those immersed in those power relationships” (Johnson, et al., 2018, p. 2). Elkington’s (2012) example of “doing leisure” to “teach leisure” with undergraduates created a space for interrogating historical definitions of leisure and increasing students’ comfort level with constant change. CMW, with its focus on uncovering social structures that shape individual experiences, appears to be a promising tool for instructors to engage with students in critical pedagogy aimed at preparing students to become agents of change.



'Theorising a sociolinguistics of leisure: multi-language leisure speech communities, language contact and leisure lifestyles among globally mobile populations'

Aaron W Pooley

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Leisure speech communities encompass the language specialised to and often necessary for participation in leisure and the social and cultural contexts in which leisure activities are situated. Multi-language leisure speech communities, however, which involve participants who engage in language contact as a functionality of the leisure they share are rarely reported in the literature. Comparing qualitative data collected from two studies situated in the Republic of Korea, this paper contributes to a working theory on a sociolinguistics of leisure linking multi-language leisure speech communities, language contact and leisure lifestyles among globally mobile populations. The participants in both studies were English speakers from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America with a sojourn period of 11 months or less and arrived in Korea without a knowledge of the Korean language or culture. In the first study, working tourists on temporary teaching contracts adapted to their new and unfamiliar surroundings and developed Korean language skills when interacting in speech communities centred around serious, project-based and casual leisure with their Korean hosts. In the second study, international students at a Korean university discovered and participated in speech communities centred around casual leisure when using mobile technologies. The modalities of leisure (physical, digital and blending of physical-digital) differed in these studies. Together they reveal how multi-language leisure speech communities support language contact among globally mobile populations during their leisure lifestyles abroad. Future research could explore the ways in which multi-language leisure speech communities form and contribute to rewarding leisure lifestyles as new cross-cultural and cross-linguistic interactions extend current conceptualisations of leisure in contexts of global mobility.



Enhanced well-being, healthy ageing and social connection: Motivations for playing bridge in the community

Samantha Punch, Elizabeth Graham

University of Stirling

This paper explores the inter-related themes of well-being, healthy ageing and social connection that underpin elite players' key motivations for playing bridge. The findings are based upon 52 interviews with elite bridge players to highlight the motivations that drive players' interest and participation in the card game of bridge. Their sustained involvement in the mind sport is related to social ties within the bridge community, opportunities of cognitive engagement and personal enjoyment of the ever-evolving game. What this presentation will reveal is that the mind sport and card game of bridge has the potential to continue to be a potent source of enjoyment amid the sophistication of contemporary technology and entertainment. The paper will demonstrate that players perceive bridge as offering opportunities for enhanced well-being, healthy ageing and social connection through interacting with friends and family in a sociable environment. The challenges, mental stimulation, fun and excitement can lead to moments of self-realisation and the expansion of social networks for players of all ages. Belonging to the 'bridge world' where members share goals and interests is particularly appealing to players.



Rural sport spectacles: Ice hockey, mythologies and meaning-making in rural Canada

Kyle Rich

Brock University

Hockey occupies a prominent role in the folklore of rural Canada. In this paper, I provide a commentary on the role of hockey events in expressions of place-based rural cultures and identities. I draw from fieldwork conducted in three separate communities to discuss the semiotic processes involved in these events and their relationship to myths about what it means to live rural. Informed by Barthes (1972) and Bakhtin's (1984) ideas of myths and the carnivalesque, I attempt to unpack the way these events are engaged in the social processes of their communities. Firstly, I discuss how social hierarchies associated with athleticism, social class, and geography are subverted and reconceptualised when teams are organised based on lineage, communities are repositioned as tourist destinations during slow winter months, and consumption is (some-times excessively) engaged. Secondly, I explore the ways that freedom, eccentricism, and profanation are engaged in these events, often by normalising the transgression of rules associated with modern versions of the sport and society more generally. Finally, I reflect on the engagement of various actors in the event both on and off the ice. In this way, the engagement of players, spectators, and referees in the performances of the events provides a platform for a creative re-imagining of community life. Finally, I discuss how normalised, sometimes theatrical transgressions of sport and social norms may be implicated in the construction of myths of rurality which are understood as natural or innocent. I suggest that these myths fail to acknowledge the realities of living rural, which often involves volatile economies, youth outmigration, and inequitable access to services. While these events provide a glimpse into the resiliency and creativity of rural people, perhaps they also distract us from thinking critically about the social context and policies which shape rural life.



Exploring the identity of people with dementia as they engage with the activities of community-based leisure and fitness centres. Implications for scholarship and practice

Chris Russell

University of Worcester

Traditionally people with dementia have been marginalised, their voices and aspirations ignored (Brannelly, 2011). Rightly this has been challenged, enabling constructive considerations of what it means to live with dementia to emerge (Brooker and Latham, 2016). Within this context maintaining a strong sense of one's own identity is important because it contributes to well-being and adjustment to the changes that dementia brings (Bunn et al, 2012; Caddell and Clare, 2011). Identity extends to include people with dementia's strengths, hopes for the future, role in society – including participation in leisure (Bartlett and Brannelly, 2018). This PhD study has embraced this within a specific leisure context by exploring, 'to what extent does engagement with the activities of community-based leisure and fitness centres enable people living with dementia to maintain and develop their sense of identity?'

The research employed an ethnographic approach, utilising go-along interviews and participant observations with four people living with dementia, their family carers, and employees (e.g. fitness instructors). Participants with dementia engaged at their local leisure centre in diverse physical and social activities dependent on their practical circumstances, aspirations, needs, and abilities.

Findings suggest that places and experiences matter to identity maintenance and formation in that they have meaning for people with dementia, and feature in memory making. Engagement in activity fosters feelings of confidence, and inclusion, in ways that might help combat stigma. Also, participation counters isolation for family carers, offering opportunity for peer support. More needs to be known though about how people with disabilities negotiate identity within a sporting context (Lundberg et al, 2011). Thus, this research draws upon the voices and insights of people with dementia participating in physical activity within communities to help answer the research question. The imparted wisdom of participants will also be provided to leisure services to help inform their offering.



'Temperament is Everything': Bridge Partnerships, Emotions and Player Identities

Zoe Russell, Samantha Punch

University of Stirling

This paper explores the findings of qualitative research into elite bridge player's perceptions pertaining to key themes of partnership, emotion, identity and self-development. Bridge players are a diverse group of individuals who play bridge competitively and for leisure with different teams and partners over their life course. Drawing on sociological theories of interaction, emotions and identity, the paper begins to analyse how bridge players are engaged in the ongoing performance of partnership which is contingent upon perceptions of what it means to be a good partner, expectations of oneself and others, experience, demographics and power dynamics. The paper introduces new insights to the field of leisure studies and the sociology of sport/leisure through the consideration of bridge players as performing reflexive practice, interrogating the nature of emotion in a partnership game and through examining the fluid construction of player identities at different scales such as individually, in partnership, in teams, and in the wider bridge community.



Social class and gendered practices of school sport sailing programs in western France and California

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Significant research has shown that gender and social class relationships can be problematic within the context of water-based leisure activities such as surfing, windsurfing, and sailing (Wheaton, 2003; Olive, 2016). More specifically, it has been argued that sailing is traditionally practiced and dominated by upper-class males who have the capacity to determine social codes and exclude/devalue others (Créac'h & Sébilleau, 2004). In this paper, then, we develop these critical ideas regarding water-based leisure activity within the context of an international comparative qualitative study that examines the incorporation of sailing within secondary schooling found in California and Brittany. The valued capitals conceptual framework of Bourdieu is utilised to illustrate how leisure sailing has become refashioned by educational and youth development contexts, leading to the reproduction of social and cultural capitals. This type of capital reproduction sustains particular hierarchies and power relationships that are gendered as well as class oriented. For instance, in both France and California it was found that sailing was often characterised by young males who would take up lead roles such as being skipper. However, we found that various sailing coaches held differing views about this male-dominated practice; some coaches directly attempted to rectify this situation while others seemed to reinforce gendered stereotypes and divides. In terms of social class, our findings suggest that sailing in California was highly contoured by the neo-liberal climate, to the extent that sailing became utilised by families and programs as a vehicle for promoting upper-class values and status (Friedman, 2013). On the other hand, sailing in France was considered more egalitarian and connected with a countercultural ethos endemic to the coastal lifestyle. Altogether, 30 interviews and 113 hours of field observations with coaches, teachers, youths, and their parents are used to support these various lines of analysis underpinning organised sailing activity.



The Lived Experiences of Dance and Gymnastics within a Physical Education Degree

David Scott, Gavin Ward

University of Wolverhampton

The focus of this study was to understand undergraduate students' experiences of gymnastics and dance education within the scrutiny of modular learning in Higher Education. A phenomenological position was adopted in order to understand the wholeness of students' experiences whereby identities are constituted through their lived lives. This allowed us to understand the students' identities as relational to the learning and assessment context and their lives within and beyond university. Open-ended interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of students who consented to share their experiences. Data was analysed using Merleau-Ponty's theorising of identity as an embodied cohesion or habit between pre-personal and personal existence. This is revealed through opaqueness and transparencies of consciousness which in this study were revealed through the seven identities of the participants; Negotiating and surviving White space, Strategic masculine competitor, Seeking reassurance, Racially strategic to be unique, Seeking dependence to achieve, Strategically insular and Willing explorer. These identities help to shed light on the tensions Higher Education students may experience when confronted with new learning situations in which they are to be assessed. We concluded that getting to know students, and the opacities and transparencies of their identities, could be of great value in shaping their be-ing as students. In striving to understand the habitual behaviours of students, it is possible to understand how the subject-matter being taught might be received by students within the wider context of their be-ing-in-the-world.



Why is that White man sat at the back of the room watching us?" Utilising participatory approaches in engaging young people and understanding their leisure and wellbeing experiences

Robyn Smith, Tess Kay, Louise Mansfield

Brunel University London

There is growing recognition of the need to recognise and address young peoples' wellbeing and mental health. Wellbeing is a complex concept experienced differently by young people and is shaped by their lived experience. There is a need to develop conceptual and methodological approaches to understanding wellbeing as it intersects with a range of aspects of social diversity and context. Community-based leisure activities may help contribute to positive wellbeing for young people from diverse backgrounds. Whilst there is emerging evidence on the role of leisure in enhancing wellbeing, there is a dearth of qualitative evidence and research that will advance understanding of how leisure experiences improve wellbeing for which young people and in which contexts. Youth participatory action research (YPAR) methods aim to widen and deepen the knowledge production process and address identified power imbalances that occur in research. YPAR provides opportunities for the young people, as a community, to co-create and disseminate innovative and culturally-relevant evidence; a process which both engages young people and has the potential to ensure high impact of projects for them which can also provide policy relevant impact in research findings.

This paper will: 1) reflect on the researcher's experiences of utilising YPAR methodologies as part of large multi-stakeholder project investigating the leisure experiences of racialised youth in Toronto, Canada; 2) discuss how YPAR can be applied to explore the meanings that socially diverse youth assign to their wellbeing and leisure; 3) Consider the use of YPAR methodologies in relation to facilitating public engagement and developing robust evidence to support policy.



More than just a Bridge Lesson: Enhancing Life Skills through the Card Game of Bridge

Miriam Snellgrove, Elizabeth Graham, Samantha Punch

University of Stirling

This paper shows that as a leisure activity, the card game of bridge brings with it key skills that foster social interaction, dedication and discipline. Bridge also encourages the use of analytical reasoning and logic in the context of incomplete information. The paper argues that such skills are likely to be beneficial to players of all standards and ages, providing opportunities to develop and utilise lifelong transferable skills and to put already existing skills into practice. Partnership and team skills are practiced both at and away from the bridge table, leading to benefits for enhancing broader life skills. Thus, skills learned through bridge are likely to impact on other areas of players' lives in terms of relationships, school and work. This paper draws on the data from 52 interviews with elite bridge players in the UK and the US to highlight the skills that are developed through participation in the mind sport of bridge.



Online dating and sense of place. The use of Tinder among mobile collectives

Elsa Soro, Jose A. Mansilla López

Lleida University

The increasing popularity of the dating apps has turned online dating a crucial catalyst for unrevealing the association between sex, leisure, identity and the sense of place. The geolocalisation has undoubtedly changed the way in which people meet each other and -as a result- the same experience of the place. In this regard, when considering people-nearby applications (PNAs), the physical distance between two users has become a crucial factor in the ecology of choice within sexual or intimate encounters. Within such scenario, the aim of this presentation is to examine the use of the popular dating app Tinder in mobile circumstances, namely during travels, vacations, business conferences, festivals, temporary citizenship. The hypothesis that drives this work is that the quest for authentic experiences and the contact with the localness are emerging as alternatives goal of online dating, beyond sex and intimacy.

After a short contextualisation of literature on online dating by different disciplinary approaches to date, the presentation will touch upon the movement in the space as a specific condition of the present scenario and how such conditions specifically engage with affectivity and intimacy. In order to interrogate how online dating is performed under mobility condition findings from a triangulation between a netnography, informal face-to- face interviews and content analysis will be presented and discussed.



Professionalisation of the Martial Arts: the perspectives of experts on the concept of an independently awarded teaching qualification

Charles Spring

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In the United Kingdom there is an unregulated martial arts 'industry'. The aim of this study was to examine whether this 'industry' required Professionalisation through the rationalisation of qualifications for teaching, instructing or coaching practice. Currently, the martial arts consist of a very disparate set of organisations which have what, at best, could be called a varied range of professional standards across teaching, instructing and coaching. Professionalism struggles with the *laissez-faire* approach to qualifications and this creates differing expectations of the teachers, coaches and instructors within the organisations. Viewpoints differ as to whether the individuals need more standards and qualifications. The study of a sample of expert views found that there is some recognition within the martial arts 'industry' that there needs a change in approach to tighten up the processes of determining who can and cannot coach, instruct or teach martial arts. Points of views expressed by the interviewees were: that standards and qualification should be demanding; that there is a need for a professional body and rationalised approach to qualifications but such general improvements must reflect the specific requirements of each particular art. Overall there was little optimism that Professionalisation could be achieved. However, the desire for Professionalisation was a significant finding. Recognising this, the recommendations from this study are set out in a 'Manifesto for Change' which aims to transform the current situation described by one expert as being one where 'the organisations are out for themselves and keep people separate from each other.' The essence of the manifesto concerns: the standardisation of teaching, coaching and instructing qualifications; the development of an overarching organisation to control the martial arts; recognition by other bodies outside of the martial arts of these standards.



Families that play together, stay together – Creating shared memories through event experiences

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University of Hertfordshire

Subjective indicators of Quality-of-Life (QOL) range from physical, to social and emotional indicators (Cummins, 1997; Felce, 1996; Hagerty et al, 2001; Schalock, 2000; WHO, 1993), which we have previously explored in the context of attending events and festivals as a family (Jepson & Stadler 2017; Stadler & Jepson, 2017). Major findings from these studies include that event attendance can foster bonding, belonging, happiness, and has the potential to enhance the family's QOL over time. We aim to build on these findings and further explore the concept of family QOL by investigating how shared event memories can have a positive long-term impact on QOL. Family memories can be modified and reshaped over time and can therefore become a significant part of the family's shared identity, can help maintain social relationships within the family, and strengthen emotional ties (Wang, 2008). Yet, within a leisure context there is very limited research into memory, and even in the wider literature, memory is currently not classified as a subjective indicator of QOL.

For our study, focus groups with families in Hertfordshire, U.K. were conducted and stories and narratives of family bonding, memory creation, family happiness, well-being and QOL identified. These were further tested through questionnaires collected at ten different festivals and events across Hertfordshire, U.K., between May-August 2016. Key findings show how events and festivals provide opportunities for families to 1) spend quality time together, 2) experience 'magic moments' together, and therefore 3) create shared memories that last beyond the event itself (for weeks, months, sometimes years) and enhance the family's QOL in the long-run. We argue that small-scale event activities are one-off, special occasions that have the potential to bring a family together in new ways which fosters the creation of new memories. The positive memories created thus contribute to the family's long-term QOL.



'Being creative together' – The well-being effects of participatory arts events for the over 70s

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The over 70s are an oftentimes overlooked generation at risk of loneliness, social isolation and feelings of low self-worth (Mordini et al., 2009). They may, however, gain great benefits of participating in leisure activities. We discuss participatory arts events (including, literature/writing, theatre/drama, dance, visual arts, such as crafts, new media, moving image and combined arts; Arts Council England, 2007) as a unique context to explore older adults, their social interactions and creativity in order to better understand the 'ageing well agenda'. More specifically, studies have shown that self-esteem follows a particular pattern as we age, increasing in young and middle adulthood, peaking at about 60 and then declining in older age, due to changes in socioeconomic status and physical health (Orth et al., 2010). We therefore draw on theoretical frameworks within Critical Gerontology in order to explore self-esteem and self-worth as two potential personal benefits of participatory arts events for the over 70s.

Our study measured the EDA (Electrodermal Activity) of women over 70 in North Yorkshire and rural Hertfordshire. We collected data whilst they were engaged in arts and craft activities for one-hour sessions. In group reminiscence interviews participants were later asked to comment on what happened in these arts sessions using the objects created, the photographs taken and the EDA graphs as visual stimuli. Our findings suggest that the act of 'doing' or 'making' art in a supportive social environment positively affects self-worth and, at the same time, the sharing of this experience with others enhances self-esteem for the over 70s. We argue that it is the combination of the creative activity itself together with the social situation, which creates positive benefits to wellbeing and Quality-of-Life in older people and therefore benefits the wider community and society as a whole.



An exploration of how a transgender community group experience embodied well-being in a public swimming pool setting

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There has been recent mediated response in the UK towards transgender peoples' participation in sport and leisure activities in public spaces including shopping (use of fitting rooms), organised group activities (the Girl Guides), and swimming participation (withdrawal of Swim England's 'Guide to Engaging Trans People in Swimming'), demonstrating levels of transphobia in society. Whilst there continue to be significant concerns with barriers, constraints, prejudice and discrimination within institutionalised sport and leisure activities for LGBT+ people, transgender people's experiences in these contexts remain under explored.

In this paper, we explore how a group of transgender people experience active leisure in the public space of a swimming pool; specifically, we present analysis of embodiment and embodied experiences. By drawing upon 18 months of rapport building, participation in swimming, and data collection via interviews and participant-generated drawing methods, we highlight how embodied dysphoria, embodied well-being and disruptive encounters can help understand how transgender people negotiate the public swimming pool space. We find that the space used for this activity can be inherently empowering and disempowering for the embodied transgender self, and that the presence of shared experience—communicative bodies—of other group members is critical to protecting the embodied self. We end by giving some critical thought to the opportunities and challenges that this community group and the public swimming pool have created. We suggest that these embodied moments are created and impacted by the design, organisation and leisure practices of public swimming pools. Reducing negative and homophobic moments or encounters requires understanding of not only the impact on transgender people's embodied well-being, but implicates the political, policy and social relations that construct them.



Grime music and dark leisure: exploring grime, morality and synoptic control

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Grime music represents a much-maligned leisure culture within contemporary British society, a point exposed by calls for the genre to be banned. This paper puts forward a perspective that challenges such a rigid interpretation by revealing how certain forms of Grime can be read as moral, exposing the manner in which such music encourages listeners into education, diverting them from the perils of gang violence and drugs. However, the paper narrates how this more 'respectable' form of Grime finds itself confined to the annals of dark leisure, through examining the contours of power that run through contemporary society, explored through the auspices of synoptic control. Here, the paper calls for a more contextual analysis of Grime that focusses on defining the moral messages that individual artists express rather than relying on the essentialist principle of categorising the whole genre in a negative manner.



The Life and Death of the London Routemaster Heritage Bus

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This paper explores the 'life and death' of the London Routemaster bus running on its last everyday service. As a well-loved icon of London, the Routemaster bus has transcended connotation of the bus with mere commuting journeys. A handful of preserved buses are re-purchased way after retirement years to continue running for both tourists and citizens. This paper analyses the London Routemaster bus as a case study which shows how an everyday service has been successfully turned into a leisure experience by the very same nature and feature of service. It seeks to explore how it has become a recognised collective memory and authenticity being staged, going beyond the notion of 'staged authenticity' (MacCannell, 1973). I also argue what are the other cultural potential of this type of bus, such as its embodiment of the flânerie experience through the unique open rear platform. I suggest that the idle flaneur enjoying leisure in the city should not be confined to the walking figure. The Routemaster bus can expand the scope of the flaneur's urban exploration, which blurs the boundary between the city and the department store. The city streets are effectively turned into the leisure site of an arcade as the bus moves, while the mobile flaneur jumps off the bus freely without confinement at designated stops with the 'distracted mode of attention' (Benjamin, 1999). It also serves as a moving balcony for voyeuristic observation of the city. However, this service still cannot escape political pledge of reducing vehicle flow and functionalistic formula in transport planning, and will only become available on holidays. This paper shall discuss why and how this bus journey could be further developed in the light of heritage running days and transport museums experience, using a leisure formula and a fully realised status of a national treasure.



Ageless Wellness: Local Community Perceptions

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Buxton is undertaking a major regeneration project at the Crescent. The new Crescent Hotel and Thermal Spa is being refurbished with a £46million budget. The purpose of research undertaken by first year Tourism Management BA (Hons) students, overseen by members of staff from the University of Derby and members of staff from Buxton Crescent and Thermal Spa Heritage Trust was to gain further insight into resident perceptions of the concept of Wellness and Wellness Tourism within Buxton.

The research is a continuation of an ongoing research project, which started in 2017. The original research was to determine the sustainable use of the Crescent Hotel's Pump Room. Data collected from this first phase of the research project suggested that the local community needed a better understanding of the Crescent Hotel's Pump Room. As a result of this collaborative project the authors of this paper were invited to continue with a second research project to consider the concept of Wellness and Wellness tourism within Buxton.

Qualitative research was carried out in order to gain a deeper insight the local community perceptions of Wellness Tourism and the concept of Wellness. Quantitative research was used to capture and portray demographics.

Data was analysed comparing perceptions from varying generations. Findings suggest that the general perception of the concept of Wellness in tourism was not fundamentally present, however a general consensus was reached that, consumers who were not affiliated with the industry, associated Wellness with a general sense of good health, emotional and physical wellbeing. Quantitative research showed that the meaning of Wellness to different generations varied according to age and upbringing. Baby Boomers and Generation X appear to regard Wellness as a general state of good health and a healthy lifestyle due to the marketing of Wellness in tourism during their lifetime. Millennials appear to look to Wellness as hope for the future and are already experiencing the changing mind set from tourism organisations.

These findings were presented at an event held at the Crescent Hotel's Pump Room, to showcase, to the local community, the research projects being undertaken by students at the University. Local community response was encouraging helping to further establish positive relationships between the Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust, the University of Derby and the local community.



The Relationship of Attachment Orientations and Developmental Outcomes in a Summer Camp Setting as Moderated by Dosage

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University of Waterloo

Summer camp programs are often framed as pivotal and transformative experiences in the lives of youth, and as such, have the potential to impart lasting positive changes (Bialeschki, Henderson, and James, 2007). Camp provides an opportunity for the development of a wide variety of outcomes (i.e., physical, emotional, civic, social, etc.) broadly categorised as youth development (American Camp Association, 2005, 2006, 2009; Henderson, Whitaker, Bialeschki, Scanlin, and Thurber, 2007). In examining youth development in a camp context considerable attention has focused on the production of outcomes, however, “less interest has been paid to the elements that may contribute to those outcomes” (Garst, Gagnon, and Whittington, 2016, p. 181). As such, a growing number of scholars have called for more emphasis on examining the structural and social mechanisms of change likely to influence camp outcomes (e.g., Garst, Browne, and Bialeschki, 2011; Sibthorp, Bialeschki, Morgan, and Browne, 2013; Thurber, Scanlin, Scheuler, and Henderson, 2007). One such factor that may impact camp outcomes is attachment style.

Attachment theory posits that a child’s experience with primary caregivers lead to working models (i.e.: generalised beliefs and expectations) about the self, the world and other relationships (Bowlby, 1973). This early interaction results in patterns of attachment or attachment styles, which can help to explain, associated psychosocial developmental phenomena (Bowlby, 1969, 1973; Malekpour, 2007). Applying attachment theory to the summer camp experience can help develop an understanding of the developmental processes within summer camp. Utilising data from phase III of the Canadian Summer Camp Research Project (CSCRIP III) (Glover et al., 2013), this paper uses multiple regression analysis (Stolzenberg, 2004) to examine the association of attachment orientation (i.e., attachment styles), to a number of camp outcomes (social connections, exploration, self-confidence, emotional wellbeing, independence, environmental awareness, and physical activity), and the potential moderating effect of the amount of time spent at camp (i.e., dosage).



The Importance of Events for Marginalised Communities

Trudie Walters

University of Otago

This paper presents preliminary findings from a year-long New Zealand-based study into the significant contribution that events make to the lives of marginalised people, and how they are represented in the media. Marginalised groups and communities have a right to meaningful leisure experiences that contribute to their social well-being and quality of life. Furthermore, if these events are experienced and portrayed in a positive manner, they can be a vehicle for satisfying these needs and for celebrating community and diversity.

Despite the significance of events as contributors to quality of life and social well-being, implications for non-mainstream communities have been largely overlooked by researchers. Researchers in both leisure studies and critical events studies have recently been called to move beyond the descriptive and take a more critical approach, particularly to issues of social justice in the field. This project responds to these calls, focusing on community events held in marginalised communities. Events held in, by and for marginalised communities provide a platform for such communities to redress imbalances of power (and associated stigmatising) through the celebration of their way of life.

Events selected for the research project included those for indigenous and ethnic minority groups, rural women, seniors, those with [dis]abilities, low socio-economic groups, refugees and the LGBTI community. A qualitative approach was used for core data collection and analysis. Multiple forms of data were included: participant observation, visual methods, semi-structured interviews, informal conversations, and the collection of event narratives and commentary from print and social media.

The presentation concludes with suggestions on how to give marginalised peoples a voice in these events, leading to inclusive events and ultimately contributing to empowering these communities.



“My coach told me I was fine and to get back in the game”: Exploring rugby players’ experiences of concussion

Leigh Wood, Rhiannon Lord, Adam Talbot

Abertay University

The aim of this paper is to provide a) an evaluation of the effectiveness of sport policy, specifically concussion policies in Scottish rugby union and b) the embodied experiences of concussion in rugby players. Thus, this paper addresses how leisure can improve quality of life by providing evidence of embodied experiences of concussion to assist future policy making. Sport-related concussion (i.e., brain injury caused by trauma to the head) has increasingly caused debate and controversy across the globe and various sports for the past 20 years (e.g., American Football, Soccer, Rugby Union, Rugby League). Although sport governing bodies have become better at acknowledging the long-term implications of concussions in athletes and have enforced rules, regulations and policies to ensure a duty of care. Recently, there has been much debate that these rules, regulations and policies put in place are ineffective and thus in sports, such as rugby union (hereafter ‘rugby’), players are being encouraged to play through concussions by coaches. Semi-structured interviews with a phenomenological focus gathered rich detail on how rugby players understood and experienced policy, practice and education on concussion. A thematic analysis enabled the identification of three key themes: 1) insufficient education for players and coaches, 2) inadequate duty of care for athlete’s physical and mental well-being 3) rugby culture and athlete’s refusal to report concussion. Collectively, the findings indicate that policies have changed but the rugby culture surrounding concussion remains the same. Players continue to play following a concussion, especially if they receive a concussion during vital games (e.g., league finals, national team try-outs etc.). Players experiences also reported that ‘old school’ coaches continue to encourage players to play through concussion disregarding in the latest requirements of policy.



Not just changing lives – saving them! Pets, ageing and suicide protection

Janette Young

University of South Australia

Pets are the most common and closest of human- animal relationships that older western humans generally experience. Given their location in private domestic lives; commonly denied entry to work-places and many public spaces pets can be seen to be part of most pet owners leisure-scapes.

We interviewed 35 older people about how they perceived their pets as impacting on their health. Unexpectedly a number revealed how their pets have acted as suicide protection and prevention in their lives. This presentation will briefly explore two levels of analysis that emerge from these findings. Firstly, understandings of how pets can protect some older people from suicide. Secondly, reflections on the concept and linguistic positioning that the terminology used in Stebbins Serious Leisure Framework positions this very serious “casual leisure” of pet keeping, owning, caring and relating.

Qualitative descriptive analysis lead to development of a model of understanding how pets can protect some older people from taking their own lives. Facilitating functional actions that reduce or counter symptoms of depression and distress; the presence of a pet, who as a fellow being knows you and either reciprocates relationally or facilitates a sense of thankfulness back towards them seem to underpin the protective nature of pets.

From a leisure theorising position, Stebbins Serious Leisure Framework encompasses Casual leisure which is where the leisure activities that most pet owners engage with their pet can be identified. Linguistically the terminologies used, “casual” “passive” and “active entertainment” for example belie the serious outcomes that this casual leisure is engendering in some peoples lives. Casual, frivolous leisure can be lifesaving perhaps particularly for some vulnerable population groups. The presentation will finish with some discussion of the implications of language for (re)claiming the very serious role that leisure plays in human lives and experiences.



Returning to (faith) communities – Understanding a naturally occurring leisure phenomenon

Janette Young, Caroline Adams, Margaret Holt

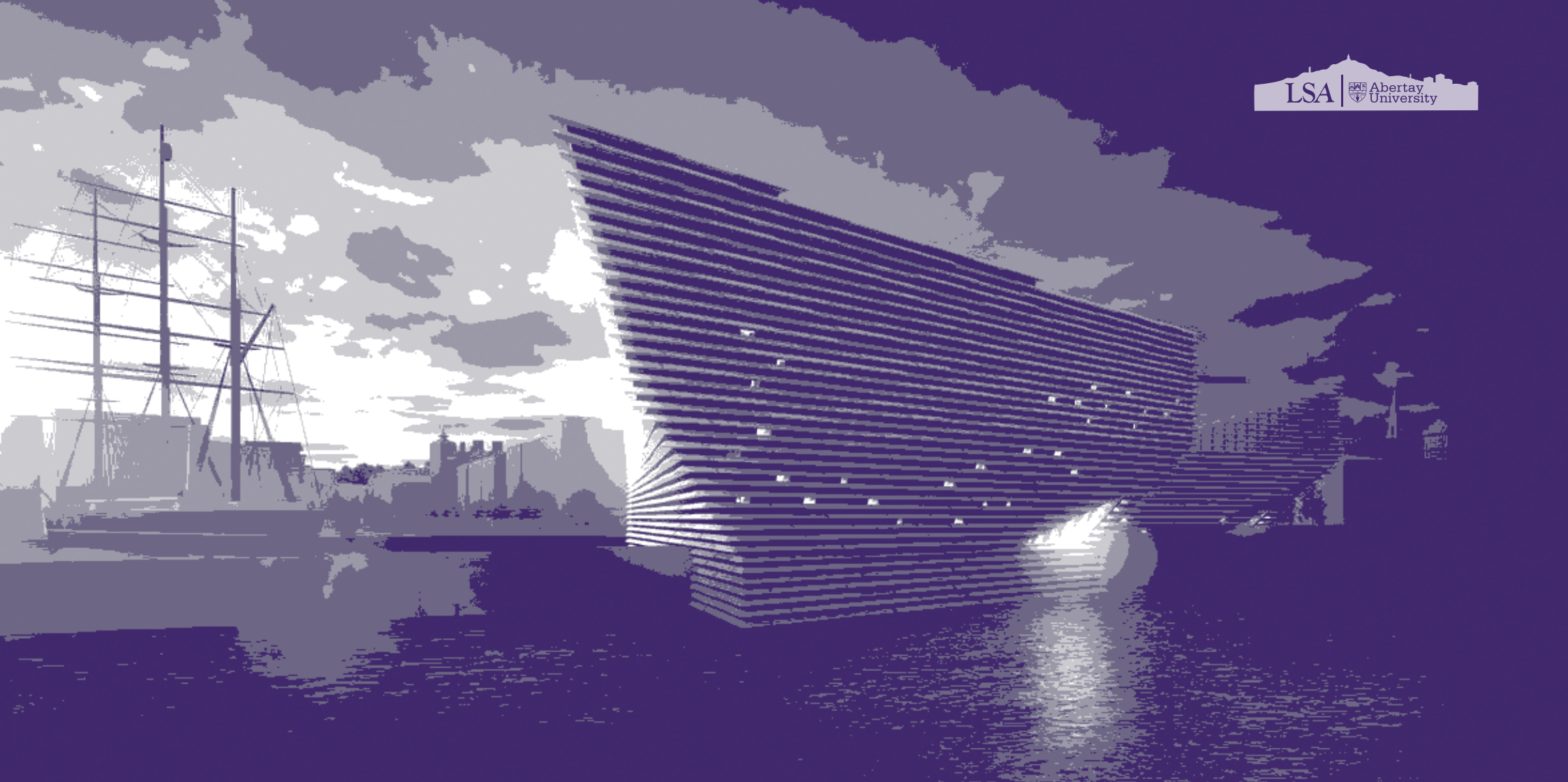
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Increased life expectancy is a key achievement of the 20th century and is changing the shape of communities. Increased longevity has implications for the time that people have post-employment years to engage in a range of leisure pursuits. These pursuits can include established activities; things they have been doing that they can continue to do more of; and new activities including the proverbial “bucket list”. They may also return to leisure activities they pursued when younger. Our project focuses on the latter area of leisure engagement – specifically returning to active church engagement by older people after many (10+) years away from the church community.

Church attendees in countries such as Australia tends to be dominated by older people. In Australia the comparison is 48% of church attendees as versus 26% of the population at large are aged over 60. Yet it is commonly presumed that this profile reflects continuity of engagement rather than a return to older patterns of activities. The spur for undertaking this research is that the returnee phenomenon is not a well-recognised or researched leisure area, but once recognised within church networks informants consistently are able to identify numbers of contacts who fit this profile.

It is important to explore why older people might reengage in faith communities as these places are part of the rich map of leisure engagements known to enhance the quality of older lives and communities. Naturally occurring community engagements have more powerful impacts on people’s sense of social connectedness than attempts to artificially create such connections. Understanding how these naturally occurring (re)engagements work for people, what factors create and facilitate re-engagement and the nature of these engagements is vital. Loneliness and social isolation are key issues that governments are wishing to address.

This presentation will share preliminary findings from this mixed-methods research.



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