

Leisure Studies Association (LSA) Annual Conference 2018

Conference Dates: 10-12 July 2018

Conference themes

Theme 1: Digital and physical cultures

Within this stream we invite papers which take as their focus leisure, movement, recreation, dance, health and sport practices and the digital technologies that articulate with these physical cultures. These often overlap, and papers within this stream may like to think through how these digital and physical cultures connect, the affective flows between them and the interconnectedness between active embodiment and technologies.

Theme 2: Critical pedagogies in public and education spaces

Within this stream we invite papers which examine the way that learning takes place in the classroom as well as extra-institutional spaces and discourses. Leisure can be understood as a site of pedagogy that both reconstitutes and challenges dominant and restrictive ways of being and knowing. In recognising that not everything everywhere can be pedagogy, we are particularly interested in papers that explore the ways that leisure sites and practices can be understood as potentially powerful educational forces.

Theme 3: Inequality, power and change

We aim to continue this stream from the 2017 conference to maintain a central focus on critical perspectives on changing leisure practices. We invite papers which examine leisure as offering sites of resistance as well as oppression. What can leisure research on identities, lifestyles and play reveal about social relations, inequalities, power and privilege? The dynamics of identities are contextually contingent, influenced by time and place and the extent to which they are embedded in the culture of their geographic location. We are especially interested in hearing about research that contributes to facilitating social justice through critical analysis of social and political processes of leisure.

Theme 4: Sustainable communities - people and places

Within this stream we invite papers that address the multiple dimensions of sustainability - social, cultural, environmental and economic - in relation to local and global leisure contexts. With a focus on understanding the dynamics between people and place this theme explores how spaces (rural, urban) are a site of constant negotiation. It assumes that both humans and non-humans exercise agency and that leisure practices are produced through complex relations with each other.

Recognising the geopolitical, sociocultural, economic articulation of space in leisure, events and tourism can enable us to grasp it as a site of resistance, contestation, commodification and commercialisation.

Theme 5: Co-creating research - innovative methodologies

Within this stream we invite papers that explore the way that innovative methodologies can enable leisure studies to move in new directions and push the boundaries of enquiry in a post-disciplinary era. We welcome papers that deploy, for example, co-generative, participatory and action-research oriented approaches in order to better understand the cognitive, affective, emotional, spatial meanings and experiences of leisure. Recognising that impact and change can be initiated through creative, critical methodologies can move us beyond tautological approaches in leisure studies and begin to (re)imagine more inclusive, equitable futures.

Theme 6: Embodied health and well-being

Within this stream we invite papers that explore embodied experiences of health and wellbeing within and across leisure contexts. In the face of austerity, public and academic debates have called for a rethink of the way in which health issues are being 'tackled' and the impact of healthism on everyday lives as health, illness and wellbeing is linked to rapidly changing social, economic and political contexts. What are the implications of this for lived experiences of leisure? We need to understand the role of physical activity and health practices, for instance, within people's everyday lives--particularly the lives of marginalised and disadvantaged groups. We need to explore the way that subjectivities impact upon the uptake of health practices and look at ways of creating alternative, socially-just, person centred approaches in order to begin to challenge health problems.

Theme 7: Open

We invite papers that may be best suited to an open theme or one of the special sessions identified below in the Call for Abstracts.