



## **The Association for the Study of Play Online Conference Call for Presentation Proposals 2022**

**Conference Theme: Play in a Liminal Space: Considering Who We Are and Who We Are Becoming**

**Date:** May 21, 2022

**Platforms:** Zoom and CANVAS

**Types of Presentations:**

### **Research Session via Zoom (50 minutes)**

Research sessions include individual presentations on new or ongoing research related to play and play provision. Individual presenters will be given time to share their original research (i.e., systematically designed, generalizable studies employing sound methodologies and data analysis practices). Multiple (2-3) presenters will be assigned to one session with a discussant. The first part of the session will allow for researchers to present their work for 10-15 minutes. The second part of the session will be for discussion led by a discussant.

### **Workshops via Zoom (50 minutes)**

Workshops emphasize learning-by-doing and provide participants the opportunity to explore topics in depth through a combination of hands-on activities, reflection, and

discussion. Proposals should include a detailed outline describing the types of learning activities and interaction you plan.

### **Roundtable/Symposium presentations sessions via Zoom (50 minutes)**

Similar to the Research Session in which there are multiple presenters, however, the roundtable sessions are self-organized with 2-4 presenters and one self-selected facilitator. This is designed for participants to engage in an academic discussion on a specific topic of common interest. The roundtable discussions are an opportunity for participants to get together in an informal setting to examine issues as they relate to play and play provision research. The proposal must include an outline of the presentations and provide time for discussion.

### **Pre-Recorded poster presentations via CANVAS (15-20 minutes)**

Recorded poster session presentations will include a pre-recorded audio or video presentation with powerpoint or other digital visual. Research, applied research, action research, play advocacy events or programs, and the practice and promotion of the necessity of play will be accepted.

### **Please submit your proposal with the following information:**

Current contact information and brief bio for main presenter or facilitator and all co-presenters

Presentation title (no more than 10 words)

Type of presentation

Session abstract- 150-250 words

Session description 350-500 words

- Provide a conceptual framework for your work,
- List expected outcomes for session participants.
- Outline the session activities and plan for interaction.
- Approval of Recording Session and Photos

**Submission Deadline:** March 15, 2022

**Acceptance Notification:** April 1, 2022

Please submit here: <https://forms.gle/emNkJuB9n89mWCTRA>

**Call for Proposals:**

This year the TASP conference will take a reflective moment to consider play and play research in the context of a world in transition. In the Financial Times in April 2020, Arundhati Roy described the pandemic as a portal: “Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.”

How is this moment in play history breaking with the past and imagining a world anew?

The image of a portal as a space and time when things transform can also be understood through the lens of liminality. As Ibarra and Obodaru (2020) have noted, expanding on the concept of van Gennep’s *Rites of Passage* (2013): “Liminality is the individual or group experience of being betwixt and between states, roles, and/or identities. For both individuals and organizations, liminal experience is pervasive, often permanent, intrinsically problematic and a crucible for innovation and growth.” However, the authors theorize on “liminality’s contemporary manifestations” and conceptualize “liminality as a creative process that affects the renewal and adaptability functions that are so vital to personal and organizational thriving.” (p. 471) In other words, now is the time for play.

This liminal space also reminds us of the keynote from last year’s TASP conference in which Lois Holzman, drawing on Vygotskian theory, shared the concept of personal and community development in which “we are and we are becoming” and that the space between who we are and who we are becoming is PLAY.

As such, the organizing principle that guides our conference this year is that now is a reflective moment to consider 1) how play serves as activity that is affected by and is guiding this historic context, 2) what from past play research and theories can guide us to the future or what we must break from and 3) what new play research, theories and methodologies offer promise in imagining a new world.

To this end, the conference calls upon advocates, practitioners, and multidisciplinary scholars that are exploring the potential of play in creating a new world to contribute

empirical papers, posters, symposia, and workshops that capture the dimensions of this process.

The Association for the Study of Play recognizes and celebrates the diversity of research and perspectives of the study of play. We believe that new knowledge and understanding is enhanced by diverse perspectives, and our goal is to create an inclusive online conference environment that invites participation from scholars of all races, ethnicities, genders, ages, abilities, religions, nationalities, and sexual orientation. We strive to create a learning space where participants will be treated with respect and dignity and where all individuals are provided an equitable opportunity to participate and contribute.

Topics can include play and its relation to current contexts such as (but not limited to) the following:

Cultural transformation

Play in the time of COVID

Anti-racist and anti-bias play

Social and Civil rights movements

Mental health and well-being

Human and Children's rights

War and political unrest

Climate change

Risk and freedom

'Nothing about us, without us': Children's participation in play research

Participatory research methodologies with children and young people

Play and the built environment

Nature and play

Historic and emerging theories and methodologies of play

Play in Education

## Play in Healing

### **References:**

Holzman, L. (2021, March) The Association for the Study of Play Online Conference.

Ibarra, H., & Obodaru, O. O. (2020). Identity Play and the Creative Potential of Liminal Experiences. *The Oxford handbook of identities in organizations*, 471.

Roy, A. (2020). The pandemic is a portal. *Financial Times*, 3(4).

Van Gennep, A. (2013). *The rites of passage*. Routledge.