



2019 ANZALS Conference Themed Session

The diversity of outdoor recreation: How do we make outdoor recreation accessible?

The great out-of-doors plays a significant role in the recreation experiences of many individuals and communities. Discourses of the natural world are embedded in articulations of individual, community and national identities. How outdoor recreation experiences are articulated and described, organised and delivered offer insights into the way we value nature in our lives. And yet, the enjoyment of the outdoors faces many challenges; the need for stewardship and conservation, opening up of limiting discourses and practices, and strategies for making outdoor experiences accessible to diverse populations. Leisure scholars have discussed issues that limit as well as facilitate experiences of the outdoors through an array of methodological and theoretical approaches. Similarly, practitioners have developed and implemented a variety of innovative programmes, philosophies and strategies that work to open up possibilities for diverse outdoor recreation experiences. The aim of this session is to extend knowledge and understanding to connect "thinking" with "doing" to explore how outdoor recreation experiences can be made available to more diverse people and communities than has been traditionally conceived. We invite papers from a broad array of outdoor recreation scholars and practitioners to explore the benefits of, and challenges to, achieving outdoor recreation for all.

The following is an indicative list of topics that this session may include:

- Engaging diverse populations in outdoor recreation
- Diverse methodologies to outdoor recreation research
- Challenging limitations to the diversity of outdoor recreation
- Diverse programmes and activities in outdoor recreation practices
- Innovative and diverse education in HE of outdoor leadership

Papers will be in the format of a 20 minute presentation followed by 5-10 minutes for questions and discussion.

Session Chairs:

Mandi Baker

Mandi.baker@laureate.edu.au

Emma Stewart

Emma.Stewart@lincoln.ac.nz