



2019 ANZALS Conference Themed Session

Leisure Studies Education and Pedagogy: Exploring the Diversity Across Fields

The evolution of leisure studies, as a field of education and pedagogy, has evolved over many decades. Fullager (2011), Spracklen (2014) and Tower et al. (2017) all point out that the academic field of leisure studies has diversified and segmented into various other sub-fields (such as sports and tourism studies as well as leisure, recreation, sport, hospitality, events management). Spracklen (2014) posits two potential pedagogical futures for leisure studies, one which accepts the different fields of leisure studies all draw from core leisure concepts and ideas about the relationship between policy and theory, society and identity. Essentially, the adoption of critical thinking from leisure studies becomes a core underpinning within each of the sub-fields of leisure studies. An alternative pedagogical future is the repositioning of leisure studies as 'a purely critical, socio-cultural subject field, linked to the practice and performance of leisure identities in leisure spaces', essentially leisure studies located within a politics of resistance. Included in the repositioning of the leisure studies discourse is the development of a new age curriculum which encompasses other professional fields such as the built environment, human settlements and health, for a more meaningful impact of the benefits of leisure to society, the environment and the economy.

The focus of this conference theme is to encourage and foster discussion regarding education and pedagogy of leisure studies. This theme seeks to build discussions concerning the challenges, initiatives, collaborations or positions educators have taken in relation to leisure studies pedagogy. We are interested in developing an international and inter-disciplinary perspective concerning leisure studies education and pedagogy, taking account of the various sub-fields of leisure studies as well as the practice of education across other fields (for example race studies, gender studies, health sciences).

The theme is interested in a multiplicity of perspectives, be they innovative teaching and learning research projects through to theoretical propositions. We are seeking papers, research presentations, case-studies and educator experience that explore the diversity of knowledge and understanding in relation to leisure studies education and pedagogy. From educators we encourage *case-studies and educator* experiences which explore how leisure studies (or sub-fields) are taught. From researchers we are seeking *conceptual questions or research findings* that explore aspects related to leisure studies education and pedagogy. We are keen to glean a multi-disciplinary perspective on this topic.

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