



P 4 PLAY

NEWSLETTER



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement number 861257.



Welcome!

Welcome to the first P4Play project newsletter.

P4Play is a European PhD programme that was established in 2020 as a new PhD in Occupational Science and aligns with the Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSC) vision for excellence in doctoral education in Europe. P4Play was devised in response to the low levels of doctoral training available for Occupational Therapy across Europe and no established discipline in Occupational Science.

It is funded through the MSC Innovative Training Network programme, which enabled us to establish a collaboration between 4 academic and 15 partner organisations in Europe and the USA. The P4Play team will innovate and deliver a high-level, first-rate PhD programme in the discipline of Occupational Science, in the study of play occupation.

The P4PLAY research programme addresses four areas of play: **People, Place, Policy** and **Practice** (P4PLAY). The overall research goal is to develop new knowledge on the occupation of play and play deprivation, the impact of physical, socio-cultural, and policy environments on play provision, and the development of innovative solutions to address barriers and provide solutions to play provision in diverse community settings to benefit children, families, and communities.

With funding of €2.2 million, we are able to build on an emerging network of academic, policy and NGO organisations who are committed to children's rights, social inclusion and play, and employ 8 full-time researchers to address issues of play deprivation across diverse communities. The rationale for P4PLAY is to combine the needs of those who work with children at risk of play deprivation, with the research skills of academics who are experts in occupational science.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and if you want to know more about the project please follow us on:



Twitter @P4Play_EU



Instagram p4play_EU



Website www.p4play.eu

P4PLAY: People, Place, Policy & Practice



Co- principal Investigators P4PLAY

University College Cork
(UCC), IRELAND
Prof Jeanne Jackson (top)
and Dr Helen Lynch (bottom)



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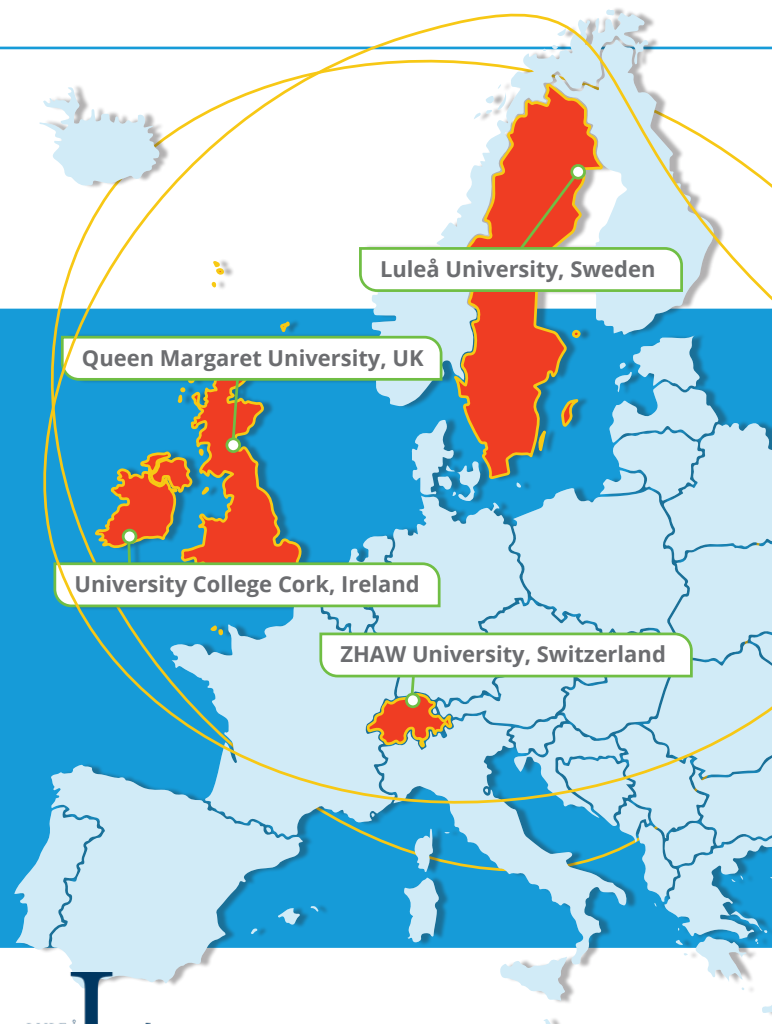
P4Play's Origins

P4Play was Awarded €2.2 million to design and develop a European joint PhD programme across four universities: University College Cork in Ireland, Luleå University in Sweden, Queen Margaret University in the UK and ZHAW University in Switzerland.

The resulting programme spans 4 European universities and employs 8 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) who are already qualified in Occupational Therapy.

Two ESRs are focused on each of the areas of P4Play: **People, Place, Policy** and **Practice**.

Each ESR is affiliated to two universities in two different countries which is established as good practice for enhancing research skills and mobility of the workforce for Europe.



P4Play Themes 1 & 2

THEME 1:

Play occupation and environmental influences on play & play deprivation

PEOPLE

Research Area A

Identifying play diversity of children at risk of play deprivation, and associated sociocultural influences for social inclusion. (2 PhD projects)

PLACE

Research Area B

Spatial inclusion: constructing new knowledge on contemporary places for play. (2 PhD projects)



THEME 2:

Enabling play and socio-spatial inclusion

POLICY

Research Area C

Informing play policy and community advocacy to ensure equity on the right to play. (2 PhD projects)

PRACTICE

Research Area D

Implementation of evidence into practice through design of assessment tools and Interventions for socio-spatial inclusion. (2 PhD projects)

Meet the Supervisors



Prof Jeanne Jackson

P4PLAY Coordinator and Supervisor at University College Cork for ESR 1, ESR 2 and ESR 6.



Dr Helen Lynch

P4PLAY Coordinator and Supervisor at University College Cork for ESR 3, ESR 5 and ESR 7.



Dr Bryan Boyle

Supervisor at University College Cork for ESR 4 and ESR 8.



Dr Maria Prellwitz

Supervisor at Luleå University Of Technology for ESR 3 and ESR 5.



Prof Maria Larsson-Lund

Supervisor at Luleå University Of Technology for ESR 4.



Prof Margareta Lilja

Supervisor at Luleå University Of Technology for ESR 8.



Dr Sarah Kantartzis

Supervisor at Queen Margaret University for ESR 1 and ESR 2.



Dr Duncan Pentland

Supervisor at Queen Margaret University for ESR 6.



Dr Christina Schulze

Supervisor at Zurich University of Applied Sciences for ESR 3 and ESR 7.

Meet the 'People' Scholars



Silvia Veiga-Seijo

ESR 1 – I am Silvia Veiga-Seijo from Spain and my research project is about 'Expanding conceptualisations of inclusive play to incorporate the play characteristics of children with diverse play experiences at risk of play deprivation'.

During my first year, I have been immersed in the Loose Part Play programme and other projects developed by East Lothian Play Association in different communities across East Lothian (Scotland). This engagement allowed me to critically reflect and learn about children's play occupation in connection with sociocultural and historical contexts, which combined with a literature review and discussions with supervisors, prompted the development of research questions.

I am currently completing the literature review on play opportunities of children living in disadvantaged communities as well as my Occupational Science's theoretical framework. With my supervisors I am discussing the methodological design and ethical issues of the study.

I will work collaboratively with East Lothian Play Association's team and my advisor in the next weeks to establish a methodology adapted to the context of the chosen community. I have already prepared my Ethical Submission, and afterward, data generation will start... A wonderful journey with children and communities awaits us!



Allison Mula

ESR 2 – I am Allison Mula from the United States of America and my research project focuses on 'Exploring the impact of contemporary social discourses on the play of families with children at risk of play deprivation'.

Last year I reviewed existing literature on gender, children's play occupations, gender and play, and social discourses of gender. Reviewing the literature has exposed a gap in existing occupational science research regarding the space that play provides children for communicating and constructing their notions of gender.

I am currently solidifying my methodology and finding great inspiration through my partner organization, Wallaroo Playschool in Cork, Ireland. The playschool nurtures and empowers children to be active participants in their play and in the construction of who they are.

The centering of children's voices in the playschool fits very well with the intention of my research, which is to amplify the voices of the children. It is for this reason that data collection will be taking place at Wallaroo. I'm greatly looking forward to the coming months and being out in the field with the children.

Meet the 'Place' Scholars



Ines Wenger

ESR 3 – I am Ines Wenger from Switzerland and my research project is about 'The relationship between Universal Design and policy for play provision'

I started my first year with project management work, such as developing a data management plan and preparing the application for the ethical commission. I also worked on data analysis and writing the manuscript as part of an article.

In the autumn, I had the opportunity to visit my home university in Luleå and meet my fellow students, Michelle and Rianne, and my supervisor Maria Prellwitz in person.

It was a wonderful opportunity for exchange, networking and to get to know Luleå University of Technology better.

Towards the end of the year, I started to work on the topic of qualitative evidence synthesis and collecting data for it.

This year I will continue to work on my qualitative evidence synthesis about children's perceptions of factors enhancing play value and inclusion on outdoor playgrounds.

I also plan to explore the topic of universal design in more depth.

I am also excited to learn from the expertise of my secondment partner, the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design.



Fiona Loudoun

ESR 4 – My name is Fiona Loudoun from Scotland and my research project is 'Exploring children's participation in play in digital spaces'

Over the last year, I have developed a much broader and in depth understanding of play, especially within the context of digital spaces.

In October, I submitted an abstract to attend the Doctoral Consortium of the Computer-Human Interaction Play conference which resulted in my first extended abstract publication!

The Occupational Science Europe conference was a virtual experience in November, where I presented jointly with Dr Tina McGrath to facilitate discussion on connections and disconnections within a virtual work

I am looking forward to commencing data collection in February this year for two of my studies. This will involve making collages and comic strips with children... to generate their perspectives of what it means to play in a digital world.

Meet the 'Policy' Scholars



Rianne Jansens

ESR 5 – I am Rianne Jansens from Belgium and my project is about 'Enhancing spatial inclusion in public playspaces through participatory approaches in planning and design'.

I have just finished my first year of the P4Play project with a much greater understanding of children's rights and play provision, occupational science and conducting research, and with beautiful memories of living and working for a year in Luleå.

I will move to Cork in early 2022 and hope to finish my literature study soon so I can start the field study with Irish municipalities and my secondment activities with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland.



Sabine Vinçon

ESR 6 – I am Sabine Vinçon from Germany and my project is about 'Applying complexity theory to identify and explore multiple outcomes associated with children's play'.

I have enjoyed my first year of the P4PLAY project, working and living in my new home in Edinburgh. This year, I explored the topics of complexity theory, policy, play, and occupational science.

Working with my Scottish project partner, Play Scotland, I got my first practical insights into policy work to promote play among children.

In my PhD, I will use the perspective of complexity theory to gain an understanding of the relationship between policy and children's play. I am currently discussing the methodologies for my study with my supervisors.

Early in 2022, I will start the first phase of my doctoral studies, which aims to gain a more comprehensive understanding of children's play using a complexity perspective through a literature review.

Meet the 'Practice' Scholars



Thomas Morgenthaler

ESR 7 – I am Thomas Morgenthaler from Austria and my project is about 'The evaluation of children's outdoor play'.

In my first year, I created my overall research plan and literature review.

I am currently working on my first study, a scoping review of published papers on environmental qualities contributing to the play experience of playgrounds from the children's and parents' perspectives.

I was living in Switzerland during 2021 and am now living in Cork for my second year.

My goals for 2022 include finishing the scoping review and applying for ethical approval.



Michelle Bergin

ESR 8 – I am Michelle Bergin from Ireland, and my project is about 'Enhancing participation through play interventions in school settings'.

A move to work and live in Sweden alongside opportunities to engage in Europe wide forums with my secondment partner ENOTHE, provided invaluable support to critically reflect on the knowledge I was immersed and introduced to over the past year.

This included occupational science, play and play practices, underpinning epistemologies and ontologies which all informed the development of our research plan.

In the coming year, after receiving ethical approval, and completing a scoping review,

I hope to begin exploring multiple perspectives of schoolyard play using a capabilities approach in Ireland.

Recent Conferences & Events Attended

Play 2021 UK Conference, July 2021

The eight P4PLAY ESR students presented 4 posters associated with the 4 areas people, place, policy and practice and their research projects.

Society for the Study of Occupation USA (SSO:USA), September 2021

Allison Mula, Thomas Morgenthaler and Karen McCarthy attended along with Prof Jeanne Jackson and Dr Helen Lynch.

Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) Play 2021,

October 2021

Fiona Loudoun participated in the Doctoral Consortium of CHI Play 2021.

Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland (AOTI)

October 2021

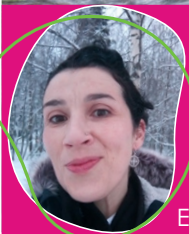
Michelle Bergin and Rianne Jansens presented posters at the AOTI conference.

OSE conference, November 2021

The Occupational Science Europe conference was held online this year with over 250 participants.

Our project co-ordinators, Professor Jeanne Jackson and Dr Helen Lynch presented one of the three keynote addresses for the conference addressing the context of PhDs in Europe and outlining how the P4Play project seeks to begin to fill the gap for occupational science education and research. ESR 4, Fiona Loudoun presented a joint session with Dr Tina McGrath on connections and disconnections in a virtual world.

Insights



Michelle Bergin was delighted to participate in an international doctoral student's colloquium led by Professor Jan Selling of the Romani Studies department at Södertörn University.

Engaging in this forum has provided opportunities to discuss critical research focused on antigypsism. www.sh.se/english/sodertorn-university/research/our-research/romani-studies/colloquium-for-doctoral-students

In November, **Silvia Veiga-Seijo** had the wonderful opportunity to visit Catherine Street Inclusive Play Park & Community Garden in Dumfries, in South West Scotland

(www.includeus.org.uk), alongside Theresa Casey, her advisor for her research project at East Lothian Play Association and Lucy Schofield (East Lothian Council Regeneration Officer).

This park is different from others as it is an open-access, shared space in the community and an inclusive play space for every child and for people of all ages and abilities. Silvia also had the opportunity to listen to the stories of the project from the leaders' voices, such as Libby Welsh, Dr. Andy Zieleniec, Lisa Callander-Bone, and Harry Harbottle.



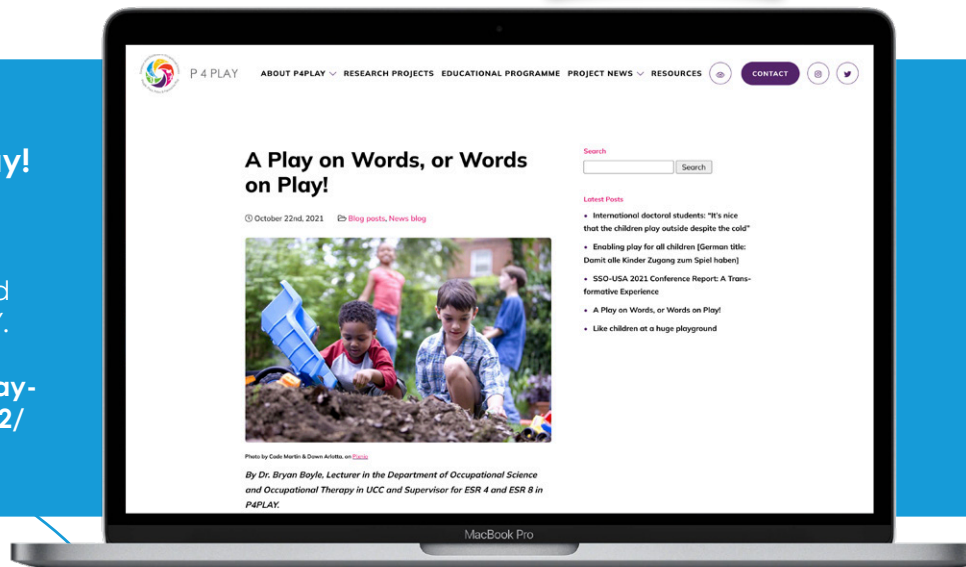
P4Play Blog Posts



A Play on Words, or Words on Play!

Author: Dr. Bryan Boyle, Lecturer in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy in UCC and Supervisor for ESR 4 and ESR 8 in P4PLAY.

www.p4play.eu/news/blog-posts/a-play-on-words-or-words-on-play/2021/10/22/



SSO-USA 2021 Conference Report: A Trans-formative Experience

November 30th, 2021 Blog posts, News blog



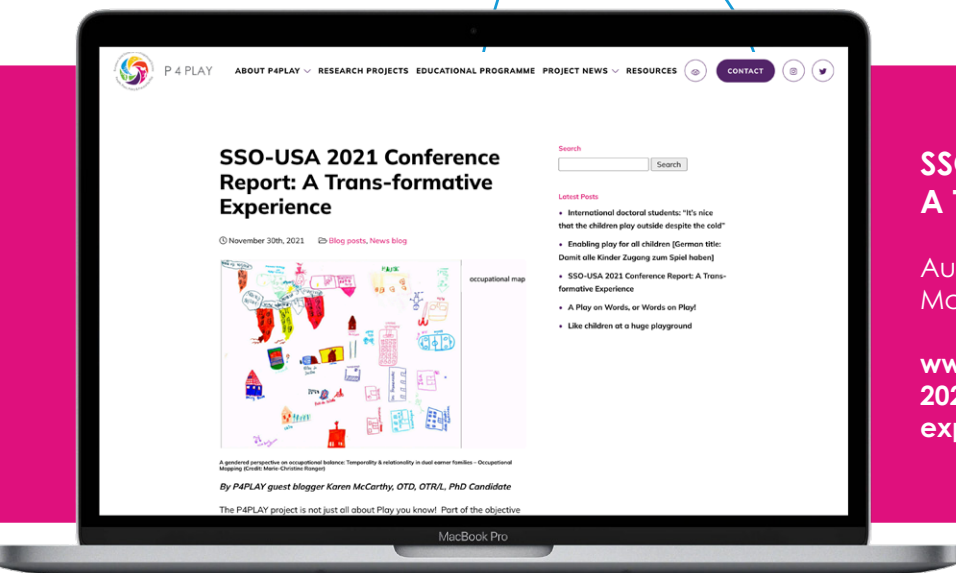
By P4PLAY guest blogger Karen McCarthy, OTD, OTR/L, PhD Candidate
The P4PLAY project is not just all about Play you know! Part of the objective

- Search
- Latest Posts
- International doctoral students: "It's nice that the children play outside despite the cold"
 - Enabling play for all children [German title: Damit alle Kinder Zugang zum Spiel haben]
 - SSO-USA 2021 Conference Report: A Trans-formative Experience
 - A Play on Words, or Words on Play!
 - Like children at a huge playground

SSO-USA 2021 Conference Report: A Trans-formative Experience

Author: P4PLAY guest blogger Karen McCarthy, OTD, OTR/L, PhD Candidate

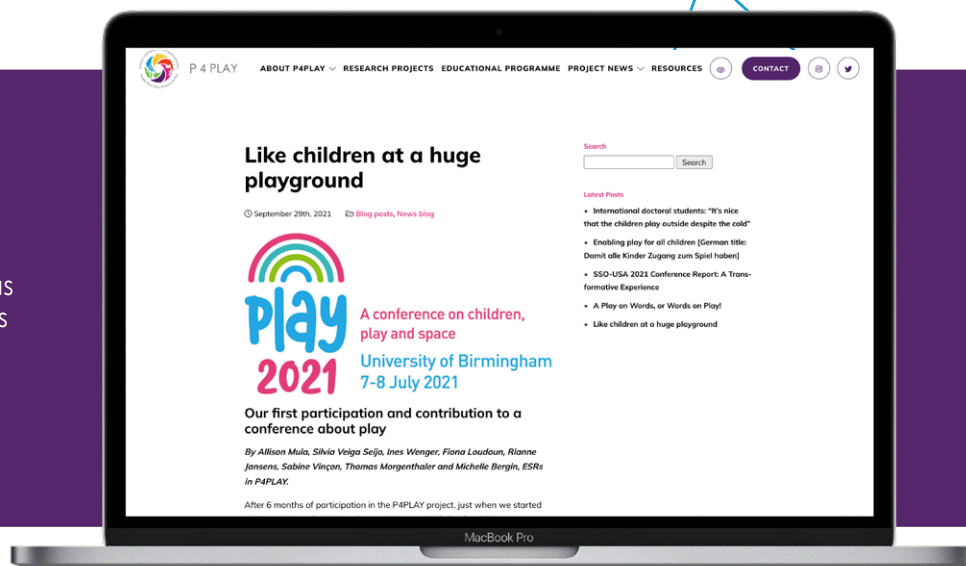
www.p4play.eu/news/blog-posts/sso-usa-2021-conference-report-a-trans-formative-experience/2021/11/30/



Play 2021

Authors: By Allison Mula, Silvia Veiga Seijo, Ines Wenger, Fiona Loudoun, Rianne Jansens, Sabine Vinçon, Thomas Morgenthaler and Michelle Bergin, ESRs in P4PLAY.

www.p4play.eu/news/blog-posts/like-children-at-a-huge-playground/2021/09/29/



See: www.p4play.eu for more...



Future Plans

We are excited to support The Inaugural **World Occupational Science Conference** in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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The **International Play Association Conference** is being held in Glasgow, Scotland in June 2023 - IPA 2023 World Conference Glasgow Scotland (ipaworld.org)

The **World Federation of Occupational Therapy Congress** was postponed from March 2022 to August 2022 with several ESRs selected to present. We're looking forward to sharing our research across a global context

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Keep an eye out on our website for more blog posts, as well as our social media channels below.

Research Resources

P4Play is committed to Open Access research and is taking part in a European Commission pilot on Open Access to Research Data. All publications from the P4Play project are freely accessible and published as open access articles at either gold or green standard.

Our research publications and data are stored in an open-access data repository on Zenodo to enable future researchers to access, exploit, reproduce and disseminate our data. This repository is validated as Open Access by OpenAIRE, with an associated OpenAIRE project page.

Access our research publications, datasets, and related communication materials here:

<https://zenodo.org/communities/p4playh2020/?page=1&size=20>

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Website **www.p4play.eu**

Thank you to everyone involved in P4Play



Our Partners



Our Beneficiaries



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