



FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

# DESIGN(ING) FOR PLAYFUL HIGHER EDUCATION

THE PUP THEMATIC WEBINAR SERIES VOL. 2

1

MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCT  
3.00-4.30 PM CEST

"What is it like to be a Playful Academic, and how can we forge ways to get there?"  
Annika Lübbert, Pedro Gonzales-Fernande & Katrin Heimann

<https://events.au.dk/pup-talk-webinar11102021>

2

MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOV  
9.00-10.30 AM CET

"Teachers as Playful Academics"  
Belinda Dean & Judi Parson

<https://events.au.dk/pup-talk-webinar01112021>

3

MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOV  
3.00-4.30 PM CET

"Collective Collage Making as Higher Education Practice"  
Sandra Abegglen, Tom Burns & Sandra Sinfield

<https://events.au.dk/pup-talk-webinar15112021>

4

MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOV  
9.00-10.30 AM CET

"From Magic Circle to Epistolary Circle: Playing with Our Imaginary Friends"  
Natasha Taylor, Catriona Cunningham, Jennie Mills & Jenni Car

<https://events.au.dk/pup-talk-webinar29112021>



WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DEC  
3.00-4.00 PM CET

BOOK LAUNCH: Playful Academia – Thinking, Voices, Practices & Activities from the Field  
Josephine Eghave Midttun Solheim, Rikke Toft Nørgård & Kimie Jay Bukholt

MORE INFO & SIGN-UP: [www.dpu.au.dk/en/research/research-programmes/chef/events/](http://www.dpu.au.dk/en/research/research-programmes/chef/events/)

# 1 "What is it like to be a Playful Academic, and how can we forge ways to get there?"

Annika Lübbert, Pedro Gonzales-Fernande & Katrin Heimann

*In this session, we introduce the theories and backgrounds that inspired our 'scores for the playful academic' - short sets of instructions that help us bring playfulness into our work as researchers. We also invite you to explore these scores with us: in an hour and a half, we level the space for games, listening, movement and writing to play an active part in our academic projects and collaboration. Our work is inspired by '4EA' approaches to cognition: theories that highlight the embodied, embedded, extended, enacted and affective nature of thinking and acting. We also draw from insights into the importance of playfulness for learning and creativity, and the essential role of 'deep listening' (to one's own and others' experience) for successful and sustainable collaboration. We found scores to be an ideal medium to explore and implement these ideas within academic (or other) work contexts.*

# 2 "Teachers as Playful Academics"

Belinda Dean & Judi Parson

*In higher education, playful approaches to teaching are challenging for some academics especially since play could be considered childish when serious nursing topics are described and explored. Nevertheless, integrating playful andragogy may lead to improved educational outcomes by including the art and science of play therapy techniques within teaching scholarship. The use of play-based approaches in teaching are powerful because play is recognised as the change agent to facilitate communication, including both direct and indirect teaching. Play also enhances creative problem solving, social relationships, empathy, and self-esteem, which are crucial skills for nurses to develop. Innovative play-based education employing, for example, games, puppets and dramatic role-play activities, is evidenced in the literature. Furthermore, projective, small world play in the teaching of nursing concepts has had a significant positive effect on student learning outcomes. In small world play, miniature replicas of people, animals, buildings, furnishings and other relevant toys are utilized to simulate real life medical scenarios. This presentation will showcase some playful examples that could be integrated into education.*

# 3 "Collective Collage Making as Higher Education Practice"

Sandra Abegglen, Tom Burns & Sandra Sinfield

*In our teaching and in our research, we are advocating for emancipatory, empowering and socially just learning and teaching practices. With each other and with our learners, we regularly engage in collage-making. In this workshop, we first provide an overview of the value of play and creativity in higher education, and outline our own practice that challenges 'traditional' notions of education. Second, we will engage the audience in playful, visual conversation about the usefulness of arts-based practices for teaching. Participants will be asked to make collages and share those collages with others via an interactive platform to tease out what multimodal, experiential media and activities may enable in the classroom. We conclude the workshop by sharing some examples and providing links to readings that might inspire participants to further explore the disruptive and transgressive potential of 'glueing something on something else'. In preparation for the workshop: We encourage participants to collect old magazines and newspapers - and have them ready for the session, together with scissors, glue, tape and coloured felt tip pens.*

# 4 "From Magic Circle to Epistolary Circle: Playing with Our Imaginary Friends"

Natasha Taylor, Catriona Cunningham, Jennie Mills & Jenni Car

*In January 2020 we (a group of former colleagues) began exchanging letters reflecting on the ways in which our lived experiences of academic development shaped our professional identities. We were attempting to create a methodology for reflection that liberated us from professional norms and expectations through an epistolary exchange. We were looking for an 'uncanny encounter', but what we got was a global pandemic, complete with learning and teaching challenges that reshaped our practice. In our article for the upcoming *SI Designs for Playful Learning* (Carr, Cunningham, Mills, & Taylor, 2021) we draw on strategies of reflection-on-action and then reflection-in-action to take readers through our process of analysing and sharing our practice, and then challenge readers to examine their own practice using the provocations that we designed. In this webinar we will introduce the project and discuss how it has progressed since we submitted the original article. We then invite you into our epistolary circle and demonstrate how you can correspond with our imaginary friends.*

# BOOK LAUNCH: Playful Academia – Thinking, Voices, Practices & Activities from the Field

Josephine Eghave Midttun Solheim, Rikke Toft Nørgård & Kimie Jay Bukholt

*At the webinar the three author and editors will present and share the digital book *Playful Academia – Thinking, Voices, Practices & Activities from the Field**

*The book launch marks the ending of the PUP Thematic Webinar Series 2 on 'Design(ing) for Playful Higher Education' and celebrates the 2-year anniversary of PUP – The Playful University Platform project. Besides presenting, sharing and celebrating the book along with the work of PUP and all its playfellows there will also be time for sharing ideas and thoughts about the future work of PUP as well as some academic winter play.*



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FUTURES