
Call for Papers

Space to Play Symposium

Foundling Museum, London, UK

Monday 20 March 2017

We invite proposals for papers for this cross-disciplinary one day symposium hosted by the Foundling Museum, and organised in collaboration with children's play author, consultant and campaigner, Adrian Voce OBE. The symposium is running in conjunction with the Museum's Spring exhibition *Child's Play*, which runs from 3 February to 30 April 2017 and features the photographic work of artist Mark Neville. Renowned for his socially focused projects, often based upon research by expert sociologists, this new project aims to raise awareness and generate debate around the complex nature of children's play, and to advocate for improved provision for this universal right.

As part of *Child's Play*, this symposium will explore why children's play is rarely prioritised in government policy, despite its well-documented importance for their wellbeing and healthy development. In an age of austerity, with many play areas closed or at risk of closure, the symposium will consider what can, and should, be done to afford all children the space to play. How should public policy respond to what we know about the nature and value of children's play, and what is society's responsibility to ensure space – physically and otherwise – for it?

Proposals are invited from researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

Enquiries

All enquiries regarding the conference should be addressed to stephanie@foundlingmuseum.org.uk
020 7841 3605

Please email proposals (approx. 200 words) to stephanie@foundlingmuseum.org.uk by midday on **Friday 6 January 2017**, with a brief biography (no more than 200 words)

Some assistance with travel expenses may be available, please contact us for more details.

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