



LSA 2026 CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME

30TH JUNE - 3RD JULY

WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome you to the Leisure Studies Conference 2026, hosted at Brunel University London in partnership with North Carolina State University. The conference theme is Creative, Connected Communities of/in/with Leisure and our programme brings an incredible diversity of critical thinking about leisure from more than 120 submissions and 150 authors world-wide. In an increasingly, fragmented, crisis-led and digitally mediated world this conference is vital for revealing how leisure cultures can bring a spotlight on addressing exclusion, marginalisation, and inequity in social life.

The programme includes outstanding and exciting theoretical and methodological work in the field of Leisure Studies and delivers an array of oral presentations, artistic expressions, and workshops. Core themes allow for critical debate in the areas of spaces and places of leisure, (dis)connected leisure, leisure and social justice, creative communities, leisure communities and identities, and leisure, health and wellbeing. We have planned a bespoke session for PGRs and ECRs at the start of the conference. Our keynote speakers and panels bring excellent critical thought to historical and contemporary trajectories in Leisure Studies and set the scene for what we know will be vibrant discussion throughout the conference.

Our social programme embraces our London location with an opening event on the Southbank and opportunities to experience London 'at your leisure'. Our conference dinner will bring a festival vibe in our on-campus marquee including a BBQ, music and other entertainment. Do sign up for all these events as instructed in email communication.

We are delighted to be able to host this conference at relatively short notice and could not have done so without the incredible expertise of our organising committee (Jake Gifford, Dr Tarryn Godfrey, Dr Lewis Smith, Dr Utsa Mukherjee, and Professor Emma Wainwright). Equally essential to our planning has been the professional support we have had at Brunel in the conference team (Sandy Bryant) and in Finance (Linda Nunes, Gary Dear, and Nishanthi Jayaratne). We extend our thanks to the network of doctoral researchers, academic colleagues, and professional staff who will be helping during the conference.

We would particularly like to thank you all for submitting your abstracts, and for navigating the complexities of travelling to and funding conferences like this. We know these are difficult times for international conferences, but we hope we offer a programme that will bring excitement, purpose, and potential transformation to the academic endeavour. We are of course here to support you with anything that you need to make your attendance pleasurable and intellectually valuable.

Best wishes,

Professor Louise Mansfield, Professor Caroline Scarles, and Professor Rasul Mowatt (Co-Chairs, Organising Committee LSA 2026)



GETTING TO BRUNEL

By Bus

From Heathrow Central: A10 “Heathrow Fast”, every 15 minutes, (alight Hillingdon Rd at ‘The Greenway’ and use footpath to campus).

From Stockley Park: A10 “Heathrow Fast” as above. From West Drayton railway station: U3 (alight Cleveland Road) U1 (alight Kingston Lane) 222 (alight Cowley Road and use path to campus).

From Uxbridge (underground) station: U3 (alight Cleveland Road) U1, U4 and U7 (alight Kingston Lane) 222 and U5 (alight Cowley Road and use footpath to campus).

By Underground

Uxbridge Station (Transport for London) take the Metropolitan Line from central London (and Piccadilly Line during peak hours). Then take a taxi, or bus U1, U3, U4 or U7. (Alternatively there is a 1 mile walking route.)

By Rail

West Drayton (First Great Western Link) is the nearest main-line station (approx 1.5 miles from the campus). Services from London Paddington or the West (Bristol). From West Drayton station take a bus towards Uxbridge: 222 (alight Cowley Road), U5 (alight Station Road), U3 (alight Cleveland Road) or U1 (alight Kingston Lane).

West Ruislip Station (Chiltern Railways) is the main-line service from London Marylebone and the North (Aylesbury, Banbury and Birmingham) and is approximately 4 miles from the campus. From West Ruislip Station take the U1 bus towards West Drayton, alight Kingston Lane.

By Road

Entry by car is via Kingston Lane only. Sat Nav users: Please enter the road address (Kingston Lane) and the postcode (UB8 3PN). You will be directed to Kingston Lane, which is very close to our main entrance. From there, please follow the signs.

Visitor Parking for Disabled Blue Badge Holders

Accessible parking bays are available at various locations around campus.

WI-FI

Please follow these steps to connect to the Wi-fi

Step 1

Select visitor@brunel from the list of available networks on your device

Step 2

A web page should automatically appear. If you are self-registering, choose **Visitor**

Step 3

Enter your name and email address, accept the T&Cs and click **register**

Step 4

Your username and password will be visible on the screen, and you will also receive an email with this information. Select **login. You are now connected**

Visitor Wi-fi is connected for up to 24 rolling hours. If you haven't connected any devices to visitor Wi-fi within 24 hours, then you will need to re-register. Use your username and password to access visitor Wi-fi on up to 5 other devices.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Sustainability

Brunel is committed to a sustainability strategy and is ranked 14th globally for the Good Governance of Sustainability in the QS rankings. At LSA 2026 we have endeavoured to support a sustainable conference including:

- Access to a water fountain to refill water bottles (please bring your own water bottle)
- Food waste reduction and recycling from our award winning campus caterers Chartwell
- No paper printed conference brochure
- Paper name badges for recycling
- A re-usable coffee cup in your goody bag

Accessibility

Brunel's campus is highly accessible, with step free routes, compact layout, strong transport links, inclusive facilities, and support for users. The conference provides quiet space for those requiring it and can support nursing mothers. If you have needs, please contact one of the co-chairs of the organising committee.

Open Networking Spaces

We have provided rooms for people to network as they wish.

Health and Safety – Eastern Gateway

There are no planned fire tests during the conference. If the fire alarm sounds, leave Eastern Gateway immediately using the nearest marked exit, do not use lifts, and proceed to the designated assembly point outside. Do not stop to collect belongings, and do not re-enter the building until authorised by security or fire marshals.

If you feel unwell during the conference there are trained First Aiders. Please contact a member of the organising committee for support.

Publisher Tables

We are delighted to welcome key publishers in the field of Leisure Studies to LSA 2026. Do browse their collections in the foyer of ESGW and chat about your next book idea. All delegates will have a raffle ticket in their conference bag for the publisher books at the end of the conference.

LONDON AT YOUR LEISURE



London offers an exceptional range of sightseeing and events for visitors of all interests. Iconic landmarks such as Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, and Westminster Abbey showcase rich history, while modern attractions like the London Eye and The Shard provide spectacular views. The South Bank and West End feature world-class theatre, musicals, and live performances. By night, the city comes alive with music venues, jazz clubs, and vibrant nightlife. Visitors can also explore museums, galleries, markets, and diverse dining scenes, alongside riverside walks, boat tours, and green spaces that offer relaxation between events.

Wimbledon runs 29 June–12 July. Public tickets are available via daily [Wimbledon Queue](#), where fans line up overnight or early morning to buy first come–first served grounds or limited show-court tickets on the day each.

The Football World Cup will be in the knockout rounds from 28th June. We will advise where you can watch key games.

Please speak to the Organising Committee for advice on exploring London or search the following websites for excellent information:

Time Out London: [Time Out London - Events, Attractions & What's on in London](#)

Visit London: [What's on in London 2026](#) | [Best Of What's Happening In London](#)

Design My Night: [What's On In London](#) | [Events & Things To Do](#) | [DesignMyNight](#)

CONFERENCE DINNER: THE LSA FESTIVAL



Amid the pace of the conference, we are delighted to be hosting an inaugural LSA Festival for our conference dinner. Our gala 'festival' offers a vibrant moment to pause, reconnect and enjoy a different kind of energy together. Live performers set an uplifting backdrop, while dancing and great food bring a relaxed, social atmosphere that encourages people to unwind and connect. There will be performances throughout the evening before our very own Rasul (Rasul, DJ: <https://soundcloud.com/rasul-dj>) takes to the decks and we dance into the night. With a bit of sunshine, the space opens up even more, with garden games scattered across the lawn, deck chairs inviting you to sit back for a breather, and the unmistakable smell of a BBQ drifting through the air. It's a place to laugh, connect, recharge, grab something delicious to eat and enjoy a moment of pure fun before returning to the programme with fresh focus. A little oasis of summer right in the middle of the conference.

CHAIRING A SESSION

Thank you in advance for your contribution to making the sessions organised, engaging, and on schedule. Here are some instructions to support you but please ask the organising committee if you need further support or have a query.

Timings

- All sessions take place over 90 minutes and have 3 or 4 presentations. Each oral presentation is timed at 20 minutes in total (15-18 minutes presentation plus 1 or 2 questions)
- Please stick to the timing so that people can move between sessions and know they will see and hear the presentations they choose at the times published in the programme
- Chairs are asked to set a 5, 3 and 1 minute timer on their phones to give speakers audible alarms on timing

Before the session

- Familiarise yourself with the programme, speakers, timings, and room setup.

At the start

- Arrive early, introduce yourself to speakers, and ensure equipment works (IT support will be available)
- Support speakers to upload their presentation to desktop from USB. We advise completing this for all speakers ahead of the session and will instruct speakers to arrive 5 minutes prior to the session
- Begin on time, welcome the audience, outline timings, and introduce yourself. Introduce each speaker separately by name before they speak (speakers will introduce their own title)

During presentations

- Keep strict time management – signal speakers when time is nearly up
- Maintain flow between speakers with clear transitions
- Stay attentive and supportive

Facilitating discussion

- Manage Q&A sessions, inviting questions from the audience but do not go over time. Delegates can discuss further outside of the sessions
- Encourage inclusive participation and keep discussion focused
- If needed, have a question ready to start the discussion

Closing the session

- Ensure the session finishes on time
- Thank speakers and audience
- Provide any comment on what is next in the programme

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

- Please bring your slides on a USB
- Please arrive 5 minutes ahead of your session to upload your presentation and do stay for all presentations in your session to facilitate discussions on themes
- Familiarise yourself with date, time and number and location of room for your presentation in the programme (please check final programme one week prior to the conference -we will email delegates of any major changes to the programme)
- Please keep to time. Sessions are 90 minutes with 3 or 4 presentations. Oral presentations are 20 minutes (15-18 minutes of presentation plus time for 1 or 2 questions)
- If you do not have time to answer all questions please use the time outside of sessions to discuss

DAY 1

TUESDAY
30TH JUNE
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON

PGR & ECR TRAINING AND NETWORKING

We are delighted to offer a bespoke PGR and ECR session at LSA 2026!

PGR Training and Networking

PGR training and networking at conferences fosters collaboration, builds communities, enhances research visibility, and creates opportunities for mentorship, feedback, and future interdisciplinary partnerships across global academic environments.

The LSA has arranged a PGR Training and Networking Session on Tuesday 30th June, and invites all postgraduate student attendees to participate. At least two professors participating in the conference will be present to answer questions and offer advice on whatever matters students attending the session may wish to discuss, whether related to academic networking, publishing, grant applications, or any other issues relevant to postgraduate researchers.

The session will be largely Q&A-driven, discussion-based, and relatively casual in format, with opportunities for smaller and more informal group conversations focused on individual questions, academic concerns, and professional issues.

The session will be moderated by Brian Komyathy, a doctoral candidate in Sociology who serves as both a member of the LSA Executive Committee and the LSA's representative for students. Attendees are encouraged to come to learn more about the Leisure Studies Association and opportunities for future involvement in LSA activities, raise questions of their own, just listen to issues discussed by others, or simply meet fellow postgraduate students participating in the conference.

ECR Training and Networking

ECR training and networking at conferences supports career development, builds collaborations, enhances professional visibility, and provides access to mentoring, funding opportunities, and pathways for academic progression.

Dr Beccy Watson (Associate Professor and Academic Lead Graduate School Leeds Beckett University) will invite attendees to reflect on their understanding and positionality of Early Career Researcher (ECR) to enable those attending to work both individually and collectively to assess the role, value and wider discourse of researcher aspirations and expectations. The session will encourage interactivity. Beccy has been delivering staff and PGR development sessions in HE for 20+ years.

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		Location
08.30	Registration Opens (Available all week)	ESGW Foyer
12.00-13.00	Lunch	ESGW Foyer
13.00-14.30	PGR Training and Networking	ESGW 003
13.00-14.30	ECR Training and Networking	ESGW Beldam
13.00-15.30	Leisure Studies Editorial Board	ESGW 102
17.00-19.00	Opening Ceremony	<u>SAMA Bankside, London</u>



We are excited to be holding our opening event on the Southbank at [SAMA Bankside](#). SAMA offers global cuisine and a vibrant welcoming atmosphere ideal for starting our conference. Dr Bailey Ashton Adie (Current Chair of the LSA) and Professor Tom Fletcher (Editor of Leisure Studies Journal) will provide short talks to open.

For travel either meet organising committee at 15:30 in the Eastern Gateway Building Foyer or travel there yourself via the London underground. The nearest stations are Southwark (Jubilee line [grey] 5-minute walk) or Blackfriars (District line [green] or Circle line [yellow] 7-minute walk).



DAY 2

WEDNESDAY
1ST JULY
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

RASUL MOWATT



Professor Mowatt is a Department Head and Professor at North Carolina State University, with research and teaching focus linked to theories of race, legacies of racial violence, and colonial histories.

Keynote: A People's History and Future of Leisure Studies, Part One

What is leisure? Perhaps the quest to locate an answer that so many of us, for so long has been all wrong. Instead of thinking about an answer deriving from some present-day expression of leisure that frames some hopeful future outlook of leisure, maybe it is the jaded past that has told us enough of what leisure is. Not the selective past of an un-officialized canon that includes mentions of Veblen, Piper, De Grazia, and Csikszentmihalyi (as well as others), that could then be mistakenly course corrected by inserting mentions of DuBois, Addams, Taylor, and Tuan. But the answer(s) to “what is leisure?” is evident in what has been done in the name of park land, recreational space, sport for all, and mass tourism. But the question of “what is leisure?” may not only come from an examination and presentation of past wrongs. Perhaps all we need is just enough of an analysis of the past that could inform how we could the shape of a future based on confronting how leisure has been such a tool. So, the answer to “what is leisure?” is evident in what will likely to be done to continue ways in which society is governed and society is systematized to perpetuate how leisure establishes codes of conduct, control, and beliefs. In this regard, there is no leisure-work dichotomy, as they are both tools for a form of subjugation. Leisure is of the making of the State despite our (mis)perceptions of independence and freedom. There is a need to create a criticality to consider how “the people” who are likely the most adversely impacted by those past and present harms will be wronged further. So, in pursuing an emancipatory direction in an understanding of leisure, it is of the utmost importance to adopt a moral reimagination of the conception of leisure.

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PROGRAMME

Corresponding author listed. Full authorship will appear in the book of abstracts forthcoming.

WEDNESDAY

1ST JULY

BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON

KEYNOTE

Rasul Mowatt

A People's History and Future of Leisure Studies, Part One

Location: ESGW Auditorium

09.00-10.00

10.15-11.45

Oral Presentations (Session 1)

Location: ESGW Beldam

Location: ESGW 001

Location: ESGW 111

**Additional Issues Related to
Sociology of Leisure**

(Dis)Connected Leisure

Spaces and Places of Leisure

Chair: Tarryn Godfrey

Chair: Utsa Mukherjee

Chair: Louise Mansfield

Wei-Ching, Wang

*Climate Change Beliefs,
Support for External
Strategies, and Low-Carbon
Behavioral Intentions among
Recreational Sport Participants
in Taiwan*

Bronwen Valtchanov

*Swipe Right...for Oppression:
Dis/connected Communities
and a Feminist Politics of Hope
within Online Dating*

Siyabonga Craig Kolobe

*Constraints Towards The
Management Of Rural-Based
Sports And Recreational
Facilities In The Local
Municipalities Of Limpopo
Province*

Urszula Wolski

*Paranormal Investigation – A
Serious Leisure Pursuit*

Madura Thivanka Pathirana

*Enhancing Community
Wellbeing and Ecological
Sustainability through
Creative and Connected Blue
Economics Leisure Practices*

Ziming Jin

*Nature, Place, and Wellbeing:
Comparing Forest and Desert
Leisure Experiences*

Bryan Clift

*Fighting Words: Podcasts, the
Manosphere, Leisure and Sport,
and the Politics of the 2024 US
Presidential Election*

Yang Yang

*Killing Gulls Through the Love
of Feeding Them in the
Chinese Urban Leisurescape*

Xiaoyu Ye

*Performing Frenchness:
Colonial Sociability and the
Ballroom at the French Club
Shanghai 1912-1949*

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10.15-11.45

Oral Presentations (Session 1)

Location: ESGW 102

Location: ESGW 003

Location: ESGW 209

Leisure and Social Justice

**Leisure, Communities, and
Identity**

Creative Communities

Chair: Lewis Smith

Chair: Caroline Scarles

Chair: Emma Wainwright

Abhishek Gupta

*Disconnected Leisure:
Gendered Absences and the
Reconfiguration of Women's
Leisure in a Migrant-Sending
Community in North India.*

Karl Spracklen

*Here comes the chopper to
chop off your head! The
ongoing influence of modern
paganism, performativity and
communicative leisure in
English Morris dancing*

Mengjun Tao

*Negotiating AI in Creative
Leisure Communities: Artists,
Identity, and Digital Practice*

Damien Cavanaugh

Porn, Leisure, and Relationships

Khuliso Matshovhana

*Towards Active Communities:
Developing LTPA Integration
Guidelines for Community
Health Workers in Limpopo
Province, South Africa*

Beccy Watson

*In Leisure as in Academia: the
Entangled Maintenance of
Collage Collectives*

Fatin Nabilah Azren

*Exploring Muslim Women's
Sports Spectatorship:
Intersectionality and the Halal-
Tourism Perspective*

Carlo Genova

*Asphalt Waves. Belonging and
Identity in Longboarding*

Xuejuan Chen

*Busking as accessible leisure
and art: Audience perspectives*

Ishak Hamdini

*Participation in Recreational
Activities as a Balancing Factor
between Disability and Social
Belonging*

Jingjing Hu

*Westernized Leisure Practices
in a Qiaoxiang Community in
Qingtian, China*

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1ST JULY
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON

11.50-13.20

Oral Presentations (Session 2)

Location: ESGW Beldam

Location: ESGW 001

Location: ESGW 111

Creative Communities

(Dis)Connected Leisure

Spaces and Places of Leisure

Chair: Rasul Mowatt

Chair: Beccy Watson

Chair: Brian Komyathy

Hannah Filer

Community Dance Wellbeing Experiences for Young People in England: Participatory Perspectives from the Take Flight National Programme

Yingying Zhang

From Wild Camping to Fly Camping: What Has Changed and What Was Wrong?

Jeff Crittenden

Leisure begins with Humility: Communities of the Ancient Pilgrim

Juliane Thieme

Leisure at the Margins: Informal Networks and Creative Community Among Female Chefs

Marina Milosheva

"Bridge is a good vessel for socialising": Community, Belonging, and Connection Among Young Bridge Players

Lori S Hoy

"The most pawfect day out": Examining Festivalscapes and Multispecies Leisure at UK Dog Festivals

Michael Roy Hobson

Pedestrian Movement as Dialogue – Using Critical Dance Pedagogy (CDP) to Capture Physical Education (PE) Students Experience of a CPD Programme in Dance, Gymnastics and Cheerleading.

Nawal Syed

Connected Digital Leisure and Clinically Relevant Mental Health Outcomes Among Adolescents: Implications for Healthcare Resource Utilization

Hester Hockin-Boyers

Motherhood and Leisure: Is "time away for the self" Really Possible?

Caroline Scarles

Blue Spaces in UK Policy: A Futures Framework for Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement in Addressing Health Inequalities and Environmental Protection

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11.50-13.20

Oral Presentations (Session 2)

Location: ESGW 102

Location: ESGW 003

Location: ESGW 209

Leisure and Social Justice

**Leisure, Communities, and
Identity**

Spaces and Places of Leisure

Chair: Bailey Adie

Chair: Tom Fletcher

Chair: Belinda Wheaton

Makhaya Malema

Leisure Programme Trends and Shifts During and Post the COVID-19 Pandemic for People With Disabilities in the Western Cape, South Africa

Steven E. Mock

Social Status and Leisure: Explaining the Omnivore Hypothesis

Kerri Andrew

Notes of an Apprentice Ethnographer-Boxer: Uncovering Women's Experiences in Masculine Leisure Spaces

Nzwobi, H

Perceived Leisure Education Content Suitable for Promoting Inclusivity Among Youth With and Without Disabilities in the Vhembe District Municipality, Limpopo Province

Kayla Gilligan

Come Hell or High Water, We Take Care of Us: Queer Mutual Aid and Resilience After Hurricane Helene

Miriam Snellgrove

Swimming under the Statue of Liberty: Migrant Leisure, Freedom and Democratic Public Space

Laura Gubby

SHE RUNS: Women's Perceptions of Safety when Running in Public Spaces

Keiko Oiso

Learning as Leisure: Peer Learning, Identity Work, and Community Formation in Creative and Connected Contexts

Joanna Salomi Thomas

Analyzing the Factors that Prevent Post-Occupancy Evaluation Findings from Informing Architectural Design Practice

Dominic Conricode

The Conceptualisation, Implementation, and Organisational Mediation of Positive Action Measures in the Sport, Physical Activity, and Leisure Sector

Emily Ankers

Negotiating Gender and Belonging in Rock Climbing

Cari E. Autry

Therapeutic Sailing for Individuals with Physical Disabilities: The Virtual Reality and Reality of Blue Space Leisure

KEYNOTE PANELIST

ALAN TOMLINSON



Professor Alan Tomlinson is Emeritus Professor of Leisure Studies, University of Brighton UK. He is a long-term champion of Sport and Leisure Studies, and began his academic study of leisure and sport in the mid-1970s. He joined the Leisure Studies Association in the later-1970s, and has run/convened British Sociological Association Study Groups (Leisure and Recreation; Sociology of Sport).

Reflections on Critical Leisure Studies in Challenging Times

The LSA2026 Conference Keynote Panel is in one sense a call to arms: Reflections on Critical Leisure Studies in Challenging Times. Times are indeed challenging when, in the USA, publishers have begun to approach authors demanding that second-runs of texts must be in part rewritten or at the very least modified. The pressure on these publishers comes from the heart of the Trump presidency, from federal investigations demanding changes of language and vocabulary, culling any mentions of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Professor Jay Coakley describes the situation: “As publishers fear retribution, they are beginning to ask authors to comply with requests to change vocabulary”.

Such a situation is not of course the case in the UK, but the precedent of the USA is something that none of us would have believed in pre-Trumpian times. Gender, race, ethnicity, and social class are instanced as words that will be challenged in textbooks and syllabi. (See the BSA's Network, Issue 151, Winter 2025, p. 33). And the publishers in the US are of course established or potential products in the UK market. Never has it been so important to identify and sustain objective yet critical analysis in our teaching, research and overall scholarship on all dimensions of social, cultural, and political life. And this includes leisure.

The case for the continuing importance of Leisure Studies must be sustained and my reflections will recall the impact of critical theory/theories that many of us have sought to apply in our studies of the leisure sphere

KEYNOTE PANELIST

DONNA CHAMBERS



Donna Chambers is Professor of Critical Cultural Studies at Northumbria University in Newcastle. She is an interdisciplinary scholar who is interested in how people and places are represented in cultural heritage tourism and leisure spaces, drawing on a range of critical perspectives including postcolonial and decolonial epistemologies, critical race theory and Black feminist theory.

The “warrior culture”: race, gender and the politics of leisure

While the field of critical leisure studies boasts a distinguished history of feminist, liberatory scholarship, it has yet to extensively problematise gender intersectionality—specifically regarding the compounded oppression of Black women due to racism and sexism. Furthermore, the broader politics of leisure remains under-researched despite some insightful interventions. In this presentation, I argue that a primary challenge for critical leisure studies scholars in this present moment, is understanding the nexus between leisure, politics and the systemic marginalisation of Black women. Specifically, my provocation is that the rise of far-right political ideologies—rooted in racism, sexism, and homophobia—pose a distinct threat to Black women. By examining what is currently deemed the ‘warrior culture’ fostered by white males in fitness clubs, I demonstrate how these leisure spaces ostensibly dedicated to health, wellbeing and ‘brotherhood’, serve as a thinly veiled camouflage for white supremacist political struggle, where leisure becomes a tool for the continued vilification and subjugation of women, and particularly Black women.

KEYNOTE PANELIST

BRIONY SHARP



Dr. Briony Sharp is a Programme Leader at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS), and a member of the UWS Centre for Sport, Culture and Events (CCSE). She teaches across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and contributes to initiatives such as the Foundation Academy for school pupils. Her research uses qualitative methods to examine the social impacts of events, with interests in governance, volunteering, legacy, and critical event studies.

Leisure, Governance, and the Ethics of Legacy in Challenging Times

In a period shaped by economic precarity, social fragmentation, and heightened scrutiny of public spending, legacy planning for large-scale events requires fresh, considered attention. Legacy is no longer a simple promise of public good; it is an evolving ethical space where expectations of social impact and community benefit intersect with complex political and financial conditions. This keynote examines how legacy governance is changing, arguing that legacy should be viewed not as a fixed outcome but as a social contract that shapes relationships between event organisers, institutions, and the communities whose contributions make events possible.

Drawing on recent collaboration with the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games to design and write its legacy plan, the keynote highlights the value of co-production in shaping meaningful futures. The process brought together over 140 contributors - from community groups and practitioners to public bodies and cultural and sporting organisations - to collectively define what a successful legacy should look like for Glasgow.

By exploring the politics of participation within legacy processes, the talk positions legacy as a practice grounded in transparency, reciprocity, and long-term responsibility. It ultimately argues for legacy as a constructive, community-centred framework for strengthening the civic role of major events.

KEYNOTE PANELIST

UTSA MUKHERJEE



Dr Utsa Mukherjee is a Senior Lecturer and Director of Research in the Department of Education at Brunel University of London where he also co-leads the 'Education, Identities and Society' research group. He is the author of *Race, Class, Parenting and Children's Leisure* (Bristol University Press, 2023) and the editor of *Childhoods & Leisure* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023)..

Reflections on Critical Leisure Studies in Challenging Times

Challenging times are both about the crises of our present moment as well as the uncertainties and perils that lie ahead. They require conceptual and methodological sensitivity to the dynamic links between past, present and future. Yet, much of leisure studies remains presentist in its focus and scope, thereby hindering the potential of a critical leisure studies that can address these challenges. Notwithstanding regular references to polycrises and (inter-generational) inequity, leisure scholarship remains adult-centric and preoccupied with debates about the future without centring the voices of the young. Similarly, the presentist focus of leisure scholarship has paid insufficient attention to the role of leisure, and our resource-intensive pursuit of it, in producing environmental challenges that directly impact the future of the planet and its inhabitants. For leisure studies to be truly critical, it is not enough to leverage leisure as a lens to understand contemporary challenges, but we must at the same time interrogate leisure's complicity in precipitating and amplifying many of those challenges. Drawing on two key areas of my research – children's leisure and environmental transition – in this talk, I will reflect on the need for greater reflexivity and 'connected' approaches that go beyond presentism and methodological nationalism to reimagine a critical leisure studies equipped to meet the challenging of our times.

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WEDNESDAY

1ST JULY

BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON

13.20-14.20

Lunch

Location: ESGW Foyer

14.20-15.20

KEYNOTE PANEL

Alan Tomlinson, Donna Chambers, Utsa Mukherjee, and Briony Sharp

Reflections on Critical Leisure Studies in Challenging Times

Location: ESGW Auditorium

15.20-15.35

Tea Break

Location: ESGW Foyer

15.35-16.35

Workshops + Open Networking Space

Location: ESGW
Beldam

Location: ESGW 003

Location: ESGW 111

Location: ESGW 209
+ Foyer

Workshop

Workshop

Workshop

Paul Gilchrist

*The Dissertation
Journey: A Game-
Based Approach to
Learning Research
Challenges*

**Aaron W. Pooley /
Lawrence J. Bendle**
*Applied Grounded
Theory in leisure
research*

**Alayna Schmidt;
Brianna Blassneck**
*Inquiry through
Speculative
Worldmaking Games*

**Open Networking
Space**

16.45-17.45

LSA AGM

Location: ESGW Auditorium

18.00 onwards

London at your leisure

DAY 3

THURSDAY
2ND JULY
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

HARRIET SHORTT



Harriet is Professor and Head of Knowledge Exchange in the Centre for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange at Bath Spa University. She leads initiatives that bridge academia and industry through meaningful partnerships, supporting pathways for academics, students, and industry leaders to collaborate.

Keynote: Creative Connections: Creative Methods for Communities and Place-Making

In this keynote talk, I'll be exploring how creative methods – such as photography, art, crafting amongst others - offer powerful ways for researchers and communities to connect, collaborate, and create meaningful change. Drawing on a series of visual, community-driven research projects, and focussing on recent work with the RFU on women and girl's grassroots rugby facilities, I show how such methods enable participants to capture lived experiences, articulate hidden challenges, and imagine new possibilities for the spaces they use. Using the example of photography and visuals, I argue that creativity provides an alternative space for ownership - images become part of people's voices, creative acts become dialogue, and community stories influence decision-making. My talk situates creative methods within the wider strategic landscape of Knowledge Exchange, demonstrating how creativity through visual data strengthens civic partnership, supports place-based impact, and aligns with HEIF priorities around inclusion, participation, and regional growth. I close by looking ahead to creative futures and introduce the new Journal of Creative Methods as a dedicated home for this kind of work, providing a place for researchers and practitioners - and those in-between! - to share and showcase creative participatory approaches to community engagement.

LSA 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THURSDAY
2ND JULY
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON

09.00-10.00

KEYNOTE

Harriet Shortt

Creative Connections: Creative Methods for Communities and Place-Making

Location: ESGW Auditorium

10.15-11.45

Oral Presentations (Session 1) + Open Networking Space

Location: ESGW Beldam

Location: ESGW 001

Location: ESGW 111

Leisure, Health and Wellbeing

Spaces and Places of Leisure

Leisure and Social Justice

Chair: Emily Hunt

Chair: Karl Spracklen

Chair: Arianne Reis

Tintswalo Basani Ngobeni

Recreation Providers and End-Users: Perspectives from Youth With Disabilities and Recreation Service Providers About Recreation Programs in the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, South Africa

John Norman

Mobile Data Collection. A Critical Appraisal of Walking Interviews With Mountain Sport Coaches.

Laura Gubby

SHE RUNS: International 'Big Qual' Research and Participatory Methodologies in Physical Activity and Violence Against Women (VAW) Research

Yi-Ju Lee

How Sustainable Destination Performance Shapes Tourist Well-being: Evidence from Cittaslow Contexts

Megha Budruk

Beyond Green and Blue: Crowding Perceptions and Social Carrying Capacity in Desert Leisure Spaces

Xiaowei Lai

Interpretation of Leisure as a Kind of "Capabilities"

Eilidh Macrae

Rebuilding the Self, Safely: Lessons Learned from the Lived Experiences of Participants and Leaders of a Mothers' Running Group

Bryce Noe

Freestyle Skateboarding as 'Dark' Leisure: The Death, Suppression, and Feminisation of Skateboarding's Earliest Discipline

Jorge Knijnik

Leisure as Politics: Football Fandom, Memory and Transitional Justice in South America

Issahaku Adam

Role Of Leisure In The Healing Process Of Stroke Survivors

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10.15-11.45

Oral Presentations (Session 1) + Open Networking Space

Location: ESGW 102

Location: ESGW 003

Location: ESGW 209 + Foyer

Leisure and Social Justice

**Leisure, Communities, and
Identity**

Chair: Jeff Crittenden

Chair: Reid Allen

Yang Yang

*The Only Good Possum is a
Dead Possum? Leisure Talk,
Online Discourse, and Moral
Framing in Australia and New
Zealand*

Urszula Wolski

*Gender Inequalities in Sport –
A Changing Landscape:
Exploring the Experiences of
Women Coaches*

Darla Fortune

*Building Bridges Between Long-
Term Care and Senior Centres
Through Inclusive Leisure
Programming*

Marta Soligo

*Outdoor Recreation in the
Southern Nevada Desert: A
Crisis-Driven Shift in Land and
Tourism Management*

Open Networking Space

Oscar Vorobjovas-Pinta

*Navigating Safety and
Belonging: A Research Agenda
for Queer Micro-Mobility*

Ashwin Tripathi

*Doing Age through Times:
Community Building among
Older Indian Immigrants in
Germany*

V. Vijay Kumar

*Algorithmic Leisure and
Platformised Spectatorship:
Streaming Sports, Digital
Fandom, and the
Reconfiguration of Collective
Leisure Communities in India*

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PROGRAMME

THURSDAY
2ND JULY
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
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11.50-13.20

Oral Presentations (Session 2) + Open Networking Space

Location: ESGW Beldam

Location: ESGW 001

Location: ESGW 111

Leisure, Health and Wellbeing

Spaces and Places of Leisure

Leisure and Social Justice

Chair: Jake Gifford

Chair: Lori Hoy

Chair: Kayla Gilligan

Seth Joseph Perkin

*The Politics of Pacing:
Wearable Self-Tracking and
Biographical Disruption After
Long COVID*

Alberto Amore

*Revisiting URBEX as Leisure
Practice from an Anthropocene
Lens*

Alejandra Carrillo

*Exploring Meso-Level Contexts
and Inequalities in Sport and
Physical Activity Participation:
A Systematic Review Protocol
Exploring Meso-Level Contexts
and Inequalities in Sport and
Physical Activity Participation:
A Systematic Review*

Silvia Gonzalez-Morcillo

*Good Intervention Practices in
Leisure for Youth Wellbeing*

Josiah Kidwell

*Hybrid Spaces of Leisure and
Religion in the Total
Environment of a Las Vegas
Megachurch*

Jenny Hall

*Cities Under Stars: Creating
Nocturnal Ecologically Just
Urban Leisure Spaces*

Idurre Lazcano

*The Self-Management of
Leisure in Young People:
Theoretical Foundations and
Development of a
Multidimensional Scale Based
on Self-Determination Theory
(SDT)*

Chudi Hua

*From Civic Pride to Private
Consumption: Mapping the
Ideological Shift in Britain's
Post-War Leisure Spaces*

Tom Critchley

*Sensing Climate Change at The
Freedom Skatepark, Jamaica*

Clare Danek

*Permission to Play: An
Argument for the Time and
Space of Creative Community
Making Facilities*

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Oral Presentations (Session 2) + Open Networking Space

Location: ESGW 102

Location: ESGW 003

Location: ESGW 209 + Foyer

**Leisure, Communities, and
Identity**

**Leisure, Communities, and
Identity**

Chair: Bryce Noe

Chair: Jorge Knijnit

Richard Ajjee

Beyond the Board: Chess as an anti-stigma intervention for promoting social inclusion and hope-making among street-involved youths in Nigeria

Bailey Ashton Adie

Whose heritage?: Memory, place, and resilience in heritage tourism communities

Freddy Tsopfack Fofack

More than a Game: Informal Leisure as Social Space in Immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa Urban Life

Ece Kaya

Building Pathways for Women in Surfing Leadership

Open Networking Space

Pfunzo Pearl Musandiwa

Leisure, Communities and Identity: Gender, race, class, disability and intersectional perspectives

Shanjun Xie

Grooming Gamblers: Sports betting, fandom and the gambling identities of young men

Yewande Adeniran

Saunafication: Leisure, Atmospheric Gentrification and the Racialised Limits of Rest

PRINCESS EMMANUELLE MARCEL, KAMITAN ARTS



Princess Emmanuelle Marcel is Founder and Artistic Director of Kamitan Arts, Freelance Arts practitioner and project co-ordinator, bi-lingual International Rap-Poetess and Choreographer

Sacred Space Meditation Workshop

Take time out from the conference and step into a sacred space where time slows, worries fade, and your spirit can breathe. This workshop provides an opportunity to reconnect in a gentle pause from the busy schedule of the conference: a sanctuary to reflect, create and reconnect with yourself. Here, creativity becomes medicine, self-expression becomes liberation, and self-care becomes a sacred act. Led by a creative healing facilitator, poetess, choreographer, and Artistic Director of Kamitan Arts C.I.C, Emmanuelle Marcel, this transformative multi-disciplinary experience blends breathwork, visualisation, relaxation, free movement, affirmations, expression and sharing. Moving with the mantra: 'one breath, one thought, one action'.

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THURSDAY
2ND JULY
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
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13.20-14.20

Lunch

Location: ESGW Foyer

14.20-15.20

KEYNOTE COMMUNITY PANEL
Creative Community Connections: Lessons from Grenfell
Location: ESGW Auditorium

15.20-15.35

Tea Break

Location: ESGW Foyer

15.35-16.35

Workshops + Open Networking Space

Location: ESGW
Beldam

Location: ESGW 003

Location: ESGW 209 + Foyer

Workshop

Workshop

Alayna Schmidt;
Brianna Blassneck;
Sasha Mader; Carly
Knudson; Crystal
Jade Cargill; Kayla
Patterson; Sarah
Farrar; Katie King
Emerging as a Joyful
Collective: An
Accidental Foray into
Post-Qualitative
Inquiry

Juliane Thieme
Zine-Making as
Method: Exploring
Leisure, Gender, and
Exhaustion in Creative
Communities

Open Networking Space

16:15 – 17:30

Princess Emanuelle Marcel, Kamitan Arts
Sacred Space Meditation Workshop
Location: ESGW 102

18.00 onwards

Conference Dinner: The LSA Festival - BBQ, Music and Entertainment

DAY 4

FRIDAY
3RD JULY
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
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LSA 2026 CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY
3RD JULY
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON

9.00-10.00

Workshops + Open Networking Space

Location: ESGW
Beldam

Location: ESGW 003

Location: ESGW 209 + Foyer

Workshop

Workshop

**Oluwabusayomi
Ajayi**
*Sport, Leisure, and
the Blue Economy:
A Methodological
Roundtable of the
inaugural E1 series
event in Africa (Lagos
State)*

**Miriam Snellgrove,
Jayne Caudwell and
Nicola de Martini
Ugoletti**
*Advances in Leisure
Studies Publications
Panel*

Open Networking Space

10.00-10.15

Tea Break

Location: ESGW Foyer

LSA 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

FRIDAY
3RD JULY
BRUNEL UNIVERSITY OF
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10.15-11.45

Oral Presentations (Session 1) + Open Networking Space

Location: ESGW Beldam

Location: ESGW 001

Location: ESGW 111

Leisure, Health and Wellbeing

Spaces and Places of Leisure

Leisure and Social Justice

Chair: Darla Fortune

Chair: Marta Soligo

Chair: Louise Mansfield

Sohini Sarkar

What Happens When Nike Hosts a Nighttime Run? Safety, Community and the Making of Emotional Well-being

Daniela Lux

Connecting Leisure Perspectives on the Low Season: Stakeholder and Guest Views on Sport and Health Tourism in an Alpine Destination

Chudi Hua

Gendering the Post-War Playground: Ideology, Social Inequality and the Evolution of Female Leisure in Britain (1945-1979)

Nicoleta Ciubotariu

Self-Determination Theory and Leisure Physical Activity Providers' Approaches to Supporting the Wellbeing of Survivors of Violence Against Women

Rasul A. Mowatt

A People's History of Leisure Studies: The Kommunity of Klan ReKreation

Esther Peperkamp

Whose City, Whose Story? Murals, Identity, and the Right to the City

Emily Hunt

Building Evidence for Local and System-Wide Transformation in Community Sport, Physical Activity and Health through Digital Storytelling

Xuejuan Chen

Living in a Self-Defined Leisure World: A Conceptual Reflection

Stephen Crossley

"And ... relax": Leisure and the Welfare State

Belinda Wheaton

Attention Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Leisure: A Critical Neurodiversity Studies-Based Research Agenda

Gokben Demirbas

Precarious Leisure: A Feminist Perspective

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10.15-11.45

**Oral Presentations (Session 1) + Open
Networking Space**

Location: ESGW 102

Location: ESW 209 + Foyer

Leisure, Communities, and Identity

Chair: Tom Critchley

Reiana Essex-Simmons

*Creating Leisure Experiences With Care In a
Tourist Destination: Reflections from Tulum*

Cari E. Autry

*Perceptions Surrounding Leisure and the Role
of Recreational Therapy as a Pathway to
Employment for Individuals with Intellectual
and Developmental Disabilities*

Open Networking Space

Vanessa Cumper

*Ethnographic Connections with the D/deaf
Community*

Arianne Reis

*A Bourdieusian Analysis of How Leisure
Supports Veterans in their Transition to Civilian
Life*

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11.50-13.20

Oral Presentations (Session 2)

Location: ESGW Beldam

Location: ESGW 001

Location: ESGW 111

Leisure, Health and Wellbeing

Spaces and Places of Leisure

Leisure and Social Justice

Chair: Oscar Vorobjovas-Pinta

Chair: Seth Joseph Perkin

Chair: Clare Danek

Xinyi Zhao

*The Ordinary Contamination of
Pleasure: Food, Leisure, and
Rhinitis*

Nicola De Martini Ugolotti

*Leisure, Place-Attachment and
Solidarity on a Forgotten
Island: Lessons from "A
People's History of the Bibby
Stockholm"*

Tarryn Godfrey

*In Their Own Voice: Exploring
Capacity Building Across
International Sport for
Development Charities*

Nick Davies

*To Be or Not to Be in Nature:
Understanding Relationships
Between Savouring, Stress
Reduction and Simulated
Blue/Green Environments*

Kyung Hee Lee

*Modeling Time-Ordered
Pathways to Leisure-Time
Physical Inactivity: Walkable
Park Access as a Case
Application*

Utsa Mukherjee

*Parenting the Play Paradox:
How Mothers in Low-Income
Households Evaluate Their
Children's Play in Early Years*

Silvo Hernesniemi

*Reimagining Therapeutic
Recreation Philosophy and
Practice Through Post-
Qualitative Inquiry*

Brian Komyathy

*When Leisure Is Not About
Rest: What Draws People to
Physically Demanding Leisure
Activities in Outdoor Spaces?*

Adam Talbot

*'For me, the most important
issue is the Games themselves':
Anti-Olympic Activism and AI
Video Surveillance*

13.15-14.15

Networking Lunch

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PROGRAMME

FRIDAY
3RD JULY
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11.50-13.20

Oral Presentations (Session 2)

Location: ESGW 102

Location: ESGW 003

Location: ESGW 209

Leisure, Health and Wellbeing

Spaces and Places of Leisure

Leisure and Social Justice

Chair: Gokben Demirbas

Chair: Richard Ajjee

Chair: Stephen Crossley

Jake Gifford

Narratives of Obesity & Physical Activity: Exploring the Stories of Men in Mid-Life

Emma Wainwright

'I want her to be playful': Locations of Past and Present in Low-Income Migrant Parents' Aspirations for Children's Play

Reid Allen

"Hope they all get sick": Space Invaders and More-Than-Human Tensions in the Water at Hampstead Heath

Madura Thiwanka Pathirana

Enhancing Community Wellbeing and Ecological Sustainability through Creative and Connected Blue Economics Leisure Practices

Kate Dashper

Animals in Nature or Animals as Nature: Tensions in Nature-Based Recreation

Robyn Smith

"It paints everybody with this brush of victimhood": Re-Imagining Trauma-Informed Approaches with Marginalised Youth in Community Sport

Louise Mansfield

RE-CYCLE: Cultures of Repair, Sustainability and the Circular Economy in Urban Community Bike Use, Mending and Re-Use

Sandra Osigwe

Exploring Placemaking as a Lens for Understanding Older Tourists' Leisure Experiences

Nachiketh T Anil

Traditional Architectural Disparity Between the Poor and the Rich and How It Has Impacted the Views of What Traditional Architecture Is in Kerala.

13.20-14.20

Networking Lunch

WITH THANKS FROM THE LSA 2026 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

