CALL FOR PAPERS

Special issue: ‘The Play Way to the Entrepreneurial City’

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Background

This special issue will explore the intrinsic value of democratized and contested urban spaces as spaces for 'play' in urban life; including a wide range of entrepreneurial activities that such environments may support, whether licit or illicit. It seeks to explore the planning and use of space and the tensions between the formal and informal, managerialistic and entrepreneurial. Broadly, entrepreneurship may be viewed as a pursuit of opportunity using available resources. Therefore, the nature of available space, and our ability to experiment, play, explore and shape it, may be seen as a key resource and determinant for opportunity. Play–work is one of the many powerful dichotomies deployed in the academy and wider society to give order to, and to make sense of, the world in which we live. Our everyday lives abound with examples that reinforce this polarization, which is both temporal and spatial – from ‘playtime’ at school, to designated staff social spaces in the workplace; and from weekends affording regular and short-term opportunities for the worker to ‘recharge’ through to annual holidays offering less regular, albeit much cherished, opportunities to ‘escape’. Although playwork professionals value creative play for its own sake, there is also a rich vein of evidence that articulates the positive value of such play in the here-and-now, and for longer-term development. Similarly, there is a body of work that evidences the positive value of play on creativity for both children and adults. Neighbourhood and locality provide the ‘raw materials’ for local enterprise and in many ways create a legacy for opportunities and creativity through which the entrepreneur may envisage future possibilities. Play can been seen as integral to the creative thinking that underpins success in a wide range of contemporary enterprises. As such we wish to explore how cities may support experimentation, exploration and play through the beneficial presence of contested, uncertain and unresolved places.

Papers are invited on the following topics:
• systematic reviews of literature which explore specific aspects of the interface between play and entrepreneurship;
• the integral role of play in the effective functioning of organizations;
• the necessity of non-work-based play for the worker, entrepreneur and company;
• creating playful space for entrepreneurship;
• the role of contested urban spaces as playful arenas for creativity;
• tensions between licit and illicit urban space; formal and informal space; supporting creativity through entrepreneurial (as opposed to managerialistic) planning of spaces.

Submissions

Submission guidelines are available at http://www.ippublishing.com/ije.htm#Submissions. A free sample issue may be viewed online at http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/ip/ije (the issue marked ‘F’ is open access).

Deadlines:
Expressions of interest in the form of an abstract: 1 October 2015.
Full papers due: 1 December 2015.
Publication is scheduled for June 2016.

Contributors are encouraged to discuss their proposed paper with the Guest Editors.