

Open Call for Papers

Themed "**Playground City. Meeting people, connecting spaces, overcoming borders**" the international Urban Games Festival playin'siegen will take place for the third time from **August 13-15, 2021**.

This year we will bring in the areas of **gaming, research, exhibition** and **performance** into the urban space of Siegen's city center.

In the area of "**gaming**", games will be presented by (game) artists, game designers and game developers, and people will be invited to play (along). In the sections of "**Exhibition**" and "**Performance**", exhibitions and performance art will be offered. In the context of "**Research**" a conference will take place, which will illuminate the motto of the game festival from an academic perspective.

Urban games offer various possibilities for **encounters** ("Meeting people"), they open up **new (experiential) spaces** for players ("Connecting spaces") and they make it possible to **grasp one's own boundaries**, to consciously reflect even more on external boundaries and to experience the relationship between these dimensions of boundaries. Those who play subject themselves to self-determined boundaries. Under certain circumstances, these boundaries are even generated by the players themselves. In this sense, playing is always a behavior in relationship boundaries – and in this sense it is also always emancipatory and political.

It makes sense to look at the expected **pandemic-related restrictions** from this point of view as both practical and theoretical starting points.



Play can be utilized as a "borderline experience" by exploring the potential of rules as a basic social function. And game(s) can create spaces in which certain effects of external boundaries are (temporarily) suspended. For example, playing can enable experiences of social closeness ("overcoming boundaries") despite the observance of physical distance. In this context, it is a conceptual goal of the festival to make the unifying and border-crossing impulses of playing fruitful by integrating not only (inter)national participants but also local social/cultural actors in order to promote their networking.

For the **conference**, contributions (45 minutes incl. detailed discussion) are welcome which illuminate, question, complement these (and related) topics of the festival from a theoretical perspective.

Possible topics in this sense could be:

Urban play as

- medium for **overcoming social distances** (prejudices, social distinction)
- framework for establishing, staging and reflecting **social figures**
- medium for **networking** (local actors are especially welcome)
- catalyst of **social/cultural cooperation** both on a local and global level performance Art
- **definitional, emancipatory, political** and/or **reflective action**
- **cultural asset** and/or **cultural technique**

Further ideas are of course welcome. Likewise, in keeping with the overall theme of "play", there is, of course, openness to format proposals that deviate from the lecture format.

Please send submissions by **May 21, 2021** by e-mail to call@playinsiegen.de.

