

## **KAREN MCCARTHY**

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#### **Conferences Attended:**

International Play Association, Glasgow UK, 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The International Play Association conference created opportunities to engage in critical discussions with play scholars from across the world. I presented my literature review for my PhD and received valuable feedback that I can incorporate into my thesis. I was also able to network with other interdisciplinary play scholars, including Play Scotland and researchers in play at Queen Margaret University. These connections could lead to future opportunities in post-doctoral work or teaching. I visited the Queen Margaret University campus the week following the conference and was able to build on the connections made at conference. By attending various sessions, I learned various research methodologies that might be useful in my research design. In addition, I was able to meet with my PhD cohort and PhD supervisors and participate in the training school. The conference also offered an opportunity to publish your abstract and I submitted a revised version of my abstract for publication in a *Priorities for Play: Towards 2030 and Beyond*. The conference even had a pop up book store on site all centred

on play research and I found a couple valuable play texts that I had not come across before that I was able to purchase and incorporate into the theory section of my literature review. Overall it was very valuable personally and professionally to be part of a community of scholars all centred on play and to realize that there are rich opportunities to continue my work in this area after completing the PhD.