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Philosophy : Philosophy of Education

Brabazon, Tara (Ed.)

Play: A Theory of Learning and Change

- Activates the ambivalent meanings of play
- Acknowledges the intellectual legacy of play theory
- Presents interdisciplinary engagement with play
- Explores how play transforms through digitization
- Incorporates teacher education, sociology, cultural studies, media studies and history

This book examines the question of why 'play' is a happy and benevolent verb in childhood, yet a subjective label of behaviour in adulthood. It studies the transformation of the positively labelled term 'child's play', used to refer to our early years, into an aberrance or deviation from normal social relationships in later life, when we speak of playing up or playing around. It answers the question by proposing play as a theory of learning, an ideology that circumscribes behaviour, and a way of thinking. Written by scholars of early childhood through to further and higher education, the book presents research on play enacted in a way that arches beyond the specificity of age groups or predictive, normative patterns. It is international in its focus, moving beyond insular, inward and parochial educational standards and limitations in one city, province, state or nation. Finally, it demonstrates the value of play to educational policy and theories of learning.

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