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From Culture Wars to
Intergenerational Practices

Theory & Practice

A theory is merely an idea which is shared with others and then tested, developed and adapted to suit human practices



Some theoretical starting points:

- That life is complicated may seem a banal expression of the obvious, but it is nonetheless a profound theoretical statement - perhaps the most important theoretical statement of our time (Gordon, 2008 p3)
- Dominator culture has tried to keep us all afraid, to make us choose safety instead of risk, sameness instead of diversity. Moving through that fear, finding out what connects us, revelling in our differences; this is the process that brings us closer, that gives us a world of shared values, of meaningful community (bell hooks, 2013 p197)

Moving from theory to social practice

- Every day Utopias (Cooper, 2014): - communities and spaces which work by creating the change they wish to encounter...
- Intergenerational contact zones: (Kaplan et al, 2020) - places and activities which bring generations together in a spirit of respect and to build more cohesive communities.

Provocations:

- 1. In what ways might play be reconceptualised as important to everyone - adults and children
- 2. Play and Leisure are rights under UN conventions how can these be facilitated?
- 3. There is an international push for child friendly cities - what should these look like?

References:

Cooper, D. (2014) *Everyday utopias: the conceptual life of promising spaces*. Durham and London: Duke University Press

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hooks, bell (2003) *Teaching community : a pedagogy of hope*. New York: Routledge.

Kaplan, M. Thang, L. L., Sanchez, M and Hoffman, J. (eds) (2020) *Intergenerational contact zones: Place-based strategies for promoting social inclusion and belonging*. London and New York: Routledge