Principles and Practice of LEGO and Moodboards in Education Research.
Play is often associated with children and held in opposition to the serious business of productive ‘work’. Yet playful approaches to research hold potential across the life course. They can help us understand relationships, everyday experiences and values with which we engage without thinking. Play is a place to experiment, to explore rules and roles, and think through transformative possibilities.

In this session, I will give an overview of two play-based methods, moodboards and LEGO, to discuss the possibilities offered by them in research. Moodboards are a collage-based method used to represent the way a participant thinks or feels about the research object. LEGO bricks provide a hands-on, playful means of representing abstract ideas and everyday experiences. Both approaches utilise existing materials (whether building blocks or images from magazines and other printed media) to enable participants to represent and work through their thoughts. I will discuss the possibilities and potential pitfalls of these approaches before leading a practical session where we will focus on the use of LEGO in research.

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