

Transcripts for clips on the Historical Context page

Clip 1 (Simon):

If we, if we go back a bit, to the first adventure playground in the world, which was a place called Emdrup in Copenhagen. Now, the first playworker there was a guy called John Bertelsen. And, Bertelsen was like, you know, linked in with the resistance movement, because like, you know, Denmark was occupied at the time, and, also, like most of Europe the resistance movement was linked in with the communist party. How they managed to get away with setting up Emdrup, like, under occupation, is just gobsmacking.

Clip 2 (Simon):

The whole, the squatting movement, like, you know, came from like, a whole range of different things. Like, you know, firstly, like, you know, the need to have a place to live; secondly, the, the idea that by expropriating the landlords, we're taking steps towards freeing up society. We can, we can remake space, we can remake daily life, we can, you know, live in different ways.

Clip 3 (Simon):

So, the whole thing about play being politics, was very much central to Situationist thought and Situationist writing. Now sure, Lady Allen of Hurtwood had like, you know, kind of like, come along from her visit to Emdrup, and like, had set up Notting Hill Adventure Playground. But the explosion of adventure play as community action, which Hurtwood was actually very much opposed to, it burst out of west London, absolutely it did, it burst out of the Notting Hill area.

Clip 4 (Simon):

People knew that play was good, but they didn't know why. They, they knew that like, it was a positive thing for children. We didn't have like, a methodology based in evidence, you know. We had like, we'll do nice things, you know, we'll, we'll go on trips outside the city, because, you know, trips outside the city are good; we'll do arts and crafts because they're good. You know, we'll, we'll play games. You know, all these, all these things like generally coming from like, a, a very emotive place, rather than like, a researched place.

Clip 5 (Simon):

When we're looking at addressing the impacts of like, gang issues and gang violence. The impact of the issue on those children who are not involved, who are at risk of being involved, that's massive. In order to preserve the childhoods of those children, we need those dedicated spaces, we need those protected spaces, yeah? So, what that means is that the, the quality of the environments that we are providing has to be like, top-notch, because we're attempting to put, like, an entire world into a small space, and saying, you know, 'Have your childhood here.'