

<p>PROJECT TITLE</p>
<p>Understanding marginalisation and experiences of water sports</p>
<p>PROJECT SUMMARY</p>
<p>Sport and leisure have been recognised as a crucial social domain, especially in relation to health, wellbeing and social interactions. In a recent scoping review, it was identified that marginalized populations may benefit more than others from sport participation; however, they frequently do not engage in such activities due to a complex interaction of individual, social, organisational, environmental and political factors (Lange et al., 2024).</p> <p>Watersports combine two key elements often cited independently to support individual wellbeing: physical activity and spending time outdoors in blue spaces. Research into outdoor spaces has often focused on adult populations and overlooked disparities in access, experience, and engagement across intersecting lines of class, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, physical ability, and legal status (Phoenix et al., 2021; Bates and Moles, 2022).</p> <p>This PhD aims to address these knowledge gaps by focusing on children and young people with multiple forms of marginalization and their experiences in watersports. Through a partnership with the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and the Andrew Simpson Foundation (ASF), this PhD scholarship will explore access to, feelings of safety, and experiences of wellbeing within these spaces. Central to this research will be the empowerment of children to voice their concerns and aspirations, ensuring that their thoughts, feelings, and views translate into meaningful change. Prospective candidates are encouraged to propose research that places children's agency and wellbeing at the forefront of their project.</p> <p>The methodology used within this PhD will be flexible, with particular attention posed on devising creative and participatory methodologies with the communities involved and the relevance of employing mixed-methods (qualitative and quantitative) approaches to the project.</p> <p>The aims of this PhD are broad as the potential candidate should identify how they would approach the topic and how this might link to them as an individual or to their experiences and expertise. The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the experiences and relationship with water sports among social children and young people experiencing overlapping forms of marginalization • Engage with community groups and policy actors to co-create toolkits/guidelines and inform programmes that can support and enhance access to and engagement with water sports; • Critically evaluate issues of access and relationship with water sports as vehicles for innovation in physical activity participation policy and identify the socio-cultural and policy shifts needed to successfully implement change
<p>ACADEMIC IMPACT</p>
<p>The PhD aligns with BU's Fusion model whereby the candidate will be contributing to research, practice and education at BU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research: Outputs will include the publication of findings within academic journals. The candidate will target interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journals across the domains of sociology, sport and leisure.

- **Practice:** There is the scope to participate in national knowledge exchange activities with the RYA as the National Governing Body for dinghy, motor and sail cruising, all forms of sail racing, RIBs and sportsboats, windsurfing and personal watercraft and a leading representative body for inland waterways cruising.
- **Education:** The PhD will also feed into teaching excellence within the department as the research has direct relevance to undergraduate and postgraduate units/courses addressing the socio-cultural and environmental dimensions and issues related to sport and physical activity

SOCIETAL IMPACT

The PhD will have an instrumental and conceptual impact whereby the findings from the PhD will directly inform the development of policy and practice in relation to inequalities in sport and exercise participation and contribute to understanding/reframing of debates around intersecting forms of marginalisation, access to sport and exercise.

The outcomes of this project have the potential to benefit wider society as the promotion of wellbeing, sport and exercise, nature connection and community cohesion align with multiple policy goals.

The PhD will connect the funders with the community and evidence their practice. This will enable them to attract and apply for future funding, and therefore build their capacity to have an impact on communities.

PGR DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

This research could help establish a national reputation for the candidate with the funders due to the scalability of the PhD findings to benefit the multiple sites the charity operates from across the UK.

The PhD is aligned with policy goals from multiple areas (health, wellbeing, sport, reducing inequalities, environmental sustainability). Based on this relevance, there is scope for the candidate to influence policy, apply for further funding post PhD, network with a variety of organisations and apply for jobs within industry post-PhD. Bournemouth University is a signatory to the Research Concordat, holds the HR Excellence in Research (HREiR) award and has a comprehensive suite of training opportunities for doctoral candidates and ECRs. The PhD student will be encouraged to engage with BU's Researcher Development Programme and support to assist their career development.

The PhD fits within the theme Sport, Health and Sustainability of Bournemouth University's Sport and Physical Activity Research Centre (SPARC). Based on the relevance of the PhD to the faculty and research centres, there is opportunity for the candidate to be a part and contribute to an international network of researchers collaborating with the centre.

SUPERVISORY TEAM

First Supervisor	Ellie Gennings
Additional Supervisors	Ian Jones, Nicola De Martini Ugolotti
Recent publications by supervisors relevant to this project	<p>Gennings, E., Brown, H.J., Hewlett, D. and Batten, J., 2023. Children and young people's perspectives from UK lockdown: leisure-less experiences. <i>Leisure Studies</i>, 42 (1), 147-155.</p> <p>Gennings, E., Brown, H. and Hewlett, D., 2021. Constructing a definition: Adolescent wellbeing from the perspective of the child and expert. <i>International Journal of Wellbeing</i>, 11 (1)</p>

	<p>Gennings, E., Brown, H.J., Hewlett, D. and Batten, J. (in-review). Young people's experiences of returning to sport and exercise in blue spaces after national lockdown. <i>In-review</i>.</p> <p>Ugolotti, N. D. M., 2022. Contested bodies in a regenerating city: post-migrant men's contingent citizenship, parkour and diaspora spaces, <i>Leisure Studies</i>, DOI: 10.1080/02614367.2022.2085775</p> <p>Bortolotti, A., Fullagar, S., Mora, M., Ni Shuilleabhain, N., Ugolotti, N. D. M., Bueno, A. X., Donato, A., Galak, E., Tonelli, L., 2022. More-than-human Perspectives on Physical Activity, Health and Education, <i>Saude Em Redes</i>, 8(3), 513-527.</p> <p>Mayoh, J. and Jones, I., 2021. Young peoples experiences of engaging with fitspiration on instagram: Gendered perspective. <i>Journal of Medical Internet Research</i>, 23 (10).</p> <p>Jones, I., 2022. <i>Research Methods for Sport Studies (4th Edition)</i>. London: Routledge</p>
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INFORMAL ENQUIRIES
Please contact the lead supervisor on the following email for informal enquiries: egennings@bournemouth.ac.uk
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
<p>The BU PhD Studentships are open to UK, EU and International students.</p> <p>Candidates for a PhD Studentship should demonstrate outstanding qualities and be motivated to complete a PhD in 4 years and must demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outstanding academic potential as measured normally by either a 1st class honours degree (or equivalent Grade Point Average (GPA) or a Master's degree with distinction or equivalent • an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 minimum (with a minimum 6.0 in each component, or equivalent) for candidates for whom English is not their first language and this must be evidenced at point of application.
ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
A post-graduate degree qualification in sport, exercise or physical activity, sociology, public health or geography is desirable for the post. We are offering this as a full-time PhD scholarship. We welcome applications from all members of our community and are particularly encouraging those from diverse groups, such as members of the LGBTQIA+, BAME and disabled communities.
HOW TO APPLY
Further information on the application process can be found at: www.bournemouth.ac.uk/studentships