

## **Call for Paper Presentations for a two-part series entitled:**

### ***Children in a Digital World: Examining the role and impact of digital communication technologies on the socio-environmental experience of contemporary children and youth***

This series is an integrated, two-part session jointly hosted by the *Children, Youth and Environments* and the *Communication, Place and Technology* Networks of both the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) and its sister organization, the International Association for People-Environment Studies (IAPS). This unique session will draw together contributors from both fields of research/design as well as from both international organizations to address this common interest.

The first component of the series will take place during a full day Intensive at the annual EDRA conference in New Orleans, USA in May, 2014. The second component, building on the first session, will take place at the IAPS bi-annual conference, to be held in Timisoara, Romania in June, 2014.

#### ***Series Outline:***

There is little doubt that digital technologies and media are enmeshed in the lives of most children and youth, particularly in developed countries. The availability of digital technologies has also opened up new avenues for research conducted with children and youth. In this two-part series, we propose to explore the role of technology, including digital devices as well as associated social media and other applications, in the behaviour, communication and environments of contemporary children and youth. Some of the issues that could be explored through paper presentations include:

- *How have digital technologies and applications altered the behavioural rhythms and geographies of children and youth?*
- *Can these tools improve children's awareness and engagement with both local and global environmental issues?*
- *What is the impact of issues like cyber bullying on children's socio-environmental experience?*
- *Are some groups (e.g. low-income families, recent immigrants) being marginalized or penalized by the lack of digital technology at their disposal and how does this impact their experience of place?*
- *What is the relationship between children, technology and place?*
- *How does it vary in relation to children's socio-economic status, cultural background, geographic locale, age and gender?*

Increased availability and affordability of digital technologies has also allowed for more extensive use of portable devices in research. This series may therefore also explore the possibilities and pitfalls of employing digital tools in research with youth:

- *Do such devices provide better direct or real-time monitoring of behaviour, experience and perceptions, and improve research or design outcomes?*
- *Do outputs from digital devices contravene the rights and privacy of children?*
- *Does the use of digital technologies in research or design improve or alter our engagement with children?*
- *Can such tools transfer more control into the hands of child participants?*
- *Does the use of technology in children's research support a more child-centred, more user-friendly, more efficient, and/or more reliable research experience?*

In both sessions of this series, the day will culminate in a group discussion to summarize thoughts and strategies to guide future research/design priorities and procedures in the areas of children/youth and communications using a facilitated NWAR (Now, Wish, Action, Review) process; a recently developed component of the experiemics participation methodology (Thwaites, Mathers and Simkins).

It is hoped that this two-part session will draw together researchers and designers from two strong network groups under a common interest, as well as strengthen the ties between researchers and designs of these two sister organizations.

The tentative format of the series is as follows:

**EDRA Full-Day Intensive (9am-4pm) May 2014:**

- Series of paper presentations (approx. 10-20 min each)
- Small group discussions
- Large group facilitated NWAR discussion
- *Note: Poster presentations may be an option. Please enquire if interested.*

**IAPS Symposium (1.5 hrs) June 2014:**

- Condensed summary of presentations delivered at EDRA Session
- Review of results of facilitated NWAR process from EDRA conference
- Large group facilitated NWAR discussion with IAPS participants
- Integrated summary of identified research/design priorities and procedures (to be shared back with EDRA participants)

**Note that this call for papers is for presentations to be delivered at the EDRA conference Intensive in New Orleans, USA on Wed., May 28, 2104.**

Interested presenters should send a short abstract (max. 250 words), along with a short bio of all proposed presenters (max. 150 words each) including affiliated organizations or institutions. Presenters should also indicate whether they also plan to attend the IAPS conference in Timisoara, Romania (June 23-27, 2014).

Please submit abstracts to ALL of the following convenors:

*Janet Loebach; Co-chair of Children, Youth & Environments Network, EDRA at [jloebachconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:jloebachconsulting@gmail.com)*

*Ian Simkins; Co-convenor of Children, Youth & Environments Network, IAPS at [ian.simkins@elprdu.com](mailto:ian.simkins@elprdu.com)*

*Gary Gumpert or Susan Druckeer; Co-Chairs of Communications Networks, EDRA & IAPS at [gary.gumpert@urbancomm.org](mailto:gary.gumpert@urbancomm.org) or [susan.j.drucker@hofstra.edu](mailto:susan.j.drucker@hofstra.edu)*

**The deadline for submission of abstracts to convenors (by email) has been extended to Monday, February 17, 2014.** All applicants will be contacted with the results by early March 2014.