



MARTINA NAVARRO

PhD



A movement-focused approach to public space design: Evaluating the rich landscape of affordances informed by the Athletic Skills Model

Martina Navarro, Senior Lecturer, School of Psychology, Sports and Health, University of Portsmouth

I'm (Dr Navarro is) a Senior Lecturer in Skill Acquisition in the School of Psychology, Sports and Health at the University of Portsmouth. My (Dr Navarro's) latest research focuses on evaluating contemporary models in skill development including the Athletic Skills Model alongside the impact of innovative design on built environments for physical activity and sports. She has worked as an academic and in the sports coaching industry over the last 13 years at universities and organisations in the Netherlands, Switzerland, Brazil and the UK.

During my (her) talk, I (Dr Navarro) will present my (her) most recent environmental intervention project, PLAYCE Pompey. Adopting a movement-focused approach informed by the theory of affordances (Gibson, 1977) and the Athletic Skills Model, PLAYCE Pompey is a publicly-accessible movement space that offers a neutral landscape of affordances and therefore a wider range of opportunities for action. Built in an area of particular deprivation in Portsmouth, UK, the project also adopted a co-design approach in collaboration with residents to inform the final design. After introducing the processes and design principles adopted, I (Dr Navarro) will present data evaluating the impact on overall usage, movement variety, wellbeing and other perceived benefits.