
Outdoor play and environmental pedagogies in early childhood education and care (0-8-years)

- a pilot study on practices in Africa and Europe to support the development of early childhood environmental pedagogies?





This presentation invites to a discussion

- of the developing British Ecological Society Pedagogical Grant funded pilot project
- Online questionnaire method and content discussion

Foundation for Environmental Stewardship in EC

- ▶ young children outdoor play and experiences of nature can influence their commitment to environmental sustainability as they grow up (Kuo, Barnes and Jordan 2019).
- ▶ Early Childhood connections crucial (Liefliander et al., 2013)



- ▶ However, it is not well understood how ECEC professionals understand and practice environmental pedagogies (Wyver 2024).
- ▶ And the position of play therein ...

Study

- Pilot of an online survey
- ECEC professionals
- to evaluate **knowledge** and **practice** in **outdoor play** and **environmental pedagogies** in **Nigeria, Ghana, England and Denmark**
- opportunities, **practices** and barriers for **environmental pedagogies** in ECEC



Sigrid Brogaard Clausen, Early Childhood Studies,
University of Roehampton

Method – ease of participation

The survey will be distributed via Survey Monkey,

Mobile phone accessibility (critical for respondent rates)

To ensure: accessibility, data privacy, enabling informed consent.

Max 20 questions

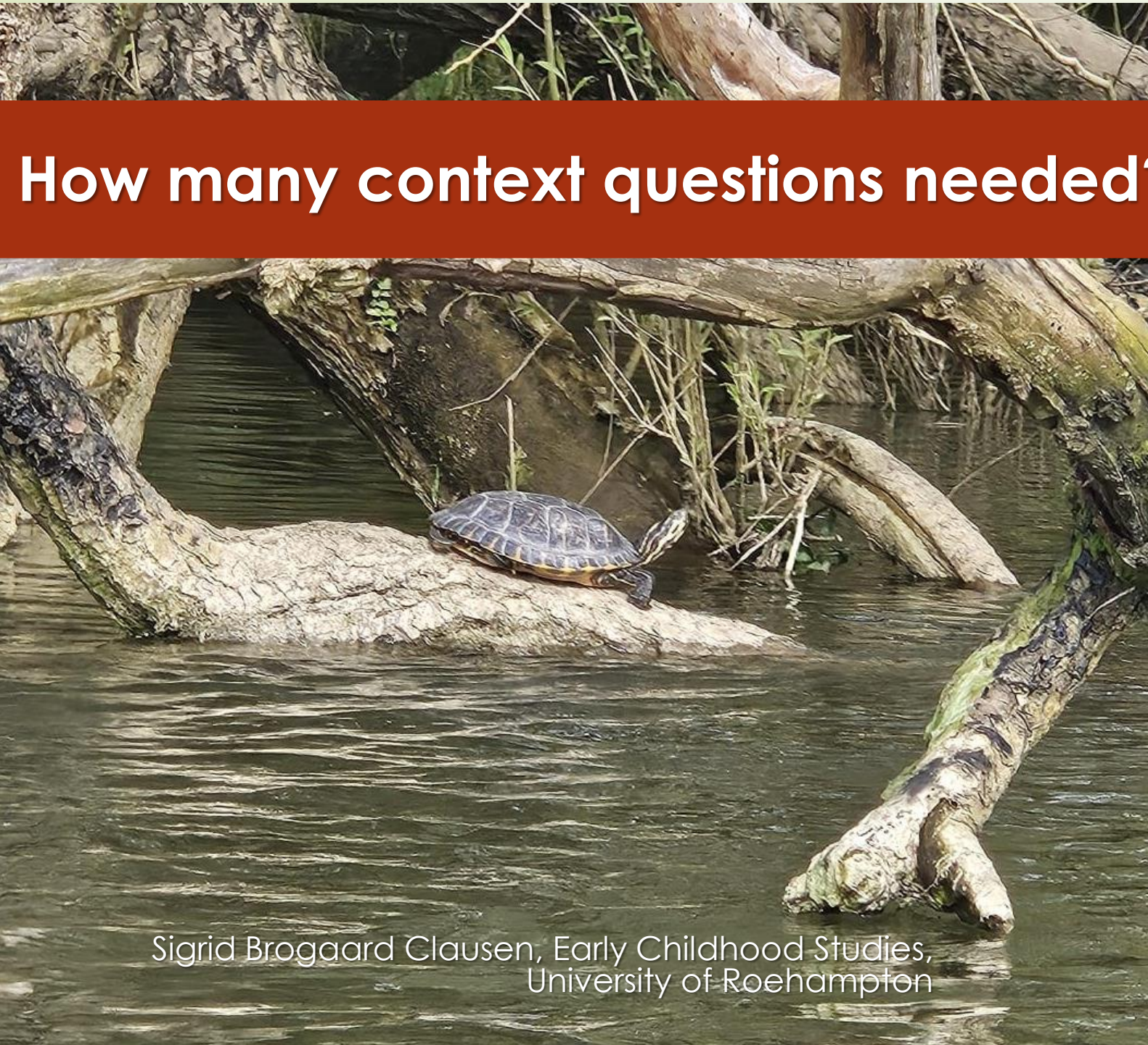


The
questionnaire
- how to
balance time,
insights and
context
information?

TIME TO DISCUSS



Sigrid Brogaard Clausen, Early Childhood Studies,
University of Roehampton



How many context questions needed?

- country, state and municipality/borough
- Setting type (nursery, school...)
- Role, Qualification & experience
- area of your school/nursery (urban... rural)
- **outdoor space – nature access and time?**

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University of Roehampton

How many context questions needed?



Sigrid Brogaard Clausen,
Early Childhood Studies,
University of Roehampton

What is in your understanding the best way for children to connect to nature/become environmental agents

How do you value children's outdoor play

How do you value children's ecological/environmental understanding

How do you support children's nature and environment understanding

Please share any 'environmental awareness led' outdoor play pedagogies, that you think might inform our and colleagues knowledge of practice

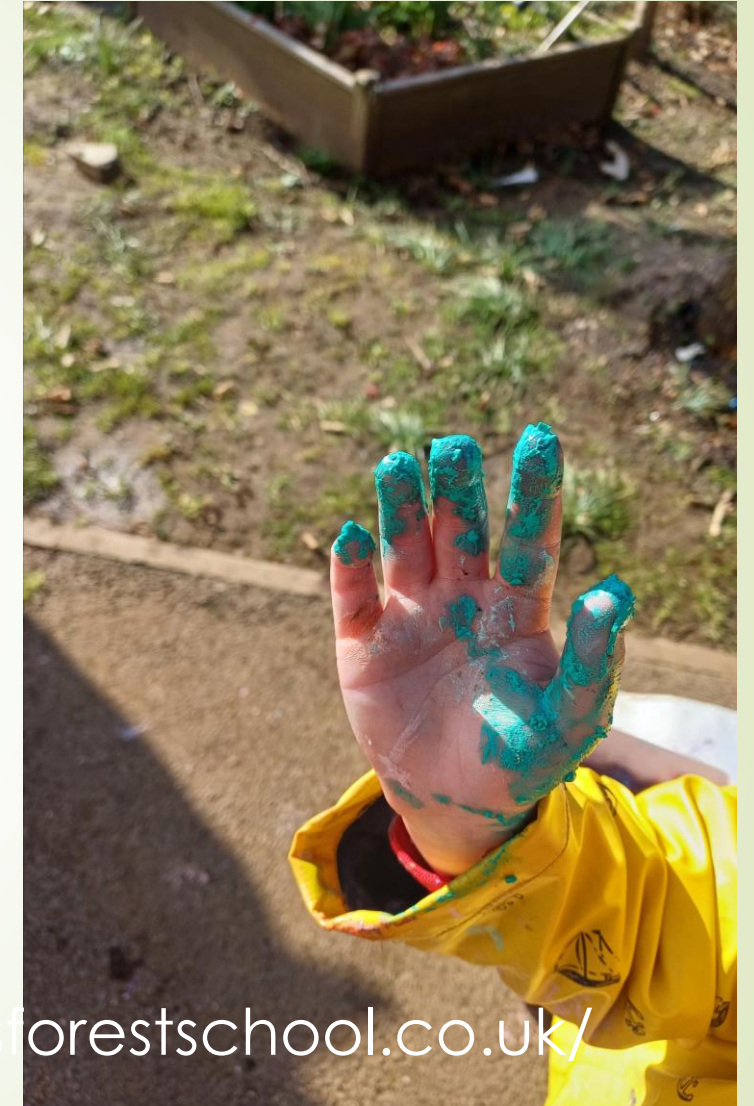
How relevant is the questionnaire for you to reflect on outdoor play and environmental pedagogies

Addressing barriers

- Risks, weather, hazards
- Curriculum pressures
- Parental concerns
- Child adult ratio
- Individual children concerns about behavior
- Managing Chaos (external – internal work)
- Own set expectations (plan – aim – goal- performance (see next slide)

Questions and provocations

- Curriculum(opportunities)
- Control (power)
- Chaos (mess and dirt)
- Confidence (agency)
- Curiosity(experimentation)



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Sigrid Brogaard Clausen, Early Childhood Studies, University of Roehampton

Thank you

**Thank you to Abdullahi
Azeez and fellow MA & BA
ECS students and
graduates, Roehampton,
ECSDN and Vicky Faulkner,
[https://www.grassrootsforest
school.co.uk/](https://www.grassrootsforest
school.co.uk/)**

**s.brogaard-
clausen@roehampton.ac.uk**

Sigrid Brogaard Clausen

