

**The Radical Power of Fun: Playfulness as a Catalyst for  
Research Culture Development**

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# The Radical Power of Fun: Playfulness as a Catalyst for Research Culture Development

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**F\*CK BOMB!!**

fun can feel risky

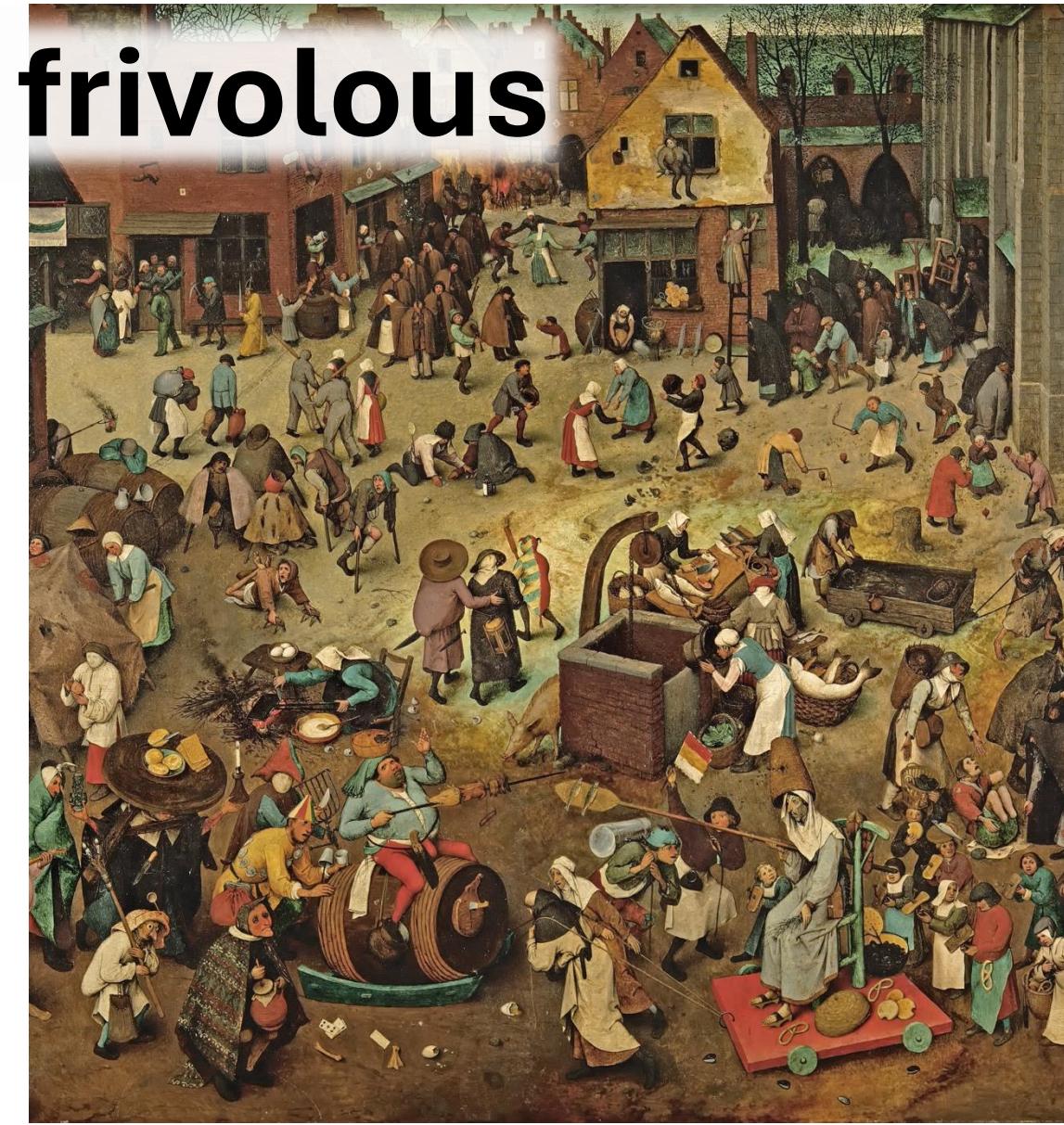


# **fun & creativity... under pressure**

**financial challenges  
funding scarcity  
performance metrics  
risk aversion  
time constraints  
cognitive overload**

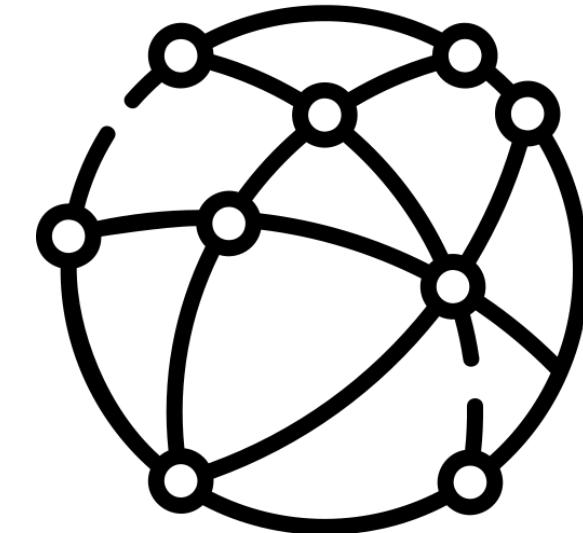
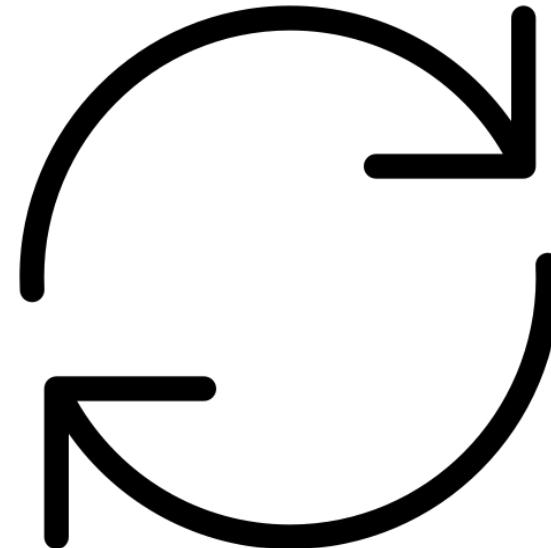
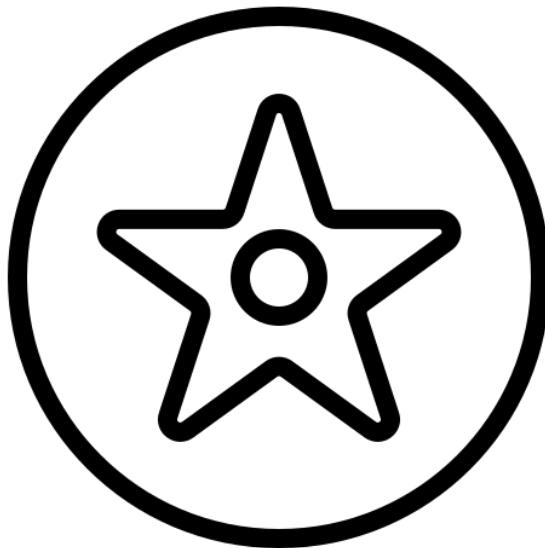


fun is not



frivolous

# fun is sociologically serious



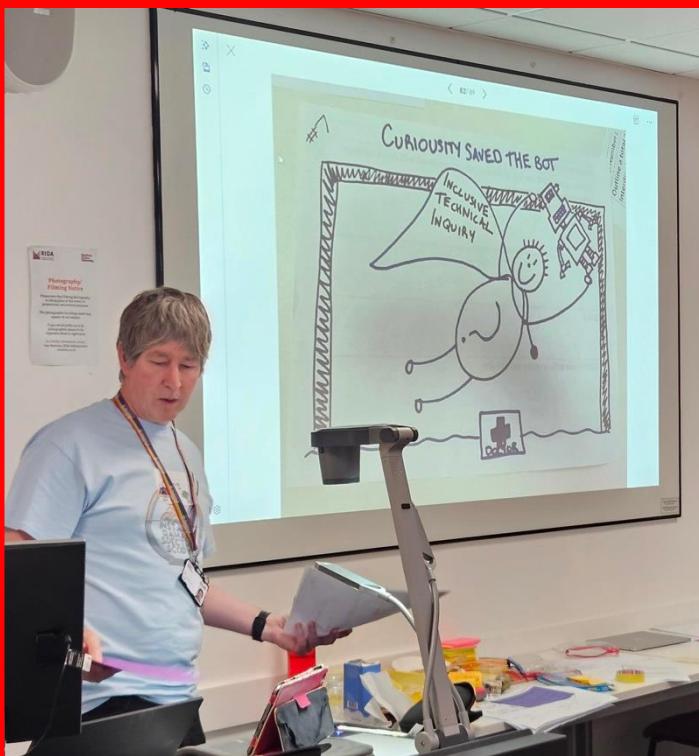
Bakhtin, M. 1984. *Rabelais and His World*. Indiana University Press.  
Huizinga, J. 1950. *Homo Ludens: A Study of the Play-Element in Culture*. Beacon Press.  
Simmel, G. 1972. Sociability. *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*. Ed. K.H. Wolff. The Free Press.  
Stebbins, R. 2001. Serious leisure. *Society* (May/June): 53-57.  
Also: Podilchak, W. 1985. The social organization of fun. *Loisir et Société* 8(2): 685-691.





Props





 **Facilitators**



# Mixing - A

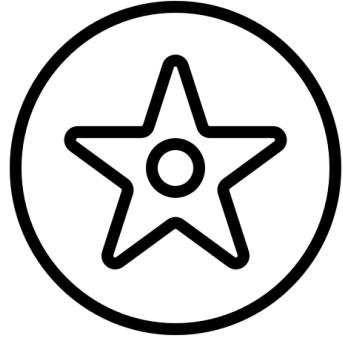


## MAKING CONNECTIONS ROUND 3

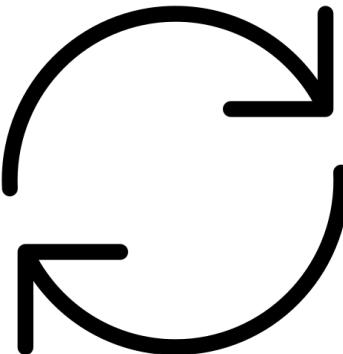
*Was there a time when 'the wheels came off' on a RIKE journey? What did you do? What did you learn?*



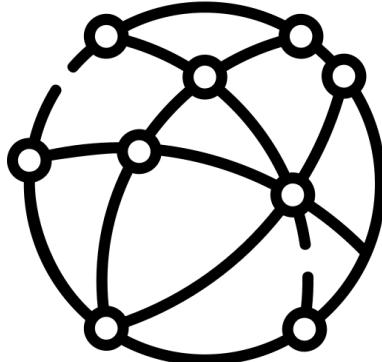
**Mixing - B**



- Clearly mark out the ‘playground’
- Create safety for ‘letting go’ and taking part



- Signal normal rules and status don’t apply
- Use common ground to flatten positions



- Human connection through play, laughter
- Collective purpose (increasing structure)



midnight oil 'heroes'

lone scientist myth

erosion of academia

sustainable RIKE careers

collaborative co-production

(re)animation of 'good work'

# Thank you for listening!

RIKE takes a village ☺

Thanks to colleagues past  
and present at Sheffield  
Hallam University; Christine  
Bell, Centre for Facilitation;  
Laura Evans-Hill, Nifty Fox  
Creative.

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