

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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fun can feel risky

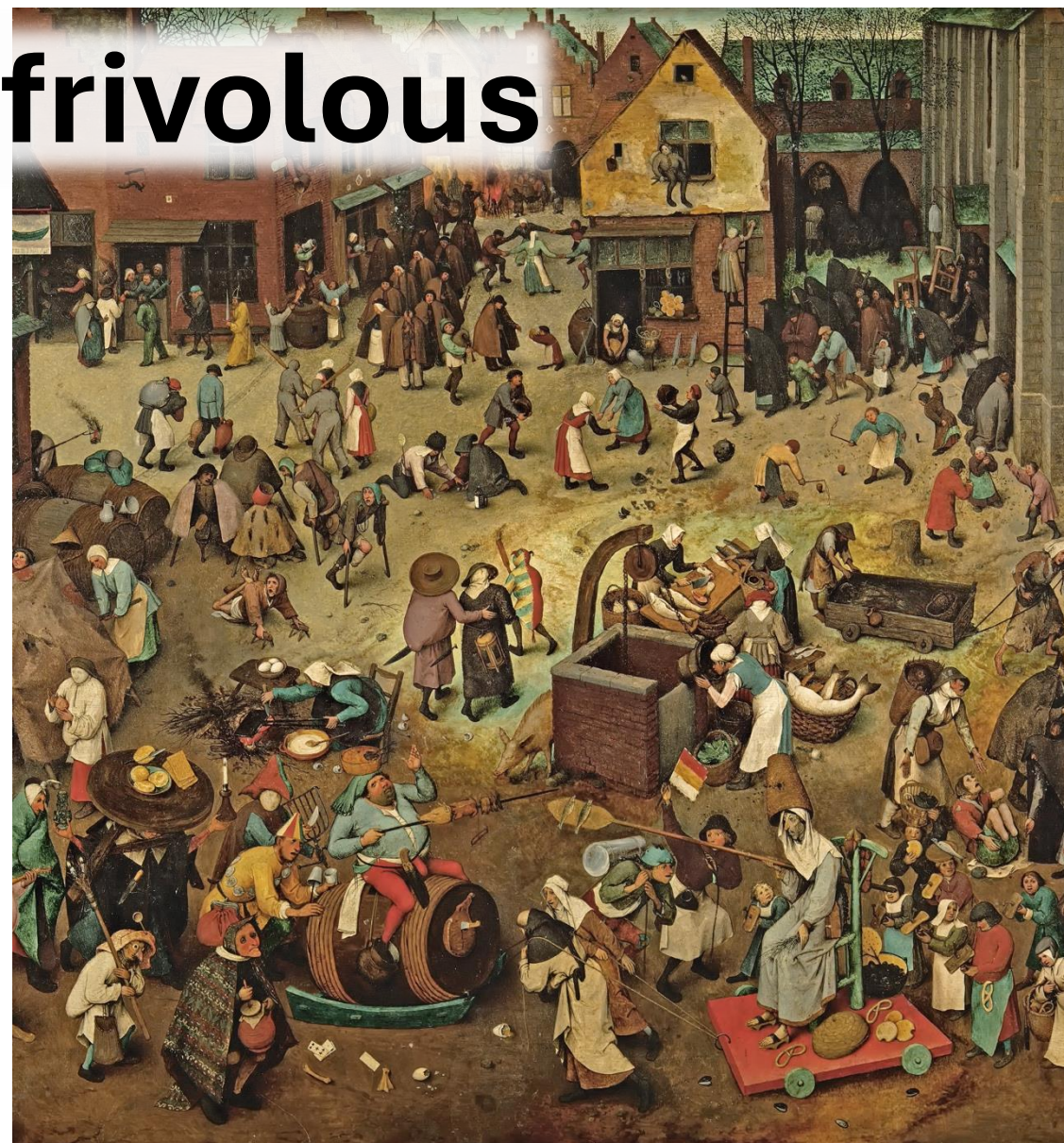


fun & creativity...
under pressure

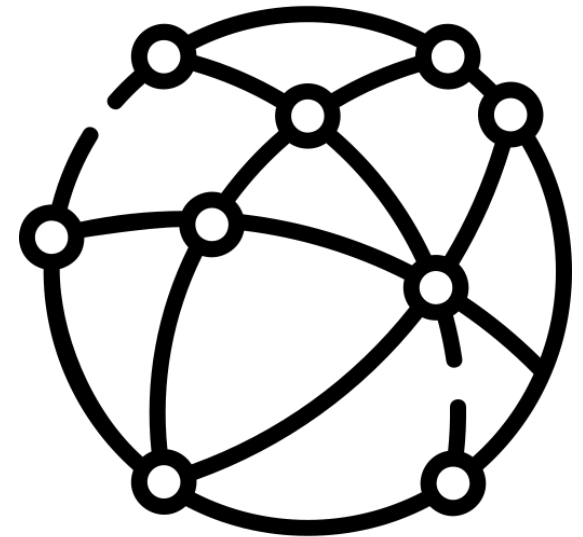
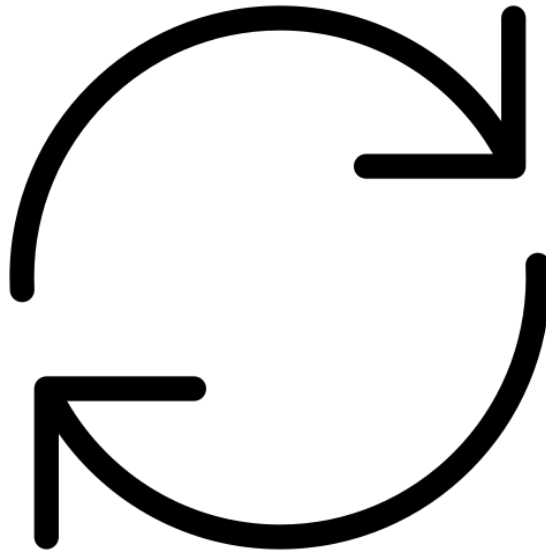
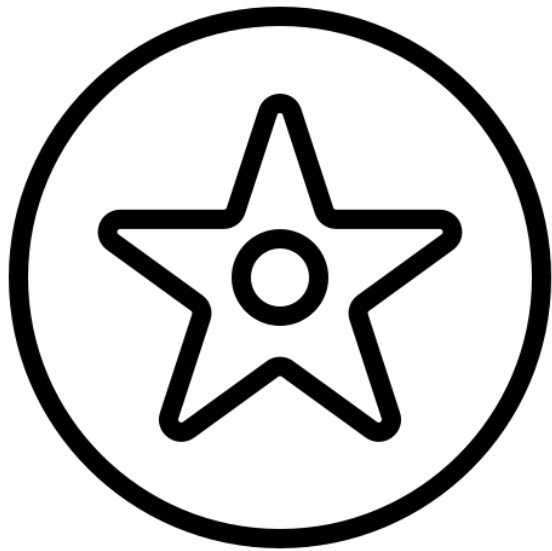
financial challenges
funding scarcity
performance metrics
risk aversion
time constraints
cognitive overload



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.

BUSINESS,
TECHNOLOGY and
ENGINEERING USP

REAL WORLD IMPACT

ENABLING
ENVIRONMENT
and
RESEARCH
CULTURE

ACCESSIBLE
DISSEMINATION

NET ZERO
REALISED

ECONOMIC
GROWTH
LOCAL
NATIONAL

CONNECTED,
SYSTEMS CHANGE

TECHNOLOGICAL
INNOVATION

VALUES

CURIOSITY

EQUITY

COLLAB

LISTENING

INCLUSIVITY

CO-CREATION

SUSTAINABLE
& SECURE
FUTURES

CROSS
CULTURAL
KNOWLEDGE

SYSTEMATIC,
RIGOROUS
APPROACH

INTERDISCIPLINARY
EXPERTS

ASKING
RIGHT
QUESTIONS

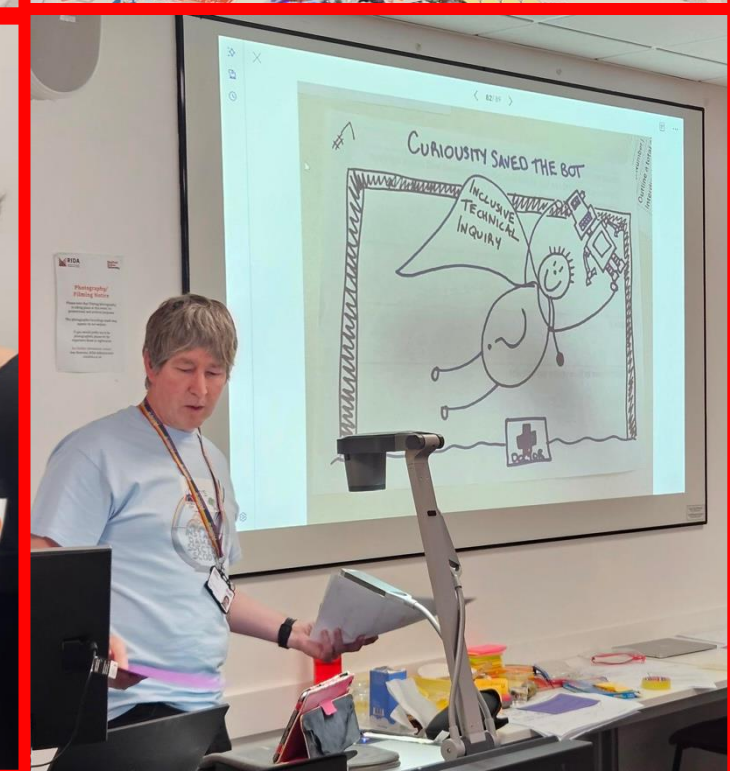
OPEN
LISTENING

COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER
EMBEDDED SOLUTIONS

QUANTITATIVE &
QUALITATIVE



Props



★ Facilitators



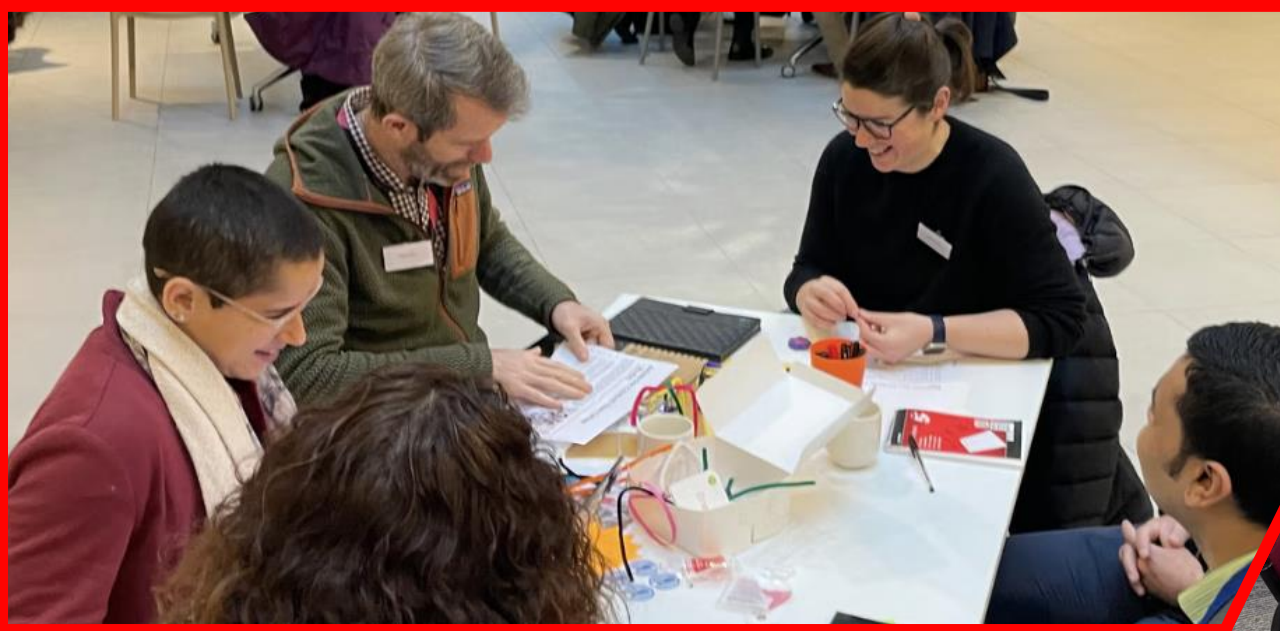
Mixing - A



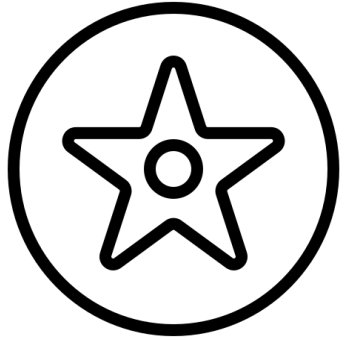
MAKING CONNECTIONS ROUND 3

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

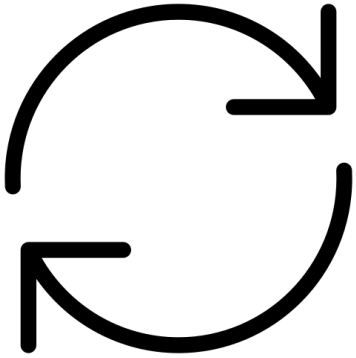




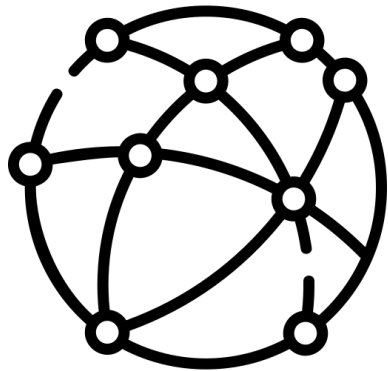
Mixing - B



- 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 😊

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and present at Sheffield
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Laura Evans-Hill, Nifty Fox
Creative.

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