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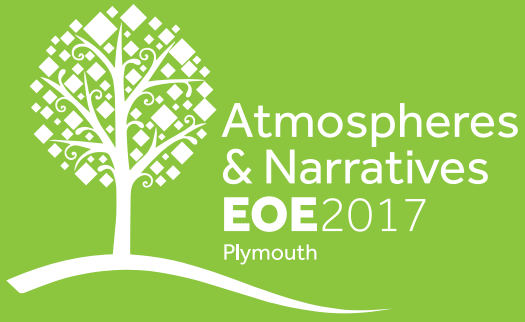
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Book of Abstracts

28 June – 2 July 2017

Plymouth Marjon University





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Research adventures with my bear

Can you imagine a world where no-one goes outside? Our world is under threat from human activities, from what we do, and the way we do it. This will have a huge impact on our future lives, and we need to think about how we protect places, and the people, animals and plants found there. Whilst, there is a widely-recognised need to address this threat, there is a specific focus on how we can involve young people in this process, and additional concern about how little time children and young people spend outside. My study responded to these concerns by exploring young people's relationship with nature, considering how this may be nurtured through the projects we offer them. The participating projects were spread across England, from south-east to north-west, including rural, coastal and urban environments. The young people (11 – 25) were from diverse backgrounds, with a wide range of individual needs. I have been creative in my approach, preferring everyday language and making use of stories. I have listened to and observed people's stories, and created new stories based on these experiences. My work is founded in young peoples' perspectives and grounded in practice, and emphasises the importance of communication, how we talk to and with people, and how we talk about the natural environment. It resulted in a commission to develop a practitioners' toolkit providing guidance on how to work effectively outdoors, with young people identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. I will share this with you.

Author Biography

Tracy Hayes is a member of IOL and a Lecturer at the University of Cumbria. She has recently completed her PhD by researching the relationship that young people have with nature, using a creative approach including stories. She enjoys being, and playing, outside.