

Play and Games in Antiquity

Definition, Transmission, Reception

Swiss Museum of Games, 17-19 September 2018

This international conference is part of the ERC project *Locus Ludi. The Cultural Fabric of Play and Games in Classical Antiquity*, based at the University of Fribourg (PI Véronique Dasen). It is organised in collaboration with the *Swiss Museum of Games* in La Tour-de-Peilz (Ulrich Schädler) and the University of Lausanne (Michel Fuchs).

Play and games provide a privileged access to past societal norms, values, identities, and collective imaginary. People play all over the world and throughout history, but they do not play the same games, nor do they attribute the same meaning and function to play. The aim of this pluridisciplinary conference is to investigate how this past patrimony can be methodologically reconstructed.

Three sessions will address first how the Ancients defined play and games by analysing their vocabulary in order to reconstruct an emic definition. Beyond the common association of child and play (in Greek, *paidia*, 'game', *pais*, the child, and *paideia*, 'education', share the same root, in Latin *ludus* means 'play', 'school' and 'rhetorical games'), the views are more complex and nuanced. Identifying ludic material and practices archaeologically as well as in iconography is also a debatable issue. The second session concerns the sources available and their bias associated with literary genre, such as oromancy, proverbs and the lexicon of Pollux. A major challenge is the reconstruction of a mostly oral patrimony, of lost children's lore and agency. The third session examines the transmission process of these practices from one generation to the next, addressing crucial issues about continuities and discontinuities, as well as about the definition of a "traditional" game.

Website: locusludi.unifr.ch

ERC *Locus Ludi. The Cultural Fabric of Play and Games in Classical Antiquity*

Place

Musée Suisse du Jeu
Swiss Museum of Games
Rue du Château 11
1814 La Tour-de-Peilz

How to arrive

By train

Stop "Tour-de-Peilz", then walk for 5 minutes.

By train + by bus

Stop "Vevey", then take the bus 201 (to Villeneuve) for 5 minutes until stop "La Tour-de-Peilz centre" or walk for 15 minutes.



Contacts & Organisation

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