

**Abstract submission for
2020 Global Sport Research Conference (ReCon) virtual conference
Arizona State University/University of Brighton
22 July 2020**

Parkour, conviviality and the negotiation of urban space

This presentation engages with a growing interest from urban sociology, criminology and critical legal studies with conviviality and negotiation in the shared use of public space. It reports on research that has investigated the flourishing and rapidly globalising parkour scene and highlights how a discourse of conviviality has been central to processes of legitimisation in the contest for an informal use of public space. The paper throws an analytical spotlight on the work of urban sociability in the articulation of a social benefit to parkour practice in urban environments, which has been crucial to how practitioners have mobilised to contest charges that the activity is hedonistic, narcissistic, irrational, deviant, and risky, so underwriting claims to contested space. Countering approaches that focus on preventive exclusion and reassurance policing, I use Barker's (2017) 'mediated conviviality' as a tool that can foster a more inclusive response to parkour, a notion which is responsive to context and may help negotiate competing claims to public space through a reframing of responsible and self-regulated behaviours and the fostering of a culture of mutual tolerance.

Keywords: parkour, legal geographies, conviviality, urban sociability

Dr Paul Gilchrist

Sport and Leisure Cultures Research Group, University of Brighton

P.M.Gilchrist@Brighton.ac.uk

www.paulgilchrist.net

<https://research.brighton.ac.uk/en/persons/paul-gilchrist>

