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## Resume

Since graduating from Leeds Metropolitan University in 1999 my professional career has been complimented by research and teaching in both Further Education (2004 - 2007), and in Higher Education (since 2000). PhD research developed methodology amenable to revealing spatial aspects of the place experience of primary school aged children in ways relevant to landscape design decision making. The research responded to the importance of encouraging an increase in young people's use of the outdoor environment, and in particular to promote positive behaviour in children through contact with experientially rich outdoor settings.

I am co-founder of Experiential Landscape, with colleague Dr Kevin Thwaites of the department of Landscape. Experiential Landscape co-ordinates and employs a person-centred process generating socially sustainable solutions that benefit how people relate to each other and the outdoor settings they routinely use. Developed through research and practice since 1999, the process builds social capital by making socially restorative environments which emphasise the delivery of fulfilled lives in processes of environmental improvement.

Since its foundation in 2003, I have also been an active member of the "core team" of UStED (Urban Sustainability through Environmental Design) an International network of researcher's educationalists and practitioners, gathering, updating, co-ordinating and disseminating tools of Sustainable Urban Design, with special emphasis on 'public space' ([www.usted-urbandesign.org](http://www.usted-urbandesign.org)).



I am a member of the Executive Management Board of the Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth, at the University of Sheffield. The centre is a multi-disciplinary organisation with international partners to create collaborative research on cross-cultural issues. It brings together academics and researchers and is committed to actively involving children and young people in the research process.

I am also joint convenor of the Children Youth Environment Network of the International Association of People Studies (IAPS).

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## **CURRENT POSITIONS**

**Research Associate;** Experiential Landscape research stream, University of Sheffield.

**Associate Tutor;** University of Sheffield, Department of Landscape.

### **Managing Director: Experiemics Ltd.**

Experiemics Ltd. was founded in 2005 and co-directors are Dr Kevin Thwaites and Dr Alice Mathers. Experiemics Ltd. co-ordinates and employs a person-centred process generating socially sustainable solutions to benefit how people relate to each other and the outdoor settings they routinely use. Developed through practice and the research of Experiential Landscape since 1999, the Experiemic process<sup>©</sup> builds social capital by making socially restorative environments which emphasise the delivery of fulfilled lives in processes of environmental improvement.

We have worked in collaboration with practices and local authorities on funding grant applications and tenders. In 2010 we worked in partnership with ARC Scotland on a project funded by Aberdeenshire Council; 'Service User and Carer Participation, Involvement and Qualitative performance feedback'.

### **Freelance Consultant: IMS Landscape Consultancy**

## **ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS**

2004 - 2008 Doctor of Philosophy: '*The development of the Insight method: a participatory approach for primary school children to reveal their place experiences.*' University of Sheffield, Department of Landscape.

2004 – 2006 Post Graduate Certificate in Higher Education (PCHE): University of Sheffield.

1998 – 1999 Graduate Diploma Landscape Architecture (with Distinction): Landscape Department, Leeds Metropolitan University.

1994 – 1995 BSc (with Distinction) Land Management and Technology: Askham Bryan College York [University of Leeds].

1991 – 1994 Higher National Diploma (with Distinction) Landscape and Horticultural Technology: Askham Bryan College York

## **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS**

1999: Graduate Diploma Landscape Architecture - Distinction  
Attained one of five distinctions awarded on the Graduate Diploma Course.

1995: BSc Land Management and Technology - Distinction  
Achieved highest ever marks and awarded one of only two distinctions.

1994: HND Landscape and Horticultural Technology - Distinction  
Achieved second highest mark amongst HND peer group.

1994: HND design selected to represent Askham Bryan at the 1994 Chelsea Flower Show, final design received a Silver Medal.

1991: Ibstock cup winner "Best first year Landscape Design Student".

## **MEMBERSHIP OF LEARNED SOCIETIES**

2010 to date: **Co-opted onto the board of trustees** of the International Association of People-Environment Studies (IAPS).

2010 to date: **Joint Convener** of the IAPS Children, Youth and Environment Network (CYE) with Sandrine Depeau, University Rennes, France. An international network founded in 1996, of academics, practitioners and students researching children, youth environment issues.

2009 to date: **Invited Partnership Board Member** of the Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth, the University of Sheffield. A multidisciplinary Centre of international excellence in the study of childhood and youth that contributes to theory and its application to policy and practice. The Centre brings together a range of academics and researchers from different and diverse disciplines to explore the nature of childhood and youth in modern society. This multi-disciplinary approach brings together academics and researchers from sociology, education, criminology, law, health, social work and social policy, landscaping, management school, psychology, geography, nursing and midwifery.

2007 to date: **Fellow** of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA)

2007 to date: **Member** of the Centre for Place and Learning, (Centrum för Plats och Lärande) SLU, Alnarp, Sweden, established with funding from the Swedish Research Council.

2006 to date: **Member** of the International Association for People-Environment Studies (IAPS).

2003 to date: **Core Team member** of Urban Sustainability through Environmental Design, an International network of academics established with funding from the European Union Social Fund.

## **PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS and MEMBERSHIP**

2007 to date: Member of the Urban Design Group

2002 to date: Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI)

1997 to date: Corporate Member of the Institute of Horticulture (MI Hort)

## **ACADEMIC CAREER HISTORY**

### **Research:**

September 2010 to May 2011: **Research Associate**, University of Sheffield, Department of Landscape. **Co-investigator and Lead Field Researcher** on Knowledge Transfer Rapid Response projects;

### **Experiential Learning - from children.**

Working with a school community in Rotherham, and a practicing Landscape Architect. The scope of the project was to refine and further develop an inclusive process of participation developed from doctoral and post-doctoral research. This explored the application and development of child/person centric multi-route facilitation of communication and expression in the context of a practical application. The aim being to develop in collaboration a concept

for the re-design of part of the school grounds. This project advanced current Experiential Landscape research by demonstrating the value of practicing research. This was achieved in a reciprocal route of experiential learning between children and adults which included a Landscape Architect practitioner who has experience of implementing a number of school grounds improvement projects.

The research aim was to demonstrate that the children are experts of their own experiences and wishes for change, and how their inclusion in a process of participation can be a route to empowerment and positively inform and affect environmental changes that would be meaningful to the school as a community as well as promote a sense of ownership. (January 2011 – May 2011).

**Experiential Mapping:** community participation in learning and teaching of NOW and WISH concepts in landscape architecture.

This project was in partnership with a local vocational training centre for people with learning disabilities. The organisation rented premises and land which they wish to develop with their students to secure the future of the site as a commercial, educational and restorative resource. The project was a key opportunity for knowledge exchange whereby the use of Experiential mapping techniques enabled the students to communicate their site experiences to a range of audiences including academics, students and the local community. (September 2010 – January 2011).

October 2010 – April 2011 **Research Associate**, *Facilitating Child Friendly Hospitals: a research and practice knowledge exchange*. Knowledge Transfer Rapid Response project led by Professor Allison James (Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth, University of Sheffield) and Dr Penny Curtis (Reader and Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Co-Director of Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth, University of Sheffield). Application of Experiential Landscape and Doctoral research findings to contribute to children's way finding research at Leeds General Infirmary.

October 2010 – December 2010 **Research Associate**, *Understanding the views of designers and providers of city centre spaces with respect to skateboarders in Sheffield, Manchester and Crewe*. Project led Helen Woolley Senior Lecturer University of Sheffield, Department of Landscape. Interviews conducted with practitioners involved in the design and management of City Centre spaces and transcribed for evaluation.

September 2008 – August 2010: **Leverhulme funded Research Fellowship**, University of Sheffield, Department of Landscape. The Leverhulme Trust research grant facilitated a practical development of the Experiential Landscape process and range of methods connecting holistic ideas about people-space relations and theories of place to socially responsive professional practice. The project focused specifically on young children and people with learning disabilities, the resultant process and methods developed also have potential for working within communities in general and other often under-represented groups in society such as the elderly, ethnic communities,

and migrants, for example. The research fieldwork has been conducted within three projects:

*What's the Fuss, We Want the Bus – reaching our destination*

This research was concluded with the publication and dissemination of the research findings in July 2009 at the People's Parliament in Sheffield. Partners included Sheffield's learning disability community, Sheffield City Council Mobility Strategy Team, and South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive. In addition to the dissemination day, a written report and DVD documentary film were produced.

*Revealing Your Now, Wish and Future Worlds*

A project working with a North East of England Primary School, Foundation Stage Unit. This project was requested by the school to develop their nursery 'play yard'. The project fieldwork was conducted over two days in collaboration with Susan Paget (Assistant Professor, Landscape Department, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences). A range of methodologies were used over two days to engage with the 69 children in the school's foundation stage unit and adults which included parents, teaching staff, teaching assistants and none teaching staff. A report was presented to the school with the findings and concepts from the fieldwork and the school secured funding to implement improvements derived from the project.

*Your Now and Wish thoughts about the playground and field*

A second phase of research at the primary school in the North East of England. The fieldwork involved working with children from classes in Year1, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 as well as adults to find their views on the existing school grounds as well as their wishes for improving them. This followed on from the previous year's work with the school's foundation stage unit. A range of developed methodologies were used to engage with the school community, and a dissemination day of the children's work took place in June 2010 at the school's Alternative Sports Day. A DVD of the children's work was produced and given to each child and teacher who took part.

January 2008 to June 2008: **Researcher and IT Support**, University of Sheffield, Department of Landscape Knowledge Transfer Rapid Response project: Excuse me, I want to get on: negotiating the city.

2000 to 2003: **Research Assistant**, Landscape Department, Leeds Metropolitan University. Part time funded research developing the experiential landscape mapping methodology. In addition participatory methods were also developed through research and practice and applied with schools and communities in a Single Regeneration Budget funded full time post as a Community Landscape Architect working for a Local Authority.

1999 to date: **Co-founder** of Experiential Landscape.

### **Research Impact:**

**'Understanding the views of designers and providers of city centre spaces with respect to skateboarders in Sheffield, Manchester and Crewe.'** The field work interviews have contributed to a refereed article led by Helen Woolley, accepted for publication.

### **'Talking about and showing, what we get and need from our council'**

ARC Scotland Consultancy: Service User and Carer Participation, Involvement and Qualitative performance feedback. Consultancy arising from the Leverhulme Experiential Landscape project to provide methodology training that discerned the views of adults with learning disability on their experiences of the service provision of Aberdeenshire Council, who commissioned the project.

### **"What's the fuss we want the bus!"**

Findings from the Leverhulme funded research project have been incorporated into Sheffield City Council Mobility Strategy policy. The research findings report and associated DVD film documentary are used by South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive in staff Access and Inclusivity training.

### **Revealing Your Now, Wish and Future Worlds**

The school have now implemented the findings that were developed into a concept from the fieldwork and the new foundation stage outdoor area has been opened in April 2011.

### **Grounds for Optimism programme**

Invited to collaborate on the guidance for Landscape Architects involved in the 2009 Grounds for Optimism programme an; "award scheme that helps secondary schools plan innovative changes to their grounds." The project partners included: Solent Centre for Architecture + Design, arc architecture centre, Kent Architecture Centre, Learning Through Landscapes, Hampshire County Council, The Landscape Institute and Sifer Design. The guidance has now been published.

### **Practice guidance**

Experiential Landscape principles and methods for creating sense of place through prioritising human relationships with environment have been included in practice guidance in the UK by Gillespies in their publication: *Creating Inspirational Spaces: a guide for quality public realm in the northwest*. Liverpool, Renew Northwest.

Other projects that have influenced policy have included the **"Excuse me I want to get on!"** tram project. The findings from this project have been incorporated by travel operators in their staff training.

### **Academic referee and reviewer:**

2010: appointed as a reviewer for the refereed journal; 'Childhoods Today'.

2010: Invited onto an advisory board review of progress of the UCL international comparative Children's Independent Mobility project sponsored by the Nuffield Foundation.

2009: Review of the guidance for the 2009 Grounds for Optimism programme.

2008: Course review of six study guides: University of Strathclyde - Urban Sustainability through Environmental Design Module, funded by the Royal Town Planning Institute.

2007: Advisory board Associate, University of Strathclyde AHRC funded research project; Multimodal Representation of Urban Space Sensory Notations.

2006: Book review for Taylor and Francis.

### **Tutoring experience:**

#### **Higher Education**

February – March 2011: Tutor on the Master's Landscape module, Department of Architecture, University of Strathclyde. Experiential landscape workshop: exploring the experiential NOW and WISH in the Barras and surrounding area.

January 2011: ERASMUS Teaching Exchange: SLU, Uppsala, Sweden. Two day workshop with student's teaching Experiential mapping methodologies.

August 2010: PhD Internal Examiner, Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield.

September 2009: ERASMUS Teaching Exchange: SLU, Uppsala, Sweden. One day workshop with student's teaching Experiential mapping methodologies.

2008 to date: Annual Guest Lecture, Department of Town and Regional Planning: Invited lecture on qualitative methodologies to PhD students as part of their RTP module conducted by Dr Paula Meth.

November 2005: Polytechnic of Milan, Italy. Four day workshop with Post-Graduate Student's teaching Experiential Mapping methodologies.

2003 to date: The University of Sheffield, Department of Landscape.  
*Undergraduate modules:* Integrated Urban Design; Advanced Landscape Construction; Basic Landscape Construction  
*Post graduate modules:* Technical Drawing; Urban Landscape Design; Integrated Urban Design; Special Project – phase 1 examination review; Special Project (formerly special design); Special Design (Master planning/Whole site proposals); Special Design (Planting); Exam Panel Moderating - Special Design.

2000 to 2003: Leeds Metropolitan University, Landscape Department.  
*Post graduate modules:* Habitation Option.; Autocad additional support.

#### **Further Education Tutoring**

Askham Bryan College York:

September 2006 - March 2007: Northern College for Further Education (NCFE) Level 2 Certificate in Garden Design.

July - August 2006: Course design: (NCFE) Level 2 Certificate in Garden Design. Subsequently approved and implemented.

September 2005 - February 2006: Open College Network Level 2 Certificate in Garden Design.

September 2004 - July 2005: City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Garden Design.

### **Refereed Publications**

Woolley, H., Hazelwood, T. and Simkins, I.M. (2011) Don't skate here: exclusion of skateboarders from urban civic spaces in three northern cities in England (refereed in press).

Mathers, A.R., Simkins, I.M., Thwaites, K, and Mallett, R. (2010) Developing Social Capital through Self Advocacy (refereed in preparation)

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. (2010) Reading Experiential Village Identity. In Urban Diversities, Biosphere and Well-being. Selected refereed book from the IAPS international conference, Rome 2008 (refereed in press).

Thwaites, K, Simkins I.M., and Mathers, A. (2010) Towards a Concept of Socially Restorative Urbanism: reflections on social and spatial dimensions of urban restorative experience. Landscape Review, New Zealand (refereed in press).

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. (2009) Experiential Landscape: exploring the spatial dimensions of human emotional fulfillment in outdoor open space. In Tolba.M.K., Abdel-Hadi.A. and Soliman.S. (2009) Environment, Health and Sustainable Development: Gottingen, Hofgreffe Publishing GmbH, pp.164-176.  
Simkins, I.M. and Thwaites, K. (2008) Revealing Hidden Dimensions of Place Experience in Primary School Aged Children. Landscape Research, 33:5, 531-546.

Thwaites.K., and Simkins.I.M, (2006) *The Concept of Experiential Landscape: reading experiential characteristics in residential settings. Proceedings of Housing and Building National Research Centre Symposium at International Association for People-Environment Studies (IAPS) international conference 'Environment, Health and Sustainable Development' Alexandria, Egypt September 11-16, 2006.*

Thwaites.K. Helleur.E. and Simkins.I.M. (2005) Restorative urban open space: Exploring the spatial configuration of human emotional fulfillment in urban open space. Landscape Research, Volume 30, Number 4, October 2005, pp. 525-547(23)

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. (2005) Experiential landscape place: exploring potential in neighbourhood settings. Urban Design International (2005) 10, 11-22.

**Book publications:**

Thwaites, K, Simkins I.M., and Mathers, A. (2012) *Socially Restorative Urbanism: the theory, process and practice of Experiemics*. Book contract with Routledge. In progress for delivery 2012.

Thwaites, K. and Simkins. I.M. (2010) *Experiential Landscape: Exploring the spatial Dimensions of Human Emotional Fulfillment, in Outdoor Open Space, in Environment, Health, and Sustainable Development*, eds: Tolba, M.K., Abdel-Hadi, A. & Soliman, S. Goettingen, Hogrefe & Huber.

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. (2007) *Experiential Landscape: An approach to people, place and space*. London: Taylor and Francis.

Simkins. I.M. (2007) *Listening to and understanding the voices of young children in the planning and design process*, in *Urban Sustainability through Environmental Design*, eds: Thwaites. K., Porta. S. and Romice. O. London, Taylor and Francis.

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. (2007) *Experiential Landscape: revealing hidden dimensions of people-place relations*, in *Urban Sustainability through Environmental Design*, eds: Thwaites. K., Porta. S. and Romice. O. London, Taylor and Francis.

**Keynote addresses:**

February 2011: '*Practicing Research – who are the experts?*' Invited keynote address to academics, practitioners and policy makers at the Investment in school grounds seminar, SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp, Sweden.

October 2010: '*Experiential Landscape building a range of practical tools for urban open space analysis and design.*' Invited lecture to staff and students at the Unit of Landscape Architecture, Department of Urban and Rural Development, SLU, Alnarp, Sweden.

January 2010: *Experiential Landscape: an approach to people, place and space: Urban Social Sustainability and Current Research*. Invited lecture at the Unit of Landscape Architecture, Department of Urban and Rural Development, SLU, Uppsala, Sweden.

November 2009: '*Developing tools and techniques for revealing place experiences of primary school aged children – The Insight Method: a participatory framework*'. Invited lecture as part of the Removing Barriers to Inclusion module, Sheffield Hallam University.

April 2009: '*Experiential Landscape: an approach to people, place and space: Principles and Practice*'. Invited public lecture, The Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia.

February 2009: '*Developing tools and techniques for revealing place experiences of elementary school aged children*'. Invited keynote address at the 'Growing in Place' conference, Natural Learning Initiative, N.C. State University, Raleigh, USA.

February 2009: '*Experiential Landscape: an approach to people, place and space*'. Invited presentation as part of the ' ARCHAOSUWE Open Lecture series 2008-9', University of the West of England, Bristol, UK.

April 2007: '*Experiential Landscape: an approach to people, place and space*'. Invited key note presentation as part of the RSAW Spring School 2007 (Royal Society of Architects in Wales, in association with the Landscape Institute in Wales). Portmerion, Wales, UK.

March 2007: '*Experiential Landscape: an approach to people, place and space*'. Invited keynote speech as part of the 'Sju Speglar' conference, Stockholm, Sweden.

November 2006: '*Experiential Landscape: an approach to people, place and space*'. Invited presentation as part of 'The Experience' lecture series, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK.

January 2004: '*Experiential Landscape*'. Invited lecture at the Politecnico di Milano organised by Dr. S. Porter founder of UStED (Urban Sustainability through Environmental Design) at the Polytechnic of Milan, Italy

### **Other Publications**

Thwaites, K, Simkins, I.M. and Mathers, A. (2011) *Experiential Landscape: an approach to people, place and space*. Landscape Journal.

Simkins, I.M. (2010) In the right place. Children in Scotland, Issue 106/April 2010.

Simkins.I.M., Mathers.A.R., Thwaites.K. and Paget.S. (2009) *Revealing Your Now, Wish and Future Worlds: Report of the research findings for Easington Lane Primary School, Foundation Stage Unit*.

Mathers.A.R., Simkins.I.M. and Thwaites.K (2009) *What's the Fuss, We Want the Bus – reaching our destination: Report of the research findings of Leverhulme Trust funded phase one field work with Sheffield's learning disability community, Sheffield City Council Mobility Strategy Team, and South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive*. Including DVD documentary film.

Simkins, I. M. (2008) *The Development of the Insight Method: a participatory approach for primary school children to reveal their place experiences*. Doctoral Thesis, University of Sheffield, UK.

Thwaites K and Simkins I.M. (2007) Are you experienced? Landscape, 02.07, p.26-31.

Simkins, I.M. (2006) *Reflections on becoming a tutor: approaches to teaching and learning - recognising and valuing difference*. Unpublished Post Graduate Certificate in Higher Education assignment. University of Sheffield.

Simkins I.M. and Thwaites K. (2006) *Potential through Participation*. green places, Issue 22, February 2006, pp. 22-27.

Simkins, I.M. (2005) On becoming a tutor: reflections on a student centred approach. Unpublished Post Graduate Certificate in Higher Education assignment. University of Sheffield.

Thwaites.K. Helleur.E. and Simkins.I.M. (2004) Restorative Urban Landscape Settings: Exploring the Spatial Dimensions of Human Emotional Fulfilment in Urban Open Space. Paper and conference presentation at the international Open Space: People Space conference, Edinburgh, 27-29 October 2004.

Simkins.I.M. and Thwaites.K. (2004) The Spatial Experience of Primary School Aged Children: The Development of an Open Space Design Language. Paper and conference presentation at the international Open Space: People Space conference, Edinburgh, 27-29 October 2004.

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M (2004) Experiential Landscape Place: a design vocabulary for people, space and place. Invited presentation to Analysis of Public Spaces and Policies for Public Life in Cities conference, Politecnico di Milan, Milan, Italy, 27 January 2004.

### **Conference Presentations**

Simkins, I.M, Mathers, A.R, Paget, S. and Thwaites, K. (July 2010) Research into Practice: applying a person centred process to develop environmental and social change. Paper presentation at the CSCY 2010 'Childhood and Youth in Transition' International Conference, Sheffield, UK.

Thwaites K, Simkins I.M, and Mathers, A. (June 2010) Towards a Concept of Socially Restorative Urbanism: reflections on social and spatial dimensions of urban restorative experience. Paper presentation to IAPS 2010 conference, Leipzig, Germany.

Mathers, A.R, Simkins, I.M and Thwaites, K. (June 2010) Experiential Landscape: from theory, through process to practice. Paper presentation to IAPS 2010 conference, Leipzig, Germany.

Simkins, I.M. and Mathers, A. (March 2010) Experiential Landscape: research and application of a person-centred process for creating social capital. Seminar presentation at: Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth, The University of Sheffield.

Simkins, I. M. and Thwaites, K. (July 2008) Existing and Aspirational Neighbourhood Place Experiences of Primary School Aged Children. Presentation at the: Safety for Children In The City – A Formula for Children's Well-Being or for Restraining Children Symposium. IAPS 20th International Conference, Rome, Italy.

Thwaites, K. and Simkins, I.M (July 2008) Experiential Landscape: Approaches to Revealing Place Experience in Primary School Aged Children. Presentation at the: Children's Perspective in Environmental Perception Thematic Session. IAPS 20th International Conference, Rome, Italy.

Thwaites, K. (et al) (July 2008) Urban Sustainability through Environmental Design: Approaches to Time-People-Place Responsive Urban Spaces. Presentation at the: Values and Worldviews and Environment-Behaviour Relations Thematic Session. IAPS 20th International Conference, Rome, Italy.

Thwaites, K. and Simkins, I.M. (July 2008) Restorative Urban Design. Presentation at the: Restorative Environments: New Directions for Research Symposium. IAPS 20th International Conference, Rome, Italy.

Thwaites, K. and Simkins, I.M. (July 2008) Reading Experiential Village Identity. Presentation at the: Home Range: Experiences and Meanings across Cultures and Contexts Symposium. IAPS 20th International Conference, Rome, Italy.

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. April 2007 Experiential Landscape: reading experiential characteristics in residential settings. Paper and workshop presentation at the Housing Studies Conference 2007, York, UK.

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. November 2006 Experiential Landscape: an approach to people, place and space. Joint invited presentation as part of a lecture series, The University of Sheffield, UK.

Simkins.I.M. September 2006 Place experience of primary school children: revealing the spatial dimensions. Presentation at the Children, Youth and Environments meeting, IAPS 19th International Conference, Alexandria, Egypt.

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. September 2006 Experiential Landscape: exploring the spatial dimensions of human emotional fulfilment in outdoor open space. Joint paper and presentation IAPS 19th International Conference, Alexandria, Egypt.

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. September 2006 Experiential Landscape: reading experiential characteristics in residential settings. Joint paper and presentation at the Housing Network Symposium, IAPS 19th International Conference, Alexandria, Egypt.

Simkins.I.M. July 2006 Developing tools and techniques for revealing spatial dimensions of place experience in primary school aged children. Seminar presentation and paper at: "Planning and designing healthy public outdoor spaces for young people in the 21st century" conference hosted by the faculty of the Built Environment, University of the West of England, Bristol.

Simkins.I.M. April 2006 The development of tools and techniques for revealing spatial dimensions of place experience in primary school aged children. Seminar presentation at: Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Conference. Department of Sociological Studies, The University of Sheffield.

Simkins.I.M. March 2006 Reflection on Undertaking Research into the Spatial Dimensions of Children's Place Experience. Seminar presentation at: Practicalities of Working Inclusively with Children. Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth, The University of Sheffield.

Simkins.I.M. March 2006 Revealing spatial dimensions of place experience in primary school aged children. Presentation at: Recovering Landscape Workshop. Department of Archaeology, University of York.

Simkins.I.M. January 2006 - Research application of tools and techniques for revealing spatial dimensions of place experience in primary school aged children. - Postgraduate symposium, The University of Sheffield UK.

Simkins.I.M. January 2005 - The development of tools and techniques for revealing spatial dimensions of place experience in primary school aged children. - Postgraduate symposium, The University of Sheffield UK.

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. Oct 2004 - Joint presentation at the Department of Architecture, The University of Strathclyde, organised by Dr. Ombretta Romice.

Simkins.I.M, and Thwaites, K. April 2004 - "Experience of place by primary school children" Joint presentation at Yorkshire Branch of the Landscape Institute CPD event - 'Recent Research on Residential Landscapes' hosted by The University of Sheffield.

Simkins.I.M. January 2004 - The Spatial Experience of Primary School Aged Children: the development of an open space design language. - Postgraduate symposium, The University of Sheffield, UK.

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. November 2002 – Joint presentation at e3 conference – Sheffield, UK

Thwaites.K. and Simkins.I.M. September 2002 – UPE - Creating Sustainable Urban Environments – Future Forms for City Living - Oxford, UK (Joint paper)

## **PRACTICE CAREER HISTORY**

November 2003 to date: **IMS Landscape Consultancy: Freelance Landscape Consultant, Tutor and Garden Designer.** Private commissions for garden design work and for developing school.

December 2002 - November 2003: **Senior Landscape Architect**, Hartlepool Borough Council. Portfolio of work included primary school projects involving Borough Architects and members of Partnering teams and SRB and Heritage Lottery work.

September 1999 - December 2002: **Community Landscape Architect (SRB funded post)** Hartlepool Borough Council. Provision of a comprehensive Design and project management service;

*Green Corridors and Gateways Project (SRB project):* Development and implementation of a landscape strategy of environmental improvements on strategic and major corridors throughout two SRB areas. Schemes were executed with involvement of the local community, ward members, agencies and public bodies together with business stakeholders. The projects also required the maximisation of local employment, training and

safety initiatives. The schemes were driven by consultation and participation of the community through workshops and exhibitions.

*Grounds for Learning Project (SRB project):* This project involved a variety of landscape improvements to schools within the SRB area. The improvements were developed through workshops with pupils, teachers and governors, and managed to completion.

*Intermediate Labour Market (ILM):* Management of various projects of environmental improvement implemented by the ILM, induction lectures and handbook compiled for reference.

July 1995 - June 1998: **Freelance Landscape Designer**

Provision of bespoke designs for commercial and domestic clients.

May 1997 - November 1997 **Software application design (freelance)**

City Parks Services (Division of City of Sunderland Direct Services)

June 1994 – September 1994: **System auditing and re-organisation.**

City Parks Services (Division of City of Sunderland Direct Services)

August 1992 – September 1993: **Assistant to Landscape Manager**

**(undertaken as part of HND course)** City of Sunderland Parks Contracts Section (Division of City of Sunderland Dept. of Leisure)

Part of Landscape team that undertook all new landscaping works awarded to the department.

April 1992: **Sub-contract Drawing.** Land Reclamation Site St. Helens Groundwork Trust project - reclamation of a derelict spoil heap in Lancashire. Working under the direction of the freelance Landscape Architect for the site interpreting sketches, provision of formal drawings for planning application and original detail design work.