

# **Response to assessor's report of the HDR Confirmation Seminar and PhD Research Proposal**

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## **1. To select references that do not conflict with each other as far as objectives of the selected authors is concerned.**

The thesis focuses on the conceptual frameworks of Henri Lefebvre. The key references for these frameworks include Lefebvre (1967, 1991, 1996) and Stevens (2007).

The literature review (p. 3-7) in the PhD proposal has been completely rewritten, reflecting consistency and contextual background of the selected authors in relation to city and everyday life, play, play behaviour, play and the operationalisation in public spaces as well as play and public spaces.

The revision of the literature review translated into a series of amendments throughout the proposal including changes to the aim, research questions (p.7) and research paradigm (p.8 f.). The reference selection process led to amendments of the significance and added clarity in the proposal (p.7f.). The research paradigm outlines Lefebvre's conceptual triad of space, which is the founding element of the methodology and the epistemological contribution (p. 8f.).

## **2. To define the concept of play clearly.**

The literature review includes a section on play (p.5) and outlines the definition in the context of this thesis. To underpin what play means, the introduction starts with a definition (p.2). A definition of play requires contextualisation and clarity on what observable play behaviour might be. Caillouis' approach offers four categories that were introduced as part of the literature review in the proposal under play behaviour.

### 3. To limit the focus of empirical study to one city with convincing discussion for the choice.

The methodology section of the PhD proposal outlines the rationale of Yin's case study approach and discusses pro and cons of a single case study approach compared to a multiple case study approach (p. 10). For the purpose of this thesis, and in light of the assessor recommendation, a single case study approach was selected, amended and simplified to reduce the amount of data, but still to allow for cross culture validation.

The rationale behind the cross-culture validity is introduced on page 11 of the proposal. Figure 1 shows the simplification of Yin's case study approach in the context of this thesis, limiting the overall focus of empirical study to a revised case study approach to play in the city (p. 10 f.).

A discussion in relation to the choice of cities is included on page 12 and 13 of the proposal, resulting in dropping the Asian case altogether. The discussion led to the reduction to two street spaces in two different cities (p.13).

The researcher took advantage of the lived experience, everyday life and understanding of cultural codes by interrogating Potsdam in Germany and Canberra in Australia. A discourse analysis of the strategic policies relating to public spaces and liveability, as well as a mapping of the street morphology for both spaces, provide additional argument (p. 13).

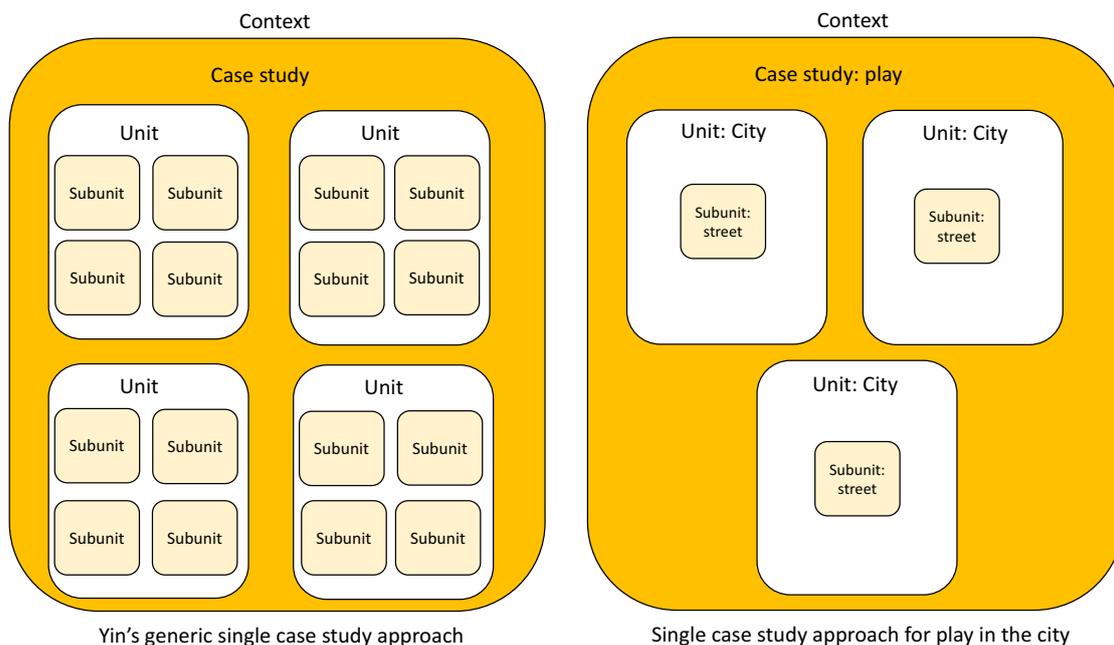


Figure 1: Case study approach in comparison to Yin; Source: own illustration based on Yin (2009)