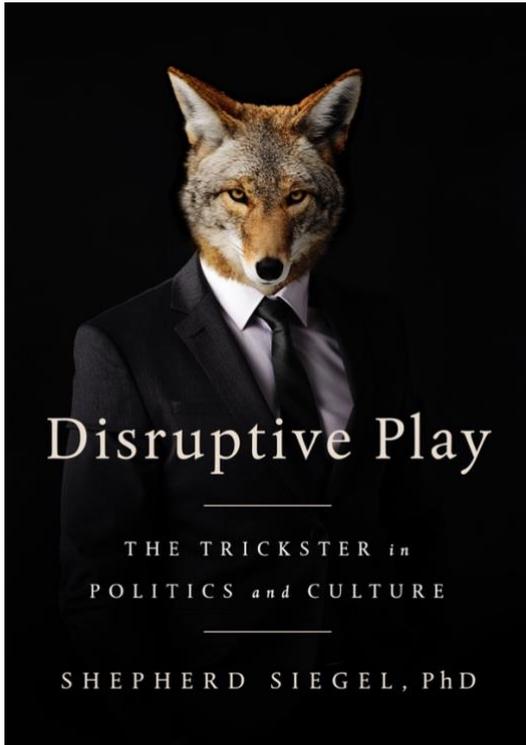


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*A history of disruptive play,
and a manual for tricking power into committing acts of love.*



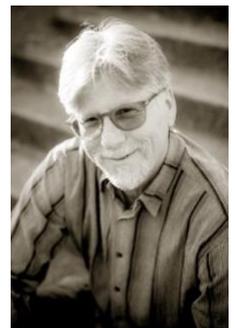
Disruptive Play
The Trickster in Politics and Culture

By Shepherd Siegel, PhD
NEW Fall 2018

Disruptive Play: The Trickster in Politics and Culture journeys from ancient folkloric appearances of Tricksters such as Raven and Èṣù-Elegba, to their confined role in Western civilization, and then on to Trickster's 20th century jailbreak as led by dada and the hippies. *Disruptive Play* bears witness to how this spirit informs social progress today, whether by Anonymous, Banksy, Bugs Bunny, or unrevealed mischief-makers and culture jammers. Such play is revolutionary and lights the path to a transformed society.

Disruptive Play connects knowledge from mythology, folklore, popular culture, art, politics, and play theory to make its case that **to be playful means not taking power seriously. At critical mass, power collapses and leaves us swimming about in the waters of the amoral Trickster.** New values emerge and could lead to some version of the dystopia that currently drenches popular culture. Or, if people can discern between the authentic contact and exhilaration of play, and branded, mediated, alienated pleasure, then we just might stumble and frolic our way to the Play Society.

Dr. Shepherd Siegel is a writer, a rock and jazz musician, and educator, earning degrees at UC Santa Cruz and San Francisco State University, and his doctorate at UC Berkeley. He has over thirty publications, including *Career Ladders*, and has won numerous awards. He led Career and Technical Education for Seattle Public Schools for sixteen years. He returned to his countercultural roots to write *Disruptive Play* and spread its message of playfulness and progressive change.



356 pages, 5.83 x 8.27 (A5), paperback, \$21.95, ISBN 978-1-7322948-4-4 (ebook 978-1-7322948-0-6).

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Praise for Shepherd Siegel's *Disruptive Play*
The Trickster in Politics and Culture

“Sometimes play can disrupt how people see the world.”

—Jackson Fackler, 8 years old

“Shepherd Siegel is looking at play in a very serious way. This book may tell us more about how to break down limitations and open creativity than all the gobbledygook self-help tomes of the past decade.”

—Tom Long, *The Detroit News*

“From the anti-war art of dada to the wit, wisdom and shenanigans of Lisa and Bart Simpson, Dr. Siegel reminds us that the play of art is always a play against power. This book is a timely and irresistible story about what play is and why artistically, politically and culturally, we should play more.”

—Dr. Michael Vicente Perez, Assistant Professor of Anthropology,
The University of Memphis

“Somebody once said, “The beginnings of wisdom is a firm grasp of the obvious.” That's what came to mind as I learned about Shepherd Siegel's *Disruptive Play*, an in-depth look at the power of play. Or maybe this work should be viewed, not as an historical review, but more as a DIY on play as an antidote to domination. Check it out, you might just see the forest.”

—Daniel Barrett, Co-Creator and founder of *Navigation 101*,
a high school guidance and counseling program

“I was in a better mood after I finished reading about the possibilities of play. I remembered there was a way to approach life that was based around joy and pleasure, rather than fear and drudgery. And that's a good thing!”

—Alex Marshall, author of *How Cities Work*, *The Surprising Design of Market Economies* and *Beneath the Metropolis*; columnist for *Governing* magazine

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