

2025 ABUSE-FREE SPORT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

ELDER

Clayton Sandy



Clayton's home community is the Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation. He worked for the Manitoba government until 2016, and retired that year after 39 years of service. He grew up in foster care in the 60s in Dauphin, MB. He loved sports especially hockey, but walked away from the sport because of racism and never getting ice time, because parents made up every aspect of the game of hockey in Dauphin. He has three grandchildren that play hockey in Winnipeg and sees similar attitudes towards his grandchildren for ice time, placements on ice, who gets to wear the " C " or " A " from parents coaching most times, and feels not much has changed. His message to his grandkids as well to other minorities in any sport: do the best you can and stay blind to racist attitudes and remember you can do and be anything you want to be with hard work and a positive attitude.

SPEAKERS

Moji Akande



Born in Nigeria, Moji Akande brings over ten years of expertise in policy development and advocacy, with a strong focus on First Nations, Métis Nation, Inuit, Black, Racialized, and Religious Minority communities across Canada to her role as Program Manager at Anti-Racism in Sport. As a former athlete, and active volunteer, she leverages her understanding of the challenges that marginalized communities face in accessing sports and recreational activities to contribute to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility initiatives, conducting training, providing research-based recommendations, and enhancing public awareness to lower participation barriers. She enjoys hiking and hosts a book club called "Chapters & Chow" where her love for reading and food conveniently converge.

Craig C. Brown



Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Craig began his career in the financial sector where he spent 11 years working in a variety of positions related to customer service and human resources. Although he previously completed degrees in psychology (B.Sc.) and business administration (M.B.A), in 2017, Craig moved with his wife (Kay-Dene) to Winnipeg to pursue an M.A. in Kinesiology and Recreation Management with a focus in Sport Psychology, which he completed in 2020. Craig's professional endeavours since moving to Winnipeg include various research projects related to the experiences of newcomers in sport in Manitoba, anti-racism in sport in Winnipeg, and an organizational equity, diversity, and inclusion review. Craig has also worked with various athletes and sports teams as a Mental Performance Consultant. Craig's mantra is to be the change that he wishes to see in others, one interaction at a time.

SPEAKERS

Bettina Callary



Dr. Bettina Callary is the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Sport Coaching and Adult Learning and a Professor in the Department of Experiential Studies in Community and Sport at Cape Breton University in Nova Scotia. She researches coach education and development strategies and psychosocial understandings of inclusive sport, in particular women in coaching, adult (Masters) sport, Indigenous sport, Special Olympics, and sociocultural coach education for high performance sport. She runs the Community Active Sport Training and Learning (CoASTaL) lab and is the Chair of her department. Dr. Callary is the Editor of the International Sport Coaching Journal and she is on the Research Committee for the International Council for Coaching Excellence. She has written two books, over 200 papers, and has given over 200 presentations. She is also an alpine ski coach, swim coach, Masters triathlete, and coach developer.

Danielle Cyr



Cyr is a high performance and university soccer coach, researcher and educator in sport, leadership, and gender equity. As a doctoral candidate, they have published and presented widely on safe sport, team culture, and inclusive coaching. Their research has been recognized with the esteemed International Award for Excellence by the International Journal of Sport and Society and has been applied in practice, making a meaningful impact through a national leadership development program with U SPORTS and the CCAA. Cyr is a part-time and associate faculty at MSVU and RRU teaching in the disciplines of communications, business, and gender studies. A sought-after speaker and consultant, they collaborate with local and national organizations to create equitable, inclusive, and accessible sport environments, driving meaningful systemic change.

Sarah Dunbar



Sarah Dunbar is a Master of Arts student in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at the University of Waterloo. Her research explores the intersections of community engagement, safe sport, and social well-being, with a particular focus on preventing and addressing maltreatment in community sport. Sarah's academic journey is marked by a passion for creating meaningful connections between people and their communities through innovative programming and policy development.

Lindsay Duncan



Lindsay is an Associate Professor and William Dawson Scholar in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education at McGill where she directs the Healthy Living Lab. Her research explores psychological and sociological aspects of sport, exercise, and health and she maintains active streams of research on inclusivity in sport and athlete wellbeing. Lindsay is also active in the sport sector: She is the head coach of the Varsity Artistic Swimming Team at McGill as well as a board member (since 2017) and vice president (since 2022) of Canada Artistic Swimming.

SPEAKERS

Julia Ferreira Gomes



Julia Ferreira Gomes is a doctoral candidate and qualitative researcher in Sociocultural Studies of Kinesiology and Health Sciences. She has 8+ years of experience in research, organizational leadership, and advocacy within health and community sectors. Her work centers on the exploration, implementation, and knowledge mobilization of trauma- and violence-informed care within sport for development programs. An expert in knowledge mobilization and translation, Julia's research interests include trauma- and violence-informed approaches to policy and practice, sport for development, gender equity and diversity, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based violence prevention through participatory action research.

Janice Forsyth



Janice Forsyth, a member of the Fisher River Cree Nation, is a Professor of Indigenous Land-Based Physical Culture and Wellness in Kinesiology at the University of British Columbia. Her research explores how organized physical activities have served as tools of colonization in Canada and how Indigenous peoples have used those same activities for cultural survival and regeneration. Her leadership extends outside academe to her roles as Vice President of the Aboriginal Sport Circle and President of the Ontario Health and Physical Education Association, demonstrating her commitment to advancing Indigenous priorities for sport and physical activity in the public sector.

Bryan Heal



Bryan Heal (he/him) is the Social Impact Research Lead at MLSE, leading initiatives such as the Change the Game research program to advance youth sport access, engagement and equity. As a Sport For Development partner of Dr Simon Darnell of the University of Toronto Centre for Sport Policy Studies, Bryan collaborates with all community partners of the SDRCC-funded project Fostering a Positive, Safe and Brave Culture for Youth in Sport to develop practical ideas for improving the culture of sport environments for youth. Additionally, Bryan serves on the Board of Directors of Canada's Sport Information Resource Centre; of Strides, Toronto's Lead Agency for Child and Youth Mental Health; and is Chair of the Rugby Ontario Build Belonging Committee.

Daria Jorquera Palmer



Daria Jorquera Palmer is a dedicated advocate for equity, inclusion, and systemic change. Her work spans anti-racism in sport initiatives, gender equity projects, and strategic planning, where she partners with diverse stakeholders to dismantle barriers and create meaningful opportunities. A former high-performance athlete, she competed on the national fencing team for 12 years and has spent over two decades coaching, using sport as a tool for empowerment and representation. She volunteers on local, provincial, and national non-profit boards, bringing leadership and vision to initiatives that strengthen community impact. Through her work with the Anti-Racism in Sport Campaign, Daria challenges discrimination at all levels of sport, with a focus on advancing equity for First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Black, Racialized, and Religious Minority communities. Her commitment to building connections and creating sustainable solutions continues to drive transformative change in Winnipeg and across Canada.

SPEAKERS

Karen Laansoo



Karen (Robertson) Laansoo, M.Sc., is a M.A. candidate in the Kinesiology Management and Leadership program at Western University. Her research interests are focused on safe and ethical sport practices and policies in intercollegiate athletics. As part of her thesis, she is collaborating with Dr. Hayley Baker and Dr. Laura Misener to examine the development, implementation, and challenges of safe sport policies within Canadian universities under the U Sport framework. Karen's forthcoming publication explores how the International Olympic Committee's concept of political neutrality creates a harmful environment for athletes. As a high-performance athlete in fencing, Karen has represented Canada (2018-2023) and Western University (2024).

Katie Misener



Katie E. Misener, PhD, is an Associate Professor at the University of Waterloo, Canada. Her research centers on the capacity and social impact of nonprofit community sport organisations, emphasizing social responsibility, social capital, safe sport management, and inter-organisational relationships. Dr. Misener is also interested in the role of sport organisations in community health promotion and creating collaborative value through partnerships.

Sylvie Parent



Sylvie Parent, PhD, is a full professor in the Department of Physical Education at Université Laval and holds the Research Chair in Sport Safety and Integrity. Her current research focuses on the prevalence and risk factors of violence against athletes, violence experiences of young referees, and the training needs of coaches and athlete support teams with regard to violence in sport. Her expertise is recognized, as demonstrated by her contribution to the most recent IOC Consensus Statement: Interpersonal Violence and Safeguarding in Sport, published in 2024. She was also awarded the Kari Fasting Prize in 2023 for her significant contribution to research in the field of safe sport.

Talia Ritondo



Talia is a third-year, SSHRC-funded PhD student in Human Kinetics at the University of Ottawa. She is co-supervised by Dr. Audrey Giles from uOttawa and Dr. Francine Darroch from Carleton University. She is examining the nexus of gender, pregnancy, parenting, and safe sport. Talia completed her Master's in Recreation and Leisure Studies at Brock University. Her thesis critically examined postnatal women's community team sport participation. During the year between her MA and PhD, she was Brock's Gender & Sexual Violence Education Coordinator. For her leisure, Talia plays competitive beach and indoor volleyball and enjoys weightlifting, video games, and board games.

SPEAKERS

Anne-Marie Rouillier



Anne-Marie Rouillier is a research professional at Lab PROFEMS. Her background as a health anthropologist has led her to take an interest in the many aspects of well-being, particularly among girls and women+, of which physical activity is one. Her doctoral thesis on the feeding practices of infants aged 0-2 in contemporary Quebec was awarded the Canadian Anthropology Association's Certificate of Excellence in 2023. Her postdoctoral studies focused on the local communities in which children grow up and the effects of these environments on their overall development. Her research interests also included the ethics of care, reproductive health and obstetric and gynecological violence.

Catherine Sabiston



Catherine Sabiston is a Professor of Sport and Exercise Psychology and holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in physical activity and psychosocial well-being. Catherine has received over \$33M in funding for her research that broadly focuses on psychological and social factors linked to sport and exercise experiences and participation. She is a world leader in body image research and practice.

Kirsty Spence



After receiving a Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst, USA), Dr. Kirsty Spence has accrued over 20 years' experience as a sport management academic. At Brock University, Kirsty explores pedagogy that supports stimulating undergraduate students' leadership development, among other topics. She was awarded Brock's Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award in 2017 and the Brock University Distinguished Teaching Award in 2019. Dr. Spence is ending two terms as Associate Dean, Teaching and Undergraduate Studies. Kirsty is certified as Integral Master Coach™ and holds the Professional Certified Coach (PCC) designation through the International Coach Federation (ICF).

Sarah Teetzel



Dr. Sarah Teetzel is a Professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management at the University of Manitoba where she also serves as the Dean of Studies for St. John's College. Her research focuses on applied ethical issues in sport, emphasizes the intersection of rules and values. Her current research projects address physical literacy and multisport participation, the inclusion of transgender athletes, anti-racism in sport in Winnipeg, and the history and philosophy of the Winter Olympics. With Heather L. Dichter, she is the author of *The Olympic Winter Games at 100: Challenges, Complexities, and Legacies* (Routledge, 2024).

SPEAKERS

Haïfa Tlili



Haïfa Tlili studies the representations of racialized girls and women from working-class neighborhoods or in immigrant situations. She has adopted an action-research approach with stakeholders to better understand the realities of women excluded from sports practice and to coconstruct appropriate recommendations. Since 2019, her work has focused on Muslim athletes excluded from competitions due to wearing a sports head covering, in order to deconstruct prejudices, make their experiences visible and defend their rights.

Tracy Vaillancourt



Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt is a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in School-Based Mental Health and Violence Prevention at uOttawa where she is cross-appointed as a full professor in Counselling Psychology, Faculty of Education. She is the past-president of the International Society for Research on Aggression, a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and the Chief Editor, *Frontiers in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. Dr. Vaillancourt holds two national coaching license. She is a Coach Developer with Canada Soccer and Ontario Soccer, a head coach for Ontario's Canada Games women's soccer team, and a member of Ontario Soccer's Technical Advisory Committee.

Michael Van Bussel



Michael Van Bussel has over 20 years of academic, administrative, and service experience in Sport Management. His educational background includes a PhD focusing on Sport Law and Policy Studies from Western University. He held faculty positions at Jacksonville University, Wilfrid Laurier University and Brock University. He has won awards in teaching and coaching and was named OUA (USPORT) Provincial Coach of the Year on two separate occasions with the Western University Women's Soccer Program. His research interests include: Safe Sport, Risk Management, Governance and Policy, and Coach/Athlete Communication.

Marika Warner



Marika Warner is the Director of Research & Community for MLSE Foundation and MLSE LaunchPad. Her portfolio includes program evaluation, academic research partnerships, technology and innovation, and organizational strategy. Marika's team uses data to enhance practice in Sport For Development, positive youth development, sport equity, and corporate social responsibility in professional sport. She has authored a chapter in the *Routledge Handbook of Sport and Sustainable Development* and papers in publications such as *Sociology of Sport Journal*, the *International Journal of Sport & Society*, *Advances in Physical Education*, the *Journal of Sport for Development*, and *BMC Public Health*.

Owen Bravo



Owen is the Education and Policy Support Coordinator at the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC). In his role, he assists the Resource Centre at the SDRCC achieve its objectives pertaining to education, prevention, outreach and communication. Owen coordinates the Abuse-Free Sport Education Accreditation Program, as well as consultations with sport organizations that wishing to review their policies. He has a bachelor's and master's degree in Sport Management from the University of Windsor, along with substantial experience in hockey as both a referee and a Board member. Whether as an athlete, official, volunteer, or administrator, Owen has accumulated significant knowledge of the Canadian sport system.

Sasha Gollish



Bio to come...

Carolina Meneses Zamora



Carolina is a Costa Rican social researcher who moved to Winnipeg to pursue her Masters in Anthropology. After graduating from the University of Manitoba, Carolina worked as the Newcomer Youth Outreach Coordinator for the Spence Neighbourhood Association and also as their Youth and Families Programs Manager. In these roles, Carolina supported a variety of after-school programs aimed at fostering an inclusive and equitable community for Indigenous and newcomer youth in Winnipeg's inner city. Apart from her work with SNA, Carolina's lived experiences as a newcomer in Canada have shaped her interests in social justice-related issues and the immigration and settlement sector.

Katelin Neufeld



Katelin Neufeld is a Behavioural Research Scientist at the Canadian Centre for Child Protection ("C3P"), a national charity in Winnipeg. C3P offers "Commit to Kids", a program that empowers coaches and other sport professionals to enhance child and youth safety in sport. Before joining C3P, Katelin earned her PhD in social and personality psychology at the University of Manitoba, was a Visiting Scholar at New York University, and a post-doctoral fellow with the Canadian Reconciliation Barometer and Probe Research. With expertise in measuring and influencing human behaviour, Katelin's research informs policy and practice for child sexual abuse prevention and responses.

Rachel Nicol



Rachel Nicol is a retired Olympian from the sport of swimming and now works as the Athlete and Survivor Engagement Coordinator for the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada. Throughout her athletic career she was a student and completed a Master's degree in Kinesiology from the University of Calgary in 2022. What led her to her current position was becoming increasingly involved in athlete advocacy and representation through various volunteer roles with Swimming Canada, the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner.