

**Danielle Peers**

Faculty of Physical Education & Recreation  
University of Alberta  
Master's Student

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**EDUCATION:**

Ph.D., Faculty of Physical Education & Recreation, University of Alberta, in process

Supervisor: Dr. Pirkko Markula

Master of Arts, Faculty of Physical Education & Recreation, University of Alberta, 2009

Thesis: Governing Bodies: A Foucaultian Critique of Paralympic Empowerment  
Supervisor: Dr. Donna Goodwin  
Grade Point Average: 3.9

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, minor in History, University of Alberta, 2001

Grade Point Average: 8.9 (equivalent to 4.0)  
Graduated with Distinction.

**GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS:**Awards and Scholarships

- 2009 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, SSHRC, \$150,000
- 2009 President's Doctoral Prize of Distinction, \$10,000 (+2 years tuition and fees)
- 2008 Alumni Horizon Award, University of Alberta
- 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award, Grant MacEwan College
- 2008 Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship, University of Alberta, \$10,800
- 2008 Profiling Alberta's Graduate Students Award, Alberta Government, \$600
- 2001 Certificate of Merit, Department of Sociology Undergraduate Essay Competition, University of Alberta, 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- 2000 Petro-Canada Olympic Torch Scholarship, \$3,000
- 1998 Academic All-Canadian Award
- 1998 Flannigan Family Scholarship, \$400
- 1998 Dean's List, Grant MacEwan College

- 1997 Jimmie Condon Academic Athletic Scholarship, \$1,500
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- 1996 Alexander Rutherford Scholarship, \$1,500

#### Collaboration on Research Grants

- 2008 Sport Science Association of Alberta, \$3,690 (N. Spencer-Cavaliere & D. Peers). Exploring the perspectives of able-bodied athletes in wheelchair basketball.
- 2008 Canadian Institutes of Health Research two-year Catalyst Grant, \$40,561 (Sobsey, D & Janz, H, principals). Disability ethics: Beyond medical and social-construction models of disability.

#### Additional Recognitions

- 2009 Chosen as Olympic Torch Bearer
- 2008 Alberta Sports Hall of Fame (team)
- 2007 Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame
- 2007 International Sportswoman of the Year: Finalist
- 2007 Basketball Canada's Outstanding Athlete of the Year
- 2006 World's Most Valuable Player -wheelchair basketball
- 2006 Gold Medal, wheelchair basketball World Championships
- 2006 Edmonton Pride Award for Outstanding Contribution to the LGBTQ Community
- 2004 Bronze Medal, Athens Paralympic Games

### **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

#### Publications – Refereed

- Peers, D. (2009). (Dis)empowering Paralympic histories: Absent athletes and disabling discourses. *Disability & Society*, 24(5), 653-665.

#### Publications – Non Refereed

- Peers, D. (2009). Review of Steve Bailey's Athlete First: A History of the Paralympic Movement. *Adapted Physical Activity Quarterly*, 26, 187-188.
- Spencer-Cavaliere, N., Peers, D. L., & Watkinson, E. J. (2008). Integrating able-bodied athletes in disability sport: Athletic identity and competitive/elite women's wheelchair basketball players. *Pulse*, 21(1), 9-10.
- Peers, D. (2008). My favorite myths about elite sport. *Prospect Magazine*, 1(1), 6-7.
- Peers, D. (2001). Subject ability: Parallel papers on the reproduction and policing of bodily difference as lack. Published in coursework publications, in house, by the University of Alberta Faculty of Arts. (ENG 220, fall 2007; SOC 333, fall 2006, spring & fall 2007, spring & fall 2008)

### Presentations – Refereed Conferences

Peers, D., Paralympians, patients and freaks: Re-conceptualizing Paralympic progress narratives. Presentation at North American Society for the Sociology of Sport Conference, University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Ontario, November 2009.

Peers, D., Pity and pedestals: Expert discourses about athletes with disabilities. Presentation at To Remember is to Resist: 40 Years of Sport and Social Change International Conference, University of Toronto in Toronto, Ontario, May 2008.

Peers, D., Producing the Paralympian: A genealogy in progress. Presentation at York Critical Disability Studies Graduate Student Conference, York University in Toronto, Ontario, May 2008.

Peers, D., Pity and pedestals: Historical (re)productions of the heroic Paralympian. Presentation at Eighth Annual Round Table (Open for Action: Socio-cultural Research and Change in Sport, Health and Physical Activity), University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, April 2008.

Peers, D., Super-gimps and wannabe-crips: Mobilizing the mobility-impaired. Presentation at On Mobilities Graduate Conference, University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, May 2007.

### Presentations – Invited Academic Lectures

Peers, D., Invited panel member for Transformative Stories: Crip and Queer Art as Activism, presented by the Alberta Public Interest Research Group, University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, November 2008.

Peers, D., Transgressing boundaries of (dis)ability. Invited lecture for the Inside/OUT Speaker Series, University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, December 2007.

Peers, D., Tomboys and the able-disabled: Subversive ability or hegemonic identity? Invited lecture for the Woman Scholars Speaker Series, University of Lethbridge in Lethbridge, Alberta, March 2007.

Peers, D., Disabling stereotypes, enabling action (bilingual). Invited lecture for the Faculté St. Jean in Edmonton, Alberta, September 2006.

### Presentations – Invited Keynote Lectures at Public and Professional Conferences

Peers, D., Making a difference? Invited lecture at B.C. and Yukon Fire Fighter Conference in Vancouver, BC, November 2009

Peers, D., The process of Initiating Social Change. Invited lecture at the Alberta Registrar's Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, November 2008

- Peers, D., Disability, failure and other malleable stories. Invited lecture at the World Conference of Women's Shelters in Edmonton, Alberta, September 2008.
- Peers, D., Failure and success: Rethinking the athlete's story. Invited lecture at Calgary City Teacher's Convention in Calgary, Alberta, February 2008.
- Peers, D., La pédagogie du présent. Invited lecture at Alberta Francophone Teacher's Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, November 2007.
- Peers, D., Learning through failure. Invited lecture at Alberta Health and Physical Educators Conference, Edmonton, Alberta, May 2007.
- Peers, D., Sport, nationalism and difference. Invited lecture at United Nations "Sport in a Box" Gala, Edmonton, Alberta, September 2006.
- Peers, D., Inclusion by design. Invited lecture at National Fire Fighter's Conference, Toronto, Ontario, June 2006.
- Peers, D., Undoing disability. Invited lecture at National Muscular Dystrophy Canada Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, September 2005

#### Creative Publications and Alternative Media

- Peers, D., Brittain, M., & Mootoo, S. (2009). And the rest is drag. This 30-minute documentary deals with gender performance on and off stage. It will be released to festivals in early 2010.
- Peers, D., Brittain, M., Cowan, T.L., & Overend, A. (2009). Bill 44: Smaller classes, smaller minds. A short video satire regarding changes to Alberta's Human Rights act. It was made available online, as well as playing at queer and activist events.
- Peers, D. & Brittain, M. (2008). G.I.M.P. boot camp. This short satirical film has played by invitation at various academic and public events, including: Picture This International Disability Film Festival; The Edmonton Exposure Festival; Film and Video Arts Society of Alberta DocShop Screening; and the Transformative Stories: Crip and Queer Art as Activism panel.
- Peers, D. (2000). Post-mortem. 4 Corners: A Feminist Review, 3(1), 60.
- Peers, D. (1999). Engendered Species. 4 Corners: A Feminist Review, 2(1), 72-73

#### Projects in Progress

- Disability Ethics Project. Collaborator on Catalyst Grant \$40,561 CIHR-funded project with principle investigators D.Sobsey & H.Janz. My role within this project is to consider how inclusive and Paralympic sports (programs, policies and

representations) might inform and imbricate upon the larger agenda of disability ethics.)

“What’s the difference?” Wheelchair basketball, reverse integration and the question(ing) of disability. This collaborative project (Spencer-Cavaliere, N., Peers, D., & Watkinson, E. J.,) has been funded by two consecutive grants from the Sports Science Association of Alberta (\$7,690 total). It involves interviews with female able-bodied and disabled wheelchair basketball athletes about their experiences playing together in integrated leagues.

## **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:**

### Teaching Assistant - University of Alberta

2006– 2007 SOC 333 - Theorizing the Subject

### Classroom Guest Lecturer, University of Alberta

2009 PERLS 427 - Topics in Physical Activity and Disability  
2006 - 2008 SOC 333 – Theorizing the Subject  
2005 - 2008 PERLS 207 – Physical Activity and Leisure for Special Populations  
2007 ENG 220 – Reading Politics: Sex and Gender  
2005 PERLS 304 – Sport and Leisure in Canadian Society: Sociological Perspectives

### Classroom Guest Lecturer, University of Lethbridge

2007 Kinesiology 4640 – Applied Ethics in Sport

## **SERVICE AND CITIZENSHIP:**

### 2008 Canadian Francophone Games – Spokesperson

I acted as spokesperson and as the youth mentor for both the athletic and leadership components of the Francophone games. I also delivered a keynote speech to the youth of the leadership division. All of these duties were performed entirely in French.

### 2005- Muscular Dystrophy Canada – National Ambassador

I represent MDC at media and public events, and work with clients, families, fundraisers, and healthcare professionals to raise awareness and facilitate communication.

### 2005- Claire McGinn Outdoor Education Fund– Treasurer

In this elected position, I prepare budgets, maintain financial records, and prepare gaming and grant reconciliations. The organization funds inner-

city youth to participate in outdoor recreation activities, such as sailing, kayaking and canoeing.

- 2005- Alberta Northern Lights Basketball Association – Board Member  
As board member of ANLWBS, I help make financial, strategic, and operational decisions in order to help steer the organization in a more inclusive direction.
- 2006-2007 CAAWS – Committee Member  
I helped develop, pilot and present a workshop on homophobia in Canadian Sport for the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport. The workshop was presented to the administrators and policy-makers of National Sport Organizations, as well as to athletes.
- 2005-2007 Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Association – Women’s Commissioner  
In this elected position, I acted as the chair of the Canadian women’s league and was a voting member of the CWBA domestic committee.
- 2005-2007 Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Association – Athlete’s Representative  
I was elected by the national women’s wheelchair basketball team to represent their interests to the board of CWBA. As athlete representative, I also represented my team’s interests at the gatherings of AthletesCAN, the national athlete’s association of Canada.
- 2002-2005 Inferno Wheelchair Basketball Association – Chairperson  
In this elected position, I have applied successfully for grants, I have established and maintained administrative and budgetary systems, and I have help recruit, build and administer the most successful women’s wheelchair basketball club in Canadian history.

#### **OTHER EXPERIENCE/ EMPLOYMENT:**

- 2003 - Public Speaking  
I am actively involved both professionally and on a volunteer basis as a public speaker. Aside from the many academic talks listed above, I have been the keynote speaker for national sporting events, for University of Alberta donation ceremonies, as well as countless fundraisers, sports organizations, businesses, and media events.
- 2003 – 2008 Paralympic Athlete  
I have played in men's and women's wheelchair basketball leagues in Canada, the United States and France, and have won a number of major championships, including: a World Championship (2006), a Paralympic Bronze medal (2004), four national championships (2004-2007), and a USA men's championship (2005). Individual successes include: World's

Most Valuable Player (2006), Basketball Canada's Athlete of the Year (2007), and a finalist for the International Sportswoman of the Year (2007). I have been a recipient of all of the most prestigious athletic grants, including: Hbc Own the Podium fund (2007), Team Investor's Group Bursary (2005,2007), and See You in Beijing Fund (2007).

2000 – 2004 H.M.E. Evans and Company – Investor Relations Manager

I managed the ethical investment portfolios for six related small businesses. This involved extensive training and experience in accounting, budgeting, communications, and administrative organization.

1998 – 2000 Grant MacEwan College – Assistant Coach, Women's Team

I helped run practices, determine game strategies, and manage the team's budget. I also organized and coached youth basketball clinics, and coached an inner-city youth team in MacEwan's off-season spring league.

1993-1994 Lendrum Elementary School – Classroom assistant

In this work experience program, I assisted with hard of hearing and deaf children between the ages of 8 and 12. This was ideal practical experience to complement my level 1 training in American Sign Language.

**PROFICIENCIES:**

Languages: Fully bilingual English/French  
Proficient in American Sign Language and Signed English  
Introductory levels in Spanish and Japanese

Software: Both PC and Apple platforms  
Office software, including PowerPoint and Excel  
Web design software: Dreamweaver  
Video editing software: Final Cut Pro and imovie  
Statistical Software: SPSS and SAS