

**BETHANY GECKLE**  
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## **EDUCATION**

### **PHD, 2021**

*Queer world-making: Destabilizing heteronormativity through skateboarding*

School of Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Sciences; Media, Film & Communication

University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ

Examined by: Associate Professor Kim Toffoletti (Deakin University, Australia), Professor David Andrews (University of Maryland, US), and Professor Roslyn Kerr (Lincoln University, New Zealand).

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, 2016**

Kinesiology, Movement Science Option

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, USA

## **AWARDS**

### **GRADUATE PAPER AWARD, INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT ASSOCIATION**

*Failure for the Future: Queering Skateboarding and Making Space*

2020

Recognized as the top student paper submitted among graduate students in the organization. Award considers originality, critical and analytical ability, and quality.

### **DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO**

2017-2019

NZ\$81,000 value awarded according to academic merit and potential for research

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **SPORT MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, SPEX 209, 2020**

#### **COORDINATOR: DR. SALLY SHAW**

Identified sport development objectives such as education, health, and welfare while addressing concerns about inclusion, equity, and sustainability at local, national, and international levels.

Responsibilities: Attended lectures, liaised with students, operated blackboard, helped formulate rubrics, assignments, and exams, marked assignments.

### **UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY MEDIA, MFCO 102, 2019**

#### **COORDINATOR: DR. OLIVIER JUTEL**

Addressed ideas of representation, subjectivity, and power while introducing skills and concepts including discourse analysis, mediation, and race and gender as constructs.

Responsibilities: Administered tutorials, attended lectures, liaised with students, operated blackboard, marked assignments.

### **SPORT, SCIENCE, AND SOCIETY, SPEX 101, 2020**

**COORDINATOR: PROF. STEVE JACKSON**

Explored how sport intersects with science, health, education, diversity, nationalism, and economics to interrogate social views and inequalities.

Responsibilities: Marked student essays

**ADVANCED SPORT MANAGEMENT, SPEX 314, 2019****COORDINATOR: DR. SALLY SHAW**

Considered how sport management is impacted by diversity, modernization, volunteer retention, and environmental concerns.

Responsibilities: Attended lectures, liaised with students, operated blackboard, supervised exams, helped formulate rubrics, assignments, and exams, marked assignments.

**HISTORY OF SPORT, SOPESES 204, 2017-2018****COORDINATOR: PROF. DOUG BOOTH**

Used sport to evaluate and critique issues of gender, race, class, nationalism, and corruption.

Responsibilities: Attended lectures, liaised with students, operated blackboard, marked assignments.

**INVITED LECTURES****UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, DUNEDIN, NZ, SEPTEMBER 2019 & 2020**

*Cultural Considerations for Managing Skateboarding*

**COORDINATOR: DR. SALLY SHAW**

Presented a guest lecture for SPEX 314 Advanced Sport Management discussing the management of 'alternative sports,' specifically regarding skateboarding, its history as both a sport and subculture, as well as the incorporation and 'sportization' it faces with Olympic inclusion. Lecture was delivered virtually in 2020 while still maintaining its engaging media components over Zoom.

**ÖREBRO UNIVERSITY, ÖREBRO, SWEDEN, AUGUST 2019**

*Indeterminate Networks: Connecting Skateboarding, Drag, and Heteronormativity*

**COORDINATOR: DR. NATALIE BARKER-RUCHTIE**

Presented as an invited speaker for a pop-up workshop with the ReShape research group for the Research in Sport and Physical Activity faculty at Örebro University. Identified the ways diverse groups connect, communicate, and transform one another, their identities, and hegemonic norms.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Geckle, B. (2022). Skateboarding into Neverland: Resistance through youth, gender and failure. *The Sociological Review Magazine*. <https://doi.org/10.51428/tsr.gjbz6894>**

Discusses the concepts of youth and resistance through the lens of queer failure, arguing that leaning into negative perceptions of youth can be an act of resistance against capitalistic norms of productivity, material success, and maturity. Articulates the gender-based barriers women skateboarders face that makes youthful failure as resistance a less accessible and viable option for

them and identifies alternative approaches to negative youthful stereotypes, career pathways, and resistance.

**Geckle, B. (2021). Skateboarders' Representations of Materiality: A Case Study of Rodney Mullen and Spike Jonze. *Somatechnics*, 11(3), 359–375. <https://doi.org/10.3366/soma.2021.0365>**

Analyzes major skateboarding media and cultural producers to examine how skateboarders experience and interpret the concepts of heterogeneous networks and non-human agency central to actor-network theory implicitly in their relations to and representations of the activity.

**Geckle, B., & Shaw, S. (2021). Constructing Queer-Skater Identities: Failure and Futurity. In T. Dupont & B. Beal (Eds.), *Lifestyle Sports and Identities: Subcultural Careers Through the Life Course*. Routledge.**

Demonstrates the concepts of queer failure and queer futurity/utopianism through case studies of queer media figures and projects in skateboarding from a lifestyle perspective. Explores how queer skateboarders use techniques of failure and utopianism in their performances of skateboarding as an entry point into the predominantly heteronormative space. Such practices afford them come control over their representation and ability to construct and make space for their identities.

**Geckle, B., & Shaw, S. (2020). Failure and Futurity: The Transformative Potential of Queer Skateboarding. *YOUNG*, 1103308820945100. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1103308820945100>**

Examines the concepts of queer failure and queer futurity/utopianism through case studies of queer media figures and projects in skateboarding from a youth studies perspective. Explores how queer skateboarders use techniques of failure and utopianism in their performances of skateboarding through the symbolism of 'the child' to control their representation and construct and make space for their identities in a predominantly heteronormative space like skateboarding.

## PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

### **International Review for the Sociology of Sport**

Illuminates often overlooked queer connections between hip hop and skateboarding can increase space for queer expression than either culture alone.

### **Sociology of Sport Journal**

Compares techniques of queer 'durability' as both 'stable' and 'motile.' Case studies include the inclusion of a gender-diverse avatar in the Tony Hawk's Pro Skater videogame series versus rumors and ephemeral connections surrounding the first openly gay male professional skateboarder.

### **Feminist Media Studies**

Presents the song "Androgynous" by The Replacements as a transmittable cultural artefact carrying and transforming queer politics across generations of musicians and audiences, including skateboarders, as it is adopted and adapted by queer women artists Joan Jett, Laura Jane Grace, and Miley Cyrus.

### **Gender, Place, and Culture**

Presents the Mudd Club as a shared site of creation and exchange for queer influences and politics across skateboarding, punk, hip hop, and urban art subcultures.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Geckle, B. (2020, October 4). *Failure for the Future: Queering Skateboarding and Making Space* Bethany Geckle. International Sociology of Sport Association, Virtual.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3enoQuz5mE>

Created an online video presentation to correspond with my ISSA 2020 Graduate Paper Award winning paper. Described the ways queer skateboarders use techniques of queer failure and futurity to produce hybrid identities based on their intersectionality and transform skateboarding spaces and practices.

**Geckle, B. (2019, November 8). *"Talk-Action=0": Skating Around the Issue and Skateboarding's Call to Action*. North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, Virginia Beach, VA, USA.**

Applied the concepts of queer futurity/utopianism to explore the impacts of professional skateboarder Brian Anderson's public coming out on the representation and involvement of queer people in skateboarding.

**Geckle, B. (2019, August 14). *Networking with Heteronormativity: Skateboarding, Drag, Punk, Hip Hop, and Alternative Art*. Pushing Boarders, Malmö, SE.**

Critiqued subcultural and post-subcultural theories while proposing actor-network theory as an alternative to understand the way aesthetic and media based cultural networks interact with each other and dominant norms as simultaneously radically subversive and hegemonically consumerist spaces. The conference was attended by academics as well as skateboarding industry leaders and practitioners and allowed me to directly communicate my research to the community I investigate.

**Geckle, B. (2019, April 27). *Connecting the Pieces: Skateboarding and Actor-Network Theory*. International Sociology of Sport Association, Dunedin, NZ.**

Presented skateboarding as a case study of heterogeneous networks, non-human agency, and actor-network theory's potential contributions to sport sociology, cultural studies, and media analyses.

**Geckle, B. (2017, December 6). *Networks of Heteronormativity: Skateboarding, Drag, and Hip Hop*. Cultural Studies Association of Australasia, Wellington, NZ.**

Investigated how aesthetic cultures like skateboarding and drag networks are mediated through their connections with hip hop in ways that work on and with heteronormativity.

**Geckle, B. (2017, July 5). *A Herd of Black Sheep: The Loss of the Skateboarding Lifestyle*. Australian Society for Sports History, Sydney, NSW, AUS.**

Examined the process and effects of the mass commercialization and commodification of skateboarding and its precarious status as a subcultural 'lifestyle sport'.

**Geckle, B. (2017, May 27). *Venice is Burning: Masculinity and Heteronormativity in the Skateboarding and Drag Ball Cultures*. North American Society for Sport History, Fullerton, CA, USA.**

Discussed the ways diverse groups such as the Z-Boys and Bones Brigade skateboarders and the drag queens of *Paris is Burning* (1990) experience, contest, and reinforce norms in varying ways.

## REVIEWS

**Geckle, B. (2020). Sport and Technology: An Actor-Network Theory Perspective. *Sociology of Sport Journal*, 37(2), 152–153. <https://doi.org/10.1123/ssj.2019-0115>**

Reviewed the 2016 book by Roslyn Kerr on the relationships between sport practitioners, the idea of sport, and technology from an actor-network theory perspective.

**Invited Reviewer for *Sports Coaching Review* (2020)**

Reviewed a manuscript for publication in the journal *Sports Coaching Review*.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH & WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

**FUNDAMENTALS OF DESIGNING AND TEACHING ONLINE COURSES, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
MAY 2022-JUNE 2022**

Completing an online course designed to help instructors accurately judge the impact of their decisions when developing and teaching online courses. Provides an introduction to common learning management system (LMS) elements and insights into the role of an online instructor. I will learn best practices for teaching online and apply these practices by developing a sample course unit.

**INTERVIEW, YEAH GIRL MEDIA**

**OCTOBER 2019-JANUARY 2020**

Interviewed for a three-part article published in Oct 2019, Dec 2019, and Jan 2020 on the Pushing Borders conference for Yeah Girl Media, an online skateboarding magazine focusing on women's skateboarding in which I discuss my work and thoughts on the evolution of the skateboarding industry/community.

**QUALITATIVE RESEARCH ETHICS WORKSHOP, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, DUNEDIN, NZ**

**APRIL 2019**

Attended in a workshop headed by Dr. Martin Tolich discussing the role and responsibilities of an ethical researcher, particularly in qualitative sociological work. Topics included types of consent, confidentiality, potential challenges and techniques for preparation.

**POSTGRADUATE WORKSHOP, INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT ASSOCIATION,  
DUNEDIN, NZ**

**22-23 APRIL 2019**

Completed the postgraduate workshop hosted by the International Sociology of Sport Association. Attended panels and contributed to discussions regarding the present and future of sport sociology and careers in academia.

**LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT ASSOCIATION,  
DUNEDIN, NZ**

**APRIL 2019**

Assisted in the planning and operations of the 2019 World Congress of Sociology of Sport in Dunedin, New Zealand. Participated in preparations, planning, and addressing delegates needs and concerns during the event.

**FEMINIST/QUEER THEORY MASTERCLASS, THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, DUNEDIN, NZ**

**AUGUST 2018**

Participated in a masterclass lead by Prof. Mari Ruti regarding her work in feminist and queer studies. Engaged in discussion and debate regarding social pressures for optimism and positivity and the pressures that places on marginalized groups. Topics included gender, sexuality, disenchantment, flourishing, and utopianism.

**POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE, AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR SPORTS HISTORY**

**2017-2020**

Advocated for and provided the perspective of the student population involved in the organization. Assist in the planning of events, liaising with executive board, and general operations.

## REFERENCES

**DR. SALLY SHAW, PHD SUPERVISOR**

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