

“Too Many Chairs at the Table”

The Athlete Perspective of Inclusion/Exclusion

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purpose

to examine the athlete experience
of inclusion and exclusion in a
Games environment



ethnography



VISTA September 4-7 2019

who am I?



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what do we know?

medicalized/scientific assumptions... equates bodily impairment with inability continues to inform sporting practices (Areheart, 2008)

paucity in the literature regarding lived experience of the para sport athlete (Howe, 2004; Peers, 2012)

complex relationship between impairment and athleticism (Malcom and Safai, 2012)



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classification

NJ: Too many chairs at the table. When I began to compete, there were no chairs at tables. Now you must throw the chairs aside...

AC: Elimination of categories leaves the most disabled athletes out of competition. It's unfortunate but essential to high performance.

KS: When some athletes are excluded, there is tension. I think it affects our sense of solidarity, as Paralympic athletes. I feel this at the Paralympics and here.

classification

reduce likelihood of one sided competition, positively impact equitable competition and rates of participation
(2011, Tweedy & Vanlandewijck).

Howe (2008)



closer ties with IOC



branding/marketing/media



autonomy of IPC



cap on # of athletes/streamlining of classification



ableization of high performance para sport

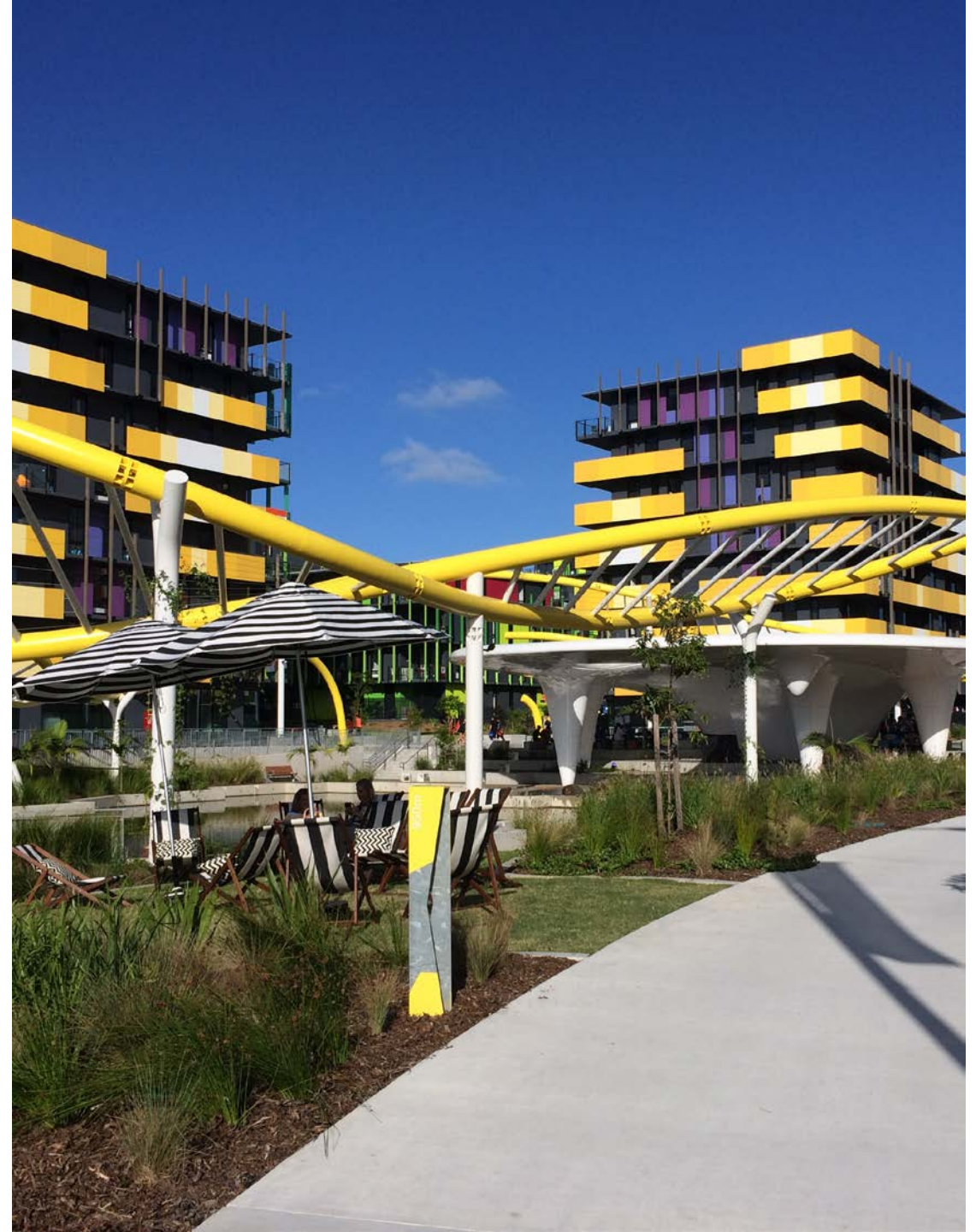
space

KW: The village is hilly... too far from transport and DH.

JC: My HST clinic was busy. No high-low tables. Space was tight. Hard to navigate. Did not see other para sport athletes.

IC: I can't get into the pool area without help. Automated doors in some buildings, not all.

LM: I have seen only one volunteer with a disability.



space



Freidman and Ingen(2011)...space impacts embodied experience of space

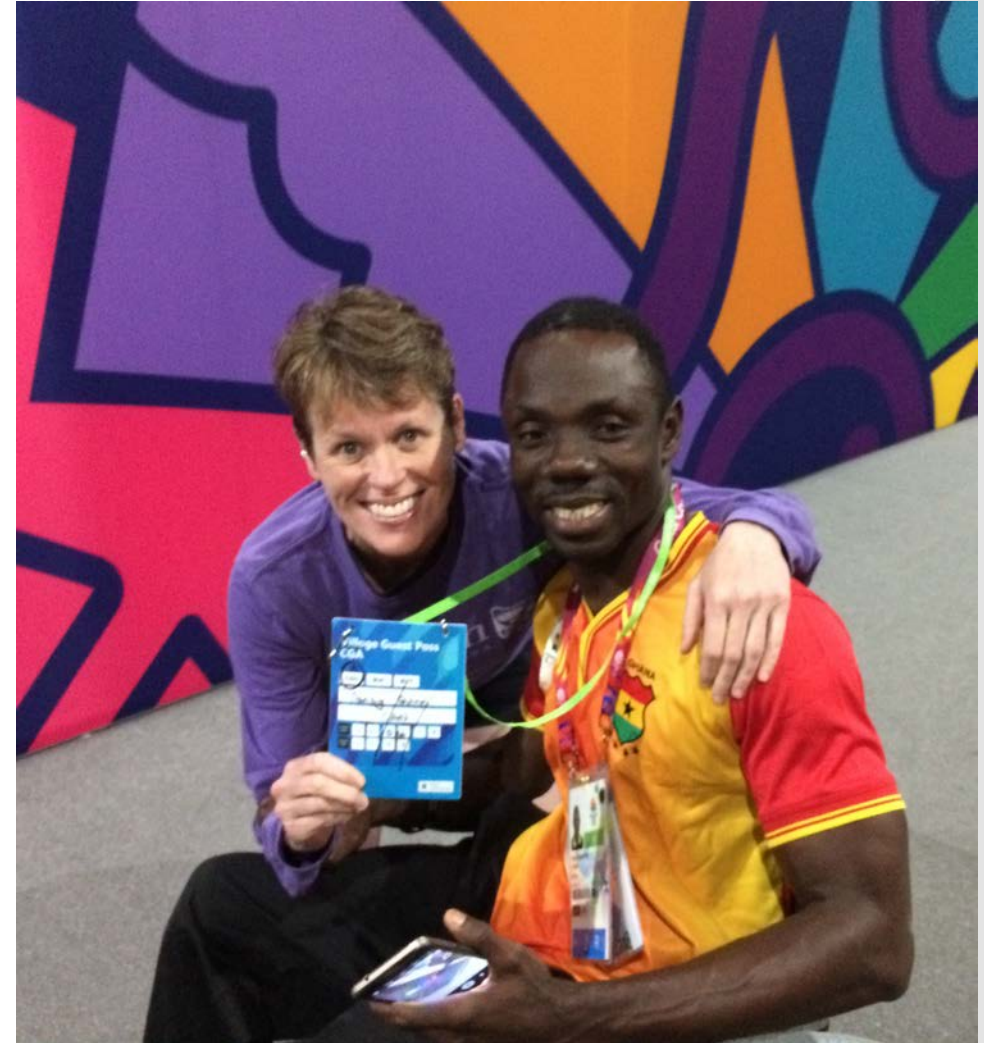
Smith (2017)...potentiality of event space desired social values

Resources

FG: Replaced 14 year old race chair with used chair. Need money to buy a better chair, get to events, to qualify.

LSA: Para tri... includes most disabled athletes but ++expensive sport.

KW: Our HST are also guides/aids...busy treating. Unable to focus on athletic performance.



The Bus

Struggle for Paralympic movements- leaving most disabled out of competition. At my club, there is a bus to transport athletes to training and competitions. 15 walking athletes ride the bus or 4 athletes who use wheelchairs. It's a dilemma. Makes sense to transport 15 vs 4. Doesn't it?



why is this important?

methodologically significant

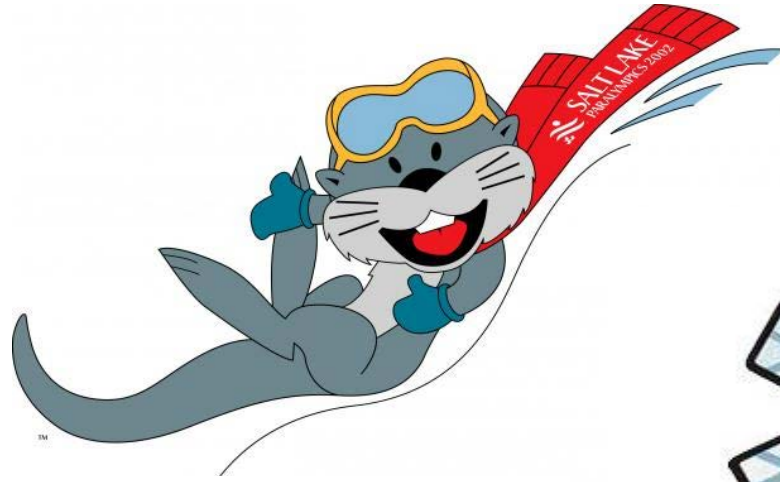
NQ: Present, patient and persistent. Qualitative research may be one way to inform practices of high performance para sport.

low rates of participation in sport /PA of Canadians with impairment (CDPP)

ableization negatively impact participation/ high performance athlete development

important to para sport athletes.....

As an athlete I've never been asked what I really thought about my sport.
It is a dilemma. We as athletes need to think about the future of Paralympic sport.
Thanks for doing this. We are the primary stakeholders.



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Questions ?