“Too Many Chairs at the Table”

The Athlete Perspective of Inclusion/Exclusion

Nancy Quinn PhD (c)
purpose
to examine the athlete experience of inclusion and exclusion in a Games environment
who am I?
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)
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.
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

VISTA September 4-7 2019
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.
Freidman and Ingen (2011)...space impacts embodied experience of space

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

VISTA September 4-7 2019
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.
Questions ?