

Bethany Geckle, PhD

Media & Physical Cultures Scholar

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Interests & Expertise

My research explores everyday leisure practices rooted in media and physical activity as accessible means of producing social change. I am interested in how our quotidian acts can empower us to challenge dominant norms and systems of power while making transformative resistance feel possible (and pleasurable!). I employ qualitative methodologies informed by critical theoretical perspectives including new materialisms, queer theory and queer of color critique, critical race theory, and post-colonial and indigenous studies.

Education

PhD, University of Otago, 2021

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

BS, The Pennsylvania State University, 2016

Major: Kinesiology
Minor: Global Health

Employment

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2022-Present

Socio-cultural aspects of sport
Department of Sport Leadership and Management
Miami University, Oxford, OH, US

Awards

Graduate Paper Award, 2020

International Sociology of Sport Association

Doctoral Scholarship, 2017-2019

University of Otago

Publications

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

Geckle, B., & Shaw, S. (2022). Failure and futurity: The transformative potential of queer skateboarding. *Young*, 30(2), 132-148.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1103308820945100>

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>

Geckle, B. & Shaw, S. (2021). Constructing Queer-Skater Identities: Failure and Futurity. In Dupont, T., & Beal, B. (eds.) *Lifestyle Sports and Identities: Subcultural Careers Through the Life Course*. Routledge. ISBN 9781032052397

In progress:

Geckle, B. (in preparation). Strategies of queer durability in skateboarding: Enduring and ephemeral queer relationality through videogames and word of mouth. *International Journal of Sport Communication*.

Geckle, B. (in preparation). Queer Connectivity: Building visibility, community, and belonging through subcultural networks. *Social Networks*.

Geckle, B. (in preparation). Navigating urban indigeneity: Skateboarding as place-making in settler-colonial cities. *Settler Colonial Studies*.

As editor:

Guest co-editor of forthcoming "Skateboarding and society: Intersections, influences, and implications" special issue for *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*.

Presentations

Geckle, B. (2023, August 30). Skateboarding as Queer World-making: transforming landscapes, identities, communities, and possibilities. *Royal Geographical Society*, London, GB.

Geckle, B. (2023, August 15). 'You're Skating on Native Land': The Decolonizing/Indigenizing Potential of Skateboarding. *International Sociology of Sport Association*, Ottawa, CA.

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>

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, US.

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

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

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

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

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, US.

Invited guest lectures:

- Geckle, B. (2023). *Using Qualitative Methodologies in Sport Research*. Qualitative Methodological Research Approaches, Miami University, Oxford, OH.
- Geckle, B. (2020). *Cultural Considerations for Managing Skateboarding*. Advanced Sport Management, University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ.
- Geckle, B. (2019). *Cultural Considerations for Managing Skateboarding*. Advanced Sport Management, University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ.
- Geckle, B. (2019). Indeterminate Networks: Connecting Skateboarding, Drag, and Heteronormativity. ReShape: Research in Sport, Health and Physical Education Pop-up workshop, Örebro University, Örebro, SE.

Professional Development

- New Faculty Teaching Enhancement Program*, Miami University, 2022
- Fundamentals of Designing and Teaching Online Courses*, Rutgers University, 2022
- Qualitative Research Ethics Workshop* with Associate Prof. Martin Tolich, University of Otago, 2019
- Postgraduate Workshop*, International Sociology of Sport Association, 2019
- Feminist/Queer Theory Masterclass* with Distinguished Prof. Mari Ruti, University of Otago, 2018

Teaching

- Course Levels:** 100-500 **Class Sizes:** 20-150 **Course Load:** 4/4
- Subjects:** Sport Studies; Media and Communication Studies; Women's and Gender Studies; Critical Race Studies; Sociology and Cultural Studies
- Content Themes:** Gender, Sexuality, Race, Nationality, Class, Dis/ability, Intersectionality, Power, Critical Theory, Sport, Media, Narrative, Semiotics and Meaning, Ideology, Identity, Culture
- Miami University 2022-Present (Lead Instructor):**
- Race, Nation, and Sport*, SLM/CRE/SOC 279
- Women, Gender Relations, and Sport*, SLM/WGS 475/575
- Sport, Power, and Inequality*, SLM 378
- Current Issues in Sport and Leisure*, SLM 276
- University of Otago 2017-2020 (Teaching Assistant/Tutor):**
- Understanding Contemporary Media*, MFCO 102
- Sport, Science, and Society*, SPEX 101
- History of Sport*, SOPESES 204
- Advanced Sport Management*, SPEX 314
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Sport Management and Development, SPEX 209

Service

Public Outreach:

Interviewed in Willing, I., & Pappalardo, A. (2023). *Skateboarding, Power and Change*. Springer Nature.

Presented to skateboarding industry members, media producers, and practitioners.

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

Interviewed in three-part series about the evolution of skateboarding culture for the online skateboarding magazine Yeah Girl.

Willing, I. (2019, October 9). The evolution of skateboarding and why Pushing Boarders is a sign of the times. *Yeah Girl*.

<https://yeahgirlmedia.com/the-evolution-of-skateboarding-and-why-pushing-boarders-is-a-sign-of-the-times/>

Leadership:

Postgraduate Representative, Australian Society for Sports History, 2017-2020

Local Organizing Committee, International Sociology of Sport Association, 2019

Advising:

Master's Thesis Committee, Amanda Kaufman, 2023-present

Master's Exit Project Committee, Clarence Gordon, 2023

Master's Exit Project Committee, Allison Cummins, 2023

Reviewing:

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>

Invited reviewer for *Young, Annals of Leisure Research*, and *Sports Coaching Review*
