

# **Diana C. Parry**

**Professor, Applied Health Sciences, Special Advisor to the President, Women's and Gender Issues at University of Waterloo**

Waterloo, ON, CA

Dr. Diana C. Parry research explores the roles of leisure in women's health and wellbeing through a feminist lens.

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## **Biography**

My research explores the roles of leisure in women's health and wellbeing through a feminist lens. It is difficult to capture an understanding of health experiences solely through the documentation of physiological causes, psychological outcomes, and technological solutions, the focus of much research to date. Everyday life events and experiences also warrant attention. Consequently, my research directs attention away from the medicalization of women's health issues. Instead, I focus on a more holistic approach to women's health including their emotional and social well-being. I have studied the roles of leisure in women's experiences of menopause/mid-life, infertility, pregnancy/midwifery and dragon boat racing for breast cancer survivors. Most recently, I have studied women's experiences in roller derby and women's use of digital technology to consume sexually explicit material such as pornography and erotica. In conjunction with my research profile, I also serve as the special adviser to the President of the University of Waterloo on Women's and Gender issues. As special advisor, I liaise with senior administration, faculty, staff, and students to advise on policy and structural level gender equity issues, and to help foster a supportive environment in which female students, staff, and faculty can maximize their career opportunities. Some accomplishments in this regard include establishing a gender and equity lecture series, the development of a refrigerator rental program for breastfeeding women on campus, facilitating a collaborative research project on gendered violence, initiating a female centric hackathon, and promoting a sense of community around gender equity through three campus-wide events: (1) Take Back the Night, (2) December 6 memorial, and (3) International Women's Day. Most recently in my role as special advisor, I successfully facilitated Waterloo's involvement in the United Nations Women's HeForShe campaign and 10x10x10 initiative. The HeForShe campaign is a global effort to engage boys and men in addressing gender equity. On May 5, HeForShe launched the IMPACT 10x10x10 framework that involves 10 Heads of State, 10 CEOs, and 10 University Presidents to advance gender equity. As the only Canadian institution selected to be part of this global initiative, Waterloo will have a special opportunity to lead our National efforts to address gender equity: <https://uwaterloo.ca/heforshe/about-heforshe-impact-10x10x10>

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning, Research

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Women's Leisure, Gender, Leisure Health and Well-Being, Qualitative Inquiry, Feminist Theory

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## **Event Appearances**

### **Mapping the journey: Cancer narratives and the need for navigation**

Fourth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry: Official program, panel abstracts, and general information

### **Dragon boat racing for breast cancer survivors: Leisure as a context for spiritual outcomes**

Twelfth Canadian Congress on Leisure Research

### **Gilda's Club as a third place in the everyday lives of people living with cancer**

Twelfth Canadian Congress on Leisure Research

### **Gilda's Club of Greater Toronto as a therapeutic landscape for people living with cancer: The juxtaposition of built environment, social relations, and belief**

The World Leisure Research Association

### **Women's leisure as a site for resistance to gendered ideologies: The politics of leisure**

Tactics of Resistance

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## **Education**

### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Ph.D. Leisure Studies

### **University of Waterloo**

M.A. Recreation and Leisure Studies

### **Brock University**

B.R.L.S. Recreation and Leisure Studies

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