



**Peter Harrison Centre**  
for Disability Sport

## Staff Profile

### David Howe

*Deputy Director of the Peter Harrison Centre for Disability Sport and Senior Lecturer in the Anthropology of Sport and Vice President of the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity*

#### Contact Details:

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#### Qualifications:

Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology from University College London in 1997.  
MA in Social Anthropology from the University of Toronto, Canada in 1991.  
BSc (with Honours) in Anthropology from Trent University, Peterborough, Canada in 1989.

#### Current Research Interests:

Culture of Disability, Sport for the Disabled, Social history of the Paralympic Movement, Ethics of Paralympism, medical and technological discourses surrounding the Paralympic Games.

#### Previous Research & Experience:

David's teaching interests are broadly focused on cultural politics and sociology/anthropology of the body in sport and leisure. He teaches across a range of modules that are the responsibility of the Social Science Group.

Before arriving at Loughborough in January 2006 David spent two years as Senior Lecturer in Sport and Leisure Cultures at the Chelsea School, University of Brighton and was Lecturer then Senior Lecturer in the Anthropology of Sport at the University of Gloucestershire from 1997-2003.

His research interests comprise two related strands, both of which are theoretically informed by social theories of embodiment, notably those developed by Bourdieu, Foucault and Merleau-Ponty. The first of these strands concerns the impaired sporting body, health and identity. This area of work is being developed through a life long involvement in, and commitment to, the Paralympic sporting movement. Long-term participant observation as athlete and administrator and latterly journalist and coach, has facilitated access to this rapidly changing sporting environment.

The second strand of David's research is concerned with the relationship between the sporting body, professionalism and medicine. Publication in 2004

of his first book entitled *Sport, Professionalism and Pain: Ethnographies of Injury and Risk* (Routledge) is the culmination of work in this area to date and more research and publications related to this theme are in the planning stages.

### **Membership of Professional Bodies/Associations:**

Member of the ad-hoc committee advising the UN on article 30 (regarding sport and leisure provision) for the Treaty on Rights for the Disabled of 2006.

International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Development Committee – social science and ethics advisor (2005 – present)

Royal Anthropological Institute (1993 – present).

North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (1997 – present).

International Sociology of Sport Association (2001 – present).

### **Selected Invited Conference Keynote and Speaker Presentations:**

Howe, P.D. (2009). Invited to lead a symposium on *Anthropology and Sociology in Adaptive Physical Activity* at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of adapted Physical Activity (ISAPA) on the 23-27 June 2009.

Howe, P.D. (2009). 'Social Justice and Paralympic Sport: towards happy marriage or difficult separation?'. Invited presentation of the Macintosh Lecture at Queens University in Canada on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

### **Selected Recent Publications**

#### **Books**

Howe, P.D. (2008) *The Cultural Politics of the Paralympic Movement: Through the Anthropological Lens*. London: Routledge.

Howe, P. D. (2004) *Sport, Professionalism and Pain: Ethnographies of Injury and Risk*. London: Routledge.

Bale, J. and Howe, P. D. eds. (2008) *Historical and Cultural Interpretations of a Sporting Barrier: the four minute mile*. London: Routledge.

#### **Refereed Journal Articles**

Horne, J. and Howe, P. D. eds. (2009) 'Guest editorial'. Special issue of 'Leisure and Disability' in *Leisure Studies*. Vol. 28. No. 4.

Howe, P. D. (2009) 'Reflexive Ethnography, impairment and the pub', *Leisure Studies*. Vol. 28.(4): 489-496.

Howe, P. D. (2008). From Inside the Newsroom: Paralympic Media and the 'Production' of Elite Disability, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*. Vol. 43 (2):135-150.

Howe, P.D. (2008) 'The Tail is Wagging the Dog: Classification and the Paralympic Movement', *Ethnography*. Vol. 9 (4): 499-518.

Howe, P. D. (2007) *Integration of Paralympic Athletes into Athletics Canada*, in *International Journal of Canadian Studies*. Vol. 35:133-150.

Howe, P. D. (2006) *Habitus, Barriers and the Ab/use of the Science of Interval training in the 1950s*, in *Sport in History*. Vol. 26 (2): 325-344.

Howe, P. D. and Jones, C. (2006) *Classification of Disabled Athletes: (Dis)empowering the Paralympic Practice Community* in *Sociology of Sport Journal*. Vol. 23. 29-46.

Jones, C. and Howe, P. D. (2005) *The Conceptual Boundaries of Sport for the Disabled: Classification and Athletic Performance*, *Journal of Philosophy of Sport*. Vol. 32:133-146.

A fuller publications list can be viewed on the [Loughborough University Publications Database](#)

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