11H Jessica Skolnikoff, Roger Williams University & Robert Engvall, Roger Williams University  
“Noon Time Hoops, Old Timers Basketball”

We are examining workplace adult sports participation on a college campus. Specifically, exploration of the nature of “pick-up” basketball games played by faculty, staff, students, and “townies” who have gathered for decades at noon on Wednesdays. The evolution of this game, and the history of those involved are of importance to those interested in larger questions of adults participating in recreational sports. While the players’ names have changed, the diversity of participants is worthy of analysis: players range in age from their 20s to their 70s; their abilities range from highly skilled to cringe-worthy; and their positions in the campus structure range from administrators to professors to staff to former students and “townies” with no relationship to the University beyond a desire to find a “pick-up” basketball game. This, added to the lack of gender, race, and ethnic diversity adds to the adult recreation experience at the university. The relationships forged during these noon hoop experiences are worthy of a larger discussion about the people drawn together for the sport, and possibly the exercise. And beyond the on and off court relationships, can a once a week pick-up basketball plan fit into a company’s/university’s wellness initiative?

11H Simon Barrick, University of Calgary  
“Understanding How Adult Recreational Sport Participants Experience Learn-to-Curl Programs”

Adult recreational sport participation represents an understudied topic within both the sociology of sport and for organizations that oversee sport development (e.g., Sport Canada). In this presentation, I will outline research involving the entry of adult participants into the iconic Canadian winter sport of curling through introductory adult learn-to-curl programs. The participants’ experiences in two adult learn-to-curl programs (held in the same central Canadian city) were examined using a qualitative case study methodology. A critical interpretivist theoretical perspective informed the project. In-depth qualitative interviews were conducted with seven program participants, three coaches, and 11 administrators. In this presentation, I will focus on the experiences of program participants. Key study findings include how participants valued: strengthening existing and forging new social connections, acquiring curling skills, and fostering a sense of belonging to their curling club. Tensions also emerged involving the integration of these new adult curlers into the existing sport community (e.g., challenging entrenched traditions, such as alcohol consumption). In the spirit of the conference theme, I will comment on how my research findings can translate to the public, with a particular focus on the opportunities and challenges related to the integration of adults into sport clubs/communities.

11H Brittany Jacobs, University of Northern Colorado; Brianna Newland, University of Delaware & B. Christine Green, University of Illinois  
“Sustained Sport Participation: Exploring the Role of Sport in the Lives of Adults”

With increased morbidity and mortality rates and rising health costs, it is imperative that adults remain physically active throughout the lifespan. Sport participation can be a sociable, and meaningful context for physical activity. Yet, participation often varies throughout the life course. A current examination of adult sport participants indicates that participation follows a parabolic trajectory, reaching its low during one’s thirties and rebounding in later life stages. Common life-stage obligations can limit participation (e.g., young children, career development), but this too varies, and suggests the need to look beyond standard motives and constraints to better understand why some adults are more hindered than others at specific life stages. This study explores meaning, centrality, and attraction to sport to better understand adult sport participation. The results show that meanings attributed to sport change throughout the lifespan and
suggest that the meaning an individual attaches to sport predicts his or her involvement. Thus, creating meaningful experiences to incite participation and retain athletes should be an element sport managers include in sport programming. This study quantifies the relationship, helping to clarify how, why, and to what extent adult sport participation occurs during one’s life. Implications for adult sport programming are discussed.

11H Mona Mirehie, University of Florida & Heather Gibson, University of Florida
“Developing a Grounded Theory of Women’s Experiences of Snow Sport Participation”

The number of active snow-skiers and boarders declined from 10.6 million in 2009-2010 to 9.5 million in 2014-2015. According to SnowSports Industries America (2014), only 38% of snow sport participants are women and still most of the dropouts are women. An initial step in addressing this issue is to gain an understanding of the current status of women’s participation. Thus, the purpose of this study was to explore the experiences of recreational female snow-skiers and boarders. Eleven semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with female snow-skiers and boarders aged between 23 and 60 years old. Data were analyzed applying constructivist grounded theory methods (Charmaz, 2006). Women’s experiences of recreational snow sport participation were theorized by their self-perceived skill-level and participation biography in relation to the concepts of meanings, behaviors, and constraints as well as two sub-themes: activities and snow sport related travel. Participation patterns changed across the life course due to various life-events. Advanced level participants received higher social support in relation to snow sport participation and the meaning of participation changed for them across the lifespan. Insights gained from the findings help to identify factors that might encourage other women to continue their involvement into adulthood.

11H Michele K. Donnelly, Kent State University
“Women’s Flat Track Roller Derby: Recreational Sport or Something Else?”

Women’s flat track roller derby is a recreational sport; skaters participate for enjoyment and fun, and in almost all leagues, skaters pay to play. Specifically, skaters pay membership dues, as well as funding their own equipment, travel, and training. However, for many skaters, “recreational” does not seem to accurately describe their level of commitment to, and investment in, their roller derby participation. This seems to be, in part, due to the ongoing process of sportization in roller derby. Maguire (2007) describes the process of sportization: “The sportization process involved a shift towards the competitive, regularized, rationalized, and gendered bodily exertions of achievement sport that, in turn, connected to wider changes at the level of personality, body deportment, and social interaction” (Maguire, 2007). At the same time, roller derby leagues continue to operate in ways that are relatively unique among recreational sport organizations. That is, most leagues adhere to a “by the skaters, for the skaters” ideology of governance that means roller derby skaters are not only the sport’s athletes, but also its owners, organizers, and managers. In this paper, I will explore the challenges of athlete-governed recreational sport athletes trying to negotiate the larger landscape of professionalization and sportization.