

Keynote Speaker of the 16th ISSP World Congress - Sponsored by Shine Tak Foundation

Professor Diane Gill

- Professor in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG)
- Held faculty positions at the University of Waterloo and the University of Iowa before moving to UNCG in 1987 where she has served as Associate Dean of the School, Head of the Department
- Linda Arnold Carlisle Distinguished Excellence Professorship from 2010 – 2014



Keynote topic

- Gender Inclusiveness

Research interests

- social psychology of sport and physical activity with emphases on psychological and social well-being, inclusion, gender and cultural diversity issues and competencies

Experiences

- Published Psychological Dynamics of Sport and Exercise (4th ed. 2017), over 40 book chapters, and over 150 refereed journal articles
- Played a key role in developing UNCG's Online EdD in Kinesiology program, which is designed for practicing professionals and focuses on professional scholarship and practice in kinesiology.
- A fellow in several professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association (APA), National Academy of Kinesiology (NAK), and the Association for Applied Sport Psychology (AASP)
- Listed among eight American female trailblazers in sport and exercise psychology and she has received prestigious awards including Distinguished Scholar Awards from National Association of Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education (NAKPEHE) and North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity (NASPSA), National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS) Honor Award, and Distinguished Contributions to Science and Research in Exercise and Sport Psychology Award from the American Psychological Association
- Former editor of the Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology, Quest, and Women in Sport and Physical Activity, and former president of APA Division 47 (Exercise and Sport Psychology), the Research Consortium of AAHPERD (now SHAPE) and of NASPSA

The 16th ISSP World Congress – Keynote Abstract

Gender Inclusion: Where are the Women in Sport and Exercise Psychology?

Diane L. Gill

This keynote presentation focuses on the place of women in sport and exercise psychology (SEP). That is, we will review the place of women in the history and development of SEP. We will also consider diversity and culture in discussing the place of women in contemporary SEP.

Rather than a summary of a research agenda, this is a retrospective review drawing from previous work with updates. As considerable research (e.g., Gill, 2023) suggests, early SEP research and organizations were dominated by men, and particularly white/European men. The first ISSP managing council (1965-1968) was all men, mostly from Europe. Women have served on the council since then, but they remain far outnumbered by men. Other organizations (e.g., NASPSPA, FEPSAC) have similar trends, and the editorial boards of our major journals have been predominantly men until recently.

Women have gained presence in our organizations and journal boards in the recent 2000s. However, we have limited international outreach, and journal boards and publications are heavily dominated by English-speaking countries.

ISSP, as well as other organizations and programs, have taken positive steps, but we are far from true inclusion. To move toward a more inclusive SEP we might focus more on physical activity for health and well-being of all participants rather than a limited focus on elite athletes.

Also, we must reach out to those who have not been fully included in SEP. As a step in that direction, the symposium following this keynote features 5 women, including senior scholars and beginning scholars from several countries. These women will discuss their work and offer their views on women's place in SEP.

Keywords: Gender, Women, Culture, Diversity, Inclusion