

JENNIFER LEE HOFFMAN, PhD, ATC

Research Statement

OVERVIEW

Title IX is an external policy that has created opportunities for women students, including women student-athletes, to gain access to higher education. Yet this policy has done little to influence the successful promotion of women into leadership of athletic programs. This is particularly true for women of color where race further compounds the effects of gender. In my work I am seeking to better understand the question,

“What influences interest among high achieving, capable women to pursue or avoid leadership positions in higher education’s athletic programs?”

Secondly, what does this lack of women in athletic leadership mean for decision-making in educational institutions? Finally, what influence does this U.S educational policy mean for leadership in the international athletic complex?

CURRENT PROJECTS

To better understand these questions, I have initiated research from several perspectives, using multiple research tools to examine participation, leadership, and spectatorship in intercollegiate and interscholastic sport. This has resulted in a full research agenda that includes one book chapter accepted, a manuscript currently under review, and several new projects under development. These projects represent my potential for publications and grant applications that I have initiated as the primary author:

Accepted

- Title IX Policy & Intercollegiate Athletics: A Feminist Poststructural Critique, in tentatively titled, “Re/constructing Higher Education: Feminist Poststructural Perspectives and Policy Analysis,” Elizabeth Allan, Susan Iverson, and Becky Ropers-Huilman Editors.

Under Review

- “Each generation of women had to start anew”: A Historical Analysis of Title IX Policy and Women’s Leadership In The Extracurriculum.

Under Development

- Policy Analysis – Blair v. Washington State University: 30 Years of Gender Equity Policy in Washington State. *Potential journal: The Journal of Higher Education*
- Historical - The Women’s PE Movement - The Case of Concrete High School. *Potential journal: Journal of Women’s History*
- Qualitative - The Old Boy’s Network: Giving Context and Dimension to Homologous Reproduction in Intercollegiate Athletic Leadership *Potential journal: Journal of Physical Education Recreation & Dance*

EARLY CAREER RESEARCH INTERESTS (3-5 years)

My research agenda examines leadership in intercollegiate athletics. The next step for this line of inquiry will be to expand the historical and contemporary evaluation of athletic leaders in higher education. Two projects are currently under development:

- Secondary Data Analysis – Institutional and individual analysis of athletic department leadership among Division I athletic programs 1981- present. Data analysis includes describing individual athletic director patterns and drawing inferences related to institutional trends in hiring and retention. Data can be accessible in two formats: flat files for statistical analysis software platforms and a relational database for individual and institutional query.
- Book Prospectus – Historical Analysis of Women Athletic Leaders in the Far West, 1965- Present. This research highlights the vision of women leaders in the Far West who were integral in establishing a different vision for women’s intercollegiate athletics in the early 1970s. This study examines the impact of far west leaders, institutions, and conferences on women’s leadership in athletics that contributed to advancing women to the role of athletic director at Division I institutions today.

LONG TERM CAREER INTERESTS

My long-term career goal is to bring interdisciplinary research into practice by examining issues located at the nexus of education and sport. My goal is to work with practitioners in the field to identify issues in sports medicine, sociology, history, critical theory, and educational leadership and policy related to the intercollegiate and interscholastic setting. Drawing on topics at the local, national, and international level such as the re-gendering of ACL injury from a “football” injury to a women’s basketball “epidemic,” and the unintended issues of Title IX policy in the United States, I aim to partner with others engaged in the leadership of sport.