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**Scholarship on the Edge: Passion, Privilege, Possibilities**

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Sport sociologists are the scholars who raise critical questions about sport, make us uncomfortable with the way things are, and challenge hegemonic power dynamics in sport, breaking silences, shedding light in dark spaces and hearing voices typically silenced. As far as I know, sport sociology is the only academic discipline that so consistently services this important role in North American sport. Sport sociologists are doing the "Scholarship on the edge in sport".

What is scholarship on the edge to which I aspire? It is scholarship in which the scholar pushes boundaries and breaks silences. The scholar:

1. challenges the status quo; takes a stand on what is and what ought to be by
   * recasting what we have accepted as common knowledge distorted by our unconsciousness of our embeddedness in a raced, classed, gendered world.
   * challenging dynamics of power and privilege in sport through the critical multiple lenses of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability/disability, spirituality and age.
   * challenging what is accepted as research content by exploring "taboo" topics, such as, sexual harassment, violence,
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racism, heterosexism/homophobia, sexism, and eroticism in sport.

* challenging what is accepted as research process by using alternative researched paradigms and methodologies, such as feminist, marxist, participatory action research, and critical postmodern.

2. integrates the personal and the scholarly by

* seeing self as a participant and a witness. (We acknowledge and integrate our hope, fear, rage, despair, care and passions as we emerse ourselves in our work).

* becoming visible /coming clean as raced, classed, gendered, sexual human beings inextricably intertwined with scholarly pursuits.

* pushing personal boundaries of awareness and self-knowledge.

* recognizing the limitations of our particular positionality in relationship to our scholarship vis a vis race, class, gender, sexuality, age, ability/disability and spirituality.

* challenging ourselves to think about our own relative privilege in relationship to those about whom we write and with whom we work.

* engaging in a kind of self-reflection uncommon to us.

3. integrates activism and action into scholarship. (becoming a Scholar Educator Activist) by

* paying attention, not just to knowledge production, but how what we learn can be used, applied and consumed.

* playing an active role in this process in our writing, community action/education.

* paying attention to credibility and accessibility. Expanding the audience for our work to include sport administrators, coaches, teachers, parents, athletes and fans.

My most complete experience of scholarship on the edge.
Writing and talking about my recent book "Strong Women,