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Multiculturalism and physical culture:
The case of the GTA

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<https://GTActivity.ca>

GTACTIVITY ABOUT BLOG CONTACT FORUM

BROWSE ACTIVITIES ADD NEW ACTIVITY PROFILE

Welcome to GTActivity


GTActivity.ca starts with a simple question: How many different kinds of physical activity do people who live in the GTA participate in?

The Greater Toronto Area is widely recognized as one of the most multicultural communities in the world, but we have not recognized, recorded or celebrated in any formal way, the physical cultural diversity that exists in the GTA.

GTActivity.ca is a citizen science project, a public archive and celebration of the diversity of physical culture in the GTA.

Please take a look at some of the activities that are already posted on GTActivity.ca, and please consider adding an Activity Profile, or adding additional information to one already posted.

[Read more](#)



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Two parts of the project

- 1) Foundational science – collect, identify and classify everything that exists in the area of GTA physical culture
 - student/RA research and citizen science
- 2) Develop a more granular analysis of specific activities relevant to the research questions
 - secondary sources and key informant interviews

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Two sets of research questions

- 1) How many different forms of physical activity do people participate in in the GTA? Who participates? Where did the activity come from? etc.
 - 2a) What are the life cycles of physical activities?
 - 2b) How are physical activities involved (or not) in processes of integration and inclusion?
 - 2c) Policies and politics of multiculturalism and physical culture?




Results and consequences (1)

So far, 120+ posted; some 250+ waiting; citizen science starting; expect up to 1,000 different activities


Effects of GTActivity difficult to anticipate; some possibilities include:

- Site may help to connect communities and individuals across the GTA
- Site may help to broaden our sense of what constitutes physical activity/active living
- Site may become a community resource that identifies and confirms specific GTA communities



Consequences (2)

- There are key reasons for supporting new (1st generation) activities, whether they are integrating or not
- New activities that survive add to the physical cultural repertoire of all Canadians
- The revival of some activities (folk games, children's games, games that are not being passed on to the young) may be a key element of increasing participation.



Results (2)

We are beginning to gain a sense of, and to test some different trajectories in the life cycle of physical activities

The survival of activities beyond the 1st generation appears to depend on that 1st generation beginning to integrate the activity into the larger multicultural community

Jurisdictions differ in their level of support for 1st generation physical cultures, but that support seems to be important for expanding physical cultural diversity, and participation



Thank you

<https://gtactivity.ca>

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