

Dr. Laura Azzarito
Associate Professor of Physical Culture and Education

Professional Background

Educational Background

Louisiana State University, USA. Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology. *Josephine A. Roberts LSU Alumni Association Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

University of Maryland, College Park, USA. Master of Arts degree in Kinesiology. *Alice Love Award* for outstanding academic performance

Università' di Scienze Motorie di Torino. Bachelor's degree in Physical Education with *high honors*

Scholarly Interests

Dr. Azzarito's research examines the links among young people's construction of the body, identity and inequality issues from a pedagogical and sociocultural perspective. Dr. Azzarito is currently conducting visual research projects with young people in urban school physical activity contexts. Her related interests include the theorization and application of visual methods; the examination of the ways in which the intersection of gender/sex, race/ethnicity and social class discourses in school physical activity informs young people's construction of the body; visual pedagogies; and curriculum theory.

Her current projects consider the critical and transformative aspects of using participatory visual research methods with young people in school contexts. She is particularly interested in studying visual methods as a means for exploring young people's embodied identities, their making sense of the body in their daily lives. The interdisciplinary nature of her research brings together art education, visual studies, curriculum, physical education and physical culture studies. Her research is informed by constructivist, feminist post-structuralist and post-colonial theories.

Selected Publications

Azzarito, L., & Ennis, C.D. (2003). A sense of connection: Toward social constructivist physical education. *Sport, Education, and Society*, 8, 179- 198

Azzarito, L., Munro P., & Solmon, M.A. (2004). Unsettling the body. The institutionalization of physical activity at the turn of the 20th century. *Quest*, 4, 377- 396

Azzarito, L., & Solmon, M.A. (2005). A reconceptualization of physical education: The intersection of race/gender/social class. *Sport, Education, and Society*, 1, 25- 47

Azzarito, L. (2007). "Shape up America." Understanding fatness as a curriculum project. *Journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies*, 3, 1- 27

Azzarito, L., & Harrison, L., Jr. (2008). "White men can't jump". Race, gender, and natural athleticism. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 43, 4, 347- 364

Azzarito, L., & Katzew, A. (2010). Performing identities in physical education: (En)gendering fluid selves. *Research Quarterly for Exercise & Sport*, 81, 1, 25- 37

Azzarito, L. (2010). New girls, transcendent femininities, and new pedagogies: Toward girls' hybrid bodies? *Sport, Education and Society*, 15, 261- 276

Azzarito, L. (2010). Ways of seeing the body in kinesiology: A case for visual methodologies. *Quest*, 62, 155- 170

Azzarito, L., & Sterling J. (2010). "What it was in my eyes": Picturing youths' embodiment in 'real' spaces. *Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise*, 2, 209- 228. Special Edition on Visual Methods in Physical Culture

Azzarito, L. (2011). "I've lost my football..." Rethinking gender(s), the hidden curriculum, and sport in the global context. In R. Bailey & S. Dagkas (Eds.), *Sport for all? Exclusion from and through sport*. London: Routledge

Azzarito, L. (*in press*). Digital photography as a pedagogical tool for investigating young people's embodiment. *Visual Studies*

Selected Funded Grant Applications

Azzarito, L. Principal Investigator. Economic and Social Research Council, August 2008. Moving in my world: An investigation into young people's embodiment and its impact on participation in physical activity. Awarded £210,135. (Approximate, \$459,025). Loughborough University

Azzarito, L. Principal Investigator. The British Academy, July 2009. Geographies of girls' bodies: A visual inquiry into minority girls' physicality in school. Awarded £7,461.06. (Approximate, \$12,690). Loughborough University

Selected Conference Papers

Azzarito, L. Using digital photography to shed light on "bodies at risk" in physical culture. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Vancouver, Canada. SIG- Qualitative Research

Azzarito, L. & Marttinen, R. A visual inquiry into young people's expressions of their embodiment. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Research Consortium, Boston, MA

Azzarito, L. Gender, the hidden curriculum and physical education through girls' eyes, March 2011. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Research Consortium, San Diego, CA

A "second home": Ethnic minority girls' geographies of the body in an urban school, April 2011. Paper presented to the Research on Learning and Instruction in Physical Education SIG, American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA

Conference Symposia Organiser

Visual Methods and Identity Work, May 2012. International Congress for Qualitative Inquiry, University of Illinois, Urbana- Champaign

Visual methods, Pedagogies & Young People, September 2011. British Educational Research Association Conference, London

Keynote Presentations

Social and cultural dimensions of physical literacies, June 29, 2011. Keynote Lecture for International Conference on Physical Literacies, University of Bedfordshire, UK

“To Run the Course” in physical education: Browsing the new condition of youth in our global era, February 2007. Invited Keynote Lecture for International Congress of Physical Education, Palma, Spain

Response to Keynote Lecture

Researching young people in physical activity settings, March 2009. American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Tampa, FL

Centers and Projects

Moving in My World, Digital Photography Research- Related Exhibitions

- *Researched Schools*. Exhibitions: 12 April–29 May, 2010
- *Roots School- Based Arts Exhibition*, DeMontfort University, Leicester, UK. Exhibition: 11 June–15 June, 2010
- *Pedestrian Arts Centre*, Leicester, UK. Exhibition: 1 July–6 July, 2010
- *Social Life of Methods: ESRC Center for Research on Socio- Cultural Change (CRESC) Conference*, Oxford University, Oxford, UK. Exhibition 31 August–3 September 2010
- *New Walk Museum & Art Gallery*, Leicester, UK. Exhibition: 25 March–15 May 2011
- *AIIESEP International Conference*, Limerick, Ireland. Exhibition: 22- 25 June 2011

Moving in My World Visual Participatory Research Project

The *Moving in My World* exhibition on youth and physical culture was the culmination of a two-year visual ethnographic research project funded by Economic, Social, Research Council, UK. The photo exhibitions featured student-researchers' digital photo diaries of physical activity, sport, leisure and recreational practices in their daily lives in Leicester, England. One of the purposes of this research project was to enable young people of different ethnic minority backgrounds to “speak for themselves” against the backdrop of public health discourses of bodies-at-risk. In the *Moving in My World* research project, student-researchers used digital cameras to create visual diaries expressing their thoughts, feelings and ideas, and to share their photo-narratives about what it means to “move in their worlds”.







Press Release

“Leicester pupils catch physical activity on camera for new exhibition.”
Press Release No: 10/101. June 29, 2010. Public Relations, Loughborough
University