SUMMARY FORM

For ITAL2P98

Data Collection on Ethnicity and Gender inequality in Sports in Canada

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| Information Collected by | Jenna Filice |

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| Questions | Interviewee 1 | Interviewee 2 | Interviewee 3 |
| Date of Interview | October 21st | October 21st | October 21st |
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| Name of Interviewee  (use initials if the person wants to remain anonymous; only person conducting interview knows the person’s identity) | Steve Filice | Adam Mascherin | Jeff Pereira |
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| 1. What age group/generation are you in? | Baby Boomer | Millennial | Generation X |
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| 1. Do you identify with a cultural background and heritage? (Describe your cultural heritage, traditions, etc.) | Yes:   * Italian * Both parents are Italian * Tomato sauce * Building forts * wine | Yes:   * identifies as a Canadian with an Italian background * tomato sauce * homemade salami | Yes:   * East Indian * Catholic * Christmas * Easter * They still keep the tradition of cuisine; cook Indian food |
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| 1. Were you born in Canada or abroad? Did you or your parents or grandparents in any generation emigrate to Canada? | * He was born in Canada * Parents emigrated in 1959 * Grandmother came after | * Him and his parents were born in Canada * His nonna came to Canada when she was pregnant with his mom * The father’s parents emigrated when they were 20 | * Born in Canada * Parents emigrated in 1967 * Slowly sponsored his grandmother on his dad’s side and father from his mother’s side |
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| 1. Did you grow up speaking a language or dialect other than English or French at home? How often was the language spoken or was it only spoken at holidays with extended family or grandparents? | * The Italian language was always spoken at home * They spoke a southern dialect from Calabria * “rough Italian” | * grew up speaking English at home * able to pick up and understand Italian when his nonna would speak to him * when he lost his nonno – he himself lost the language too * family gatherings; Italian is still spoken * nonna still calls them to help translate from Italian to English | * only spoke English at home * parents spoke Indian but he did not * parents assimilated quickly when they migrated so the children can understand and adapt to the way in which the Canadian culture works |
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| 1. Did you grow up in or live currently within an ethnic community of your own heritage or of a different heritage? (Or do you not see your community identifying with an ethic community where everyone speaks English or French.) | * Grew up in Italian neighborhood * Moved to Brampton * But currently belongs to an Italian neighborhood now (Bolton) | * Grew up in Vaughan * Majority spoke English * But other individuals identified with other cultural backgrounds speaking their respective language when at home | * Grew in Malvern (1970-1980) which was predominantly white * Currently lives in Richmond Hill (more diverse) |
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| 1. Did your community have various sports offered for youth participation in a variety of team sports for recreation or competitive? | * Yes, mostly organized soccer * Never knew of hockey in Italian family because too dangerous * Tough to join anything at once because there was no money back then (more so paying off mortgage than children having fun) | * His community offered (hockey, soccer, basketball, baseball) * Sports offered recreationally then as the person got older the sport became competitive * Started off playing house league | * Grew up playing soccer * Brothers played ice hockey * They all played baseball * All played competitive in their respective sports |
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| 1. Did you or someone you know want to play sports? Were you able to join a team in your community? | * Yes, because back then sports were not that expensive * Brothers did not have desire to play * Knew some people who couldn’t afford (those were the times) | * Yes, joined house league which meant just showing up for practice and games * Remembers not even wanting to play hockey | * No issues joining sports in communities * Girls in his extended family played on various teams as well |
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| 1. Were young girls encouraged to play sports? Were they able to join a women’s team or join a co-ed team in your community? | * No girls were expected to go to school and stayed at home with their moms to cook and clean | * He doesn’t know because he grew up with a twin brother * Has three girl cousins who all were involved in sports * They all played on girls, women’s and co-ed teams | * Family was very welcoming * Raised to understand that men and women are equal; women were never denied the opportunity to play * Everyone was encouraged to play/do what they were passionate about |
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| 1. Were you, young girls, or the person discussed in this interview encouraged or discouraged by your family or community to participate in team sports? | * Encouraged by his father – keep his dad’s favourite thing alive * Started at 6 years old | * Encourage by family and extended family * His brother always supported him * He also himself supported his cousins too who played sports * Community and other parents became less supportive as years went on and he got older especially when he moved onto a semi-professional and professional level | * Played at least 3-4 times a week * Played rec and competitive soccer * Competitive teams were accessible for girls * Today he coaches various sports at the school he teaches at |
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| 1. How often did you play? Were you on a recreational or competitive team? Were there competitive available for girls in the community? | * Started at 6 * Played competitive from 10-18 years old * Almost making it to University of California (full ride) * No opportunity for women at that time; women cooked and cleaned * Downsview soccer club (organized by Italians) – most teams represented Italian families * Canadian cup (they won) | * Played every day whether on the street or ice * Started the moment he was eligible * Does not know much about the female industry as he is male * But his cousins played and still play in competitive women’s leagues | **refer to question 9** |

**Additional Remarks/Questions**

**Steve Filice:**

**How did your family see you in the sense of being an athlete compared to your siblings?** *They were not as interested in sports as he was, not wanting to be home just wanted to be playing sports.*

**How was it growing up in a strict household***? It was hard at times, missed out on an individual skills tryout because he lied – the father lined up all the brothers to get their “shots”*.

**Was education important**? *Yes, but his father only went up to grade 3 – his dad did not care about school (was either work or school)*.

**Being an athlete did you portray and emphasize sports to your children?** *Very important to give his children the same opportunity that he was given. Open to anything they wanted to do with the freedom he was not necessarily given as a child himself.*

**Concluding Remarks?** *Women in sports; he rather watch them because they put effort into it and are not getting paid. Hockey players are spoiled – making so much more money than women – there needs to be fair pay.*

**Adam Mascherin:**

**What was it like growing up in your home, always being at the arena and having a twin brother who was also involved in sports too, did a lot of the attention turn towards you?** *The mom took him to hockey, and the dad took his brother – schedules always conflicted and they barely saw each other. Adam was held at a higher standard because of his work ethic, practices and training – playing at the highest level and being notably the best player in his age group. His brother did it more for fun and had natural talent.*

**What was one of the things your parents taught you growing up that sticks with you till this day?** *Being a good person, being confident while also being humble. Stay focused on achieving goals, and it’s not about the money you make or how good you are but the imprint you leave on people’s lives.*

**What feelings, thoughts and experiences did you go through when you got drafted? What team did you get drafted to? Did you go any further after you played for the team you got drafted to?** *Thankful and shocked, couldn’t believe the amount of people that were supporting him. Being recognized for his talent and abilities by people other than his family. Drafted to Florida Panthers (2nd round, 38th overall). Got redrafted to the Dallas Stars (100th overall, signing a 3-year contract). 700 players in the NHL but every single year 210 new players get drafted.*

**Jeff Pereira:**

**What was it like growing up alongside your brother who played in the Olympics?** *It was an experience (went to the 2000 Sydney Olympics to support). His dedication and commitment to the sport was admirable. Life went on hold to pursue his dream (the brother).*

**Now having two daughters what will you encourage or hope for them in regard to sports in your community?** *Encourage them to chase their dreams. Worries about them being interracial, how people will react or act towards them. Doesn’t want them to be marginalized. As a father, it is his job to teach them confidence and persevere through any obstacles they may encounter.*

Jenna Filice

ITAL 2P98

Dr. Teresa Russo

November 6thth, 2020

**Analysis**

After conducting the three interviews it was clear to see that all responses fluctuated in their own way. It was interesting to see a view point from three generations that differed and more importantly the third interviewee being a part of a cultural background of something other than Italian, he was of Indian decent. To begin my analysis, I will start with the first interviewee, Steve Filice, followed by Adam Mascherin and concluding with Jeff Pereira.

Steve Filice was chosen to be one of my interviewees particularly because he does come from a cultural background of Italian and grew up being involved in sports. He is a part of the baby boomer generation in which he obviously experienced things differently than someone who would be considered a millennial. As Steve was explaining his traditions growing up it felt as though to him those were just a normal thing going on in the household. The idea of family coming together was a normal occurrence for someone with the Italian background. Evidentially, the ideology of family played a big role in his understanding of always being surrounded by a family especially when it transferred into his years of playing soccer and building that brotherhood with his teammates and coaches. As they would gather everyone in the neighborhood to conduct the tomato sauce making tradition, it was not like they were neighbors but more of a family. They all were from some part of Italy, since he did grow up in a very ethnic area similar to his own. Italians are known for being really close with others who share the same heritage especially when it comes to continuing the traditions that were done back home. For his family, emigrating to Canada did not make them feel the need to change their way of life nor language. They continued to speak the dialect they used back home and his parents spoke only their southern dialect from Calabria. The idea of not changing their culture just because they moved to another country shows that maybe the idea of culture shock, they did not endure as much as they would have if they had to completely assimilate to the Canadian ways. Furthermore, Steve goes on to explain the accessibility to organized sports being difficult for some at the time because things were expensive and not a lot of families were making a lot of money at the time. He even explains that for people like his parents their main focus was paying off their mortgage, and not concerned about their kids having fun. This conveys the idea that his parents’ mentality was not that they did not want their children to have fun, but that there were more important things to worry about especially because money was tight at the time and they had emigrated – it is almost as though they needed to restart and build a family foundation first before thinking about other things. However, it turns out that they saw true potential in his soccer abilities in which they allowed him to pursue the sport that was his father’s favourite. Steve showing extreme interest in soccer and proving he wanted to take it seriously emphasized his desire to continue his father’s legacy, hence his father’s encouragement with the sport. Moreover, he talks about growing up in a community where women were likely to go to school and come home to be in the kitchen with their mothers. Unfortunately, even today this stereotype exists, and the fact that people see this as a norm is so baffling. Gender inequality and stereotypes that make it seem that women belong inside and are the caregivers, while men work and make money is completely wrong. There should be this idea of equal opportunity and men should be able to and should be doing what women do and same thing for women having the chance to go through and do what men do. This ideology though, has and will continue to shape the functions of society as it derived from very early times and still shows in society today. Therefore, the idea of having women participate in sports during his childhood was unlikely because that was not expected nor allowed in the cultural heritage of Italian. That does not mean it did not happen, because some families could have not been as strict when it came to those customs but from what Steve remembers the majority of girls he grew up around in that community remained at school and/or in the kitchen. Besides the opportunity to play sports, he also went into brief detail about growing up in a household with strict parents. It was not easy growing up in a generation where punishments involved physicality. It may be hard to believe this exists today, but back then getting a “spanking” was normal if you misbehaved. Also, the idea of not finishing what is on your plate and getting in trouble if you did not, comes from the way the parents grew up. The notion that they worked hard in the fields and growing their own products – things did not come easy for them; so, when they see their children wasting food it is a sign of being ungrateful. There are people out there who cannot put food on the tables so eating what you are given is a must or like Steve said he would get in trouble. To conclude, Steve also explained in his additional remarks the idea of equality when it came to women in sports. Someone in his generation believes that women have every right and deserve to be paid equally, sponsored and even shown on television just as much as men. They at the end of the day, have just as much talent but yet don’t get enough credit for it. Unfortunately, even after hearing a guest speaker by the name of Carmelina Moscato, speak in a webinar…it is not just up to the sport industry to make women sports get noticed, it is up to the fans and audience too. At the end of the day, people make the choice to watch and engage in whatever they feel; thus, like Steve, who has more interest in watching women sports simply because their efforts go way beyond the male industry – people need to make time and show that women do matter. It does not matter what generation you come from, everyone deserves to have the opportunity to pursue their passion and get acknowledged for it.

Moreover, Adam Mascherin was a chosen interviewee because he was an individual who made it into a professional career of hockey. I felt analyzing someone who gets to experience this side of sports is important especially being from the millennial generation. To start, Adam does identify as having an Italian background however still deems himself Canadian. Many times, people tend to say their Canadian over Italian because they feel they are not as connected to the Italian heritage/culture enough to consider themselves Italian. As for Adam, he lost the language of Italian when his grandfather (nonno) past away. Evidentially, his relationship with his grandfather was an important one and because of that, he felt there was no reason to continue with it if his nonno is sadly not here anymore. It is almost a ripple effect, because the nonno started with the language, moved to Canada at a young age, built a life for his family – had grandchildren and like any other passionate nonno; you try to keep the language and culture alive by enforcing it on the young ones. In anyone’s life the idea of losing someone can truly change the way you go about your everyday choices and behaviors. Furthermore, he discusses the fact that he “doesn’t know” if girls had troubles joining sports because the girls in his family whom he was surrounded by all played various levels and sports. This reveals the notion that people in this “millennial” generation are blinded by a societal norm because they don’t know anything else to believe. If you played sports, recreational or competitive, your family was seen as financially stable enough to participate, however, those people who did not have those opportunities in which someone like Adam doesn’t know of – you never hear about. The people he was surrounded by all had an opportunity in which he has no other perspectives because he never experienced them growing up. Adam is a fortunate individual who is currently entering his second season under contract of the LA Kings. What amazes me, is the simple act of humbleness that his parents taught him that he still carries today. Something that Adam says that highlights an important attribute to someone’s character is; “It does not matter how much money you make or how good they are at their job, it matters about the legacy and imprint you make people remember you by”. A lot of times people are too caught up in this “materialistic/professional” lifestyle that they often forget their roots and the person they were taught to be. As soon as someone hits that level of confidence, it is like they lose what it is like to be genuinely nice to others. However, Adam was lucky enough to have parents who instilled good morals in him which he still portrays to this day.

In addition to these first two interviewees of Italian heritage, the third interviewee was chosen specifically to see what it was like growing up in a predominantly white community, being of Indian decent. Although him and his brother grew up playing various sports and same with his extended family, the community he grew up in was still primarily white. When his parents moved to Canada, they quickly adapted to the western ways of civilization and insisted they bring their children to understanding the new ways of life in order to “fit in” per say, to the new society. Though, today situated in a diverse community and having interracial daughters he worries if they will be accepted for who they are and not marginalized that they “look different”. As experienced racism himself, his goal as a parent is to teach them to face obstacles head on and encourage them to chase their dreams. This reveals a significant tool that all children should be taught and educated on whether they experience it themselves or witness it. Unfortunately, our society does deal with racism, however having parents who teach the importance of welcoming others who are not of the same ethnicity and teach you to accept and be who you are will help alleviate any challenges one faces. Just because people are deemed a part of different ethnic background does not mean they should be limited of their opportunities. Canada is identified as a cultural mosaic, in which is one of the most diverse places to be, therefore, embracing the different cultures should be a continual norm in our society.

In conclusion, after thorough analyzing, each individual experienced situation’s that are relevant in today’s society, maybe not as severe but are still an ongoing occurrence. From, typical Italian household upbringings, to childhood knowledge and career charisma to racism, all examples of situations that shaped them into the athlete they were or are and to the adult they have become.

**Reflection**

Before conducting these interviews, I caught myself trying to come up with individuals who I thought were good candidates for this type of project. These were not typical interviews, they dealt with the topic of *Ethnicity and Gender Inequality in Sports in Canada.* Thus, each person I chose had to have stories that related to this topic. In which, Steve Filice, of the Italian background was a part of a generation that experienced challenges that someone like Adam, who is a millennial would not have faced. Jeff Pereira, being of Indian heritage and playing sports differed experiences from Steve and Adam. Being a millennial myself, I felt more of a connection to Adam’s story only because the uncertainties and opportunities he was given, so was I. I find myself so uneducated on the topic of equal opportunities because truthfully, I have never encountered first-hand an instance where someone was discouraged or denied the chance to play a sport. Growing up in an area that was culturally diverse, everyone seemed to be the same in the sense that, we all got to pursue what we chose no matter what our cultural background was.

In terms of Steve Filice, the norms and traditions he experienced back in the day have relevance to my life in the sense that my dad still portrays a sense of strictness in our lives. He lets us enjoy sports, go to post-secondary and live our life however the importance lies within family. He does not physically punish, but will get mad if we talk back, and are just unappreciative of things – because like Steve’s father, they worked hard to give us the life we have and being ungrateful is a sign of disrespect which they are not teaching us to be. One thing that really reflects on my life in terms of Steve’s experience is the acts and behaviors back in the day between men and women. Although I do consider to be someone with more freedom than rules in regard to my parents, the Italian ways of women doing stuff around the house while the men are cutting the grass, going to work etc. still apply to my life today. My dad everyday reminds me of things like; “you’re **supposed** to be doing laundry” or “why have you not prepared dinner, that’s **your** job”. To mention a few, ideologies that have no proof of being categorized to a women’s demeanor are emphasized in my house hold. Those were the ways back in Italy, that his family brought to Canada when they emigrated. It is not a bad thing because he was not taught any other way, but in today’s society I disagree with the concept of girls doing what “girls are supposed to” and not having the chance to do just as much as men are.

In addition to Steve and Adam, Jeff Pereira’s experience has me questioning the idea of how people are brought up. Although, I, myself, have not encountered a time period where I was involved in racism however, having various friends who identify as something other than Italian – have experienced racism. I do not tolerate this type of behavior nor do I let my friends be knocked down because of it. I have and will stick up for my friends if they ever encounter this. That is what I think the problem with our society is, there are not enough educators out there teaching young adolescents and even adults that racism does still occur even though you are a part of the ethnic majority. Too many people are blinded or ignorant to admit that they witness racism in their daily doings. This is a problem, if people were educated on this topic just like Jeff is trying to teach his daughters at a young age, less people would hide away from the idea of ‘being different’ or ‘being who they are. The most important thing that I have now learned after hearing Jeff’s story, is the idea that just because his skin colour was different he did not let that stop him from pursuing sports, even more so, looking at his brother who represented the nation in the Olympics. There is more to life then depicting people of who they are or where they come from and I think that is a moral value that everyone needs to utilize in their life and do unto others.

All in all, I strongly believe that this project opened up new visions and thoughts in aspects of life that I would’ve never known if it weren’t for this interview project. Personally, I believe that all beings act and behave based on their upbringing, and with that being said whether you were taught bad or brought up well, those things you experienced or learned throughout your childhood will reflect what you’ve become for the future and that is aside from the whole sport aspect. Having sports a part of all three of my interviewees life, had it not been – I wonder what life for them would’ve been like. Would they still have the opportunities that they did as a child?