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Sport Training and Youth Health: Taking a sociocultural perspective

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Abstract. This presentation makes a case for sociocultural inspired frameworks, definitions and concepts to be used in the professional development of practitioners working in the sport training and youth health fields. The presentation is divided into three parts. First, it highlights the way in which many working in the sport training and youth health fields are preoccupied with 'problem-solving' at the expense of examining how the problems are 'set' (Lawson, 1984, 1993). This is followed by a discussion as to possible consequences a focus on problem solving has on, and for, the experiences of young people. Second, the presentation illustrates the potential value of using Quinn et al.'s (1996) 'professional intellect' framework. This framework not only recommends a focus on 'knowing what' and 'knowing how', but also promotes turning the focus onto 'knowing why' and 'caring why'. The potential value of focusing on 'knowing why' and 'caring why' is that it enables practitioners and organisations to: place an emphasis on the process rather than content; explore and examine the status quo, as well as; discuss the moral, ethical and political aspect of practice. Third, by drawing on Côté & Gilbert's (2009) integrative definition of coaching effectiveness, it is possible for practitioners working in the fields of sport training and youth health to see the benefits of developing their professional, inter- and intra-personal knowledge, adopting a broad view of health and considering the contexts in which they are working.

Biography. Tania Cassidy is an Associate Professor in the area of Sport Pedagogy at the University of Otago. She is also a Visiting Professor at the University College Cork, Ireland. Tania is the first author of a co-authored text entitled *Understanding Sports Coaching: The social, cultural and pedagogical foundations of sports practice* (2004, 2009, 2106; Routledge), a text that has been influential in the development of sports coaching as an academic discipline at university level. Her influence has resulted in invitations to lead, and participate in, current debates in the field and disseminate research findings by delivering 17 invited and keynote addresses as well as 79 general conference presentations. Tania's leadership in the field is also recognized by her being on the editorial boards of eight journals: *International Journal of Sports Science and Coaching* (UK); *International Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology* (USA); *International Sport Coaching Journal* (USA); *International Journal of Coaching Science* (Korea); *Asia Pacific Journal of Health, Sport and Physical Education* (Australia); *Sports Coaching Review* (UK); *Graduate Journal of Sport, Exercise and Physical Education Research* (on-line Worcester, UK); *New Zealand Physical Educator*. Tania has accepted reviewing duties for other organisations, which have included; the Social Science and Humanities Research

Council of Canada, the National Institute of Education, Singapore, and Wenger-Trayner & Wenger-Trayner's Certificate of Social Learning Leadership. She has also co-ordinated an international research conference, national coaching conferences, as well as organised symposia at international conferences.

In 2017, Routledge accepted a proposal by Tania and colleagues to write a text entitled *Understanding Strength and Conditioning as Sport Coaching: Bridging the Biophysical, Pedagogical and Sociocultural Foundations of Practice* (Cassidy, Handcock, Burrows & Gearity). The content of this text acts as a 'bridge' to integrate the biophysical, pedagogical and sociocultural disciplinary knowledge. As well as teaching and research Tania is also involved in community initiatives, including being a board member of the Otago Academy of Sport, Football South and is a member of New Zealand Football's Women's sub-committee. As a consequence of her community activism Tania is the President of the Opoho Bowling Club and an active hockey player and lawn bowler.