

Staci Mannella

Department of Counseling Psychology, Social Psychology, and Counseling
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EDUCATION

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY , Muncie, Indiana	Aug 2021 – Present
Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling completed in August 2023	
Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC)	
Certified Mental Performance Consultant (CMPC) - anticipated 2026	
Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology (B.A. – Ph.D. Track), anticipated graduation 2027	
Advised by Dr. Yuichung Chan	
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY , Vancouver, British Columbia	Aug 2021
Master of Science in Kinesiology	
Thesis: Seeing Without Sight—An Exploration of the Athlete–Guide Partnership in Paraspport	
Advised by Dr. Andrea Bundon	
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE , Hanover, New Hampshire	May 2019
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology	

AWARDS & HONORS

United State Olympic and Paralympic Committee, Colorado Springs, Colorado
2023 Team USA Community of Champions Award: \$25,000 USD awarded to an olympic or paralympic athlete for volunteer work with a nonprofit organization
2023, 2021, 2019 U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Scholarship: Awarded to U.S. Olympians or Paralympians to offset the costs of education

Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana
2022 ASPIRE Graduate Student Research Grant: Awarded to conduct and disseminate student designed research projects
2022 Bush Scholarship: Awarded to Ball State University students with visual impairments.

The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia
2020 Affiliated Fellowship Award: \$18,000 CAD awarded for academic and research excellence
2019 ORW Opportunities Through Rehabilitation and Work Society: Awarded in recognition of academic achievement
2019 Faculty of Education Graduate Award: Awarded to support full time study and research
2019 Graduate Student Research Grant: Awarded in recognition of a research proposal to offset research related expenses

Lighthouse Guild Foundation, New York, New York
2014 Lighthouse Guild Scholarship: Awarded based on merit to legally blind high school students

Council of Citizens with Low Vision International, Knoxville, Tennessee
2014 The Fred Scheigert Scholarship Program: Awarded to college students with low vision based on academic merit

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY, Muncie, Indiana

Doctoral Thesis, Department of Counseling Psychology, Social Psychology, and Counseling Sept 2024 – Present

Advised by Dr. Yiuchung Cahn

- Write proposals, ethics documents, and recruitment advertisements for Beyond the Headlines: A qualitative Exploration of Trauma and Media Representation in Disability Sport.
- Conduct 12 - 16 semi structured interviews with athletes and sighted guides.
- Transcribe and analyzed the interview data using inductive and deductive approaches to reflexive thematic analysis.
- Write up the findings in the form of a doctoral thesis defense, conference presentations, and journal article publications.

GF STRONG REHABILITATION, Vancouver, British Columbia

Research Assistant

Aug 2019 – August 2021

Advised by Dr. Delphine Labbe

- Wrote proposal, ethics documents, and recruitment advertisements in collaboration with 7 research team members for Supporting Snowsports Leisure Opportunities for People with disabilities (SSLOPE), an SSHRC funded research project.
- Managed team communications for the project including correspondence with team members, project collaborators, and participants to meet the project timeline and create cohesion between team members.
- Created content and managed a social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to promote the project, growing the audience by over 1700 followers.
- Recruited, scheduled, and collected data in the form of 170 surveys and 20 semi structured interviews to understand the experiences of people with disabilities in British Columbia Adaptive Snowsports Programs.
- Transcribed and analyzed the data from 11 interviews utilizing content analysis.
- Wrote up findings in the form of one first author publication, one impending second author publication research papers, conference presentations.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, Vancouver, British Columbia

Master's Thesis, School of Kinesiology

Sept 2019 – Aug 2021

Advised by Dr. Andrea Bundon

- Wrote proposals, ethics documents, and recruitment advertisements for Seeing Without Sight – An Exploration of the Athlete – Guide Partnership in Paraspport.
- Conducted 21 semi structured interviews with athletes and sighted guides.
- Transcribed and analyzed the interview data using inductive and deductive approaches to thematic analysis.
- Wrote up the findings in the form of a master's thesis defense, a first author publication, a book chapter, and conference presentations.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, Vancouver, British Columbia

Research Assistant, School of Kinesiology

June 2020 – Aug 2021

Advised by Dr. Andrea Bundon and Dr. Erica Bennett

- Worked collaboratively with a research team to understand coping and wellbeing of Olympic and Paralympic athletes following the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Assisted the research team with interview transcriptions, data analysis, and editing three published manuscripts.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY, Muncie, Indiana

Instructor, CPSY 360: Inter-Relational Aspects of Sexuality

Aug 2025 – December 2025

Supervised by Dr. Alan Maugherman PhD., HSSP.

- Develop the syllabus, modules, discussion boards, quizzes and assignments to support 30 learners in an online, asynchronous classroom
- Provide feedback on assignments including student essay, journal entries, and discussion board posts

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY, Muncie, Indiana

Instructor, Kinesiology 409: Introduction to Sport and Exercise Psychology

Aug 2022 – December 2022

Supervised by Dr. Jean Charles Lebeau

- Develop the syllabus, lectures, and asynchronous and in person assignments to support the learning of 12 undergraduate students.
- Lecture students once per week on various topics such as anxiety, motivation, and cooperation.
- Write and grade midterm and final exams, as well as provide feedback on student papers.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, Vancouver, British Columbia

Teaching Assistant, Kinesiology 464: Health Promotion and Physical Activity

Jan 2021 – April 2021

Supervised by Dr. Andrea Bundon

- Supported 80 4th year undergraduate students conduct group, community based research projects.
- Organized and communicated regularly with 12 student groups to answer questions and provide feedback on the design or their research projects.
- Worked collaboratively and communicated with the professor and other teaching assistants to ensure the course was well organized and cohesive for students.
- Graded and provided students with constructive feedback on their midterm exams, oral presentations, and final research papers.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, Vancouver, British Columbia

Teaching Assistant, Kinesiology 262: Health, Policy, and Society

Sept 2020 – Dec 2020

Supervised by Dr. Andrea Bundon

- Supported 130 undergraduate students by answering questions, facilitating workshops, and providing feedback on assignments.
- Worked collaboratively and communicated with the professor and other teaching assistants to ensure the course was well organized and cohesive for students.
- Graded and provided students with constructive feedback on their midterm exams and the final papers.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

SKADI SPORT PSYCHOLOGY, MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota

Doctoral Practicum Student

June 2025 - Present

SUPERVISOR: DR. ERIN AYALY PhD.

- Complete 10 - 12 direct client hours per week providing individual mental health and/ or mental performance services to athletes in a private practice setting.
- Work with athletes from diverse backgrounds and sports including, mountain biking, Historical European Martial Arts, triathlon, paralympic skiing, and others.
- Conceptualize, plan, and facilitate workshops for various teams including the Sisters in Sports Foundation, Coaches of Color, and St. Scholastics Nordic Ski Team.
- Obtain 1 - 2 hours of supervision each week by a licensed psychologist

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS, Muncie, Indiana

Graduate Assistant for Athlete Mental Wellness

August 2024 - Present

SUPERVISORS: DR. SHARON BOWMAN PhD, DR. LINDSEY BLOM PhD, CMPC

- Working 10 hours per week providing mental performance consulting to individual athletes and teams for Ball State Athletes
- Manage communication and relationships with high performance teams including coaches, strength and condition staff, athletic trainers, and nutritionists.

SISTERS IN SPORTS FOUNDATION, PARK CITY, UTAH

Mental Skills Consultant

Sep 2023 – May 2025

SUPERVISORS: DR. LAUREN LOBERG PhD, CMPC

- Conceptualize, plan, and provide mental skills training sessions twice per month for women athletes with disabilities on skills such as self advocacy, pre performance and performance routines, relaxation, and confidence.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER, Muncie, Indiana

Doctoral Extern

September 2024 - May 2025

Supervisors: Dr. Brenda Karns, Ph.D., HSPP; Jen Smith, Psy.D., HSPP

- Work 16 hours per week providing individual counseling services to undergraduate students.
- Facilitate process group and outreach programming for students, faculty, and community members.
- Develop and implement a self advocacy support group for students with disabilities.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY COUNSELING PRACTICUM CLINIC, Muncie, Indiana

Doctoral Practicum Student

September 2023 - May 2025

Supervisors: Dr. Abby Nethaway PhD., HSPP., Dr. Nick Lee PhD, HSPP., Dr. Lina Burkhart PhD., HSPP.

- Provide in person and telehealth counseling to individuals and couples counseling to community members.
- Maintain a caseload of 3 - 4 weekly clients.
- Conduct weekly intake interviews with new clients in the clinic.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY COUNSELING PRACTICUM CLINIC, Muncie, Indiana

Master Student Clinical Supervisor

January 2024 - July 2024

Supervisors: Dr. Sharon Bowman PhD, Dr. Naomi Tabberson PhD

- Supervise masters level clinicians with weekly supervision sessions
- Oversee and edit supervisees clinical documentation (i.e., progress notes, disposition notes, treatment plans, etc.)
- Prepare, supervise, and oversee masters students in conducting intake appointments.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER, Muncie, Indiana

Masters Intern

September 2022 - May 2023

Supervisors: Dr. Brenda Karns, Ph.D., HSPP; Jen Smith, Psy.D., HSPP; Yuichung Chan, PhD, HSPP

- Obtain 240 direct service hours providing individual counseling services to undergraduate students.
- Facilitate group and outreach programming for students, faculty, and community members.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY COUNSELING PRACTICUM CLINIC, Muncie, Indiana

Advanced Masters Practicum Student

June 2022 - August 2022

Supervisors: Dr. Eric Lester PhD, HSPP; Tara O'Connor MA.

- Provided individual in person and telehealth psychotherapy in a community mental health setting to primarily low-income and rural populations.

VETERANS AFFAIRS, Muncie, Indiana

Masters Practicum Student

January 2022 - April 2022

Supervisors: Yuichung Chan, PhD, HSPP; Brett Crehan, MA, CRC, LMHC, NCC

- Provided in person and telehealth vocational counseling to veterans with disabilities in low income and rural communities.
- Facilitated processing groups with veterans to discuss disability related challenges.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY COUNSELING PRACTICUM CLINIC, Muncie, Indiana

Clinic Staff

January 2023 – Present

- Worked 10 hours per week conducting daily operations for the practicum clinic including scheduling clients, answering phones, managing documentation, and supporting clinicians with clinical responsibilities.

BALL STATE GRADUATE STUDENT WELLNESS INITIATIVE, Muncie, Indiana

Graduate Assistantship

September 2023 – Present

- Worked 10 hours per week overseeing wellness initiatives within the graduate school including event planning, posting on social media, and facilitating an asynchronous self-care course.
- Plan and facilitate various graduate school events such as craft nights, yoga sessions, sexual health workshops, nutrition workshops, pottery painting, and pub nights.
- Oversee affinity groups to support and provide resources to various graduate student communities including students who identify as LGBTQIA+, students of color, students with disabilities, and students with dependents.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY, Muncie, Indiana

Counseling Psychology, Social Psychology, and Counseling Department

Graduate Assistantship

Aug 2021 – Aug 2022

- Worked 20 hours per week answering telephones, maintaining the department social media, assisting with organizing events, screening prospective student applications, and assisting with other administrative tasks.
- Conducted interviews, wrote, and submitted the department newsletter.

CANADIAN BLIND SPORTS ASSOCIATION, Vancouver, British Columbia

Research Consultant

Jan 2020 – January 2023

- Design, create, and conduct a survey pertaining to gender equity in the Canadian Blind Sports system.
- Analyze the survey findings and write up a research report for the organization.
- Sit on a committee to implement the development of inclusion policies and gender equity within the Canadian Blind Sports system.
- Write budget and ethics document to explore the experiences of women who are blind or visually impaired in leadership positions.
- Conduct, transcribe, and analyze 13 semi-structured interviews with women who are blind or visually impaired in leadership positions.
- Write up findings in the form of a research report for the Canadian Blind Sports Association to be distributed to sport organizations to better support women who are blind or visually impaired in leadership positions in sport.

PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Motivational Speaker

Jan 2010 – Present

- Deliver presentations regarding my experiences as a Paralympic athlete and student advocate at a variety of speaking engagements, ranging from school assemblies to corporate business events (Highlights include: TEDx at Dartmouth College, Kurzweil Education Conference, Arrow Electronics Global Summit, “Do Happy” Inaugural Fundraiser).
- Speak clearly and concisely about applying the life lessons I have learned from my

experiences as an athlete and student with a disability. Topics discussed include communication, teamwork, advocacy, and facing failures.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles (N = 7)

Mannella S., Bundon, A. (2023). Building Bridges: An Exploration of the Athlete – Guide Partnership in High-Performance Paraspport. *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise, and Health*.

Mannella, S., Labbe, D., Bundon, A., Sauve, J., McBride, C., Yung, O. Best, K., & Miller, W. (2023) Access at Elevation: Program Strategies to Support Quality Participation for People with Disabilities. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*, 43, 100685.

Trainor, L.R., Bennett, E.V., Bundon, A.M., Tremblay, M., **Mannella, S.**, & Crocker, P.R.E. (2023). Inescapable tensions: Performance and/or psychological well-being in Olympic and Paralympic athletes during sport disruption. Submitted to *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise, and Health*, March 9, 2022.

Bundon, A., Trainor, L. R., Bennett, E. V., Tremblay, M. I., Mannella, S., & Crocker, P.R.E. (2022). From minding the gap to widening the gap: Paralympic athletes' experiences of wellbeing during the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 games. *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*, 4, January 2022.

Bennett, E.V., Trainor, L.R., Bundon, A.M., Tremblay, M., **Mannella, S.**, & Crocker, P.R.E. (2022). From “blessing in disguise” to “what do I do now?”: How Canadian Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls perceived, experienced, and coped with the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Games. *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*, 62.

Armstrong, E., Lieberman, L., Martin, J., Moore, W., Snapp, E., **Mannella, S.** (2022). The Physical Activity Barriers Questionnaire for Youth with Visual Impairment (PABQ-VI) – A user guide. Accepted in *Palaestra*, January 7, 2022.

Martin, J. J., Snapp, E. E., G. Moore, E. W., Lieberman, L. J., Armstrong, E., & **Mannella, S.** (2021). Factor structure of the barriers to physical activity scale for youth with visual impairments. *Adapted Physical Activity Quarterly*, 38(4), 585-604.

Book Chapters (N = 3)

Mannella, S. (2025). The lies we tell: exploring the intersections of gender and Paraspport. In *Reimagining the Gendering of Sport*. Edward Elgar Publishing

Bundon, A., **Mannella, S.** (2022). Seeing Without Sight: Exploring the Experiences of Visually Impaired Skiers and their Guides In *Researching Disability Sport*. London: Routledge Publishers.

Mannella, S., Clark, B., & Sachs, M. (2022). Sport Psychology for Athletes with Disabilities. In *Routledge Handbook of Applied Sport Psychology*. London: Routledge Publishers.

Non-Refereed Research Reports

Mannella, S. & Bundon, A. (2023). Canadian Blind Sport Women in Leadership Report (Report written and distributed to Canadian sport organizations)

Mannella, S. & Bundon, A. (2020). Canadian Blind Sport Association Gender Equity Audit (Report written and distributed to the board of the Canadian Blind Sport Association)

Mortenson, W.B., Battalova, A., Borisoff, J., Bulk, L., Bundon, A., Eng, J., Forwell, S., Hammell, K., Jarus, T., Labbé, D., Mahmood, A., **Mannella, S.**, McCain, H., Miller, W. C., Mortenson, P., Prescott, M., Robillard, J., Sawatzky, B., Wang, R. (2019). Formal Submission Regarding the British Columbia Framework for Accessibility Legislation. [government submission]. Available at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/543/2020/01/International-Collaboration-on-Repair-Discovery-28Nov19-FINAL.pdf>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (N = 15)

Mannella, S., (2025). The Sociocultural Significance of Sighted Guides at the VISTA 2025 Scientific Conference of the International Paralympic Committee, Cairo, Egypt, December 7th - 10th 2025, Invited.

Mannella, S., Beyond the Headlines: A Qualitative Exploration of Disability, Trauma, and Media Representation in Disability Sport at the Social Justice in Sport and Exercise Psychology Symposium, Bowling Green, Ohio, USA, March 27th - 29th 2025.

Bugariu, A., **Mannella, S.**, Miskinis, A., & Whitmore, H., So the World is a Dumpster Fire... What Can Sport Psychology Professionals Do to Help? at the Social Justice in Sport and Exercise Psychology Symposium, Bowling Green, Ohio, USA, March 27th - 29th 2025.

Labbé, D., Yong, O., Bay, S., **Mannella, S.**, Bundon, A., Best, K., McBride, C.B., Sauvé, J., & Miller, W.C. Maintaining participation in adaptive leisure for people with disabilities: an interplay of factors at multiple socio-ecological levels, Oral presentation submitted to the 17th World Leisure Congress, Dunedin, New Zealand, 11-15 December 2023.

Mannella, S., Bundon, A. Seeing Without Sight: A Qualitative Exploration of the Athlete - Guide Partnership, Abstract accepted as an oral presentation at the Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise Conference, Durham University, Durham, England, July 26 - 28, 2022.

Mannella, S., Bundon, A. Seeing Without Sight: the Athlete - Guide Partnership in Disability Sport, Symposium presentation and panel discussion at the Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise Conference, Durham University, Durham, England, July 26 - 28, 2022.

Mannella, S., Labbe, D., Yung, O. Bundon, A., Sauve, J., McBride, C., Best, K., & Miller, W. Adaptive Snowsports Program Leader's Perceptions on Strategies to Provide Optimal Participation for People with Disabilities, abstract accepted as a poster presentation at the Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise Conference, Durham University, Durham, England, July 26 - 28, 2022.

Mannella, S., Bundon, A. Don't Judge a Fish by Its Ability to Climb a Tree: A Qualitative Exploration of How to Better Support Women who are Visually Impaired in Sport Leadership Positions, Abstract accepted as an oral presentation to the Midwest Sport and Exercise Psychology Symposium, East Lansing, Michigan, Feb 25 – 26, 2022.

Labbé D, **Mannella S**, Best K. Bundon, A., Sauvé, J., McBride, C.B., Miller, W.C. (2021) Predictors of quality of participation in adaptive snowsports for individuals with disabilities of all ages. In Ng, K., Rintala, P., Kandzia, Ad., Lindeman, A. (Eds) Quality partnerships in Adapted Physical Activity: Stronger Together! Book of abstract of Online ISAPA 2021 (p.62) University of Jyväskylä: Jyväskylä, Finland

Bennett, E.V., Trainor, L. R., Bundon, A. M., Tremblay, M. I., **Mannella, S.**, & Crocker, P.R.E. *Accepting Liminality: Olympic and Paralympic Hopefuls' Psychological Wellbeing Leading up to the Rescheduled Summer 2021 Tokyo Games*. Paper presented at the 15th Congress of the International Society for Sports Psychology Virtual Conference, Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, 2021.

Mannella, S., Labbé, D., Bundon, A., Yung, O., Best, K., McBride, C.B., Sauve, J., Miller, W.C. "Running Towards the Fire": Winter Recreational Program Strategies to Support People with Disabilities, accepted to American Psychological Association 2021 Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, Aug. 12 – 14, 2021.

Mannella, S., Bundon, A., Seeing Without Sight: An Exploration of the Athlete – Guide Partnership in Para Sport, accepted to American Psychological Association 2021 Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, Aug. 12 – 14, 2021.

Labbé D, **Mannella S,** Best K. Bundon A, Sauvé J, McBride CB, Miller WC. Predictors of quality of participation in adaptive snowsports for individuals with disabilities of all ages. oral presentation accepted to ISAPA 2021, Finland, June 15-18

Bennett, E. V., Trainor, L. R., Bundon, A. M., Tremblay, M. I., **Mannella, S.,** & Crocker, P. R. E. A time-telling tale: Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls' reactions and adaptation to the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Games. Submitted for consideration for presentation at the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity Virtual Conference, June 9-11, 2021.

Trainor, L. R., Bennett, E. V., Bundon, A. M., **Mannella, S.,** Tremblay, M. I., & Crocker, R. E. Déjà vu? Olympic and Paralympic athletes' adaptation to the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Games and sport injury recovery. Submitted for consideration for presentation at the Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise Virtual Student and ECR Conference, April 6-9, 2021.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

Featured as a Guest on Hear Her Sports Podcast: Featured guest on a podcast episode titled, “Staci Mannella, Paralympian, Mental Health Performance PhD.” in June 2025.

Featured as a Guest on Madam Athlete Podcast: Featured guest on a podcast episode titled, “Fighting Injustice with Paralympic Skier Staci Mannella” in May 2022.

Ball State University Disability Services Department: Present talk, “ Vision For Change: Advocacy in Higher Education” to 30 Ball State University students and faculty members to celebrate Disability Awareness Month in March 2022.

Ball State University Varsity Athletics: Presented talk, “Developing Vision: From Athlete To Advocate” to 450 Ball state varsity athletes on experiences of Paralympic athletes, lessons I have learned through sport, and social advocacy in January 2022.

Girl Up United Nations Foundation Sports for a Purpose Bootcamp: Invited to speak in a Question and Answer session about experiences as a Paralympic athlete and researcher to 50 young women to support gender equity in sport in October 2021

Athlete Representative for United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Core Team: Sat on a committee to help revise the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives in May 2021

University of British Columbia School of Kinesiology Teaching Assistant Workshop: Co-presented a presentation, “Inclusion, Equity, and Access for Students with Disabilities” with Dr. Andrea Bundon to 30 teaching assistants on the importance of inclusivity in higher education classrooms in October 2020

Kurzweil Education Live Assistive Technology Conference: Presented talk, “Developing Vision: From Athlete to Advocate”, to 25 educators on experiences of access and the vision of inclusion in higher education in Boston, Massachusetts in May 2019.

Dartmouth Department of Anthropology Goodman Fund Presentation: Presented research project, “Seeing without Sight”, to 50 attendees pertaining to qualitative research findings following seven semi-structured interviews and data analysis at Dartmouth College in May 2019.

TedxDartmouth 2019: Presented talk, “Developing Vision Without Privileging Sight”, to 900 attendees on experiences of accessibility, inclusion/ exclusion, and anthropology at Dartmouth College in April 2019.

Arrow Electronic Global Summit: Presented as a member of the “Arrow Quintum” to 250 Arrow Electronics employees in order to inspire and excite innovation through the power of disability sport in February 2018