



Western

Centre for Research on
Migration and Ethnic Relations

**Fall Colloquium
Series 2020**

Howard Ramos



Dr. Howard Ramos is a political sociologist who investigates issues of social justice and equity. He has published on social movements, human rights, Indigenous mobilization, environmental advocacy, ethnicity, race, and Atlantic Canada. He is currently working on projects looking at Atlantic Canadian, secondary cities, integration of immigrants and refugees, hockey and multiculturalism, and the social implication of AI and new technology. He works with graduate students looking at these issues as well as state funding of women's organizations, public attitudes and social values, perceptions of skills needed in the digital economy, and the intersections of identities and sports.

The Affordances and Forms of Hockey as a Multicultural Space

Hockey and hockey arenas are often touted as pillars of Canadian identity and community. However, recent debates over inclusion in the sport question the game's ability to facilitate social and cultural integration. This paper analyzes different affordances the game and arenas offer and the social forms of interaction that occur in the sport. The paper draws upon interviews, observations, and personal experience in hockey and hockey arenas in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The paper explores affordances of the game and the opportunities they offer for inclusion and also identifies three social forms that hockey players and parents produce and reproduce in arenas. These are "friendliness without friendship", "ritual togetherness", and "transactional relationships". Each form has textures of solitude embedded within the social form and has different social boundaries that separate in- and out-group members. If hockey aims to be a truly multicultural and inclusive space, researchers, policy makers and those involved in the game need to account for affordance and also consider the types of interactions people have in the game and arenas as shared spaces.

**Thursday, October 29, 2020
4:00 pm, Virtual Zoom Event
*All Welcome!***

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/92465505464>