

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2017

BREAKOUT SESSION FOUR: 3:45 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

***BASKETBALL, BODIES AND BITCHES: MAKING A SPECTACLE OF
DISABLED FEMALE WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL PLAYERS |
CENTENNIAL HALL C/D***

MODERATOR: Molly Bloom, UCLA, PhD Candidate

Hobal Grajeda, Research Assistant, Disability Advocate, Video Editor

Courtney Ryan, Research Assistant, Advocate, Coach, Director/Editor

SYNOPSIS: Physically disabled athletes are increasingly subjects of popular attention. In this documentary, we provide an unprecedented look at a team of women from varying ethnic and class backgrounds who grapple with social perceptions of disability on a daily basis. *Basketball, Bodies and Bitches* takes audiences on a journey whereby the 'supercrips' are humanized. The documentary shows how the women negotiate the stigma of their visible disabilities by reclaiming ownership of their bodies with their attitude and sport. By granting the women a chance to speak about their disabilities in the visual medium of documentary, the athletes take on Garland-Thomson's (2009) challenge for the usual objects of spectacle to 'stare back.' The film, whose mission flows from the athletes themselves, provides a medium through which female disabled athletes take control of the staring encounter. This portrayal complicates some disability studies concepts such as 'the supercrip' and 'passing.' In this panel, we will show this documentary work in progress and have a brief presentation about how the documentary subjects speak to the spectacle of disability.

Panel materials: [Attachement 1](#)