

Is Activism Leisure? How Older Women Activists Define their Experience

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Introduction

- PhD dissertation
- Understanding the role of activism in the lives of older women.
- The Raging Grannies



Methods

- face-to-face interviews with 15 Grannies
- five women contributed through the Granny E-vine (on-line forum)
- collaborative in nature





Civil Leisure

- Robert Stebbins (1992, 2002)
 - Chris Rojek (2001)
 - Heather Mair (2002/2003)
 - Sue Arai & Alison Pedlar (1997)
 - Troy Glover (2003)
 - Donald Reid (1995)
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Background: The Raging Grannies

- history of the RG
- who are the RG?



What is Leisure?


- rest & relaxation
- play
- entertainment
- recreation activity
- free time, time with no structure
- frivolous
- choice
- social activity
- economic
- competition
- opposite to work

What is Activism?

- an expression of oneself
- a calling
- a way of life
- political
- commitment to justice
- fun
- social action
- resistance
- volunteering
- unpaid work



Conclusion

- Grannies did not define their experience as leisure; although there is a leisure component to their experience
 - Are they challenging the stereotypical view of leisure?
 - Are they challenging convention?
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Thank you

