

**Aggie Weighill, PhD**

Department of Recreation and Tourism Management – Faculty  
World Leisure Centre of Excellence at VIU – Research Associate  
Faculty of Management  
Vancouver Island University

---

**POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

- 2009 University of Alberta, Edmonton, Doctor of Philosophy  
Research Focus: Travel motivations and behaviours of females for tourists.
- 2001 University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON: Master of Arts.  
Research Focus: Women's leisure and meanings of community.
- 1999 Acadia University, Wolfville, NS. Recreation Management Degree (Honours)  
Research Focus: Community development a model of recreation programming
- 1997 Malaspina University-College (VIU), Nanaimo, BC: Recreation Admin Diploma.

**VIU GOVERNANCE & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

- 2020-2021 VIU Faculty Association – VIU Labour Subcommittee (Field Schools)  
VIUFA Member
- 2020-2021 VIU Curriculum Committee Member  
Faculty of Management Representative
- 2018 Program Review Committee Member  
VIU Resource Management and Protection Program Review
- 2015-2017 Chair, Department of Recreation and Tourism Management
- 2014-2017 Chair, Master of Arts in Sustainable Leisure Management
- 2009-2017 VIU Research Ethics Board Board Chair 2014-2017  
Board member 2009 to 2013
- 2012-2015 Department of Recreation & Tourism Management Curriculum Committee
- 2011-2013 SSHRC Graduate Scholarship Review Committee Chair 2012 to 2013

## **VIU TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2005-2021 Over 80 classes, 9 international study tours, and several directed studies, including:

- HOSP 257: Advanced Research Methods in Hospitality
- HOSP 358: Data Analysis for Decision Making in Hospitality
- RMGT 161: Leadership in Recreation and Sport
- \*RMGT 161: Leadership and Interpersonal Communication (First Nations Stewardship Program)
- RMGT 170: Delivery Systems in Recreation and Sport
- RMGT 190: Programming and Special Event Planning in Recreation and Sport
- RMGT 280: Leisure and Active Lifestyles
- RMGT 480: COVID 19 Impacts on Leisure, Recreation, and Tourism
- TOUR 161: Leadership in Tourism
- TOUR 190: Programming and Special Event Planning in Tourism
- \*TOUR 207: Heritage Interpretation (Indigenous Ecotourism and Adventure Tourism Certificate)
- TOUR 208: Tourism Destinations
- TOUR 215: Tour Group Packaging
- TOUR 251: Market Research in Tourism
- TRMT 330: Niche Tourism
- TRMT 351: Statistical Analysis in Tourism
- TRMT 353: Community Development in Recreation and Tourism
- TRMT 357: Applied Research and Evaluation in Tourism
- TRMT 358: Data Analysis for Decision Making in Tourism
- TRMT 391: Field Study – Ghana Research and Study Tour
- TRMT 391: Field Study – Central America Field School
- TRMT 392: Programming and Services for Seniors
- TRMT 394: Sport Tourism
- TRMT 490: Graduating Seminar
- SLM 601: Leisure and Sustainability: Principles and Paradigms
- SLM 602: Case Studies in Sustainability and Innovation
- SLM 605: Knowledge Creation and Mobilization II
- SLM 606: Field Experience

\*These were place based teaching programs offered in partnership with VIU's Office of Indigenous Education and various B.C. First Nations.

## **STUDENT RESEARCH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUPERVISION**

### ***Master of Arts in Sustainable Leisure Management Thesis Supervision***

Mbilinyi, B. (Forthcoming). *Assessing the role and responsibilities of tour guides in Tanzania*. (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.

Kayaga, P. (2021). *Destination narratives in a pandemic: Comparing the social media posts of Kenyan and Tanzanian Tourism Boards* (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.

Lyimo, W. (2021). *Exploring the factors facilitating the engagement of women in traditionally masculine employment in tourism delivery: A case study of the Tanzania's Northern Tourism Circuit* (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.

Dey, D. (2020). *Indian international students as quasi-domestic travellers in Canada: Exploring travel motivations and behaviours* (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo,

Canada.

- Weir, H. (2018). *Parent's knowledge and valuing of physical literacy and factors influencing their decisions about their children's sport participation* (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.
- Xiao, X. (2018). *Analysis of visitor's perceptions of sustainability of a Chinese cultural destination: A content analysis of TripAdvisor comments on Wuzhen Ancient Town* (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.
- Granja, M.A. (2018). *The Shea livelihood in Wechiau, Ghana: Assessment of its sustainability from a gender perspective* (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.
- Borgi, S. (2017). *The marketing and management of Tunisia's past: Visitor experience and narratives in historic sites and heritage tourism* (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.
- Ellis, C. (2017). *Exploring the implementation process leisure economic accessibility policies: A case study of Greater Victoria area* (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.
- O'Keefe, L.R. (2015). *Outdoor family leisure: A strengths-based age study of East Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario* (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.
- Jessen, K. (2014). *Voluntourism and its influence on the capacity of the host community: The case of Ghana* (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.

#### **Master of Arts in Sustainable Leisure Management Thesis Co-Supervision**

- Cao, Q. (2016). *An examination of the volunteer involvement within the Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival from the perspective of social economy* (Unpublished master's thesis). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.

#### **Master of Educational Leadership Project Supervision**

- Croft, M. (2015). *Supporting environmental learning using blended learning* (Unpublished process paper). Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, Canada.

#### **Bachelor of Tourism Management Students**

- Fortune, M. (2019). Exploring pro-environmental behaviours and values in Wechiau Ghana. VIU REACH Award
- Fournier, J. (2019). Exploring environmental education curriculum and program in Wechiau Ghana. *VIU REACH Award*.
- Fortune, M. & Brennan, G. (2019). *Collaborative tourism development*. Poster presentation at the 2019 Travel & Tourism Research Association Conference, Saskatoon, SK.
- Fournier, J. & Boersen, A. (2019). *Evaluating visitors' experiences at the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary*. Poster presentations at the 2019 Travel & Tourism Research Association Conference, Saskatoon, SK.
- Fortune, M., Fournier, J., & Grigg, Z. (2019). *Assessing pro-environmental behaviours and values of Wechiau junior-high students and teachers' perceptions of environmental education curriculum in Ghana*. Research conducted as part of the 2019 VIU Ghana Research & Study Tour. Preliminary results shared with the

Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary Management Board.

- Street, S. (2019). An exploration of the factors that support and constrain women's participation in recreational ice hockey leagues. *VIU REACH Award*.
- Huneault, G., & Beaudoin-Lobb, M., (2014). *The mutual gaze: How Busua women and female tourists perceive each other*. Paper presented at the Canadian Congress of Leisure Research, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- Drope, N. (2014). *International tourists' perception of beach hawkers in a coastal Ghanaian community*. Paper presented at the Canadian Congress of Leisure Research, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- Alves, L., Bodner, J., Schneider, K., Thibault, R., & Oware Amoah, M. (2012). Analysis of residents' perceptions of the benefits and sacrifices of the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary. *Research conducted as part of the Ghana Research & Study Tour*.
- Alves, L., Bodner, J., Schneider, K., Thibault, R., & Oware Amoah, M. (2012). Evaluation of tourism services. *Research conducted as part of the Ghana Research & Study Tour*.
- Coulter, A., & Labute, B., (2012). Exploring gender roles: The case of Larabanga, northern Ghana. *Summary report for Directed Study on Gender and Cross-Cultural Research*. Vancouver Island University
- Labute, B., Coulter, A., Davies, L., Clark, D., Harmon, C., & West, S. (2012). Perceived benefits and sacrifices of a community resource management area in Ghana. *Summary report for the Protected Areas and Poverty Reductions project*. Vancouver Island University
- Schneider, K., Drope, N., Huneault, G., Burgoyne, R., Beaudoin-Lobb, S., & Jessen, K. (2013). Analysis of residents' perceptions of the benefits and sacrifices of the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary. *Research conducted as part of the Ghana Research & Study Tour*.
- Labute, B. & Coulter, A. (2011). *Perceived benefits and sacrifices of a community resource management area in Ghana*. Paper presented at the BC Protected Areas Research Forum. Vancouver, Canada.

### **PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Refereed Publications and Conference Presentations

- Weighill, A.J.** (2020). *Academic and community partnerships for sustainable tourism development: Reflecting on 10 years of field work*. Paper presented at the International Conference on Linking Industry with Academia in Tourism and Hospitality Sector in Developing Countries. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- Huneault, G., Otomo, M., & **Weighill, A.J.** (2019). *Exploring the intersections of child welfare and Indigenous tourism growth in Canada*. Conference Presentation: Tourism and the SDGs Conference: Critical and Constructive Conversations. Auckland, New Zealand.
- Weighill, A.J.** & Vaudry, K. (2018). *Sustainable livelihoods within a Ghanaian protected area*. Conference Presentation: BC Protected Areas Research Forum. Prince George, BC, Canada.
- Weighill, A.J.** (2018). *Improving visitors' experiences through international partnerships*. Conference Presentation: BC Protected Areas Research Forum. Prince George, BC, Canada.

- Weighill, A.J.** (2018). *The evolution of the Ghana Research & Study Tour: A decade of (re)development*. Conference Presentation: Academics Without Borders: Reaching Across Borders, Building a Better World. Montreal, QC, Canada.
- Weighill, A.J.**, Briscoe, P. Msoma, R., Robichaud, J.G., Knowles, J., Mibse, N., Maduhu, M., Kobelo, S., & Sabulaki, N. (2017). *Seeking cultural validation: Tourism and hospitality managerial competencies*. Paper presented at the ATLAS Africa Conference – Africa’s Travel and Tourism Competitiveness: Opportunities and Challenges. Eldoret, Kenya.
- Weighill, A.J.**, & Drope, N. (2015). *Whose story is told: Exploring destination narratives in two Ghana communities*. Paper presented at the ATLAS Africa Conference – Tourism and Inclusive Growth in Developing Economies. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- Weighill, A.J.**, Agyemen, A., Labute, B., & Coulter, A. (2013). *Perceptions and Barriers: A gendered exploration of tourism and daily life in a Northern Ghana community*. Paper presented at the ATLAS Africa Conference – African Tourism and Global Society: Central or Peripheral? Kigali, Rwanda.
- Weighill, A.J.** (2013). *The Ghana Research & Study Tour: A Case study of the benefits and costs to hosts and guests*. Paper presented at the ATLAS Africa Conference – African Tourism and Global Society: Central or Peripheral? Kigali, Rwanda.
- Weighill A.J.**, Sasu K.A., Arthur J.L., Hammer, K., & Rollins, R. (2011). *The role of university extension and conservation in ecotourism development*. Paper presented at the ATLAS Africa Conference – Sustainable Tourism and Environmental Education: A Natural Link? Kampala, Uganda.
- Weighill, A.J.**, Walker, G.J., & Hinch, T.D. (2006). *Moving beyond the average: Women as active sport travelers*. Paper presented at the Travel and Tourism Research Association of Canada Annual Conference. Montebello, QB.
- Walker, G.J., Hinch, T.D. & **Weighill, A.J.** (2005). Inter- and intra-gender similarities and differences in motivations for casino gambling. *Leisure Sciences*, 27, 111 – 130.
- Weighill, A.J.** (2005). Women’s leisure: A building block of community? In T. Delamere, C. Randall, & D. Robinson (Eds.) *The eleventh Canadian Congress on Leisure Research. The two solitudes: Isolation or Impact?* Nanaimo, BC: Malaspina University-College. pp. 654 – 658.
- Weighill, A.J.**, & Hinch T.D. (2005). Moving beyond the average: Women as sport travelers. In T. Delamere, C. Randall, & D. Robinson (Eds.) *The eleventh Canadian Congress on Leisure Research. The two solitudes: Isolation or Impact?* Nanaimo, BC: Malaspina University-College. pp. 654 – 658.
- Weighill, A.J.** (2004). *Women who play while away: Domestic active travel in 2001*. Paper presented at the Travel and Tourism Research Association International Conference; Montréal, QB.
- Misener, L., & **Weighill, A.J.** (2003). *Sport chicks, trad betty’s, and mountain mama’s: Exploring the female climbing experience*. Paper presented at the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport conference, Montréal, QB.
- Weighill, A.J.** (2002). Women, leisure, and the redefining of “men’s work”. In E.L. Jackson (Ed.) *CCLR 10 Book of Abstracts. Celebrating the Past and Future of Canadian Leisure Studies*. Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta. pp 43 – 45.

**Weighill, A.J.** (2002). Canadian domestic sport travel in 1999. In M. Joppe (Ed.) *TTRA-Canada Conference Proceedings. Accessing Destinations: How Do You Get Here From There?* Toronto, ON: Ryerson University. (no page numbers)

**Weighill, A.J.** (2002). Women, leisure, and the redefining of “men’s work”. In E.L. Jackson (Ed.) *CCLR 10 Book of Abstracts. Celebrating the Past and Future of Canadian Leisure Studies.* Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta. pp 43 – 45.

**Weighill, A.J.** (2000). Exploring the meanings of leisure and community in the experiences of women building homes for Habitat for Humanity. In A. Loucks-Atkinson and C. Shannon (Eds.) *University of Waterloo Eighth Annual Graduate Leisure Research Symposium Conference Proceedings. Issues and Challenges in Leisure Services and Scholarship.* Waterloo, ON: University of Waterloo. pp 29 – 32.

### ***Non-Refereed Publications and Reports***

Fortune, M., Fournier, J., & **Weighill, A.J.** (2020). *Exploring environmental knowledge, environmental education curriculum, and programming within the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary [WCHS] in Ghana.* Technical Report for the Sanctuary Management Board.

**Weighill, A.J.** (2013). *Preliminary Report: Analysis of residents’ perceptions of the benefits and sacrifices of the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary 2011 – 2013.* Report delivered to the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary Board; the Nature Conservation Research Centre; and the Protected Areas and Poverty Reduction Project. Vancouver Island University.

**Weighill, A.J.,** Agyeman, A., Alves, L., Bodner, J., Schneider, K., & Thibault, R. (2012). *Improving tourism in Larabanga: Recommendations for the Ecotourism Board & Tour Guides.* Report for Larabanga Community Leaders, Ecotourism Board Members, Larabanga Tour Guides, and the Tourism Office for Mole National Park. Vancouver Island University.

**Weighill, A.J.,** Alves, L., Bodner, J., Schneider, K., Thibault, R., & Oware Amoah, M., (2012). *Summary report: Analysis of residents’ perceptions of the benefits and sacrifices of the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary and evaluation of tourism services.* Report delivered to: The Protected Areas and Poverty Reduction Project; the Nature Conservation Research Centre; and the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary Board. Vancouver Island University.

**Weighill, A.J.** (2009). *Women who play while they are away: Exploring the assumptions of sport tourism.* Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

**Weighill, A.J.** (2003). Canadian Domestic Sport Travel in 2001. *Travel Log.* Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada. pp 1 – 7

**Weighill, A.J.** (2002). *Canadian domestic sport travel in 2001.* Unpublished Report for Statistics Canada, Ottawa, ON.

**Weighill, A.J.** (2001). *Exploring the experiences of women involved in the 200 Habitat for Humanity Women Build* (Unpublished master’s thesis). University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

**Weighill, A.J.** (1999). *Exploring the effectiveness of community development as a method of recreation programming* (Unpublished honours thesis). Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada.

### **FUNDING, CONTRACTS, & AWARDS**

- Weighill, A.J.** (2021). Research contract Tourism Nanaimo – Visitor Profile Report - \$5000.
- Weighill A.J.** & Collishaw, C. (2021). Research contract BC Parks – Exploring current use of, and potential sites for, marine protected areas in Desolation Sound and the Broughton Archipelago. \$40,000.
- Weighill, A.J.,** de la Barre, S., & Schroeder, J., (2021) Research contract Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon – Looking back and moving forward: Understanding the impacts of COVID on physical activity and developing a more resilient recreation delivery model. \$25,000.
- Weighill, A.J.,** Stone, G., Moghimehfar, F., Johnson, A., & Oncescu, J. (2020). VIURAC Award – Leisure as a mechanism for coping with stress related to public health interventions due to COVID-19. \$4,800.
- Weighill, A.J.** (2019). Vancouver Island University President’s Award for International Community Engagement.
- Weighill, A.J.** (2018). VIU Faculty of Management Leveraging Fund to attend the 2018 Academics Without Borders Conference in Montreal Quebec - \$1000.
- Weighill, A.J.** (2018). VIU Faculty of Management Leveraging Fund to research tourism and non-timber forest products as sustainable livelihoods in the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary in Ghana, West Africa. - \$2000.
- Weighill, A.J.** (2017). VIUFA Travel and Conference Proceedings Fund to attend the 2017 ATLAS Africa conference in Eldoret, Kenya - \$600
- Vancouver Island University. (2015). Improving Skills Training for Employment Program. Harvey, D. – VIU International Projects Coordinator, **Weighill, A.J.** – VIU Faculty lead with team members Briscoe, P., Knowles, J., & Robichaud, JG. - \$400,000
- Weighill, A.J.** (2015). VIU Faculty of Management Leveraging Fund to Travel to ATLAS Africa to attend the bi-annual conference in Dar es Salaam - \$1500
- Weighill, A.J.** (2012). VIURAC Award - Exploring the gendered nature of daily life in Larabanga, Ghana - \$3960

### **CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2020 | International Conference on Linking Industry with Academia in Tourism and Hospitality Sector in Developing Countries. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. |
| 2018 | BC Protected Areas Research Forum. Prince George, British Columbia.  |
| 2018 | Academics Without Borders: Reaching Across Borders, Building a Better World. Montreal, Quebec.   |
| 2018 | Impact Sustainable Travel & Tourism Conference. Victoria, British Columbia   |
| 2017 | International Indigenous Tourism Conference. Calgary, Alberta.   |
| 2017 | ATLAS Africa. Eldoret, Kenya.  |
| 2016 | Travel and Tourism Research Association Canada. Edmonton, Alberta.   |
| 2016 | Tourism Vancouver Island. Ucluelet, British Columbia.  |

- 2016 World Leisure Congress. Durban, South Africa.
- 2015 ATLAS Africa. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- 2014 Canadian Congress on Leisure Research. Halifax, Nova Scotia
- 2014 World Leisure Congress. Mobile, Alabama
- 2013 ATLAS Africa. Kigali, Rwanda.
- 2012 British Columbia Protected Areas Research Forum.
- 2011 ATLAS Africa. Kampala, Uganda.
- 2006 Travel and Tourism Research Association. Montebello, Quebec.
- 2005 Travel and Tourism Research Association. Kelowna, British Columbia.
- 2005 Canadian Congress on Leisure Research. Nanaimo, British Columbia.

## **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & RESEARCH**

- 2020 Academic Leave – Research & Capacity Building Through International Partnerships  
- Activities were interrupted by COVID Pandemic.
- 2016-2020 Cican Improving Instructional Skills for Employment Program  
VIU Faculty lead for the ISTEP-11 Partnership with the National College of Tourism in Tanzania. Purpose of program is to develop curriculum for bachelor’s degrees in Travel and Tourism Management and Hospitality Management, and a diploma in Event Management.
- 2019 Ghana Research & Study Tour  
Led nine VIU students on a month-long field program that included applied community-based research in two rural and remote Ghanaian communities. Also explored themes of community development, experiential tourism development, colonialism, and wildlife conservation
- 2018 Study tour (re)development familiarization tour in Ghana (Volta Region)  
Three-day capacity building workshop with Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary Staff  
Queen Elizabeth Scholars partner meetings and risk assessment, College of African Wildlife Management, Tanzania.
- 2017 Ghana Research & Study Tour  
Supervised student researchers studying women’s experiences in the Wechiau Organic Shea Cooperative. Travelled throughout Ghana exploring post-colonialism and tourism.
- 2017 Kenya and Tanzania – Relationship Building  
Visited Maasai Mara University to explore potential partnerships.  
Visited the College of African Wildlife Management to explore a renewed relationship.  
Met with representatives from the Tanzania Parks Authority and Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority.



- 2017 ATLAS Africa Conference – Eldoret, Kenya  
Co-Facilitated a workshop for PhD candidates  
Presented research on Industry Perspectives of Desirable Graduate Attributes.  
Member of the Scientific Committee.  
Joined the Board of Directors.
- 2016 National College of Tourism – Research Workshop  
Facilitated a two-week research workshop for faculty and staff of NCT.
- 2016 Ghana Research Trip  
Returned to Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary to set-up the 2017 Ghana Research and Study Tour and to initiate a new research project with a master’s student.
- 2015 ATLAS Africa Conference – Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Co-presented research on Destination Narrative using two Ghanaian case studies.
- 2013 ATLAS Africa Conference – Kigali, Rwanda  
Presented research on Educational Study Tours as Voluntourism and the Gendered Nature of Daily Life in a Northern Ghanaian Community
- 2013/2015 Tanzania Research and Study Tour Reconnaissance Trips.  
Visited tourism sites, met with partners from the College of African Wildlife Management and Away from Home Destinations, and explored potential research projects.
- 2011-2013 Protected Areas and Poverty Reduction Project  
Supervised undergraduate researchers focused on the flow of costs and benefits from protected areas to residents through tourism. Attended international project meetings in Tanzania (2011), Ghana (2012), and Canada (various).
- 2011-2013 Ghana Research and Study Tour  
Designed and led annual undergraduate research focused study tours related to community-based tourism and protected areas in the rural northern Ghana. Duration varied from 5 to 14 weeks.
- 2011 ATLAS Africa Conference – Kampala, Uganda  
Presented on the Ghana Canada Project for Environmental Education.
- 2010 Ghana Research & Study Tour  
Familiarization and partnership development trip. Connected with Nature Conservation Research Centre, the Calgary Zoo (Conservation Outreach in Ghana), and the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary.
- 2009-2010 Ghana-Canada Partnership for Environmental Education  
Five-year, multi-partner project funded by ACCC and CIDA.
- 2007 Central American Adventure Tourism Study  
Designed and led a three-week study tour in southeastern Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala.