

# **Suzanne de Castell, PhD**

**Professor, Faculty of Education at University of Ontario Institute of Technology**

Oshawa, ON, CA

Eminent researcher aims to level the playing field by making diversity and equality hallmarks of the digital world

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## **Description**

Suzanne de Castell, PhD, a fervent social justice advocate, spearheads a critical research agenda to advance educational equality in the 21st century. She is focused on developing tools and pedagogies for girls to develop expertise in digital literacies and to experience learning in a fully inclusive digital environment. Her current studies centre on identifying and evaluating educational outcomes of digital game-based learning.

Prior to arriving at UOIT in 2012, Dr. de Castell spent 30 years researching and developing innovative educational tools and methods at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in British Columbia. She served as Professor, Curriculum and Instruction with SFU's Faculty of Education nearly 30 years, and she was appointed Associate Dean and subsequently Interim Dean of the Faculty between 2007 and 2009. Throughout her teaching career, Dr. de Castell has mentored and supervised some of Canada's brightest doctoral students who have achieved full professorships and international recognition for their work. According to Dr. de Castell, producing top level scholars who can in turn build distinguished and high-impact educational careers is one of the very best parts of the job.

Her insatiable intellectual curiosity spurred her desire to pursue a career as a university professor from a very young age. In 1971, Dr. de Castell obtained her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Literature and Philosophy from Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University) in Montreal, Quebec. She received a Master of Arts in Philosophy of Education with distinction from the Institute of Education at the University of London in England in 1973, and her Doctorate in Philosophy from Senate House at the University of London in 1980.

Dr. de Castell uses education as a platform for social justice and inspires students to be the change in their world by actively working to eliminate disadvantage and discrimination. Her career bridges educational equality, traditional, critical and multimodal literacies, digital technologies for learning cyberspace studies, and design-based research and development. In 2000, she received the Wired Woman Pioneer in Technology and New Media Award, Women in the Spotlight, and B.C. Research Partnership Award; and in 2004, she was awarded the YWCA Women of Distinction Award for Education: Learning for Life.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Computer Gaming, Research, Education/Learning

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## **Topics**

Digital Game Studies, Literacy, New Media and Educational Technologies

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## **Affiliations**

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## **Past Talks**

### **Sweetheart This Ain't Gender Studies Panel**

2014 Canadian Games Studies Association Annual Conference

### **Gaming Experience and Spatial Learning in a Virtual Morris Water Maze**

4th Global Conference on Experiential Learning in Virtual Worlds

### **Educational Sustainability at the Crossroads, Keynote Address**

NERA 42nd Congress, Education for Sustainable Development

### **We Came to Play: Studying MMOGs in Public Settings (Best Paper Award, Games Studies)**

International Communications Association

### **Mirror Images: Avatar Aesthetics and Self-Representation in Digital Games**

American Education Research Association Annual Conference

### **Playing and Learning With Digital Game Texts: Girls Get Game**

American Education Research Association Annual Conference

### **The Serious Business of Spaceships: Studying Eve Online**

13th Annual Conference for the Association of Internet Researchers

### **The VERUS Project**

2012 Canadian Games Studies Association Annual Conference

### **Virtual Environment/Real User Study**

2011 Canadian Games Studies Association Annual Conference

### **High Fidelity: Avatars and Their Players**

2011 Digital Games Research Association Conference

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## **Education**

### **University of London**

PhD Philosophy

### **Institute of Education, University of London**

MA Philosophy of Education

### **Sir George Wiliams University (Concordia)**

BA Literature and Philosophy

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Professor, Faculty of Education, UOIT**

Dr. de Castell is focused on positioning the faculty as Canada's leader in advanced technology supported education through classroom, online and in-field networks. She is currently co-developing the hybrid undergraduate elective course Pedagogy of the Land with York University.

### **Associate Editor, Simulation & Gaming**

Simulating & Gaming: An International Journal of Theory, Practice and Research is a leading international forum for the exploration and development of simulation/gaming methodologies used in education, training, consultation, and research.

### **Editorial Board Member, Digital Culture & Education**

Digital Culture & Education is an international, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal devoted to analyzing the impact of digital culture on identity, education, art, society, culture and narrative within social, political, economic, cultural and historical contexts.

### **Founder and Co-Editor, Loading...The Journal of the Canadian Game Studies Association**

A print-based and online journal, Loading...was founded in 2007 publishes empirical, theoretical, and design-based research on the multifaceted, multimodal, interdisciplinary subject of digital games.

### **Founder and Past President, Canadian Game Studies Association (CGSA)**

Founded in 2005, the CGSA is dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of digital games. Its primary goal is to support the work of Canadian researchers, graduate students, artists, game designers, programmers, theorists, and others working in this field.

### **Founding Member, Access to Media Education Society (AMES)**

Dr. de Castell has worked tirelessly to provide pathways for disadvantaged youth to gain build digital literacy abilities, and has been a long-standing member of the AMES board of directors.

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