

## **Parent, Sylvie**

**Université Laval**

**Martin Blais**, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

**Isabelle Daignault**, Université de Montréal, Canada

**Jacinthe Dion**, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Canada

**Claude Goulet**, Université Laval, Canada

**Martine Hébert**, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

**Tine Vertommen**, Thomas More University, Belgium

### **SSHRC Insight Grant, 2019**

*Étude sur le vécu des athlètes du Québec (ÉVAQ)*

*[Study on the experiences of athletes in Quebec]*

---

Violence against athletes is recognized as an extremely worrisome problem (Parent & Vaillancourt-Morel, 2020; Vertommen et al., 2017). Vertommen & Parent (2020) recently highlighted the lack of robust, large-scale studies to document the prevalence of violence against athletes, the factors associated with the risk of this violence and its impact on athletes. In Quebec, Dr. Parent and her team were awarded an SSHRC Insight Development grant in 2013 to develop and validate a questionnaire designed to measure the prevalence of violence against athletes (*Questionnaire sur la violence envers les athlètes – VTAQ*, Parent et al., 2019). The study of the prevalence of and the factors associated with violence against athletes, conducted with a sample of young Quebec athletes aged 14 to 17 participating in organized sports, is a logical continuation of our previous work and is central to the objective of this study. In order to achieve this goal, a partnership was established between our team, the Institut de la Statistique du Québec (ISQ) and Quebec's Ministry of Education to maximize the recruitment efforts of this project by piggybacking on extensive data collection from 60,000 Quebec high school students. Thus, the target sample is 15,000 participants (estimated response rate of 25%) and the preferred method is the anonymous online questionnaire. The questionnaire used to conduct the survey will consist of the VTAQ and other validated scales that measure indicators of participants' psychosocial adaptation at the time of the questionnaire. In order to carry out this major project, Dr. Parent has built an interdisciplinary team of Quebec and international researchers from four universities. The strength of this team of researchers lies in the diversity of their expertise, be it in the field of violence against athletes, epidemiological studies or the analysis of factors associated with violence in general. This project will have numerous benefits: 1) develop leading-edge Canadian expertise in violence against athletes on the international stage; 2) provide the scientific community with measurement tools that will serve as evaluation standards for other surveys around the world; 3) monitor the phenomenon over time; 4) guide, support and assist the sport community on the issue of violence against athletes; 5) provide the general public with robust, factual and realistic insight on violence against athletes; 6) educate public decision-makers about the phenomenon, thus encouraging them to take the necessary measures to prevent it; 7) develop new policies in this area or improve existing ones; 8) set up societal campaigns; and 9) guide the development of interventions among victims.

