



## Gillian Parekh

*Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) Inclusion, Disability and Education  
York University*

### Biography

Gillian Parekh is an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in the Faculty of Education at York University in Toronto, Ontario.

Gillian is a former special education teacher and research coordinator with the Toronto District School Board. With a doctorate in Critical Disability Studies, Gillian has conducted extensive research with the Toronto District School Board in the areas of structural equity, special education, and academic streaming. Gillian is a member of Inclusive Education Canada's Network of Associates. She has written commentaries for the IEC website and served as a facilitator and speaker at sessions organized by IEC. Gillian is also a member of the Canadian Research Centre on Inclusive Education. Her work explores how schools construct and respond to disability as well as organize students across programs.

### Interests

Gillian approaches inclusive and special education from a social justice perspective and challenges current notions and praxis that lead to the stigmatization and segregation of students identified with exceptionalities. Her work seeks to deconstruct conceptions of normalcy and exceptionality by exploring the social relations of disability to demographic characteristics such as race, class, and gender.

### Consultation

Inclusive education policy; Large system implementation; Critical disability theory and how it relates to inclusive and special education; disproportionate representation in special education.

### Contact

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# Projects and Publications

- Parekh, G. (2013). A case for inclusive education. Toronto, Toronto District School Board.
- Parekh, G., & Brown, R. S. (2019). Changing Lanes: The Relationship between Special Education Placement and Students' Academic Futures. *Educational Policy*, 33(1), 111-135.
- Parekh, Gillian (2017) The tyranny of "ability", *Curriculum Inquiry*, 47:4, 337-343, DOI: 10.1080/03626784.2017.1383755
- Parekh G., Gaztambide-Fernández R. (2017) The More Things Change: Durable Inequalities and New Forms of Segregation in Canadian Public Schools. In: Pink W., Noblit G. (eds) *Second International Handbook of Urban Education*. Springer International Handbooks of Education. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-40317-5\\_43](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-40317-5_43)
- Parekh, G., & Underwood, K. J. M. (2016). *Inclusion: Creating School and Classroom Communities where Everyone Belongs: Research, Tips, and Tools for Educators and Administrators*. Toronto District School Board.
- Parekh, Gillian (2018) Exploring Inclusion in Ontario, *Inclusive Education Canada*, <https://inclusiveeducation.ca/2018/03/16/exploring-inclusion-in-ontario/>
- Reid, Luke, Parekh, Gillian Parek &, Lattanzio, Robert (2020) A Relic of the Past: Identification, Placement and Review Committees in Ontario's Education System, *Canadian Journal of Educational Administration and Policy*, Issue 194.

