BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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European Association for Sociology of Sport

Sport and the World in Crisis: Challenges and Solutions

25–27 June 2025, Warsaw

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Table of Contents

Welcome to EASS 2025 Conference 2

Keynote Speakers 5

Young Researcher Award Winner EASS 2025 11

Honorable Mention..... 12

Abstracts (alphabetically ordered) 13

Welcome to EASS 2025 Conference

Greetings from EASS President

Dear colleagues and members of the European Association for Sociology of Sport (EASS), as the President of EASS, it is my great pleasure to warmly welcome you to the 21st EASS conference hosted by the Józef Pilsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw, Poland on June 25-27, 2025. This is the second time that EASS conference will be held in Poland, as in 2004 the conference, the second of its kind, was organised in Rzeszow. We are thus very pleased to return to Poland, especially since many of the founders of our organisation come from this country.

The special scientific event main theme is *„Sport and the world in crisis: challenges and solutions",* which captures much what is happening not only in the world of sport today, but also in many other spheres of contemporary life. Sport is seen to be more and more connected to the controversial world politics, ethics and for example in issues of (in)equality. EASS conferences offer great platforms for sport sociologists to launch and discuss research in these and other topics that observe the roles and significance of sport, physical activity and exercise in society.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the next EASS conference in June 2025, and wish you warmly welcome to Warsaw and to the EASS community of academic friends.

Warm regards,

Prof. Hanna Vehmas

President of the EASS

Greetings from the Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw Rector

Our university has a long-standing tradition of research in sport science and sport sociology. We are pleased to be collaborating with the European Association for Sociology of Sport (EASS) in organizing the 2025 EASS conference, which will be held in Warsaw at Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education. This will be the second EASS conference hosted in Poland, following the 2004 event in Rzeszów, which was the first of its kind in our country. The 2025 conference will be organized by the Department of Humanistic and Social Sciences, with the support of the Sport Sociology Section of the Polish Sociological Association.

I am confident that this will be a highly successful academic event, fostering greater international collaboration in sport sociology and sport sciences, as well as providing an excellent opportunity to visit the vibrant city of Warsaw and explore Poland.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. dr hab. Bartosz Molik

Rector of the Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw

Greetings from the local EASS 2025 Conference Organising Committee

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Józef Pilsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw, Poland is proud to host 2025 European Association for Sociology of Sport (EASS) conference. This 21st edition of this special scientific event main theme is „Sport and the world in crisis: challenges and solutions" and it will be held on 25-27 June 2025.

The conference takes place in the year of 95th anniversary of establishing our University. We believe that our long expertise in sport studies and physical education, and experience in hosting major international scientific meetings guarantees that 2025 European Association for EASS Warsaw conference will be a successful event. The foundations of modern sociology of sport were established also in Warsaw by prof. Andrzej Wohl and prof. Zbigniew Krawczyk, both honorary members of International Sport Sociology Associations (ISSA). Three out of eight EASS founding members from 2001 were also representatives of our university. We are convinced that EASS sport sociology community will feel at home in a green city of Warsaw and EASS 2025 conference will be both successful scientific and social event.

On behalf of the Organising Committee,

Dr hab. Michał Lenartowicz
EASS 2025 Head of the Organising and Scientific Committee

Keynote Speakers

Keynote Speaker - Dr Brad Millington

Brock University

Ontario, Canada

Brad Millington is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sport Management at Brock University in the Niagara region in Ontario, Canada. His research focuses on two main areas of interest: sport media and technology; and sport and environmental sustainability. Current work in this first area involves research into the implications of the rise of sports analytics for work and communication in the sport industry.

Research in the second area currently explores topics related to the climate crisis and environmental futures in sport. Brad is the author of the book, Fitness, Technology & Society: Amusing Ourselves to Life (2018), co-author of, The Greening of Golf: Sport, Globalization and the Environment (2016, with Brian Wilson), and co-editor of, Sport and the Environment: Politics and Preferred Futures (2020, with Brian Wilson). He was previously a Senior Lecturer in the Department for Health at the University of Bath, in Bath, UK.

Brad Millington[1]
[1]Brock University

Title: Sport in an age of Artificial Intelligence: From datafication to automation

Short abstract:

This presentation explores the significance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in sport. The presentation is based around three main arguments. First, the age of AI not only follows but was built on a preceding age of datafication. Sport played a significant role in the quest to obtain value through the datafication of daily life. Second, AI is at a contentious moment in its history. Generative AI technologies have inspired optimism that AI will help resolve various crises that now confront us; at the same, there is concern that AI will be a source of crisis in itself. Third, sport is a site for AI investment. Disruption looms in sport given the apparent affordances of AI applications. For example, there are potential consequences for work in sport, as AI technologies analyze data at scale and with speed and precision that far outpaces what was previously possible. In all, sport reflects and contributes to the wider age of AI. The presentation concludes with comments on the need for a sociology of sport that describes, conceptualizes, and assesses the consequences of Artificial Intelligence in sport.

Keynote Speaker – Dr Dorota Woroniecka-Krzyżanowska

Polish Academy of Sciences

Poland

Dorota Woroniecka-Krzyżanowska is a social anthropologist interested in migration, sport, urban studies and social change with geographical focus on the Middle East. She holds degrees in Arabic studies (BA) and sociology (MA) from the University of Warsaw and a PhD in social sciences from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences. She held visiting positions at the University of Oxford, Birzeit University and Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient.

Her PhD thesis focused on the relation between identity and place in the context of protracted exile, based on ethnographic study of a Palestinian refugee camp. Dorota's post-doctoral project explored the role of sport and youth centers as sites of self-governance and local participation in the West Bank, Palestine. Her current research looks into the urban and architectural transformations of Baghdad during the last two decades of the 20th century.

Dorota Woroniecka-Krzyżanowska[1]
[1]Polish Academy of Sciences

Title: The state-building role of sports clubs in Palestine

Short abstract:

For decades preceding the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in 1994, sports clubs were among the very few community-based organizations where Palestinians living in the West Bank could openly and legally participate. Other than providing sport, cultural and social activities to local populations, many developed into spaces for community organizing and political action. Establishment of the PNA triggered significant transformations in the Palestinian civil society. The majority of research on these transformations focus on the so-called professional NGOs, while dynamics on the way in more traditional forms of associational life in Palestine, such as the sports clubs, remain largely understudied. Based on extensive ethnographic fieldwork, this lecture analyzes sport clubs as laboratories of social and political change in the West Bank, exploring their potentiality as sites of self-governance, local participation, and ultimately state-building.

Keynote Speaker – Prof. Holger Preuss

Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz

Germany

Holger Preuss is a Professor of Sport Economics and Sport Sociology at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Ottawa, Canada, and an international scholar at the State University of New York (Cortland). He served as editor of the European Sport Management Quarterly (2012-2014), one of the leading journals in sport management, and is currently an associate editor for the Journal of Sport & Tourism. He has published 17 books and over 180 articles in international journals and books. In the past decade, he has been invited to deliver more than 180 presentations worldwide.

His research focuses on sustainability and socio-economic aspects of sports events. He collaborated with the federal ministry of the interior on developing a national strategy for mega sports events and contributed to high-performance sport reform. He is a consultant for the OECD regarding the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. He also was chairman of the evaluation commission on sustainability for Paris 2024. He worked with the EOC Bureau of Sports (Brussels) on a project to help NOCs in Europe implement strategic management.

Holger Preuss is a member of the IOC commission on legacy and sustainability, the UIPM (Union International Pentathlon Modern) innovation commission, and the WFDF (World Flying Disc Federation) ethics commission. Additionally, he serves as the sustainability advisor for the FISU World Games 2025.

Holger Preuss[1]
[1]Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz

Title: The World in Crisis – Disruptions and the Future of Sport

Short abstract:

The world is facing a series of overlapping crises that deeply impact all areas of life—including the world of sport. This contribution explores how sport is affected by major disruptions and megatrends and what consequences arise for its autonomy, structure, and social relevance. Instead of developing long-term scenarios, the focus is on identifying the most pressing disruptive forces and outlining their implications for sport and its stakeholders. The analysis begins with a thematic classification of relevant global dynamics along megatrends and acute disruptions. Megatrends—such as digital transformation, climate change, geopolitical shifts, and demographic transition—develop over longer timeframes but with wide-reaching impact. Disruptions, by contrast, often appear rapidly and with less predictability (wild card theory). Based on a synthesis of expert reflections and strategic trend reports, four disruption fields are identified as particularly significant: (1) technological acceleration, (2) climate change and environmental degradation, (3) demographic shifts and value change, and (4) geopolitical instability and fragmentation. The findings show that these forces are not only shaping how sport is played, consumed, and governed—they are also challenging its autonomy. The long-standing principle of sport operating and deciding (largely) independently from politics, market logics, or societal demands is increasingly under pressure. Private actors and investors, public institutions, and civil society increasingly expect sport organizations and (mis)use them to align with broader societal interests and to be accountable for their environmental, ethical (e.g., by state control), and financial conduct. This contribution aims to raise awareness of the scale and urgency of change. It speaks to a wide audience—from sport federations and athletes to researchers and you in your private live—and invites them to reflect on sport's future role in todays' world marked by volatility and uncertainty. Rather than offering definitive answers, it seeks to frame the right questions. How can stakeholders act today to shape the kind of sport they want for tomorrow?

Young Researcher Award Winner EASS 2025

Marit Hiemstra[1]
[1]Notthingham Trent University

Title: Knowing More-Than-Rationally in Safe, Healthy and Enjoyable Guided Running

Short abstract:

This paper stems from conversations about tension that runners with sight loss and sighted guides experience regarding guided running workshops, which are typically designed to promote safe and enjoyable practices. On the one hand, runners value these workshops as introductory tools that teach 'logical' principles and 'rational' approaches to safe and enjoyable guiding relationships. On the other hand, the runners recognise clear limitations: these standardised courses often leave little room for idiosyncrasy and personal familiarity, particularly in relation to 'sensing' safety, comfort, and enjoyment. Building on this tension, I situate these concerns within broader neoliberal approaches in most Global Northern public domains, where human relationships are increasingly managed, audited, and standardised. I argue that such tendencies transform elements of social life into clear, logical, and rational frameworks – ones that are accountable, auditable, and assessable through training. Drawing on conversations with runners, I illustrate how these courses necessarily tell a partial story: safety and joy in guided running arise from a complex and nuanced connection to 'more-than-rational' ways of knowing – both through rational thought and through 'sensing'. In the conclusion, I address the critical question: how can we include 'sensory knowing' in workshops on positive, pleasant and productive guided running?

Honorable Mention

Bart Bloem Herraiz[1]

[1]Univeristy of Vic

Title: "Nature is such a healing space for us": Trans people's experiences in outdoor and adventure recreation.

Short abstract:

This article examines the experiences of trans individuals in outdoor and adventure recreation, exploring how these activities shape their embodiment, empowerment, and gender transition processes. While outdoor spaces are often steeped in cisheteronormativity, participants described these environments as offering unique opportunities for self-reflection, self-confidence, and freedom from societal gendered constraints. Drawing on queer and feminist poststructuralist theories, the study interrogates how gender is constructed and performed in outdoor settings, highlighting how participants negotiate their identities in these spaces. Using a multisided ethnographic approach—including online ethnography of Instagram, on-the-move interviews, on-the-move diaries, and autoethnography—the research reveals the transformative potential of outdoor and adventure activities for fostering personal growth, gender euphoria, and resilience. Participants emphasized how outdoor activities provided a reprieve from gender surveillance, allowing them to exist outside of societal expectations and construct alternative subjectivities. The study also explores how outdoor spaces facilitate moments of connection, joy, and self-discovery, particularly during gender transitions, with activities like hiking and cycling serving as affirming practices. Despite existing barriers to access these spaces and activities, participants highlighted the therapeutic and empowering potential of the outdoors. The findings underscore the need for inclusive practices to reimagine outdoor spaces as sites of liberation and trans flourishing, advocating for a critical shift in outdoor recreation to center diverse experiences and identities. By framing outdoor environments as spaces of personal and collective transformation, this study contributes to ongoing discussions on fostering inclusivity and dismantling gendered normativities in outdoor recreation.

Keywords: outdoor sports, adventure recreation, transgender, embodiment, empowerment.

Abstracts (alphabetically ordered)

SubID: 53255004844
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Exploring the Role of Sport in Facilitating the Transition of Retired Military Personnel to Civilian Life
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and community, Sport and well-being
Author / Authors: Richard Ajiee[1], Geoff Dickson[2], Oyesoji Aremu[3], Ibrahim Akinpelu[4]
[1]Auckland University of Technology (AUT)
[2]La Trobe University
[3]University of Ibadan
[4]National Defence College

Short abstract:

The transition from military to civilian life poses psychological, social, and identity challenges (Demers, 2011; Mobbs & Bonanno, 2018). While sports enhance resilience, foster social capital, and support well-being (Caddick et al., 2015; Carless & Douglas, 2017), their role in veteran reintegration remains underexplored, particularly in Nigeria. Grounded in the Life Course Perspective (Elder, 1998), this study applies Social Capital Theory (Putnam, 2000) and Social Identity Theory (Tajfel & Turner, 2003) to examine how sports facilitate identity reconstruction and social reintegration. Despite evidence on the benefits of structured sports programs (Brittain & Green, 2012; Caddick & Smith, 2014), their application in veteran support remains limited. This study explores sports' role in Nigerian veterans' reintegration by assessing psychological benefits, social connections, and barriers to participation. Using a mixed-methods approach, it analyses data from 230 retired military personnel (30 qualitative; 200 quantitative) who transitioned within five years. The findings reveal that sports participation enhances psychological well-being by reducing stress, anxiety, depression, and PTSD symptoms while fostering routine, purpose, and resilience. It also strengthens social integration, promoting civilian relationships, peer support, and belonging. Although financial constraints, inadequate infrastructure, and societal perceptions hinder participation. The study underscores sports as a critical reintegration tool, advocating for structured, government-supported programs to enhance veteran adaptation. It advances discourse on sports as a catalyst for identity reconstruction, social capital formation, and community integration while offering evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, military, and sports administrators. Addressing policy and infrastructural barriers is essential to maximizing sports' long-term benefits in post-service transitions.
Keywords: social impact of sport, sport for social inclusion, social capital, sport and military, veteran sport

SubID: 21302006579
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Experiences of belonging and discrimination in club sports
Topic: Social justice in sport and physical activity, Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and human rights
Author / Authors: Katrin Albert[1], Ulrike Burrmann[1]
[1]Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Short abstract:

Sports clubs are seen as having great potential to enhance social integration and belonging. However, they are also repeatedly the scene of discrimination. There are a few studies on discrimination in sports clubs (e. g. Denison, Bevan & Jeanes, 2021). Studies that consider belonging and discrimination, as well as multiple grounds of discrimination simultaneously and in their interconnectedness, are rare. This is where our study comes in. The aim was to examine the relationships between belonging and discrimination characteristics, taking into account structural and cultural aspects of sports clubs. We conducted a multi-stage quantitative online survey with 147 club executives (organization survey) and 1593 members (member survey) in Berlin sports clubs. The sample is heterogeneous (e. g. discrimination characteristics, sports, performance areas, club size). Among the 28% of members who had experienced discrimination, diverse people were particularly affected. The same applies to the chronically ill, the disabled, people without German citizenship and BIPoC. Experiences of discrimination in the area of material disadvantages and social degradation are mentioned most frequently. The less the association is perceived as a place of co-determination, the more often experiences of discrimination occur. These and other results are discussed critically with regard to existing findings and the methodological approach. Recommendations for action are outlined.
Denison, E., Bevan, N., & Jeanes, R. (2021). Reviewing evidence of LGBTQ+ discrimination and exclusion in sport. Sport Management Review, 24(3), 389-409.

Keywords: discrimination, sports clubs, quantitative survey

SubID: 95859014648
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: 'We are in the stadium; our husbands are in the mall with the children.': Saudi Female Football Fans as Agents of Social Change.
Topic: Sport and gender
Author / Authors: Kyra Margarete Angerer[1], Abdulelah AlNogemi[2]
[1]University of South-Eastern Norway; Saudi Arabian Football Federation - Institute of Research
[2]/

Short abstract:

This paper explores the pivotal role of female fandom in social change and gender reforms in contemporary Saudi Arabia. As part of the government programme Saudi Vision 2030, women were granted permission to enter stadiums across the Kingdom from 2017 onwards. In this paper, the authors explore the historical evidence of female fandom in Saudi Arabia prior 2017, and perspectives of female fans in contemporary Saudi Arabia. For this, firstly archival material of female fandom in Saudi Arabia has been collected and reviewed. Secondly, interviews with eight Saudi women who attended men's matches of the Saudi Pro League in 2024 were conducted to understand their motivations, agency and development of their fan identity. The findings were noteworthy, illuminating how female fans transcend conventional gender roles and masculine norms within the context of football. The analysis revealed that Saudi female fans coalesce into a collective identity, departing from a primarily individual engagement with the activity. Furthermore, the study noted a shift in the nature of fandom, transitioning from a predominantly two folded global or local, and largely private, domain to a predominantly solely local one. These changes underscore the role of female fandom in facilitating the navigation and transcendence of gendered roles by Saudi women, who act collectively in various spaces. The authors recommended that future research explores the role of female fans in societal processes of change in different contexts, as the case of female fandom reveals important perspectives on agency, identity building, and gender roles.

Keywords: female fandom, social change, gender, Saudi Arabia

SubID: 95859001444
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: How the practice of writing a training journal influences young athletes' identity
Topic: Sport, nation and identities
Author / Authors: Pål Augestad[1]
[1]University of South-Eastern Norway

Short abstract:

In this paper we investigate whether the practice of writing training journals can shed light on the process whereby young cross-country skiers are transformed from promising talents into serious, committed athletes. The aim is thus to uncover the mechanisms that help create and reinforce an elite sports identity. Journal writing can be understood as a project of subjectification, whereby the discourses place an athlete in certain positions that then imply particular expectations as to how the athlete will behave. In order to understand the subjectification process, we use what Michael Foucault called the technologies of the self, that is, the discourses and practices that individuals use when working on themselves. This paper is based on qualitative interviews with 5 cross-country coaches, and 10 athletes for whom these coaches were responsible. All the athletes we interviewed are regarded as dedicated, promising, and talented cross-country skiers. We focus on the cross-country skiers' attitudes to planning their training sessions and keeping a journal. We found that in the process of creating an identity, the practice of writing a training journal plays a vital role for cross-country skiers. The journal creates both an inner dialogue and an athlete–coach dialogue that shape the skier's mentality and choices.
Through these dialogues, skiers are transformed from promising talents to serious, dedicated athletes, and they change their outlook on both themselves and their choices by assuming this position.

Keywords: identity, Foucault, training journal, subjectification

SubID: 53255012879
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Cultural Influences on Migrant Youth Sport and PA Participation: Insights from Du Bois' Double Consciousness
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Youth sport, Sport and migration
Author / Authors: Selçuk Açıkgöz[1]
[1]Department of Sport Management, Faculty of Sport Sciences, Ege University

Short abstract:

Previous research examines significant changes in sport and physical activity (PA) participation among young people across different geographic contexts. These changes are often analysed through population research, where general trends and participation rates are evaluated, treating young people as a homogenous group. As a result, the reasons behind youth disengagement from sport and PA remain largely unknown. This knowledge gap becomes even more pronounced when considering migrant youth, their preferences, and their (self-)exclusion from sport and PA participation. In this discussion, I present a theoretical framework of a research project to share my assumptions about the sport and PA preferences of migrant youth and the extent to which their cultural identities influence their participation trends. Building on previous research, the discussion will specifically focus on the importance of young people's agency in shaping their preferences and overall (self-)exclusion from sport and PA. Employing Du Bois' (1903) concept of double consciousness, I discuss the possible effects of multiple cultural identities among migrant youth on social integration in sport. Additionally, I plan to talk about the theoretical implications of double consciousness in shaping identity negotiation, access to sport spaces, and policy measures aimed at fostering inclusivity in youth sport participation.

Keywords: sport, social inclusion, physical activity, youth, migration

SubID: 63906007605
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Challenging the Status Quo: Female Coaches in Croatian Football
Topic: Sport and gender
Author / Authors: Sunčica Bartoluci[1], Mojca Doupona[2]
[1]University of Zagreb Faculty of Kinesiology
[2]University of Ljubljana Faculty of Sport

Short abstract:

Despite a significant rise in women's participation in sports over the past 50 years, coaching remains a male-dominated field across all performance levels. Female coaches worldwide struggle for recognition, inclusion, funding, and respect. Football, in particular, has historically been a male stronghold, where women—both in Croatia and globally—face discrimination on multiple levels. The sport's exclusionary history and the dominant roles of men have reinforced male hegemony in football. This study draws on LaVoi and Dutove's (2012) ecological model to examine the organizational and sociocultural barriers and supports for women coaches. Additionally, it applies Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory to provide a comprehensive analysis of the experiences of female coaches in Croatian women's football. Through semi-structured in-depth interviews (n = 5) with elite-level female coaches in Croatia, the study explores the challenges they face in their professional development within a heavily gendered football culture and society. The findings reveal that Croatian female coaches navigate a complex web of challenges shaped by deeply ingrained socio-cultural norms and the perception of football as a 'masculine' domain. These difficulties are further intensified by broader societal shifts, including the resurgence of conservative identities and gender re-traditionalization. Together, these factors contribute to rigidly gendered football culture that exacerbates the barriers female coaches encounter.

Keywords: female coaches, football, Croatia

SubID: 21302005288
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Factors that determine the level of participation in sport and exercise – a comparative study of European countries
Topic: Sport, politics and policy
Author / Authors: Nils Asle Bergsgard[1]
[1]University of South Eastern Norway

Short abstract:

There is a growing emphasis by both the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Union (EU) to increase the level of physical activity in the population. This is driven by the assumption that such activity confers health benefits. Consequently, the policy of increasing participation in sport and exercise has been accorded a higher priority on the agendas. This paper will present a descriptive and analytical account of the impact of public expenditure on sporting services on the participation rate in sport and exercise at the EU level. Moreover, I will introduce potential mediating variables, such as employment in sports services, access to recreational areas, and membership in sports clubs, and confounding variables, such as quality of governance, wealth, and educational level, to further elucidate the factors that can explain the participation rate. The analysis will draw upon data from a range of sources, including Eurostat, Eurobarometer and Eurofund. The findings will be discussed in the context of other relevant studies that examine the impact of different sports policy models on the prevalence of sports and exercise in the population. Of particular interest will be the question of the relevance of welfare regimes and sport policy governance on sport performance.

Keywords: sport participant, comparison, sport policy, other factors

SubID: 74557006844
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Sports Participation Preferences Among Individuals with ADHD/ADD: Insights from the 'Moving Denmark' Survey 2020
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and public health, Sport and disability

Author / Authors: Michael Bertelsen[1]
[1]The Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, Research Unit of Active Living, University of Southern Denmark

Short abstract:

Introduction & Objectives:
To foster inclusive physical activity opportunities, it is essential to understand differences in sports participation preferences across population subgroups. This study examines sports participation patterns among individuals with ADHD/ADD compared to a matched control group.
Methods:
Data from the Moving Denmark 2020 survey, which collected responses from 163,000 Danish citizens aged 15 and older (response rate: 40%), were analyzed. Among those who engaged in sports at least once per month, individuals with self-reported ADHD/ADD (n = 1,424) were matched to a control group (n = 4,272) by age and gender using propensity score matching (3:1). Logistic regression models assessed differences in sports participation, with multiple comparisons adjusted using the Benjamini-Hochberg method.
Findings:
Individuals with ADHD/ADD were significantly more likely to engage in Live Action Role-Playing (OR = 2.66, 95% CI: 1.33–5.35), Roller Skating (OR = 1.79, 1.29–2.50), Kick-Scooters/BMX (OR = 1.73, 1.15–2.62), Martial Arts (OR = 1.51, 1.10–2.07), and Fishing (OR = 1.53, 1.24–1.89). Conversely, they were significantly less likely to participate in Handball (OR = 0.59, 0.41–0.84), Football (OR = 0.58, 0.49–0.70), Running/Jogging (OR = 0.48, 0.43–0.55), Spinning (OR = 0.45, 0.31–0.65), and Tennis (OR = 0.49, 0.32–0.76).
Conclusions & Relevance:
Findings suggest that individuals with ADHD/ADD prefer dynamic, skill-based, and non-repetitive activities over structured endurance and team sports, which dominate broader population trends. These insights underscore the need for alternative sports environments that better accommodate neurodivergent engagement

Keywords: ADHD, sports participation, neurodiversity, social inclusion, physical activity, alternative sports, public health.

SubID: 42604011048
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Transnationalism, Ethnic Identity, and Sports Media: Transylvanian Hungarian Ice Hockey in a Shifting Global Context
Topic: Sport and media, Sport, nation and identities

Author / Authors: Orsolya Bogdany[1], Tamás Dóczi[1]
[1]Hungarian University of Sports Science

Short abstract:

This paper explores how transnationalism and ethnic identity are mirrored in the sports media representations of Romanian-Hungarian ice hockey relations, which are defined by the fact that the centrum of the sport in Romania is a region inhabited by ethnic Hungarians, who make up the majority of the national team. In an era of global restlessness and geopolitical uncertainty, sports diplomacy has the potential to initiate dialogue, yet media narratives often reinforce historical grievances and nationalistic divides. This study uses a mixed-method approach, employing qualitative content analysis and critical discourse analysis of Hungarian, Romanian and ethnic Hungarian media from Romania, including social media platforms and sport news outlets, to analyze how ice hockey is presented within national and transnational discourses. The findings indicate that Hungarian media, including Transylvanian ethnic Hungarian sources, frequently emphasize cultural continuity and national pride, portraying Transylvanian teams as an extension of Hungarian sports identity thus leaning into historical nostalgia and irredentism. In contrast, Romanian media tends to frame ethnic Hungarian players within a nationalist context, at times questioning their loyalty to the Romanian flag. In spite of these polarized representations, social media engagement highlights a potential for ice hockey to bridge interethnic divisions, as fans from both communities express shared enthusiasm and respect for athletic performances. By contextualizing these media dynamics within the framework of transnationalism, this study raises critical questions: can transnational sports identities challenge the rigidity of nationalist narratives? How can sports journalism offer more solution-oriented approaches to support reconciliation?

Keywords: transnationalism, sports media, nationalism, ice hockey, sports diplomacy, Hungarian-Romanian relations

SubID: 31953006728
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Exploring Football Fan Activism Globally
Topic: Sports spectatorship and fandom
Author / Authors: Christian Brandt[1], Bernardo Buarque de Hollanda[2], Jimmy Medeiros[2]
[1]BaySpo - Bayreuth Center of Sport Science
[2]School of Social Sciences of the Fundação Getúlio Vargas

Short abstract:

Introduction
In recent years, social scientists across Europe have investigated fan protests and activism in response to different crisis. A limitation of recent research is its focus on single or few cases. This presentation, therefore, compares fan activism globally.
Aims
This presentation explores the characteristics of football fan activism from a global perspective. It examines general fan characteristics, reasons for activism, organizational aspects, and related tactics.
Method
The study is based on a comparative quantitative survey, including open questions, conducted with local experts (researchers) about their local fans in the summer of 2024. The sample includes 72 experts from 50 countries worldwide. The results were descriptively analysed, and patterns were subsequently elaborated.
Research Findings
The majority of activism is related to atmosphere (76%) and experience (76%), based on Numerato's taxonomy (2017). While fans are described as having weak influence on football governance (66%), they are seen as being critical to developments in football (76%). 79% of the experts describe fan cooperation to achieve higher goals. In cases of cooperation, fans mainly use separate actions to achieve common goals. An examination are petitions, as more joint than separated petitions exist. Central organizations involved in protests exist only in a few countries. The presentation will also introduce an empirically based taxonomy of fan activism.
Conclusions
Fans are globally characterized as critical, and football fan activism is common worldwide. Their protest is characterized by similar tactics and styles globally.

Keywords: soccer, social movement, protest

SubID: 42604003608
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Value socialisation in club-based youth sport
Topic: Youth sport, Sport Organisations Research Network (SORN) specific session
Author / Authors: Ulrike Burrmann[1], Siegfried Nagel[2]
[1]Humboldt-Universität Berlin
[2]University of Bern

Short abstract:

A successful life and coexistence in modern societies is based on a "critical mass" of people having the ability and willingness to judge and act morally (Ammann et al., 2024). The relevance of club sport for the imparting of values arises, firstly, from the high number of young people who are members of a club. Secondly, against the background of social megatrends, increasing educational requirements can only be mastered by also including non-formal contexts. The project is concerned with the question to what extent sports clubs impart intrinsic sports values (fairness, democratic, socially integrative values) and thus contribute to the successful value socialisation of youths. Determining factors at the individual and club level are identified in order to uncover systematic relationships between conditions in the clubs and the values of young members. The empirical study is designed on the basis of socialisation theory and a systematic literature review (Burrmann & Konowalczyk, 2020). It covers a mixed-method study and includes standardised written surveys of young club members, coaches and club boards, as well as qualitative interviews and observations in the sport clubs. The quantitative data is analysed with multilevel statistical methods, the qualitative data using a content-structuring qualitative analysis. The presentation will introduce and discuss the theoretical and methodological framework of the planned research project.
Ammann et al. (2024). Bildsamkeit – Komplexität – Werteorientierung. Klinkhardt.
Burrmann, U. & Konowalczyk, S. (2020). Prosoziale Werte und Werthaltungen im Sport. In C. Breuer et al. (Hrsg.), Vierter Deutscher Kinder- und Jugendsportbericht (280-306). Hofmann.

Keywords: club sport, value socialisation, youth

SubID: 85208002667
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Hindering and promoting conditions of female referring in Swiss football
Topic: Sport Organisations Research Network (SORN) specific session
Author / Authors: Matthias Buser[1], Siegfried Nagel[1]
[1]University of Bern

Short abstract:

Women are underrepresented in Swiss football refereeing. While around 12% of licensed footballers are female, only 2.5% of referees are women. In male dominated sports, reasons for low female participation are often found at organisational levels of sport federations and clubs, such as missing female role models or the prevalence of gender stereotypes. Therefore, the question arises to what extend female underrepresentation in Swiss refereeing can be connected to organisational structures of Swiss football federations and clubs?
Studies have shown that expectations regarding referee authority in football only differ marginally with referees' gender. Furthermore, both genders experience threats and violence on the pitch. Women also become victims of sexism. However, studies systematically analysing women's experiences in and expectations towards footballs' refereeing system are missing. Our analysis is based on the project "Promoting female referees in Swiss football - analysis of individual and structural factors" (cooperation Swiss Football Association and the University of Bern). It analyses hindering and promoting conditions of female refereeing in Swiss football. For this, quantitative and qualitative interviews are conducted with interested women (intenders) as well as existing and former referees (dropouts).
Data will be collected in spring 2025 and first results will be presented at the conference. They will give insights into women's expectations towards and experiences in the referee system and the role of organisational barriers such as an authoritarian culture or gender stereotypes in refereeing and football in general.

Keywords: refereeing, women, football, sport federation, sport club

SubID: 21302005244
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Making sport work – professionalisation and payment in the Swedish sports sector
Topic: Sport business and management
Author / Authors: Åsa Bäckström[1]
[1]GIH Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences/University of Gävle

Short abstract:

Many sectors in current Western societies depend on both paid and unpaid labour, one being the sports sector, where both athlete millionaires and voluntary labour co-exist. Although unpaid labour may be determined as what makes the sports sector work, this sector is extensively expanding in paid labour, both professionalising and commercialising the field. Although the form of organized sport in Scandinavia differs from other countries in that it is primarily built on voluntary sports, mainly with a monopoly on competitive sports and substantial involvement from the governments, the two interlinked processes of professionalisation and commercialisation are increasingly present in this sector even in a Scandinavian country like Sweden. This study aimed to explore how occupations and salaries in the Swedish sports sector are impacted by background factors such as educational level, gender and private/public sector. Existing data from official sources were used. Contributing to international research in the sociology of profession and sport, this project sheds light on what types of work render economic value in parts of the Swedish sports sector, simultaneously highlighting professional and educational value. The study shows that some types of labour count as work more than others; however, the existing data is insufficient. Owing to the sector's complexity and various ways of measuring labour, an overview of the many forms of employment and remuneration in this sector is challenging to form.

Keywords: professionalization, work

SubID: 63906004869
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Finding belonging at the baseball field: A study of diasporic belonging through sport narratives
Topic: Sport, nation and identities, Sport and colonialism, Sport, race and ethnicity

Author / Authors: Lis Camelia[1], Agnes Elling[2], Manou Anselma[2], Jacco Van Sterkenburg[3], Arne Van Lienden[4]
[1]Erasmus Univesity
[2]Mulier Instituut
[3]Erasmus university
[4]Erasmus University

Short abstract:

The Dutch Caribbean diaspora remains a 'forgotten' community within the Dutch cultural memory (Wekker 2016). However, this diaspora is over-represented in and around the Dutch fields of baseball and softball. This paradox of hypervisibility and invisibility creates an interesting ground for understanding process of alternative belonging. Thus, through a post-colonial lens, this research tries to understand the negotiations of belonging that occur within and around baseball/softball fields in the Netherlands. Particularly, how people from the Dutch Caribbean Diaspora (mainly from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) find belonging in these spaces. Through ethnographic research, we spoke and observed players, coaches and leaders in this space. We gathered how they build community, find safety and deal with exclusionary experiences within wider society. This research serves as a case study to understand how Caribbean diaspora(s) create space for themselves in European nations. It will look at the role of (sport) narratives, representation and accountability in the process of belonging and tries to capture the constant push and pull that occur when people talk about who they are and where they belong. It will also try to understand the boundaries that people assign to their community and how these boundaries clash/align with the ideas of 'Caribbean-ness', 'Dutch-ness' and their intersections.

Keywords: belonging, diaspora, post coloniality, resilience, home-building

SubID: 95859002008
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The Impact of Benevolent and Authoritarianism Leadership on Organizational Citizenship Behavior: The Mediating Effect of Leader-Member Relationship Quality and the Moderating Effect of Moral Leadership
Topic: Sport organization and governance, Sport, climate, change and sustainability

Author / Authors: Chi Chang[1], Chih-fu Cheng[2], Kuo-feng Tseng[3]
[1]National Taiwan Normal University/Assistant Professor
[2]National Taiwan Normal University/Distinguished Professor
[3]National Taiwan Normal University

Short abstract:

This study investigates the impact of university volleyball coaches' benevolent, dominance-focused authoritarianism, and discipline-focused authoritarianism leadership styles on players' organizational citizenship behavior (OCB). It further examines the mediating role of leader-member relationship quality and the moderating effect of coaches' moral leadership. Data were collected using purposive sampling from 193 athletes participating in the 2020-2021 University Volleyball League in Taiwan (Division I Men's and Women's Open). The data were analyzed using SPSS 22.0, Process 4.0, and AMOS 23 to test the research hypotheses. The results revealed three key findings: (1) Benevolent and discipline-focused authoritarianism leadership were positively associated with OCB, while dominance-focused authoritarianism showed a negative association. (2) The leader-member relationship quality fully mediated the relationship between benevolent and dominance-focused authoritarianism leadership and OCB. In contrast, it partially mediated the relationship between discipline-focused authoritarianism leadership and OCB. (3) Moral leadership positively moderated the relationship between benevolent leadership and OCB, had no moderating effect under dominance-focused authoritarianism, and negatively moderated the impact of discipline-focused authoritarianism leadership. These findings contribute to the theoretical refinement of the ternary coaching leadership model, offering new insights into the dual-dimensional effects of authoritarian leadership by distinguishing its differential impacts on team dynamics and player motivation. Moreover, the study provides practical implications for enhancing leadership effectiveness in competitive sports by guiding organizations to adopt more effective coaching and management strategies.

Keywords: paternalistic leadership, coaches' leadership, sport team

SubID: 95859006328
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: An Examination of Gender and Social Identity Amongst 'Tomboy' Athletes in China
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and sexuality, Sport and gender

Author / Authors: Mengqiu Chang[1]
[1]School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences

Short abstract:

Tomboy is a term used to describe a girl or young woman who is perceived to have traditionally masculine characteristics. Tomboyism challenges traditional gender norms by showcasing female individuals with characteristics typically associated with masculinity, such as athleticism and androgyny. This phenomenon is particularly salient in the context of Chinese society and culture, where deeply rooted Confucian values and traditional ideologies contribute to persistent gender biases and inequality. The tomboy athlete navigates the intersection of gender identity and traditional perceptions of sport, providing an insightful perspective on the study of gender dynamics in a traditionally male-dominated field. This research investigates the construction of tomboy athletes' personal images, public perceptions within the framework of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the broader implications for their gender and social identities. Drawing on feminist theory, sport sociology theory and Chinese feminism theory, this study incorporates tomboyism into the unique cultural and historical context of mainland China through feminist methodology. The analysis highlights the potential of sport as a medium for empowering women, challenging gender stereotypes, and fostering progress toward gender equality. This study lays the foundation for understanding the evolving roles of gender, tomboyism and feminism in the changing gender landscape in China, contributing to the global discourse on gender diversity and inclusion in sport.

Keywords: tomboy, tomboyism, feminism, gender indentity

SubID: 63906003846
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The development and evolution of sport for everyone policy in Taiwan
Topic: Sport, politics and policy, Sport, climate, change and sustainability
Author / Authors: I-fan Chen[1], Chih-fu Cheng[1], I-wei Chung[1]
[1]Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences, National Taiwan Normal University

Short abstract:

The Taiwan government uses "Health and Excellence" as the main policy axis, which is implemented by the central and local governments to make the policy effective. This study is based on the incremental model, and document analysis was used to explore the development of Taiwan's national sports policy. It started with the implementation of "community sports" in 1973, following with the "Sunshine Fitness Project" allowed people to develop an interest in sports through participation in activities from 1997. In 2001, the number of people participating in sports was doubled to integrate sports into daily life. Moreover, the concept of a “Sports Island” was adopted to provide diversified sports through sports clubs in 2010. From 2016, the "Sports Taiwan Project" and its 2.0 version were also launched in response to technological development. The plan is updated based on implementation by local governments and non-governmental organizations. According to the research findings and survey data showed that Taiwan's sports population has jumped from 15% in 2000 to 34.5% in 2024. Under policy guidance, people have increased their awareness of sports and developed exercise habits. It is suggested that the government’s future planning of national sports policies must respond to the public’s increased health awareness, integrate resources across domains, provide convenience to the public, optimize sports opportunities and improve the quality of life.

Keywords: sports for all、sports for all policy、incremental model

SubID: 21302006517
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The Key Winning Factors for NBA by Using Basketball Box Score Analysis
Topic: Sport business and management, Elite and mass sport events
Author / Authors: Yu Chieh Chen[1], Jye Shyan Wang[1], Shao Hsi Chang[1]
[1]National Taiwan Normal University, College of Sports and Recreation, Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences

Short abstract:

Introduction: This study examines key success factors (KSF) influencing game outcomes in the NBA over 20 seasons (2004-05 to 2023-24). Methods: Box Score data were analyzed using k-means clustering to classify games into four contexts based on point differential: (1) all games, (2) close games (<11 points), (3) balanced games (12–23 points), and (4) unbalanced games (>24 points). Statistical methods included independent samples t-tests, Pearson correlation, and Classification and Regression Tree (CRT) modeling, with Cohen's d effect sizes quantifying differences in key game statistics such as defensive rebounds, assists, field goals, and free throws. Results: Defensive rebounds were a significant predictor of game outcomes across all contexts, particularly in close games . In balanced and unbalanced games, assists became the primary splitting variable in CRT models, indicating a shift toward team-oriented strategies. Two-point field goals were consistently influential, while the impact of three-pointers varied by context. Free throw attempts had a greater influence on outcomes than free throw percentage. Conclusion: This study highlights the context-dependent nature of KSF in NBA games, demonstrating the value of integrating traditional statistics with machine learning. Limitations include reliance on box score data and the exclusive use of CRT modeling, which could be enhanced with additional machine learning approaches.

Keywords: NBA, KSF, basketball analytics, CRT

SubID: 53255003524
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The Impact of Paris Olympics Green Advertising on Audience Response: Examining the Mediating Role of Value Co-creation Experience
Topic: Sport, climate, change and sustainability
Author / Authors: I Wei Chung[1], Chih Fu Cheng[1], I Fan Chen[1]
[1]Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences/National Taiwan Normal University

Short abstract:

Introduction: In the unique context of sporting events, leveraging advertising to enhance consumers' perception of green brand attributes has become critical for organizations pursuing sustainability goals, particularly in the sports industry. This study proposes an integrated framework combining Service-dominant logic and theory of Planned Behavior to examine how green brand attitudes influence subsequent behavior through the mediating mechanism of value co-creation experiences.
Objectives: This study aims to analyze whether the 2024 Paris Olympics' green advertising interventions can generate positive green brand attitudes among sports event consumers. Furthermore, it examines the impact of green brand attitudes on pro-environmental behavioral intention, with value co-creation experience as a mediating variable.
Research methods: A total of 210 participants were recruited, and PLS-SEM was applied to test the conceptual mode.
Research findings: The findings demonstrate that green advertising interventions positively affects green brand attitudes, and value co-creation experiences partially mediates the relationship between green brand attitudes and pro-environmental behavioral intention.
Conclusions: This study confirms the positive impact of green advertising on consumers' green brand attitudes and establishes value co-creation experiences as a crucial underlying mechanism in the relationship between green brand attitudes and pro-environmental behavior.

Keywords: service-dominant logic, theory of planned behavior, value co-creation experience

SubID: 63906000666
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: "Uchidachi; shidachi: Hajime!": Martial Arts as interpreted heritage, the case for Kendo Kata
Topic: Sport and the body, Sport, nation and identities, Sport and social theory
Author / Authors: Sebastián Chávez-Hernández[1]
[1]Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

Short abstract:

Introduction: Kendo (contemporary Japanese fencing) is a discipline were two combatants try to score a maximum of two ippon (points) onto each other. As part their training, kendoka (practitioners) learn the hypothetic use of a live blade in kata (forms). These kata have a direct link with the history of Japanese swordsmanship, however little attention has been put on how their meaning as vessels of history and culture is constructed in quotidian practice. **Aims:** Thusly, this presentation aims at proposing and characterizing Kendo kata as means for representing an imagined and mostly bottom-up heritage on Kendo culture. **Research methods:** Throught participant observation that took place between October 2021 to June 2023, and documentary review starting in November 2021 to date, field notes and relevant literature were analyzed by inductive categorization and data triangulation. **Research findings:** Kendo kata is heavily reliant on the construction of a "kendistic" habitus by kendoka, which is formed by constant socialization of the principles of use of the Japanese sabre, etiquette and the application of these techniques in combat. The hierarchies among practitioners (masters, instructors and learners) complement each other by transmitting the teachings that have been -arguably- passed down generation to generation, instructor to instructor, hence interpreting their own experience and understanding as part of the official way to perform and conceptualize these forms.
Conclusions and contributions: Therefore, kendoka collectively (re)create and activate symbols that become the identity of kendo kata, thus performing heritage, which allows expanding this approach to other martial arts and sports,

Keywords: combat sports, culture, habitus

SubID: 95859013608
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Symbolic frontiers in accessing Physical Activity and Sport by People with Physical Disabilities
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and disability, Sport and social theory

Author / Authors: Sebastián Chávez-Hernández[1], Javier Pérez-Tejero[1]
[1]Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

Short abstract:

Introduction: In Spain, people with physical disabilities (PWPD) still faces a number of challenges when incorporating to physical activity. However, current deeper sociological reflection is lacking, as for the use of Bourdieuian theory.
Aims: Thusly, this presentation aims at interpreting motives and barriers for the practices of physical activity in Spain (Madrid) from a Bourdieuian perspective, namely through the concepts of cultural and symbolic capital.
Theoretical experiences: This elucidation has been drawn from previous application of the Motives for Physical Activity Measure - Revised questionnaire (MPAM-R) and Behavioral Regulation in Exercise Questionnaire-2 (BREQ-2), in combination with critical reflections based on their results over PWPD resident in the region of Madrid who practised and not practised PA, respectively for every questionnaire.
Implications: the main motives for the practice of PA were being fit and enjoying it, while most salient barriers were related to infrastructural individualistic conditions. PWPD did not felt pressured by their context to engage in exercise. Thusly, it could be theorized that external agents attribute meanings to what PA for PWPD represents, namely, a tension between this collective not considering their life-trajectory an obstacle to engage in physical culture, while at the same time not commonly accumulating enough physical education and interactions, nor a life-style that compensates and motivates their social surroundings to facilitate their physical participation, plus not avoiding exotizicing overly-enthusiast promotions.
Conclusions: Hence, PWPD collectively face symbolic barriers both direct and indirect barriers from their local context that tense their access to PA and embodied physical culture.

Keywords: symbolic capital, sport, exercise, habitus

SubID: 53255008526
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Motivations and Barriers for Youth Sports Participation in Lithuania
Topic: Youth sport
Author / Authors: Vilma Cingiene[1], Monika Adomaitiene[2]
[1]National Sports Agency, Mykolas Romeris University
[2]National Sports Agency

Short abstract:

In many countries, including Lithuania, the decline in participation in sport is worrying, especially for young people. It is the responsibility of the state to formulate and implement data-driven sport policy decisions. The National Sport Agency conducted study about the motivations and barriers to youth participation in sport aiming the increase of sport participation. Lithuanian youth aged 7–17 (totally 405) were surveyed across 111 sampling points, based on gender, age, location size, and region in October-November 20, 2024. The survey method was face-to-face interviews conducted at respondents' homes. Almost half (48,1%) of the respondents choose cycling, while one in three (33,8%) attended organized sports activities. Boys are more physically active than girls in both activities. Cycling was equally popular among children from both urban and rural areas, but sports training attendance was 20% higher among urban children. Health was the main motivation for engaging in sports (42%), particularly among 15–17-year-olds. More than half (54%) of youth who do not participate in sports saw no need or purpose in being physically active, especially in the oldest age group (15–17 years). Additionally, one in five (19,7%) reported disliking sports. Both of these tendencies were more common among girls than boys. The main factors that could encourage youth to become more physically active included having more free time, as well as support from friends and family members. Access to sports training opportunities remains a pressing issue. Girls tend to be less active, regardless of age or location.

Keywords: youth, sports participation, youth sport

SubID: 74557008728
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Designing a Self-Assessment Tool for Environmental Sustainability in Mediterranean Sports Organizations
Topic: Sport, climate, change and sustainability
Author / Authors: Federica Comazzi[1], Chiara D'Angelo[1]
[1]Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano

Short abstract:

This paper presents the development and validation of a set of process indicators aimed at assessing the environmental sustainability of European sports organizations in the Mediterranean region. These indicators can/will serve as a self-assessment tool, enabling sports organizations to reflect on their sustainability practices while offering actionable recommendations tailored to their specific contexts. The framework for this tool is grounded in the principles of Transformative Learning as applied to organizational settings. The indicators used in this research originated from a previous study which explored the extent to which sports organizations engaged in environmental sustainability and the integration of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the organization's operations. For the purpose of this research, the indicators were further refined through 6 semi-structured interviews with experts. The inclusion criteria were people with deep expertise in environmentally sustainable community/organisations, environmental sustainability in sports management, and/or knowledge of qualitative methodology validation. This process ensures that the resulting indicators are both relevant and practical for the target organizations, facilitating meaningful reflection and urging change towards more sustainable practices.

Keywords: sport ecology, environmental sustainability, agenda 2030, organisational learning, sustainable management

SubID: 31953004689
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Racism and policy responses in Dutch football: A critical evaluation
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport, race and ethnicity

Author / Authors: Rens Cremers[1], Arne Van Lienden[2], Agnes Elling[3], Jacco Van Sterkenburg[4]
Mulier Institute / Erasmus University Rotterdam
[2]Erasmus University Rotterdam/ Radboud University
[3]Mulier Institute
[4]Erasmus University Rotterdam

Short abstract:

Football in the Netherlands is often seen as a meritocratic and colour-blind space. Yet recent high-profile racist incidents have renewed attention to racism, prompting an action plan to combat discrimination. The plan focuses on prevention, identifying racist behaviour, and sanctioning perpetrators. However, it overlooks institutional racism and structural inequalities, such as the lack of racial/ethnic diversity in coaching, governance, and operational roles. Only later did the Dutch Football Association introduce a plan to address its own organisational diversity, without extending this to football clubs.

This research explores the complex dimensions of racism within Dutch football. From a Cultural Studies and Critical Race Theory perspective, it provides a concise overview and critical analysis of the development of anti-racism policies. This is followed by a detailed examination of contemporary measures and how they differ from previous policies. Additionally, it focuses on whether a division can be observed in Dutch football policy: to what extent are racist comments and chants perceived as the 'real' racism that must be eradicated, while institutional and structural inequalities in Dutch football are framed as merely diversity issues, with no one to blame? The findings highlight persistent challenges and gaps in effectively tackling racial discrimination, offering insights into the complex relationship between football, social dynamics, and policymaking. It also examines the role of recognising and acknowledging racism within this context. Additionally, the research explores how sports policies align with broader social and political trends in the Netherlands.

Keywords: racism, football, institutional inequalities, policy analysis

SubID: 63906015219
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: From the Bench to the Field: Breaking the Growth Logic in Youth Grassroots Football to Reclaim Play, Community, and Autonomy.
Topic: Sport and social change, Youth sport, Sport, climate, change and sustainability

Author / Authors: Zsombor Csuport[1]
[1]Corvinus University of Budapest

Short abstract:

This research critically analyses the professionalisation and commodification of youth grassroots football through a Degrowth lens, emphasising the implications for strong sustainability, social justice, and community well-being. Although grassroots football has historically been associated with inclusivity, play, and community development, it is increasingly influenced by the logic of elite football, which places a higher value on talent acquisition, performance, and competition. This study investigates how neoliberal (and capitalist) ideals permeate grassroots youth football, impacting stakeholder's experiences and strengthening exclusionary practices that compromise the sport's social purpose. Using a thematic analysis methodology supported by a critical realism approach, the study examined six semi-structured interviews with important figures in the Hungarian youth grassroots football scene. To represent a broad spectrum of stakeholders, the participants in question included coaches, parents, players, and club leaders. The findings reveal three main tensions: (1) grassroots football as a space of inclusivity and play, (2) elite football's systemic pressures on grassroots structures, and (3) the wider capitalist logic embedding competition and performance metrics in youth sport. By applying a Degrowth/Strong Sustainability framework, this study advocates for a reimagined grassroots model that prioritizes non-competitive, community-centred play over elite-driven pathways. To prevent marginalisation and create opportunities for all, recommendations include decoupling grassroots initiatives from elite academies, promoting informal play and fostering policies supporting inclusivity and well-being in youth football. This research adds to the growing discourse on sport and sustainability by providing a critical intervention into the neoliberalisation of youth sport and promoting alternative, post-growth models of sporting engagement.

Keywords: youth football, grassroots sports, Degrowth, elite football

SubID: 21302002406
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: How to narrate the Paralympics? The perspective of Italian media professionals
Topic: Sport and media, Olympic studies, Sport and disability
Author / Authors: Paolo Diana[1], Valentina D'Auria[1]
[1]University of Salerno

Short abstract:

Recent years have seen an increase in the media attention and popularity of the Paralympic Games within our society (Brittain & Beacom, 2016), leading to their emergence as a global sporting event. This phenomenon has conveyed a significant message: para-athletes are first and foremost athletes, competing in elite competitions capable of engaging a broad audience. Nevertheless, the media discourse surrounding Paralympic athletes has been characterized by the presence of stereotypes, frequently associated with portrayals that accentuate disability as a form of superpower (Silva & Howe, 2012) or that employ language that can be reductive or paradoxical (Purdue & Howe, 2012).This study explores the perspectives of 15 Italian media professionals (including journalists, photographers, technical commentators and cameramen) who worked on the coverage of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games for major national newspapers. The study employs qualitative interviews to achieve the following objectives: to analyse current practices of representation, to understand how the media can help shape the social perception of disability in the public, and to identify the best narrative practices to adopt. The results of this research offer a critical analysis of the role of the media in Paralympic storytelling, highlighting both the progress made towards a more inclusive narrative and the challenges still open to ensure a more responsible and inclusive representation.

Keywords: qualitative interview, media representation, paralympic games

SubID: 85208011259
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: How Danish Municipalities Promote Physical Activity: Patterns in the Association Between Goals, Target Groups, and Measures
Topic: Sport, politics and policy, Special session organised by Till Müller-Schoell and Remco Hoekman: Local sport policy for marginalized groups: a governance approach on policy change and good practices

Author / Authors: Birgitte Dalgas[1], Evald Bundgaard Iversen[1]
[1]University of Southern Denmark

Short abstract:

Municipalities across Europe play a crucial role in promoting physical activity (PA) through movement policies and initiatives targeting different population groups. This study aims to analyze the goals municipalities set for different target groups and the measures they use to achieve these goals.
Using a mixed-methods approach, a document analysis was conducted across all 98 Danish municipalities. Documents were collected through automated web scraping and manual searches of municipal websites, focusing on policies, strategies, and action plans related to PA. These documents were then classified according to types of target groups, goals, and measures. Quantitative analysis methods, including cross-tabulations and social network analysis, were applied to examine the relationships between target groups, goals, and measures.

Preliminary findings show that health promotion is the primary goal, especially for citizens with disabilities, patients, and socially disadvantaged groups. Social equality and democratic engagement are emphasized for individuals with low socioeconomic status, while quality of life and sense of belonging are prioritized for the elderly and youth. Rehabilitation and prevention are widely used measures, particularly for older adults and patient groups, whereas school- and leisure-based activities target children and adolescents. Socially disadvantaged persons receive less attention in policies, strategies, plans, and interventions, highlighting the need for more equitable access to physical activity opportunities.

Keywords: physical activity promotion, municipal policies, target groups, goals, measures

SubID: 74557002324
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Evaluation of a pilot programme for the inclusion of LGBT+ individuals in organised sports ─ learnings and policy recommendations
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and sexuality, Sport and gender

Author / Authors: Maike Dernbach[1], Birgit Braumüller[1]
[1]German Sport University Cologne

Short abstract:

Research shows that LGBT+ individuals often face discrimination and exclusion in sports (Braumüller et al., 2020) due to structural aspects of organized sports, prevailing stereotypes and prejudices (Krane, 2016). Therefore, (sport-) political agendas call for the implementation of inclusive structures (European Union, 2020).

Against this background the objective of the E+ project All in & win was to design, implement and evaluate a pilot programme to promote the inclusion and wellbeing of LGBT+ individuals in football and field hockey clubs in four European countries.

A mixed methods concept for evaluation was developed. A quantitative online survey pre (n=232) and post (n=49) the intervention, targeting athletes, coaches, board and staff members was conducted to evaluate the impact of the programme. Additionally, qualitative focus group discussions (n=4) addressing various stakeholders from the pilot clubs were carried out at the end of the programme to identify potential barriers and needs for improvement.

The data reveal differentiated, but somehow ambivalent findings. The survey showed that overall, the majority of respondents increased their capability to act and rated the programme as satisfactory, whereas in the focus groups, lack of time and commitment was perceived as a barrier to the programme implementation.

Based on the findings policy recommendations can be derived, e.g., more tailored measures considering regional differences regarding the general openness towards LGBT+ individuals.

Keywords: LGBT+, sport organisations, inclusion, evaluation

SubID: 74557009005
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Balancing Acts: Structural, Financial, and Personal Challenges for Female Ice Hockey Players in the Balkan Region
Topic: Sport and gender
Author / Authors: Mojca Doupona[1], Sunčica Bartoluci[2]
[1]University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Sport
[2]University of Zagreb, Faculty of Kinesiology

Short abstract:

Ice hockey is traditionally considered a male sport, as it is characterized by aggressive play that requires physical strength. Due to poor conditions and structural limitations, women are unable to turn the sport into a career, meaning that for most, it remains just a hobby. Due to inflexible schedules set by employers and coaches, conflicts of priorities and roles arise.

The aim of the study was to identify the obstacles that female athletes face in their sports careers, with a particular focus on balancing sports and academic commitments, as it is unlikely that the current generation of young female athletes in the Balkan region will be able to achieve a financially sustainable sports career. Our research involved 65 female hockey players from the Balkan region and 5 coaches. The players answered a questionnaire, and we conducted semi-structured interviews with the coaches.

The results of the study showed that female hockey players often adjust their expectations and goals according to the reality of their situation, leading many to abandon their dreams of a professional career. The main issues lie in poor training conditions, the financial instability of clubs, and the difficulty in balancing training with education, or maintaining a dual career.

Keywords: female, ice hockey, obstacles

SubID: 53255001626
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: How are children's best interests and their right to be heard narrated in sports clubs?
Topic: Sport and human rights
Author / Authors: Fiona Dowling[1]
[1]Norwegian School of Sports Sciences

Short abstract:

Since the worldwide ratification (a notable exception being the US) of the United Nations' Convention of the Rights of the Child, sports federations and clubs are obliged to heed its guiding principles. All children have a right to life, survival and development; non-discrimination; recognition of the principle of a child's best interests, and a right to express a point of view. Whilst scholars have studied incidents of violence, documenting harassment and abuse in sports for children, and not least, securing measures for safeguarding and protection (e.g. Brackenridge and Rhind 2014), there has been less attention given to participation rights (Lang 2022; McMellon and Tisdall 2020). The latter incorporate ideas about the provision of sports but equally importantly ideas pertaining to the right to participate in the power dynamics and decision-making processes of sport.

This paper asks, 'how are children, their right to be heard, and their best interests narrated in sports clubs?' The analysis builds upon the idea that discourses about children's rights in sports clubs set limits about what can be said and done, and the narration of children's rights promotes certain 'truths' and makes possible certain social action (Foucault 1972; Livholts and Tamboukou 2015). It draws upon qualitative data generated from fieldwork, interviews, 'draw and talk' interviews with young children, and documentary analysis of children's sports in Norway. The dominant storylines seemingly do discursive work to uphold the idea that children are underdeveloped adults in need of adult supervision and seldom need to be heard.

Keywords: children's rights, participation rights, critical narrative discourse analysis

SubID: 42604012957
Session type: OS - oral session)
Title: Barbells, Bulking and Bourdieu: The Social Transmission of Transformation in Powerlifting
Topic: Sport and well-being, Sport and gender, Sport and the body
Author / Authors: Mark Doyle[1]
[1]South East Technological University (SETU) Waterford

Short abstract:

Powerlifting is a strength-based sport comprised of the bench press, squat, and deadlift (Hatfield, 1981; King et al., 2023). Beyond physical demands, powerlifting represents a structured cultural practice in which lifters are initiated into a distinct habitus through training and mentorship. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with powerlifting coaches and reflexive ethnographic training diaries, this paper explores how lifters transition from novices to experienced powerlifters, emphasizing the role of coaching in transmitting embodied knowledge and shaping lifters' bodily capital (Wacquant, 2022; Underman, 2022).

Coaches act as key agents in the field, guiding clients through lifting techniques, strength progression, and body modification strategies such as bulking and cutting cycles. Unlike bodybuilding, where aesthetic capital dominates, powerlifting prioritizes physical capital, reinforcing an embodied masculinity rooted in strength rather than aesthetics. Drawing on Bourdieu's (2010) concept of habitus and capital and Shilling's (2003, 2008) theorization of the body as a project, this paper explores how lifters internalize powerlifting-specific bodily practices and dispositions. Powerlifting exemplifies embodied transformation as a fluid and ongoing process, where lifters navigate injury, pain, and recovery as part of their sporting development. The social transmission of bodily knowledge, both in-person and through social media platforms, plays a crucial role in shaping training philosophies, reinforcing 'discipline', and disseminating dominant narratives around strength and masculinity. Furthermore, social media extends the reach of coaching practices, creating new avenues for recognition, validation, and the negotiation of bodily and masculine norms within powerlifting.

Keywords: powerlifting, embodiment, habitus

SubID: 31953007455
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Making the sports nation sportier: the evolution and challenges of the national active lifestyle policy in Hungary
Topic: Sport, politics and policy, Sport and leisure
Author / Authors: Tamás Dóczi[1], Annamária Tátrai[2], Gyöngyvér Lacza[1]
[1]Hungarian University of Sports Science
[2]Eötvös Loránd University

Short abstract:

In the year 2022, the State Secretariat for Active Hungary was established as a new, governmental stakeholder in the field of sport for all and physical activity provision. The intention was clear: the country's status as a successful Olympic nation has been in sharp contrast with the physical activity and sport participation statistics of the population, and life expectancy and morbidity figures have been among the worst in the EU for decades. To address the issue, in early 2023, the Secretariat commissioned a group of national experts to prepare the Active Lifestyle Strategy, and as of this year, the process is nearing completion. In the meantime, to provide baseline data for the policy monitoring, a nationwide survey was conducted on a representative sample of the Hungarian adult population (N=1260), with a focus on people's sporting habits, motivations for and perceived barriers to activity, and their expectations related to sports infrastructure and services. The objective of the paper is (1) to present the most important findings of the survey, and (2) to reflect on the evolution of the new policy and the potential consequences of the multiplication of stakeholders in sport governance. The survey results underline the need for better PA and sport provision and a more effective targeting of inactive social groups. The analysis of the process reveals some wicked policy problems, which could ultimately result in a 'great schism' in the governmental sport structures, through the separation of the ownership of elite sport and leisure sport.

Keywords: PA monitoring, sport policy, sport for all, sporting habits, governance

SubID: 95859003339
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: "How German Sports Students Perceive Athlete Activism: The Role of Socialisation and Framing"
Topic: Social justice in sport and physical activity, Sport and social change
Author / Authors: Marloes Ekkelboom[1]
[1]German Sport University

Short abstract:

Athlete activism has gained increasing relevance in recent years, particularly in the context of social justice. While international studies often highlight widespread rejection of political activism by athletes, preliminary research in Germany suggests a more nuanced acceptance (Meier et al, 2024). This presentation explores how sports science socialisation might shape the perception of activism in sports and challenges the prevailing 'neutrality myth' that sports should remain apolitical.
The study proposes a mixed-method approach, combining an experimental design—examining different framing conditions (social vs. political protest)—with qualitative interviews with sport students to reflect on the values and norms conveyed through sports science education. It will investigate whether socially framed protests are perceived as more legitimate than politically framed ones and how the belief in sports' political neutrality influences these perceptions.
This conceptual research aims to contribute to framing and socialisation theory while addressing critical questions about the role of sports in shaping societal values. It highlights how sports science education and broader socialisation processes influence the acceptance of activism, potentially challenging the assumption that sports can or should remain politically neutral. By examining these dynamics, this research seeks to foster a deeper understanding of how sports can serve as both a mirror and a catalyst for social change.

Keywords: athlete activism, sports science socialisation, neutrality myth in sports

SubID: 63906005644
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Visual Self-Presentation Strategies of Egyptian and Saudi Athletes on Instagram
Topic: Sport and social media, Sport and gender
Author / Authors: Jailan El-Bous[1], Kyra Angerer[2]
[1]University of Hull/ Saudi Arabian Football Federation – Institute of Research
[2]University of South-Eastern Norway/Saudi Arabian Football Federation – Institute of Research

Short abstract:

This study investigates self-presentation strategies employed by athletes on Instagram, focusing on a comparative analysis between nationalities of Egyptian and Saudi. With the rise of social media as a platform for personal branding and image portrayal, athletes employ distinct self-presentation tactics influenced by cultural constraints unique to their respective societies. Through qualitative content analysis on Instagram and 8 semi-structured interviews with female athletes, the research explores how athletes navigate online strategies, cultural expectations, gender norms, and societal limitations in their online personas. Using Goffman's (1959) self-presentation theory, the findings will reveal how females athletes leverage Instagram to enhance visibility, exhibit a more diverse range of self-expressive strategies, and connect with fans while abiding by the Arab culture and religious constraints. By analyzing the role of visual content, the study will highlight the complexities of online identity construction and a strong online presence. Additionally, it sheds light on the potential for social media to foster empowerment and agency among female athletes, challenging traditional narratives and stereotypes.
The implications suggest a need for a well-designed online strategy that combines different visual content patterns for the female athletes. Empowering female athletes in conservative societies requires a multifaceted strategy, such as leveraging social media to challenge norms.

Keywords: visual presentation, athletes, gender difference, culture

SubID: 63906006408
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Paid staff in Danish sports clubs – status, development and implications
Topic: Sport Organisations Research Network (SORN) specific session
Author / Authors: Karsten Elmose-Østerlund[1]
[1]University of Southern Denmark

Short abstract:

Introduction and objectives: Paid staff are increasingly used as a capacity-building instrument in sports clubs that enables them to contribute to political agendas, e.g. regarding health and integration, and to plan for volunteer recruitment, development and succession. However, we know little about the scope, development and implications of the use of paid staff. A knowledge this study will generate.

Method: The analysis utilizes data from survey studies of Danish sports clubs conducted in 2004 (N=3,097), 2010 (N=5,203), 2015 (N=3,531) and 2021 (N=2,628). The surveys were filled in by the chairperson and contain several topics, of which some are recurrent in all or most of the surveys. This enables analysis of the status, development and implications of having paid staff.

Results: Preliminary analysis reveals how the share of paid coaches has remained stable at around 15% from 2004 to 2021, while the share of paid leaders has increased from 2% in 2010 to 4% in 2021. This indicates a low, but increasing rate of paid staff in leadership roles, which is primarily taking place in large clubs located in urban areas. Paid staff seem to increase the willingness of clubs to contribute to political agendas.

Discussion and conclusion: The analysis show how paid staff still hold a marginal position in most Danish clubs compared to volunteers. The presence of paid staff mainly in large and urban clubs raises the question whether the positive – and potentially negative – implications of having paid staff should be restricted to a segment of clubs.

Keywords: sports associations, professionalisation, integration, health, coaches, leaders

SubID: 95859009546
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Copenhagen consensus statements on workplace health enhancing physical activity programmes
Topic: Sport and public health, Sport business and management
Author / Authors: Adam Evans[1]
[1]University of Copenhagen

Short abstract:

Workplace health enhancing physical activity (HEPA) programmes are associated with physical activity promotion and reduction of sedentary time among employees. Whilst the workplace is often considered an appropriate setting for such programmes, however, ethical and implementation challenges remain. Furthermore, debate still exists concerning programme rationale, efficacy, effectiveness, and impact. In 2024, 24 researchers from twelve countries collaborated to establish evidence-based consensus statements concerning such programmes. The consensus was developed through an iterative process involving experts from sociology, psychology, sport policy, physiology and promoting and assessing movement behaviours. In total 36 consensus statements and 23 areas identified for further research were produced. A broad definition of HEPA was adopted that included structured and unstructured activities, whilst HEPA was distinguished from occupational and leisure-time activities. Consideration of sedentary behaviour was also made. Consensus highlighted the importance of multi-level approaches to programme implementation, the need for managerial support, and the need to tailor programme design. The consensus also demonstrated the need for more research on the long-term impacts of workplace HEPA programmes, to investigate the potential role of technology, and to further understand the influence of socio-cultural and individual factors on participation.

SubID: 42604001244
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Dominating Bodies
Topic: Sport and power relations, conflict and resilience, Sport and disability, Sport and social class

Author / Authors: Niels B. Feddersen[1]
[1]Norwegian School of Sport Science

Short abstract:

Frank (2013) argued that there is a reluctance to discuss domination among people with disability. Further, Shakespeare (2014) suggested that hierarchies and domination are latent topics that require careful and empathic attention. Beginning with the question: 'How do people with acquired spinal cord injury maintain, contest, and dissolve boundaries within their peer community and wider society?' this presentation addresses the sensitive topic of domination. I draw on a 26-month ethnography on rehabilitation and adapted physical activity for persons with an acquired spinal cord injury. Data was generated from participant observation, interviews, social media, crowdfunding initiatives, news stories, government policies, reports, and related research. Drawing on theories of symbolic boundaries and stigmas, I theorised how the comparative context influences how individuals can be included or excluded from peer groups. Findings show that the ways non-disabled people relate to people with a spinal cord injury influence how symbolic boundaries are negotiated among peers with a spinal cord injury. Wheelchair users are often perceived as helpless and those who can walk are invisible to most common passersby and thereby not recognised as persons with disability. These perceptions influence internal definitions within the group of people with spinal cord injuries. Consequently, they engage in processes of distancing or discrediting to negotiate group membership, what constitutes a "real injury", and in some cases, exclude people from their group. This is a highly sensitive subject; however, denying the presence of such processes could limit opportunities for action when people are excluded.

Keywords: disability, symbolic boundaries, ethnography, rehabilitation

SubID: 74557006727
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Solidarity grassroots football and people seeking asylum: going beyond spaces of hierarchical care
Topic: Sport and community, Sport, race and ethnicity, Sport and migration
Author / Authors: Federico Genovesi[1]
[1]Ulster University

Short abstract:

In the last 10 years, in Europe, grassroots football has emerged as a platform for civic associations and social movements to facilitate conviviality and interaction between the local population and forced migrants, as well as to counter the effects of state policies of marginalisation on people seeking sanctuary.

Drawing upon data collected from an ethnographic study within two solidarity grassroots football projects supporting refugees and people seeking asylum in Italy, the paper explores the interplay between care and power in such initiatives. Through a conversation with the literature on critical humanitarianism studies, the paper highlights the risk for these projects to reproduce the humanitarian dynamic of "depoliticisation and dehumanisation" (Stavinoha and Ramakrishnan, 2020), whereby refugees and people seeking asylum are constructed as speechless subjects (Malkki, 1996) or as people forever in need of being integrated into the new community.

Yet, alongside other studies in the area (McGee and Pelham, 2018; Vandevoordt, 2019), the paper does not underestimate the potential for solidarity grassroots football to hold political significance. However, it contends that this potential can be fully actualised if the compassionate ethos and humanitarian motivations of volunteering organisers come together with practices and discourses that prioritise participants' experiences, aspirations, and meaningful involvement, while also demonstrating a critical awareness of the power relations entangled in the relationship of care. The paper concludes that without such awareness, "volunteer humanitarianism" (Sandri, 2018) is fated to reproduce the criticalities of the professionalised "humanitarian machine".

Keywords: grassroots football, forced migration, humanitarianism

SubID: 95859010507
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Dutch good practices of integrating marginalized groups in sport
Topic: Special session organised by Till Müller-Schoell and Remco Hoekman: Local sport policy for marginalized groups: a governance approach on policy change and good practices

Author / Authors: Nathan Geurink[1], Remco Hoekman[2]
[1]Mulier Institute
[2]Mulier Institute, Radboud University

Short abstract:

Dutch good practices of integrating marginalized groups in sport
The European Sport for All charter as well as the Work Plan for Sport 2024-2027 pays due attention to the inclusion of marginalized groups in sport. Despite the ongoing attention, social inequality in sport participation is still visible in all EU member states, and even increased as a result of the COVID19 pandemic.
With more policy activities focused on these groups, governments want marginalized groups to have better access to sport participation and profit from the various benefits of participation in sport (e.g. health benefits). However, this has been on the policy agenda for decades with relative little success. This brings up questions on how to achieve policy change and what are working mechanisms for inclusion in sport.
For the Erasmus+ project 'Good Practice for Active Lifestyles in Local Sports Policies' (Allstars) we study Dutch good practices of sport promotion. We use qualitative and quantitative research methods to analyse seven good practices. We do so to understand the actors, networks and programs that deliver positive results with regards to participation of especially the targeted marginalized group(s).
We will present our findings at the conference and draw conclusions based on this.

Keywords: local sport policy, marginalized groups, integration, network analysis

SubID: 95859003906
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Servant of Two Masters!? A Critical Analysis of the Principal-Agent Relationship Between Footballers and Player Agents
Topic: Sport and power relations, conflict and resilience, Sport business and management
Author / Authors: Andreas Gohritz[1], Peter Ehnold[1], Adrian Beck[1]
[1]IST-University of Applied Science Duesseldorf

Short abstract:

Problem Statement. Player agents are key stakeholders in professional football, handling various tasks for footballers. However, clubs influence the player-agent relationship by paying agent fees in contract negotiations. This creates a conflict, as commissioning (by the player) and payment (by the club) are separated, potentially impacting the agent's loyalty (Gohritz, 2025). This study examines:(i) The role of clubs in the player-agent relationship from the players' perspective.(ii) Challenges and consequences of the footballer-agent-club dynamic.
Theoretical Framework. Principal-agent theory models the footballer-agent relationship, where the player (principal) commissions the agent. However, as clubs pay the agent, they act as a second principal (Pratt & Zeckhauser, 1985). Differing objectives, asymmetric information, and agency problems require theoretical and empirical investigation. Methodology. The data based on interviews with Bundesliga players (n=10), selected via an online survey (91 respondents, 18.2% of the population). Analysis followed Mayring's (2022) content approach. Findings. Before contract negotiations, clubs have little influence on player-agent relations. However, once an agent handles transfers, clubs can steer decisions via commission payments. Players lack transparency and control over the agent's remuneration, risking conflicts of interest where agents align with clubs over players. This limits players' ability to sanction opportunistic behaviour.
Literature
Gohritz, A., Handle, S. & Ehnold, P. (2025). 'Is that allowed?' – a qualitative study on perceptions of and dealing with opportunistic behaviour among football agents. JGSM (in review).
Mayring, P. (2022). Qualitative Inhaltsanalyse. Grundlagen und Techniken. Beltz, Weinheim.
Pratt J.W. & Zeckhauser, J. (1985). The Structure of Business. Harvard Business Press.

Keywords: player agents, football, principal-agent-theory, intermediaries, footballers

SubID: 85208004305
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Sports participation of children with and without disabilities in the Netherlands. A comparison.
Topic: Sport and disability
Author / Authors: Angelina Gomez[1], Caroline Van Lindert[1], Tessa Schurink-Van't Klooster[2]
[1]Mulier Institute
[2]RIVM

Short abstract:

As in Europe, sport participation amongst Dutch persons with disabilities lags far behind that of the general population (Van Lindert, Scheerder & Brittain, 2023). The Dutch National Health Survey provides data to monitor trends in sport participation in persons 12 years and older. Unfortunately, these data are lacking for younger children with a disability. Inclusion of disabled children in sport is a policy priority. Not being able to monitor hinders insight into progress.

To close this gap, Mulier Institute and RIVM developed an instrument to monitor sport participation in children with and without disabilities. A questionnaire amongst parents is the result. The aim is comparing sport participation levels in children with and without disabilities aged 4-17 years. We collected the first results through an online population panel. Respectively 680 and 643 parents filled in the questionnaire.

Results show that children with disabilities participate less in sports activities than children without disabilities. Greatest differences are shown in children aged 13-17 years. 28% of disabled children and 17% of non-disabled children in this age group doesn't participate. Moreover, 8-12 year old disabled children are less often sports club member (61%) than non-disabled peers (81%).

Sport participation at an early age has a positive impact later in life (Wilson & Clayton, 2010). Stimulation of sport participation amongst children with disabilities is therefore important. Support of parents and coaches are key elements of Dutch strategy. To be able to monitor progress, data collection in (parents with) disabled and non-disabled children is key.

Keywords: disability, children, sports participation

SubID: 31953004959
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: From English to Polish Disease. Conceptualising hooligans' setup fights and their diffusion across Europe
Topic: Violence in sport, Sports spectatorship and fandom
Author / Authors: Mateusz Grodecki[1], Dominik Antonowicz[2]
[1]The Maria Grzegorzewska University
[2]Nicolaus Copernicus University

Short abstract:

This article focuses on the phenomenon of hooligans' setup fights (abbr. as 'the setups'), a modern form of pre-arranged (planned) hooligan confrontations. The setups require arrangements including deciding on a secluded place and time, as well as a set of rules predefined by the participants, including their number, age and mutual consent not to use any weapons. Despite the media spotlight and massive body of knowledge on football hooliganism and its prominence, the issue of the setups has failed to attract greater analytical attention. This empirically informed conceptual study fills that void by (a) introducing the term 'hooligans' setup fights' to conceptualize the self-ruled, pre-arranged model of fights typical of modern hooliganism; (b) assessing the current geographical range of the setups in Europe; and (c) discussing the social and cultural conditions that contribute to their growing popularity as the most current way of hooligans' competitive violence across Europe

Keywords: hooliganism, football, violence, pre-arranged fights

SubID: 95859013237
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: "Show the world your strength" – Sports for people with disabilities during the escalation of war in Ukraine
Topic: Sport and crisis, Sport and disability, Sport and war
Author / Authors: Anna Grzywacz[1]
[1]Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw

Short abstract:

War has always stirred emotions. Paradoxically, it remains an inevitable part of human culture (Oborný, 2001). The Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 disrupted the relatively stable geopolitical situation in Europe. Among the Ukrainian refugees were athletes, including those with disabilities, who faced particular challenges. Even in peacetime, they struggle with limited funding, inadequate institutional support, and persistent stereotyping (Brittain, 2004; McLoughlin et al., 2017). This shows that they experience difficulties in harmonious sports development. The escalation of the conflict has further complicated their situation. This research aims to show how athletes from the Ukrainian Deaf Judo National Team (UDJNT) adapted to the new reality they faced after the conflict escalation in 2022. Specifically, it addresses the following questions:
1. How did UDJNT athletes with disabilities adapt their training after the conflict escalation in 2022?
2. How did the Polish local sports community react to the conflict escalation in 2022?
A case study of the UDJNT was conducted. In 2022, interviews were held with an athlete, the team manager, and a Polish organizer involved in providing support. Additionally, seven other interviews published as media content were analysed in 2024/2025.
Following the escalation of the war in 2022, the UDJNT, then preparing for the Deaflympics in Brazil, sought refuge in various European countries. Thanks to the proactive efforts of the Polish local sports community, the team was able to reunite. This case demonstrates that solidarity, openness, and fair play can overcome significant challenges and adversities.

Keywords: war, Ukraine, athletes with disabilities, sport for people with disabilities

SubID: 85208005804
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Beyond the Superhero Narrative: Media Representation and Italian Paralympic Athletes' Perceptions
Topic: Sport and media, Olympic studies, Sport and disability
Author / Authors: Athanasios (sakis) Pappous[1], Pablo Gómez-Iniesta[1]
[1]Università di Bologna

Short abstract:

Media representation plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions of Paralympic athletes, influencing both their visibility and societal attitudes toward disability. While media coverage of the Paralympic Games has improved over the past two decades, concerns persist regarding the framing of athletes—often emphasizing personal struggles over athletic achievement.

This study examines how Italian Paralympic athletes perceive their media portrayal. Drawing on Goffman's self-presentation theory and framing analysis, we explore athletes' perspectives on representation, gender equality, and differences across sports disciplines. Seventeen elite Italian Paralympic athletes were interviewed using semi-structured qualitative methods, and responses were analyzed with Atlas.ti.

Preliminary findings indicate growing athlete satisfaction with media coverage, particularly regarding gender parity and increased visibility. Veteran athletes highlighted a shift from marginal coverage to greater inclusion. However, disparities remain across disciplines, and some athletes express frustration with the persistent "superhero" narrative that prioritizes personal adversity over their role as competitive athletes.

This research contributes to the broader discussion on disability and sports media by emphasizing athletes' voices in shaping future reporting. Based on these findings, we aim to develop training guidelines for journalists and media students to foster more nuanced, respectful, and inclusive coverage of Paralympic sports.

Keywords: Paralympic Games – media representation – self-presentation – framing – disability and sport

SubID: 31953002555
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Understanding the Role of Coaches in the Career Development of Paralympic Youth Athletes
Topic: Youth sport, Sport and disability
Author / Authors: Stefanie Haberstock[1], Astrid Schubring[1]
[1]German Sport University

Short abstract:

The junior-to-senior transition sport is a critical phase for athletes, where coaches play a major role (Allan et al., 2020; Drew et al., 2019). However, for Paralympic youth athletes, this phase is particularly underexplored (Dehghansai et al., 2017; Townsend et al., 2022). Drawing on Bourdieu's concepts of habitus, capital, and social fields, Cushion and Kitchen (2011) emphasize how coaching practices are embedded in sociocultural contexts and shaped by power relations. Therefore, using Bourdieu's framework, this study examines how coaches perceive and influence youth Para-athletes' career development. Specifically, it investigates the forms of cultural, social, and symbolic capital that coaches bring into the Paralympic field and how these resources interact with the sociocultural and organizational structures shaping the junior-to-senior transition.
Using a qualitative design, semi-structured interviews with ten coaches of German youth elite Para-athletes are conducted. Interviews are being held between November 2024 and March 2025. Data will be thematically analysed using MAXQDA.
Preliminary findings reveal that coaches' acquired capital, e.g. through Olympic sport, shape their expectations and practices in Paralympic sport. These expectations can create tensions as coaches encounter systemic barriers within the Paralympic field. Furthermore, coaches adopt performance-driven ideologies that impose high-performance frameworks onto disability, often reflecting ableist assumptions about disability (Townsend & Cushion, 2022). This study will contribute to a better understanding of the role of Paralympic coaches in the career development of young Para-athletes. The findings have implications for coach education, policy, and strategies to support youth Para-athletes during important career transitions.

Keywords: paralympic sport, youth athletes, JST, career development, sport coaching

SubID: 85208010808
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: More Efficiently, More Productively, and More Controlled: Gendered Bodies of the Neoliberal Era
Topic: Sport and gender, Sport and the body, Sport and social theory
Author / Authors: Hannele Harjunen[1]
[1]University of Jyväskylä

Short abstract:

The cultural consequences of neoliberal economic and political thinking are visible throughout society and have permeated all areas of life, from the public to the most private. Neoliberal thinking is reflected in a culture of efficiency, aimed at increased productivity and cost-effectiveness, often measured by some numerical indicator. The ideal of neoliberal efficiency has also extended to bodies and their functions. The ideals of the neoliberal era seem to align particularly well with the ethos of competitive sports; the goal is peak performance, which requires continuous body work, as well as internalized discipline. In many ways, the competitive athlete is the perfect embodiment of neoliberal body culture. I suggest that the demands previously placed on the competitive athlete's body have increasingly spilled over into the everyday lives of ordinary people, partly through various body measurement technologies. The quality of many activities can now be measured and improved, whether it is nutrition, exercise, sleep, or relaxation. This line of thinking often also has a moral dimension, emphasizing individual responsibility, self-monitoring, and control. The conclusion is that a self-controlled and disciplined individual is also a virtuous individual who has made the right choices. The goal of these efforts is to produce the most productive individuals possible for the needs of a competitive society. In this article, I am interested in the bodily consequences of neoliberal culture. The focus is particularly on the gendered body and how the demands of competition are mainstreamed into the surrounding society though physical activity and sport.

Keywords: gender, body, control, neoliberalism

SubID: 42604006657
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Gender challenges and solutions for locker rooms in physical education – A national inventory on teachers' perspectives
Topic: Sport and gender
Author / Authors: Christelle Hayoz[1]
[1]University of Teacher Education Fribourg

Short abstract:

Introduction. Physical education (PE) lessons play an important role in promoting health, teamwork, and inclusivity among pupils. However, gender-related challenges often arise in the transitional phases before and after PE lessons, particularly in the management of locker rooms and changing areas (Fusco, 2006). These critical access points bring up challenges such as issues of privacy, equity and the accommodation of diverse gender identities. Research considering changing room experiences in relation to PE is limited and the locker rooms largely remain a black box. Objectives. The purpose of this national inventory on gender-specific challenges before and after PE lessons in Switzerland is to examine how schools and teachers at various educational levels address these issues and implement solutions. Research methods The collected data from this nationwide survey with PE teachers were analyzed using a quantitative approach. Research findings. First findings show that persistent barriers exist. Nonetheless, innovative solutions are also identified such as including the introduction of gender-neutral facilities, the adoption of inclusive pedagogical practices and increased awareness of non-binary identities in physical education settings. Conclusions. Based on this study, recommendations are offered for policymakers and teachers to improve equity and inclusivity in schools.
References
Fusco, C. (2006). Inscribing healthification: Governance, risk, surveillance and the subjects and spaces of fitness and health. Health & Place, 12(1), 65–78. doi:10.1016/J.HEALTHPLACE.2004.10.003

Keywords: gender, physical education, locker rooms

SubID: 74557005444
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: "I create my own culture, my own religion and live the life I decide": Immigrant women developing leadership in Swedish sports
Topic: Sport and social change, Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and migration
Author / Authors: Krister Hertting[1], Eva-Carin Lindgren[1], Jennie Ryding[2]
[1]Halmstad University
[2]University West

Short abstract:

Immigrants' integration into a new society is a complex process. Sports, as one example of an empowering practice, have the potential to increase social involvement and foster a sense of belonging in new societies and communities. Nonetheless, research indicates that young female immigrants are underrepresented in sports in general, and particularly in leadership positions. Much attention has been paid to aspects such as culture and religion as barriers to participation. Nevertheless, aspects such as gendered sports organization cultures with subtle normative barriers and an imbalanced representation in leadership are equally important factors.

The purpose of this presentation is to explore first-generation immigrant women's experiences as leaders in Swedish sports and how these experiences may be understood in terms of underrepresentation and processes of belonging in the new society and in sports. In the empirical study, nine first-generation female immigrants being sports leaders were interviewed. The interviews took a life story approach, concentrating on pre- and post-migration experiences related to their involvement in sports and leadership.

For the participants coming to Sweden meant a time of loneliness and uncertainty, but also a liberation process and space to create one's own pathway. The entrance into sports leadership was often a result of coincidences, rather than of favorable structural circumstances. The results will be discussed based on the theoretical perspective of cultural, relational and sensory belongings. From this perspective, belonging is relational, ongoing, and an everchanging social process, where temporality is crucial.

Keywords: belonging, immigrant women, sports leadership, migration, social inclusion

SubID: 63906012888
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Understanding late modern sports through the lenses of Elias and Guttmann
Topic: Sport and social theory
Author / Authors: Arve Hjelseth[1], Mads Skauge[2]
[1]Norwegian University of Science and Technology
[2]Nord University

Short abstract:

Norbert Elias is often regarded as a founding father of the sociology of sport. Based on his broader theory of the civilizing process, he demonstrated that sport and leisure was not only about "relaxation", but also about "excitement". In modern society, the strongest emotions are restrained, self-control is encouraged, and rules and regulations become more explicit than in the sport of pre-modern times. The civilizing process, according to Elias, constitutes what we think of as modern sports.

A more Weber-inspired interpretation was introduced by Guttmann, who points out how modern sports, as it emerged particularly in the UK from the late 19th century, was a reflection of the logic and structure of industrial society. Core features are, among others, specialization, rationalization, bureaucratization and quantification.

These two theories are not mutually exclusive, but they emphasize different aspects when pointing to the core features of current sports. The aim of the paper is, firstly, to demonstrate how sports appear different, depending on choice of perspective. Secondly, we argue that the Weber-inspired approach seems superior when analyzing sport in industrial society. Thirdly, we argue that in late modernity, sports increasingly take on forms that again make Elias-inspired approaches more relevant. There are signs that quantification, bureaucratization and rationalization become less relevant in current sports, even though we also point out several counter-tendencies.

Keywords: Elias, Guttmann, late modern sports, social theories and sport

SubID: 53255005768
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Are new sports hype or trend? The development of a theoretical framework
Topic: New trends in sport
Author / Authors: Resie Hoeijmakers[1]
[1]Mulier Instituut/Utrecht University

Short abstract:

The popularity of sports varies over time: established sports such as tennis, gymnastics and equestrian sports are losing interest and all kind of new sports are emerging and gaining popularity. With the popularization of new sports, the need for new sports facilities is also increasing. This raises the question for policymakers which new sports maintain popularity and are worthwhile to invest in. To help policymakers in their decisions to invest in sports facilities of new sports, the aim of our study was to provide insight into the potential of new sports in the Netherlands. Based on a literature review, we developed a model for establishing the potential of new sports and applied it to seven "new" sports in the Netherlands; padel, beach volleybal, bouldering, airsoft, freerunning, calisthenics and pickleball. This sportification model consists of five indicators: showing general sport characteristics; an own sport identity; organizational power; a sufficient level of sports facilities; and legitimacy. To assess the potential of those sports, we held case studies, including desk research, interviews with sport federations, participants and providers of those sports. Using the sportification model, we concluded that the seven sports score differently on the indicators and are therefore in different stages. Beach volleyball has fully established itself. Padel and bouldering have proven not to be mere trends and will grow further. Airsoft, free running, calisthenics and pickleball have not fully established itself and their future remains uncertain.

Keywords: new sports, theoretical framework, hype

SubID: 42604011046
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Understanding community sports contribution to livelihood development: a transnational, comparative study
Topic: Sport for development and peace, Sport and community, Sport and migration
Author / Authors: Alessio Norrito[1], Matthew Holmes[2]
[1]Manchester Metropolitan University
[2]University of York

Short abstract:

Many people throughout the world lack the resources and opportunities to sustain a regular income and develop livelihoods. This paper suggests the opportunities linked to community sports participation can potentially enable livelihood development of the world's poorest.

The aim of this paper is to combine the capabilities approach (Sen, 1999) with the ecological systems theory (Bronfenbrenner, 1979) to analyse findings from two case studies of SfD organisation activity and establish how the activity of these organisations facilitates community sports participation that enables forced migrants and rural villagers to develop livelihoods.

This paper compares findings from two case studies of SfD organisation activity. These organisations impact Global North (Italy) and Global South (Gambia, Ghana, Mali, and Zambia) contextual settings. Both SfD organisation case studies collected data with semi-structured interviews, with the second case study also collected data through observations and participatory interpretation. Interview data from both cases was subject to thematic analysis.

The findings establish how both SfD organisations facilitate community sports participation which enables forced migrants (Gambia, Ghana, Mali) and rural villagers (Zambia) to develop livelihoods. In both cases, each SfD organisations delivery utilise methods (self-help and circular cooperation) to develop the capabilities of community sports participants through facilitating opportunities for interaction with their physical environment.

The paper concludes that combining the capabilities approach and ecological systems theory helps understand how these SfD organisations facilitate community sports participation among forced migrants (Gambia, Ghana, Mali) and rural villagers (Zambia) which leads to their livelihood development.

Keywords: sport for development, livelihoods, capabilities, ecological systems theory

SubID: 42604007705
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Strenghts and Strategies of Inclusive Sports Projects in Urban areas in Spain: preliminary results of a comparative qualitative study
Topic: Special session organised by Till Müller-Schoell and Remco Hoekman: Local sport policy for marginalized groups: a governance approach on policy change and good practices

Author / Authors: Irantzu Ibañez[1], Ekain Zubizarreta[1]
[1]University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)

Short abstract:

This study examines eight inclusive sports projects in urban areas across Spain (three in the Basque Country, two in Barcelona, and one each in Madrid, Valencia, and Tenerife). These initiatives serve as inspiring examples of how physical activity and sport (PAS) can activate populations at risk of exclusion—such as migrants, low-income individuals, socially marginalized groups, people with disabilities, the LGBTQI+ community, and the elderly—while fostering their social inclusion.
Preliminary analysis reveals that the economic sustainability of these projects relies heavily on public funding and subsidies, with private contributions playing a secondary role. However, securing financial support is often hindered by the stigma associated with the target populations. Projects working with highly stigmatized groups face significant challenges in attracting institutional or corporate partnerships, which are crucial for their survival and growth. This, in turn, limits their ability to promote awareness and normalization, perpetuating barriers to inclusion.
The most stable and sustainable projects are those with robust networks of partnerships involving public institutions, private companies, and organizations. Effective communication and public image emerge as critical factors for the success of these initiatives, enabling them to overcome stigma and secure long-term support.
In conclusion, while inclusive sports projects demonstrate significant potential for fostering social inclusion through PAS, their sustainability depends on strategic partnerships, effective communication, and efforts to combat societal stigma. These findings highlight the need for targeted strategies to enhance the visibility and viability of such initiatives.

Keywords: sfport for development, inclusion, sustainability, stigma

SubID: 74557004564
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: 'Supply policy' and 'Demand policy' in sports policy
Topic: Sport, politics and policy
Author / Authors: Bjarne Ibsen[1]
[1]University of Southern Denmark

Short abstract:

'Supply policy' has dominated sports policy - by operating or supporting sports facilities as well as financial support for organizations that offer various forms of sport - while 'Demand policies' to promote the interest in sport – campaigns, financial incentives etc. - has little importance. Supply policy has had a positive impact on sports participation, but it is questionable whether a continuation of the dominance of this policy will increase the activity level.
The purpose of this paper is to examine the effect of supply policy within sport and exercise in Denmark, and to discuss whether demand policy could be an alternative. The analyses are based on two studies. The first is an analysis of the correlation between the facility coverage and sports participation - based on a survey from 2020 where the individual responses from 163,133 adults are linked to data on how many sports facilities exist in each municipality. The second study examines the effect of a large sports development program where sports organizations from 2016 to 2024 developed and offered new sports opportunities - based on data from a survey of adult's leisure habits which has been carried out every year since 2018.
The statistical analyses cannot demonstrate a correlation between facility coverage in a municipality and the proportion of the adult population that practice sports, and shows a small effect on sports participation of the sports development program. Why does supply policy have little effect on sports participation? And can demand policies better promote sports participation?

Keywords: Sports policy, Supply policy, Demand policy

SubID: 42604003448
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: (A)political discourses of public health and sport-for-all shaping sport policies in Finland: Views from political actors
Topic: Sport and public health
Author / Authors: Hanna-Mari Ikonen[1], Wojciech Woźniak[2]
[1]Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Jyväskylä
[2]Faculty of Economics and Sociology, University of Łódź

Short abstract:

In this presentation, we explore the political connotations of public health and sport-for-all discourses in Finland. This country has a history of political divisions in sport, particularly between bourgeois and workers' sport, a divide that has however largely faded. Finland also has a status as a welfare state but it is increasingly influenced by neoliberal values, and while the population is physically relatively active in international comparison, there are significant concerns about deteriorating public health and its broader consequences.

Our on-going discourse analysis covers party manifestos from the last four parliamentary elections, interviews with key politicians involved in sports policy, and interviews with experts in sports and public health. We examine the political-historical context in which public health and sport-for-all discourses have evolved, how the discourses are nowadays represented across political parties, and how these discourses shape sports policies, including those concerning elite and competitive sports. Promoting public health and sport-for-all is a common goal across nearly all political parties, but these discourses are often presented uncritically and at a general level, and differences between the parties are hard to see at first sight. The instrumental value of sport-for-all, particularly in relation to improving individual and public health, shapes both public debate and sports policy in Finland. While physical activity is broadly seen as a societal good, the concrete forms it should take remain unclear, and there is often disagreement on the details.

Keywords: public health, sport for all, discourse, politics, sport policy, Finland

SubID: 95859002804
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Gender and Culture in Sports Communication: Thai Coaches' Perspectives on Menstruation
Topic: Sport and gender
Author / Authors: Misuzu Iyama[1], An Uesugi[2]
[1]Kasetsart University
[2]Kibi International University

Short abstract:

Menstruation significantly impacts the physical and mental performance of female athletes; however, research on communication regarding its effects, particularly from the perspective of coaches, remains limited. Existing studies predominantly reflect Western paradigms, overlooking the cultural dimensions that shape these interactions. This study investigates Thai coaches of female athletes, examining their communication behaviors, willingness to engage with female athletes regarding the menstrual cycle, their perceptions of female athletes' behaviors, and the factors influencing such communication.
Data were collected through online surveys. Surveys for university-level coaches were administered during the university games held in Thailand from January 11 to 16, 2025. For national-level coaches, data were collected via online surveys from December 2024 to January 2025. A total of 159 questionnaires were analyzed, focusing on personal attributes, communication behaviors, and communication willingness.
Thailand's cultural acceptance of gender diversity creates a unique environment where discussions about gender-related issues, including menstruation, are approached differently than in other cultural contexts. The results revealed no significant gender differences in the actual communication behaviors of coaches. However, differences were found in communication willingness and in coaches' perceptions of female athletes' behaviors. These differences suggest that cultural influences shape coaches' subjective awareness and perceptions, rather than their actual behaviors, despite Thailand's distinctive cultural context.
This study provides valuable insights into how coaches navigate these discussions and offers a foundation for fostering more open and effective communication practices tailored to diverse cultural contexts.

Keywords: gender, coach-athlete relationship, female athlete, coach

SubID: 74557007217
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Barriers and support factors for sustainable youth elite sport: A systematic literature review
Topic: Sport and well-being, Youth sport, Sport, climate, change and sustainability

Author / Authors: Astrid Schubring[1], Heléne Bergentoft[2], Andreas Caspers[3], Kristof Jaczina[4], Suzanne Lundvall[5], Jenny Jacobsson[6], Natalie Barker-Ruchti[7], Stefan Grau[8]
[1]Department of Food and Nutrition, and Sport Science, University of Gothenburg, Institute of Sociology and Gender Studies, German Sport University Cologne
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[3]Department of Food and Nutrition, and Sport Science, University of Gothenburg, Center for Health and Performance, University of Gothenburg
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[5]Department of Food and Nutrition, and Sport Science, University of Gothenburg,
[6]Department of Health, Medicine and Caring Sciences, Linköping University, Athletics Research Center, Linköping University
[7]Orebro University
[8]Department of Food and Nutrition, and Sport Science, University of Gothenburg, [9]Department of Sports Medicine, University Clinic Tubingen,

Short abstract:
Research from different disciplines has identified substantial barriers, but also facilitators for social sustainable youth elite sport. However, this multidisciplinary knowledge is not well integrated. The aim of this review is to systematically synthesize the research about barriers and facilitators for social sustainability in youth elite sport. Drawing on Bronfenbrenner's (1974) ecological model, we distinguish four levels of influence to map barriers and facilitators: (a) athlete-related, (b) community around the athlete, (c) organisation of sport, and (d) society sport is situated in. Five different disciplinary databases were searched. Overall, 108 articles were included in the review. Barriers and facilitators were thematically analysed in relation to the theoretical framework. Overall, we found that the included research could be grouped thematically in i) athlete development, ii) athlete development environments research, and iii) athlete health and well-being. The latter theme, closely related to Sustainable Development Goal 3, involved 32% of the literature, and was dominated by biomedical research. Further, a pathogenic focus prevailed, with studies focusing first and foremost, on athlete ill-health (e.g., injuries, pain, mental health issues) and thus barriers to social sustainability. However, a second field of research reported on intervention programs (e.g., health-maintaining and -promoting interventions) highlighting facilitators to sustainable youth elite sport on the organisational level. Societal influences were largely omitted in research on athlete health and well-being. Altogether, the synthesis showcases gaps and biases in the literature. Studies with an ecological conceptualisation are needed to better capture the complexity of sustainable development of youth elite sport.

Keywords: Sustainable development, social sustainability, barriers and support factors, youth elite sports, systematic literature review

SubID: 74557003055
Session type: OS - oral session

Title: Period: the unspoken obstacle for women's sport performance
Topic: Sport and gender, Sport and the body
Author / Authors: Honorata Jakubowska[1], Julita Prusak[1]
[1]Adam Mickiewicz University

Short abstract:

Although the experts are not unanimous, menstruation may impact sport performance. It is, therefore, important to investigate whether and to what extent sportswomen experience this impact and whether the topic of menstruation is taken up in communication between sportswomen and their coaches. The mentioned topics have been investigated in the ongoing project "The menstruation management in professional sport: a sociological perspective", funded by the National Science Centre in Poland (2023/51/B/HS6/00245). Within the project, menstruation is analyzed from a gender perspective and critical menstrual studies approach. The presentation will focus on the results of the online survey and its section related to communication. The online survey addressed elite female athletes from five disciplines (swimming, volleyball, judo, skiing and running) and was distributed by social media, sports clubs, and federations (November 2024-February 2025). 156 responses could be included in the analysis. The findings reveal that according to the vast majority of informants, menstruation at least sometimes affects their sports results. At the same time, coaches either never or only occasionally know that a female athlete has a period, and most informants do not talk about menstruation with their coaches. As the main reasons for menstruation concealment, the female athletes indicated the lack of such a need, a coach's male gender and menstrual taboos. The inclusion of menstruation issues into communication between sportswomen and their coaches could contribute to better women's sports performance. Therefore, the topic of menstruation should be analyzed not only by sports science but also by the sociology of sport.

Keywords: menstruation, female athletes, male coaches, communication, menstrual taboos

SubID: 95859008405
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Career environment in esports. Managing health risks
Topic: Sport and public health, Sport and well-being, Esports and virtual sports
Author / Authors: Michal Jasny[1], Michal Lenartowicz[1]
[1]Jozef Pilsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw

Short abstract:

Professional involvement in the video games market is most often related to developing, distributing and selling games, streaming, and competitive play. Growth in the gaming industry is driving an increasing number of players to become professionals. The paper presents findings from a narrative review of the academic literature on esports athletes' careers. For the sake of sampling, a list of keywords was used to target the search. The results were limited to peer-reviewed articles from Scopus and Web of Science, published between 2002 and 2025. In the paper, we focus on health risks experienced by e-athletes, the management of these risks, and recommendations to highlight how esports stakeholders can help to create a healthier career environment, with a particular emphasis on social wellbeing. Besides the distinctive features, we juxtapose the similarities between traditional and electronic sports careers. A new form of rivalry seems to reflect some of the well-known sport-related problems. Due to progressive institutionalization of esports, the review provides a better understanding of esports athletes' careers pathways and needs.

Keywords: esports, career environment , health, social wellbeing

SubID: 21302001288
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Women in Ballroom Dancing: Ideal Femininity or Fulfilling Social Expectations?
Topic: Sport and sexuality, Sport and gender, Sport and the body
Author / Authors: Karolina Kierońska-Olszewska[1]
[1]Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw

Short abstract:

Numerous studies suggest that adhering to the standards of normative femininity places female athletes in a paradoxical position, as sport is stereotypically regarded as a masculine domain. However, this study focuses on ballroom dancing, a discipline associated with stereotypical feminine aesthetics, grace, and an idealized physical appearance. The theoretical framework draws on Mimi Schippers' (2007) concept of hegemonic femininity.
The study aimed to explore the construction of femininity among professional Polish ballroom dancers (average training duration of 14.2 years). Additionally, it analyzed the influence of the sports environment on shaping femininity and heteronormative patterns. To investigate these issues, six semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with dancers (mean age: 22.5 years), each lasting approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.
The findings indicate that particularly coaches and judges, play a significant role in constructing hegemonic femininity among the dancers. The informants reported that stereotypical femininity was reinforced by coaches and reproduced in their everyday lives. They also described practices of sexualization, including flirtatious behaviors toward judges, often encouraged by coaches. Furthermore, dancers expressed feelings of objectification by both partners and coaches. Also, the findings revealed imposed heteronormative practices on the informants, rooted in male dominance over female partners. The dancers perceived their role as that of 'ornaments' for their male partners. This research indicates that the pressure to maintain heteronormative and idealized femininity, enforced by various social actors, contributes to the persistence of restrictive femininity norms among professional ballroom dancers.

Keywords: femininity, sport, female athletes

SubID: 31953006204
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Sanctioned to Switch: The Impact of Ukraine War Sanctions on Russian Athletes' Nationality Changes in Global Sports
Topic: Sport and power relations, conflict and resilience, Sport, politics and policy, Sport and war

Author / Authors: Michał Kobierecki[1], Gijsbert Oonk[2]
[1]University of Lodz
[2]Erasmus University Rotterdam

Short abstract:

This research examines the impact of sports sanctions against Russia, resulting from the country's invasion of Ukraine, on the nationality changes of Russian athletes. The study reveals a significant increase in the number of Russian-born athletes representing other countries at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. This surge, a 9.5-fold increase compared to previous Olympics, highlights the effectiveness of sports sanctions in prompting athletes to seek alternative avenues for international competition. The analysis investigates the motivations behind these nationality switches, exploring the interplay between athletes' personal aspirations, the policies of receiving states, and the geopolitical context. The study underscores the complex interplay between sports diplomacy, migration patterns, and individual athlete agency in the globalized sports landscape.

Keywords: sports sanctions, athlete migration, Russia, nationality change, Olympics, sports diplomacy

SubID: 42604008407
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Non-native-speaker preschoolers' engagement in leisure time activities – Could organized sport participation enhance family integration to Finland?
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and migration, Special session organised by Till Müller-Schoell and Remco Hoekman: Local sport policy for marginalized groups: a governance approach on policy change and good practices

Author / Authors: Henriikka Koivukoski[1], Hanna Vehmas[1], Elina Hasanen[1], Arja Sääkslahti[1]
[1]University of Jyväskylä, Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences

Short abstract:

As culturally and linguistically diverse group, migrants may face barriers for healthy behaviours, such as participation to organized sports. Over 24000 children under five years of age have been migrated to Finland in the past decade, with various linguistic backgrounds. The current study compared participation to organized sports, screen time, family income level and living areas among 2-6-year-old children by their native language in Finland. The data were collected by an online survey for parents of children who attended in early childhood education and care in 2019-2021. Finland's native languages, Finnish and Swedish, were spoken by 94 percent (n=8581) of the children in our sample (N=9126). Thus, six percent (n=545) of the children spoke other language as their mother tongue, i.e., were non-native speakers. Organized sport participation was less prevalent among non-native speakers with 11 percent engagement, when 19 percent of native speakers engaged in organized sports ($\chi 2$ 18,03; $p<0,001$). High screen time was more prevalent in non-native speakers (36 %) compared to native speakers (24 %) ($\chi 2$ 27,95; $p<0,001$). Non-native speakers were over-represented in the lowest income tertile ($\chi 2$ 123,45; $p<0,001$) and urban living settings ($\chi 2$ 79,77; $p<0,001$). Children with other native language than of their country of residence may be under-represented in organized sports and engage in high amount of screen time. There is need for low cost organized sports in Finland's urban areas for under school aged children. Implementing sport intentionally to help migration and integration should be considered carefully with its possibilities and limitations in Finland.

Keywords: organized sport participation, screen time, young children, inclusion, integration

SubID: 74557005905
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Turkish Athletes' Views on Harassment and Abuse in Sports
Topic: Child protection and safeguarding in sport, Violence in sport
Author / Authors: Pınar Öztürk[1], İrem Kavasoğlu[2], Mine Kızılgüneş[1], Canan Koca[1]
[1]Hacettepe University
[2]Çukurova University

Short abstract:

Türkiye does not yet have a safeguarding policy at the national level. Under these circumstances, a national research project was conducted between 2022 and 2024, aiming to uncover the prevalence of harassment and abuse in Türkiye's sports environment and the risk factors contributing to this issue, to inform policy development. In order to make athletes' voices more audible, this study, which is part of the project, presents qualitative data on athletes' meanings of safe sport and their experiences of harassment and abuse. 39 athletes (22 women and 17 men) participated in individual interviews. The athletes, representing 23 different sports disciplines, were aged between 16 and 42. The data were analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis, leading to the development of four themes. The findings indicate that: a) Safe sport is a multifaceted concept for athletes. b) Barriers to safe sport include poor governance, the lack of trust in athletes' narratives, and athletes' unawareness of harassment and abuse. c) A win-at-all-costs sports culture and hierarchical relationships are key risk factors for abuse, and in the absence of institutional support mechanisms, the effects of abuse persist systematically. d) Therefore, there is a need to adopt an athlete-centered approach and develop inclusive and sustainable safeguarding education programs. In conclusion, athletes expressed that they are not trusted, their voices are not heard, and they do not perceive the existence of a supportive sports environment that encourages reporting abusive behavior.

Keywords: safe sport, athletes, safeguarding, risk factors

SubID: 95859000524
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Running Unplugged: Disrupted Identity and Technological Disengagement Among Distance Runners
Topic: New trends in sport, Sport and new technologies
Author / Authors: Jonas Landgren[1], Assaf Lev[2]
[1]University of Gothenburg
[2]Ono Academic College

Short abstract:

This presentation covers a sociological exploration of the emotional dimensions involved in disconnecting from smartwatch use within the context of distance running, based on a collaborative autoethnographic research project. The analysis centers on the experiences of two middle-aged, non-elite long-distance runners who transitioned from years of reliance on smartwatches to a period of technological disengagement. Drawing upon Foucault's concept of "technologies of the self," the paper investigates the interactional and narrative facets of this "cold turkey" journey, with an emphasis on the emotional and psychological processes of disengagement. It examines the ways in which the researchers coped with running "unplugged" while attempting to preserve a positive sense of self as runners amid challenges to their athletic identities. Four central themes emerged: (1) A Sense of liberty, (2) Alternative cues, (3) The absent (running) self (4) The naked self. Together, these themes illuminate the nuanced tension between external control through performance metrics and the runners' desire for autonomy in shaping their running experience.

Keywords: smartwatches, distance-running, auto-ethnography, identity, Foucault

SubID: 53255005187
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: GAME Streetmekka – learning from a unique facility concept aimed at supporting and developing local informal and organized street sport and street culture
Topic: Sport and the urban
Author / Authors: Signe Højbjerre Larsen[1], Jens Høyer-Kruse[1]
[1]University of Southern Denmark

Short abstract:

In Denmark, facilities for street sports and street culture have expanded to support diversity in leisure and sports participation. This development reflects a growing societal interest in promoting inclusive, accessible spaces for physical activity and cultural expression, particularly for groups underrepresented in traditional sports infrastructures (Larsen, 2024). Changes in youth sports participation, the demand for informal, low-barrier opportunities, and recognition of their potential to foster social inclusion and community engagement have all driven this trend (Gilchrist & Wheaton, 2017). The GAME Streetmekka exemplifies this approach. Opened in 2010 in a repurposed tram depot, the Copenhagen facility provides year-round access to street sports and culture for children and young people from diverse social and ethnic backgrounds. Building on its success, three additional facilities were established in Esbjerg, Viborg, and Aalborg (2016–2018), incorporating organizational and architectural principles tailored to local contexts. These facilities prioritize collaborations with local communities and associations, aligning activities and spaces with local needs, and supporting and developing existing street sports and cultural initiatives. This study examines how GAME Streetmekka has influenced local user groups and activities. It highlights insights from engaging with groups who previously lacked suitable facilities, emphasizing the role of collaboration and adaptable design in fostering community development and social inclusion. The findings offer broader implications for creating inclusive, sustainable leisure facilities that address diverse population needs while supporting self-organized participation and community engagement.

Keywords: street sport, facilities for informal sport, sport organization and governance

SubID: 53255006129
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Ink Trails of Endurance: Tattoos as Symbols of Liminality in the Process of Becoming an Ironman
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and the body

Author / Authors: Assaf Lev[1]
[1]Ono Academic College

Short abstract:

Completing an Ironman Triathlon represents an extreme physical and psychological endeavor, often marking a transformative moment in an athlete's life. Many Ironman finishers commemorate their achievement with an Ironman logo tattoo, typically placed on the calf. This study examines the social significance of these tattoos, arguing that they serve as markers of liminality within the Ironman community. Drawing on Victor Turner's conceptualization of liminality and communitas, the research explores how the transition to an Ironman identity is not solely an individual transformation but a collective experience shaped by social hierarchies, norms, and group solidarity. Using a qualitative approach, this study analyzes participant observations and semi-structured interviews with 21 Ironmen, highlighting the role of tattoos in signaling status, endurance, and belonging. Findings suggest that Ironman tattoos function both as personal affirmations of perseverance and as public symbols that reinforce group membership and hierarchy. While novices experience marginalization within training groups, the tattoo operates as a visible rite of passage, marking one's ascent into the ranks of the 'Ironman elite.' Ultimately, this research challenges traditional notions of identity construction in endurance sports, illustrating the interplay between physical achievement, symbolic representation, and social stratification. This study contributes to the growing field of sports sociology by offering insights into the intersection of endurance sports, body modification, and identity negotiation within athletic communities.

Keywords: Ironman, tattoo, identity, body

SubID: 42604001208
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Reimagining monitoring, evaluation, and learning: Exploring complexity and experience through the Capability Approach
Topic: Sport and social change, Sport for development and peace, Sport and social theory
Author / Authors: James Lever[1]
[1]Abertay University

Short abstract:

Sport for development (SfD) continues to be a focal point for calls for rigorous monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) (Harris and Adams, 2016). However, the emphasis on producing evidence of social impact and proving value often leads to positivistic MEL approaches (Haudenhuyse and Debognies, 2022), which risk overlooking the nuanced and diverse experiences of programme beneficiaries. Whilst there has been a recent emergence of participatory approaches to MEL, these approaches can still neglect the complexities involved in development and are not guaranteed to be well received by stakeholders. Drawing on ethnographic work with a local SfD organisation, this research examines current MEL practices to understand the contextual setting and identify possibilities for change. Additionally, it explores the suitability of the Capability Approach (CA) (Sen, 1999) as a potential tool to investigate the complexity of impact within its SfD programmes. Findings indicate that MEL within the organisation is largely informal, lacks standardisation, and insights are rarely communicated beyond the individual level. When formal MEL is conducted, it is typically done on an ad hoc basis to meet funder requirements. These issues highlight the need for an approach that can address both the fragmented nature of current practices and the plurality of development. This research concludes that the CA has the potential to be a valuable analytical framework for guiding MEL practices. Its flexibility and emphasis on individual agency are key assets. However, the CA alone is insufficient for fostering organisational learning due to its lack of generative traits.

Keywords: complexity, complex adaptive systems, capabilities, functionings, agency, evaluation

SubID: 74557001686
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The Volunteer Blueprint: Crafting Ideal Roles in Sports Organizations
Topic: Sport organization and governance
Author / Authors: Louise Lindkvist[1]
[1]Unit of Police Work

Short abstract:

International studies have extensively examined volunteerism from an individual perspective, focusing on motivation, commitment, and satisfaction. However, there has been less focus on the contextual effects on volunteering, particularly how socially shaped expectations influence volunteer involvement. Understanding these factors is crucial for explaining volunteering patterns and developing strategies to enhance engagement. This study adopts an organizational perspective on volunteering, aiming to explore the social expectations surrounding the formation of distinct volunteer roles. The research question guiding this study is: What desirable competencies, abilities, and skills are associated with volunteer engagement in non-profit sport organizations?
Institutional theory, specifically the concept of typification, will frame the analysis. Typification refers to the process by which certain patterns of social interaction become established as 'types' or 'norms' within a society. This study goes beyond existing analyses by investigating how these institutional norms and expectations shape volunteer roles and engagement in sports clubs.
Initially, a pilot study will be conducted with one multisport organization comprising over 500 members to refine the research design and methodology. The size and scope of this organization will allow for capturing contrasting levels of volunteer engagement. Volunteers will be selected using purposive sampling to ensure diverse representation.
At the time of the abstract submission deadline, data collection is about to be initiated, and preliminary results will be presented at the upcoming conference. Findings will foster an informed discussion about what constitutes an 'ideal' volunteer and highlight potential discrepancies between this ideal profile and the actual capabilities perceived by members.

Keywords: volunteerism, institutional theory, typification, civic engagement

SubID: 63906002046
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Sport activity and age. Current trends in European society (2004-2022)
Topic: Sport and ageing
Author / Authors: Ramon Llopis-Goig[1]
[1]University of Valencia

Short abstract:

The relationship between sport participation and age in most European countries has traditionally followed clearly distinguishable patterns. Generally, sport participation rates were high during childhood and adolescence; they began to decline with the onset of adulthood and declined further over time in line with the biological effects of ageing. In recent years, however, there are growing indications that the above description is no longer valid to describe the situation in some European countries. National studies have found significant increases in physical activity among adults and older people. At the same time and more recently, studies have also warned that younger people are becoming less interested in sport; a trend that could be related to the increase in the supply of leisure activities, as well as to the progressive displacement of these activities to virtual environments. This research aims to shed light on this issue. To do so, we analyse the evolution of sport participation of younger and older age groups in the European Union. The analysis is based on the Eurobarometers conducted by the European Commission between 2004 and 2022. The results show a heterogeneous reality. The gap between young and old people differs from one country to another. On the other hand, the evolution of physical activity and sport among younger and older people also shows different patterns depending on the countries and the different European areas. The paper concludes by formulating some hypotheses regarding the economic, political and cultural factors that could explain the trends identified.

Keywords: sport participation, ageing, European Union, Eurobarometers

SubID: 21302004324
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The impact of technological development and digitalization on the world of sport
Topic: Sport and new technologies
Author / Authors: Gabor Matrai[1]
[1]Hungarian University of Sport Sciences

Short abstract:

Sport has become a fundamental socio-economic area, and it is no coincidence that it became a strategic sector. Sport is an extremely complex phenomenon, it affects physical culture, education policy, health, and its economic and social policy importance is growing. Today we can justifiably speak of a "sports industry". Sport is gaining increasing importance in domestic and foreign policies, and is also an important tool for increasing the countries' image.
The development, spread and completion of information technology, digital technologies, and digitalization itself at an ever faster pace than ever before, are fundamentally changing all areas of the economy and society. It can be stated that digitalization is the engine of the economy, which exerts its effect in all sectors and in addition to its direct value-creating role, catalyzes the transformation and development of industries through its multiplier effect, and fundamentally determines the adaptability and competitiveness of enterprises and national economic sectors, individuals, their communities and the society. Innovation, technological development, the emergence of AI and digital transformation play an increasingly important role in the development of sport and transform the entire ecosystem of sport in a decisive way. My presentation is willing to demonstrate how innovation, digitalization change and transform the world of sport and what impact it has on its ecosystem, with special attention to the current and future role, place and opportunities of AI, which has already appeared in all areas of our live and is transforming our everyday lives to a significant, almost imperceptible extent.

Keywords: sport ecosystem, technological development, digitalization, AI, sport technology, economic and social impact

SubID: 53255001608
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: dr
Topic: Extremism and sport: Forms and their Prevention
Author / Authors: Enrico Michelini[1], Tobias Schleifer[2], Klaus Seiberth[3], Felix Kühnle[4]
[1]HU Berlin
[2]TU Dortmund
[3]Universität Stuttgart
[4]TU Darmstadt

Short abstract:

Right-wing extremism is an alarming phenomenon that poses major challenges to democratic societies. This is also true for organised sport, whose openness does not offer a reliable protection against extremist infiltration. In recent years, sports federations have developed a number of programmes to prevent right-wing extremism, with the main aim of supporting sports clubs in this task. However, there is a lack of recent analyses that provide an overview of the existing prevention efforts of organised sport. The project builds on this research gap and examines how sports clubs become involved in preventing extremism, based on a qualitative research design of 9 case studies of engaged clubs and Luhmann's systems theory. While key actors act as the main drivers, the culture of a sports club can also act as a facilitating factor, enabling the adoption of preventive measures even without a clearly designated group responsible for action. External and internal events, as well as funding opportunities, act as triggers that only work if there are individuals willing to get involved or if the club has a suitable organisational culture. As a result, clubs can engage or disengage based on their internal development or the presence (or absence) of funding opportunities and relevant events. These findings can strengthen the practical and conceptual work against right-wing extremism and misanthropy in sport.

Keywords: extremism, prevention, sport, club

SubID: 21302000155
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Reproducing Power or Driving Change? Examining Sport for Development's Professional-Managerial Class
Topic: Sport and power relations, conflict and resilience, Sport for development and peace
Author / Authors: Louis Moustakas[1]
[1]University of Applied Sciences Kufstein

Short abstract:

Sport for Development (SFD) has evolved into an increasingly formalized, and professionalized field. Today, consultancies, academic departments, and transnational organizations design, develop, evaluate, and disseminate SFD programming and activities. Within these organizations, a growing cadre of coordinators, consultants, and evaluators has emerged to execute key tasks such as program evaluation, development of pedagogical materials, and managing funder requirements.
A Professional-Managerial Class (PMC) has thus developed within SFD, playing a key role in setting the goals, conditions and ideology behind programming. Following the arguments of Ehrenreich and Ehrenreich, this group is also central to the reproduction of capitalist power relations, an object of longstanding concern in SFD. Critics argue that the micro-level focus of SFD programs often reinforces neoliberal notions of personal responsibility while obscuring the systemic factors shaping participants' lived experiences.
Despite these critiques, research has largely overlooked the role of this PMC, which acts as an important intermediary between funders and the communities. Indeed, these workers face an inherent tension: navigating the demands of powerful funding organizations while striving to meet the needs of communities receiving programming.
Against this background, this study explores how workers in SFD's PMC navigate these tensions. Based on qualitative interviews with consultants, project managers, and academics, findings reveal that while these individuals approach their roles with good intentions and engage in acts of resistance, they often ultimately align with funder demands. This raises critical questions about the influence of funding structures and the collective power of the PMC to drive systemic change.

Keywords: professional-managerial class, class relations, neoliberalism, sport for development, capitalism, power relations

SubID: 85208003688
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Political Ideology and Sports Participation: The Role of Social Media, Sport Clubs, and Sport Events
Topic: Sport, politics and policy, Sport and community
Author / Authors: Jelle Muraille[1], Jeroen Scheerder[2]
[1]Catholic University of Leuven/Department of Movement Sciences: Research group Physical Activity, Sports & Health. Policy Research Center on Sport
[2]Catholic University of Leuven/Department of Movement Sciences: Research group Physical Activity, Sports & Health. + Policy Research Center on Sport

Short abstract:

Political ideology is acknowledged as an important factor on societal attitudes and behaviours. However, less attention has been paid to the specific ways that political ideology influences individual's engagement in sports, whether they participate, watch, or are part of sport-related communities. This study addresses this gap by examining how political ideology impacts sports participation across three domains: social media, sport clubs, and sport events. A survey-based approach, incorporating vignette-experiments and motivational measures, captures data from diverse local populations in Flanders. Data were collected from geographically spread municipalities with varying population size and participation rates. Social media engagement is studied using a 2x2 vignette design, exposing participants to sport-related success-oriented versus process-oriented content and educational versus inspirational posts. For sport clubs, motivations and participation are measured, which allows us to compare consistency between club members and non-members and how political ideology impacts these participation rates. Lastly, vignette-based experiments assess attendance preferences for events framed as community- versus individual-oriented. We anticipate that right-leaning individuals will prefer competitive, success-oriented, and individual-focused sports contexts, while left-leaning individuals will favour socially inclusive, community-oriented. These ideological preferences are expected to emerge consistently across all three domains. This research highlights the role of political ideology in shaping sports participation and engagement. The results of this study provide actionable insights for sports organisations, event organisers, and policymakers. By tailoring strategies to align with diverse ideological values, municipalities can use sports to promote individual development and foster social cohesion, bridging ideological divides.

Keywords: political ideology, sport participation, social media, sport events, sport clubs

SubID: 74557003297
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Once upon a time, KPK was the European champion: Knocking on the door of champions from the island of Korčula
Topic: Sport and social change, Sport and community, Youth sport
Author / Authors: Marco Mustapić[1]
[1]Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar

Short abstract:

Croatian water polo has a tradition more than a century long; it is also the sport in which Croatia has the most trophies. Despite the popularity of water polo in Croatia, it has received no significant sociological or research interest. Only one ethnographic study of water polo club has been conducted (Mustapić et al., 2019). The goal of this paper is to affirm the key determinants in the historical significance of KPK Korčula, which won the European championship in 1978—the only club from a European island to do so—and compare it to today's club organisation, work with youth, and the influence of water polo on youth social participation on the island. The presentation uses data collected during ethnographic research begun in June 2024 on the island of Korčula, which is planned to conclude in the summer of 2026. So far, we have collected more than 70 field diary entries, including home and away matches, training sessions, socialising with supporters and club members etc. The club has a modern indoor pool since 2012 and only since then works with kids all year long. The club continues to produce great talents and has success in the younger categories. The best of them leave the club and the island early. The arrival of players from other clubs is very rare. During the summer, both men and women participate as players and spectators in numerous events related to water polo. It shows the strong connection between the local community and water polo club.

Keywords: water polo, KPK, youth, island of Korčula, socialisation, social participation

SubID: 21302003128
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Democratic attitudes of sports club members in Germany: What role does club culture play?
Topic: Sport Organisations Research Network (SORN) specific session
Author / Authors: Michael Mutz[1], Sebastian Braun[2], Ulrike Burrmann[2]
[1]Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen
[2]Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Short abstract:

It is not only in the neo-Tocquevillean discourse that civic associations like sports clubs are regarded as pillars of democracies. Academic claims include the assumption that sports clubs could foster an orientation towards the common good, political engagement and participation, thereby functioning as "schools of democracy". This paper examines whether – and if so, under what conditions – members of sports clubs are characterized by attitudes that promote democracy. We present findings from the German research project "Political attitudes in organized sports", drawing on a population survey (N=3.049) conducted in 2024, representing the resident population in Germany (>13 years). We deliberately oversampled sports club members in order to allow for differentiated analyses of this group, e.g. according to the length of club membership, active participation in the club, and volunteering. In addition to their own attitudes towards politics and democracy, club members also answered questions about their club's culture. Findings indicate that there is only a slight difference in political and democratic attitudes between sports club members and non-members. However, more elaborated models for sports club members indicate that active participation and the number of years spent in the club as well as a club culture that encourages initiative, open political debate, and diversity are predictive of attitudes in favor of democracy. These findings support the notion that both individual participation and club culture matter. Based on these findings, we propose a perspective that acknowledges the existence of a range of club cultures and their relevance for democratic orientations.

Keywords: sport organizations, "schools of democracy", political attitudes, political culture

SubID: 63906005397
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Coverage and framing of female athletes' claims for "equal pay" in the German media
Topic: Sport and social change, Sport, politics and policy, Sport and media
Author / Authors: Swantje Müller[1], Henk Erik Meier[2], Mara Verena Konjer[2], Michael Mutz[1]
[1]Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen
[2]Universität Münster

Short abstract:

In recent years, there has been an increasing call for "equal pay" for female athletes, typically demanding equal salaries and prize money in women's sports compared to men's sports. A higher share of female athletes utilizes their visibility and popularity to draw attention to these grievances by introducing the issue into the public debate. The present study aims to examine the frequency and circumstances under which equal pay claims are made and analyzes how these claims are framed in the media. By media frames, we refer to general patterns of meaning and interpretation that selectively emphasize certain aspects of a topic (while neglecting others), enabling recipients to perceive events or situations in a consistent manner. Empirically, we conducted a comprehensive analysis of German-language articles in leading media outlets, published between January 2020 and December 2024. A total of 96 articles were identified which refer to the notion of equal pay for female athletes. A qualitative content analysis of these articles revealed nine frames that were used to position, categorize and qualify these demands, typically in terms of its political, economic, and moral implications. The presentation will describe these frames in detail and illustrate them with the aid of text examples. Additionally, we illustrate interconnections between these frames. The analysis of media discourse in Germany reveals a prevailing sentiment of support for the claims and demands of female athletes, with these demands being interpreted as both legitimate and worthy of support.

Keywords: athlete activism, equal pay, gender equality, media framing, social change

SubID: 85208006219
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Multilevel policy implementation in organized sport: a multi-case study of programs that promote female sports activities
Topic: Sport Organisations Research Network (SORN) specific session

Author / Authors: Siegfried Nagel[1], Christoffer Klenk[1], Matthias Buser[1], Sarah Schlunegger[1], Eivind Skille[2], Cecilia Stenling[3], Josef Fahlén[3]
[1]University of Bern
[2]University of Inland Norway
[3]Umeå University

Short abstract:

Women and girls are underrepresented in club sport, not least in certain sports like football. For this reason, policy makers, particularly sport federations, regularly launch initiatives that aim to 'even the score' between women and men. However, usually only a comparatively small number of clubs implement such ambitious programs. Therefore, the aim of our paper is to understand which actors and factors at various levels are relevant for the implementation process answering the following research questions: (1) How are sport federations' programs for promoting female sport activities launched? (2) How are programs implemented in clubs? Based on existing concepts of multilevel policy implementation (e.g. Fahrner & Klenk, 2018), we use case studies to qualitatively examine the launch of specific support programs that promote female sport participation in three Swiss sports federations (badminton, football, ice hockey). The various elements of the implementation process were reconstructed using problem-centered interviews with decision-makers from the respective federations and focus groups with club representatives.
Regarding program development, results show that several actors and organizations in program networks are commonly important for creating ideas and providing resources and know-how. For the program launch, clear information and a regular dialogue between the federation and clubs appear important for success. In addition to giving female participants equal opportunities to practice sports, the clubs have functional interests, e.g. recruitment of new female players. As for barriers, top-down program structure, extensive administrative efforts, weak support, and prerequisites for participation (e.g. trained coaches) can hamper program implementation.

Keywords: promoting women sport, policy implementation, sports federations and clubs

SubID: 31953002405
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: A Figurational Analysis of Heading Policies in Association Football
Topic: Sport, politics and policy, Sport and well-being, Youth sport
Author / Authors: Bright Nduka[1]
[1]York St John University

Short abstract:

Professional football is recognised as a hazardous occupation, with injury rates surpassing those of other industries (Roderick et al., 2000). Among these injuries, concussions have notably risen among athletes in recent years, prompting increased research attention (Liston et al., 2016) and the development of head policies prioritising athlete safety and well-being due to lay narratives and research speculations suggesting a causal link between heading the ball and brain injuries in football (Malcolm, 2021).
This study explores the content of head-related policies in football, the extent of their application, and the impact of these policies on the health and welfare of young boys in professional football academies. It examines factors that have facilitated or impeded policy implementation and investigates how these policies have shaped the attitudes of these boys toward football.
Adopting a figurational perspective provides deeper insight into the social context of these policies, allowing us to comprehend the activities that influenced their formulation beyond just their content while examining the power interplay between interdependent relationships involved in formulating and implementing these policies.
This documentary analysis reveals that (1) the formulation of these policies primarily focused on children/teenagers, is informed by research conducted on adults. (2) Focus/emphasis is on heading in training, with little attention given to activities on match days amongst others.
Further aspects of this study aim to assess the suitability and effectiveness of these policies in safeguarding the health and safety of boys in professional football academies, with other data collection methods further exploring this objective.

Keywords: concussion, policy, football, heading, figuration

SubID: 85208009639
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: China and Sport for Development and Peace: exploring global processes and mechanisms through assemblage theory.
Topic: Sport for development and peace, Sport and new technologies, Methodology in sports sociology

Author / Authors: Alessio Norrito[1], Paul Widdop[1], Richard Giulianotti[2]
[1]Manchester Metropolitan University
[2]Loughborough University

Short abstract:

China has long noted a duality of desire to use sport as a means of projecting its image abroad, but also as a mechanism for development and social reform at home. While much research has focused on the wider use of sport in China, there has been relatively lower attention to the role of sport in relation to social development objectives and its international linkages. Yet, the study of sport for development and peace (SDP) in the context of China has crucial implications to better understand SDP globally. In this presentation, we provide an investigation of SDP initiatives with respect to China. To do so, we propose an exploratory design for global SDP through the application of assemblage theory. The methodology follows a wide, systematic qualitative exploration of 252 newsletters on the Chinese sports industry across 6 years, enabling the investigation of SDP processes and mechanisms. The results highlight four major themes: cultural exchanges, health education, rural development, and international business. Visibility and technological advancements are key elements that characterize SDP mechanisms within China. The intentions of global SDP initiatives in the country, however, may fall under the logic of market expansion. In doing so, we present findings and implications for global sport organizations that intend to pursue meaningful local SDP initiatives. We further argue for the longitudinal exploration of SDP processes of global organizations, and their interconnectedness with other domains of the global sport industry, through innovative data and methodologies.

Keywords: global sport industry, international business, cross-cultural interaction, rural development, health education, technology

SubID: 31953009846
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Freak fights: towards a new sporting spectacle
Topic: Violence in sport, Sports spectatorship and fandom, New trends in sport
Author / Authors: Przemysław Nosal[1]
[1]Adam Mickiewicz University

Short abstract:

Freak fights are one of the most interesting sociological phenomena in Polish sport (?) in recent years. Although these fights follow the MMA formula of two fighters competing in the ring, the fighters themselves are atypical: former athletes, influencers, celebrities or controversial public figures, often with no previous fighting experience. Fight galas are also accompanied by a spectacular media setting (including trailers, talk shows, live conferences with fans, social media streaming, pay-per-view broadcasts). Ventures designed in this way are hugely popular and highly profitable, but at the same time they raise numerous debates about their ethical dimensions.
Freak fights can be seen as a contemporary version of freak shows. Fighters are subjected to similar processes of 'ufreaking' in order to confirm or accentuate their freak fighter personality. They become objects of ridicule, insults and hate speech, but gain incredible, easily monetised popularity through their participation in galas. The analysis of freak fights also reveals important changes in sport, such as the redefinition of sporting competition, spectacles of violence and carnality, the so-called demotic turn or the mediatisation of reality.
The presentation will be in two parts. The first will present the theoretical framework within which the analysis of freakfights can be set. In the second part, on the basis of the research carried out (IDI with freakfight fans, N=40), the most interesting threads of the socio-cultural transformation of sport offered by freakfights will be presented.

Keywords: combat sports, sport spectacle, violence, fights, MMA, sociology of sport, sports media, new trends in sport

SubID: 95859006405
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Sport and social inclusion – theoretical considerations and preliminary results of a case study
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport

Author / Authors: János Novák[1], Tamás Dóczi[2]
[1]Hungarian University of Sports Science, Doctoral School of Sport Sciences
[2]Hungarian University of Sports Science, Department of Social Sciences

Short abstract:

Sport is a specific and varied area of social inequalities. It is a social subsystem that, on the one hand, reproduces inequalities, but also a key channel for social mobility and inclusion. The paper aims to show the initial steps and first results of a doctoral research that examines the potential and importance of sport through socio-economic inequalities. It aims to clarify concepts and interpretative issues related to social inclusion, linking theoretical and practical aspects. Since the phenomenon and conceptual web of social inclusion are primarily shaped by the individuals and their personal experiences, to understand the complexity of different processes and mechanisms, multiple methodological approaches need to be applied. Starting from Bourdieu's theory of field and capital, we explore the relationship between social inclusion and sport, complemented by presenting the work of a Hungarian civil organization, the Second Chance Sports Association and its key operational mechanisms. The presentation separates the meanings of four concepts: participation in sport, social inclusion through sport, community and social integration through sport. Creating a common conceptual framework can be a first step towards building a unified paradigm that, on the one hand, synthesises the different interpretations of social inclusion and, on the other hand, identifies the main nodes and practices of the conditionality of inclusion through sport.

Keywords: social inequality, social inclusion, social integration, sport, sport for all

SubID: 42604014139
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Breaking Boundaries: Gender, Race and National Identity at the Olympics, 1896-2024
Topic: Olympic studies, Sport and gender, Sport, race and ethnicity
Author / Authors: Gijsbert Oonk[1]
[1]Erasmus University Rotterdam

Short abstract:
Breaking Boundaries: Gender, Race, and Nationality in the Olympic Games, 1896-2024

The Olympic Games have long served as a global stage reflecting broader societal debates on inclusion and exclusion. Gender equality within the Games has evolved from outright prohibition of female athletes to contemporary debates on gender identity and classification. Despite significant progress, disparities in participation, representation, and access persist. This paper examines the structural barriers, cultural resistance, and the broader implications of gendered categories in sports.

Aims/Objectives
We developed a global evidence-based model to explain the inclusion and exclusion of women in Olympic sports. Key questions include:

• How did the participation (in numbers and categories) evolve?
• What are the underlying justifications for maintaining separate gender categories in sports, and how do they intersect with debates on fairness and inclusion?
• To what extent do gender-identification controversies reflect broader discussions on the exclusion of women in elite sports?

Theoretical Reflections/Experiences
The study engages with interdisciplinary perspectives from history, social sciences, and political theory to analyze gendered participation in the Olympics. It critically examines institutional biases, such as the exclusion of women from endurance events, the imposition of dress codes, and the policing of gender boundaries in cases like Caster Semenya.

Implications
By tracing the historical trajectory of gender inclusion in the Olympics, this study highlights the paradoxes of "separate but equal" categories in sports. The findings contribute to ongoing policy discussions within the International Olympic Committee and broader debates on gender justice in sports.

Keywords: Olympics, gender, history, race , nationality

SubID: 85208007839
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: „I think that a man is definitely perceived differently than a woman" – the perception of female and male PE teachers
Topic: Sport and gender
Author / Authors: Natalia Organista[1], Zuzanna Mazur[1]
[1]Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw

Short abstract:

Numerous studies have shown that physical education (PE) and sports are fields where gender inequalities are reproduced. This presentation explores the discourses and meanings attributed to gender and PE by female and male PE teachers, as well as their teaching practices. The research methods involved observations of 60 PE lessons (each lasting 45 minutes) conducted in a public secondary school, alongside individual in-depth interviews 37 PE teachers (16 women and 19 men) and with 23 PE teacher educators (10 women and 13 men).
The findings revealed that gender remains a key organizing principle in PE, influencing perceptions of professional competence and the image of male and female PE teachers. Participants commonly viewed PE as a gendered activity, with teachers frequently assigned to work with boys or girls based on their gender.
One of the prevailing discourses about PE teachers reinforced stereotypical beliefs about male PE teachers' character traits and competencies, which enabled them to be involved in sports coaching, while female PE teachers were viewed as being engaged in "caring work."
Interviews with PE teacher educators revealed similar patterns of thinking; as with practicing PE teachers, the discourse of sports competence was sometimes used to assign a higher value to male future PE teachers in educational settings.
Overall, the analysis underscores the complexity of gendered practices within PE and the subtle ways in which normative gender relations are reinforced.

Keywords: PE, gender, PE teachers, PE teachers educators, Poland

SubID: 85208001324
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Sport Success as a Catalyst for Social Transformation: A Case Study of Women's Perspectives in a Peripheral City
Topic: Sport and social change, Sport and the urban, Sport and community
Author / Authors: Levental Orr[1], Hadas Brodie Shroeder[2]
[1]Tel Hai University
[2]Wingate College

Short abstract:

This study examines how professional sport achievement influences social and emotional infrastructures in peripheral communities through the case of Hapoel Tiberias' promotion to the Israeli Premier League. While existing literature predominantly focuses on economic impacts and fan relationships, this research investigates how sporting success reshapes collective identity and social perceptions among non-traditional stakeholders. Through semi-structured interviews with twelve women residents of Tiberias who do not identify as football supporters, we explore how athletic achievement transcends sporting boundaries to influence broader community dynamics.
The findings reveal three interconnected themes: First, a renewed local identity emerges, characterized by pride in positive media coverage and enhanced regional standing, yet tempered by historical skepticism regarding sustained success. Second, social cohesion strengthens through shared achievement experiences, fostering new patterns of community engagement and collective celebration. Third, the promotion catalyzes a perceptual shift in future possibilities, particularly visible in youth aspirations and enhanced sense of local capability, challenging established narratives of peripheral limitation.
The findings demonstrate that professional sports' influence extends far beyond traditional boundaries of fan engagement or urban economic development. This research reveals how sporting achievement radiates through broader social circles, affecting community members traditionally disconnected from sports, thereby reshaping collective identity and social possibilities in peripheral communities.

Keywords: peripherality, identity, sport, Israel, community-impact

SubID: 42604009606
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Globalized Spirituality, Local Realities: The Social Dimensions of Yoga in Poland
Topic: Sport and social class
Author / Authors: Natallia Paulovich[1]
[1]The Maria Grzegorzewska University

Short abstract:

This study examines the gendered, class, and religious dimensions of yoga consumption among middle-income women in Warsaw's peripheral Ursus district. Through participant observation and semi-structured interviews, it reveals how yoga functions as a therapeutic practice, valued for its role in addressing physical and emotional challenges. Participants emphasized yoga's benefits in coping with daily stressors, improving sleep, and enhancing resilience. The study also highlights how practitioners navigate yoga's religious aspects in a predominantly Catholic context, secularizing the practice while maintaining their faith. Moreover, yoga in this local context fosters a sense of community and collective identity, challenging individualistic narratives often associated with Western yoga. The changing room interactions serve as spaces for sharing experiences and mutual support. Notably, an anti-consumerist trend emerges, with participants prioritizing accessibility and practice over branded accessories, contrasting with yoga's commodification in urban centers. This research contributes to understanding yoga's global adaptations and its significance as a feminist practice in diverse cultural contexts. It underscores the importance of examining yoga's peripheries, where empowerment and well-being intersect in unexpected ways, inviting further exploration of yoga's role in marginalized communities.

Keywords: yoga, therapy, women, gym-users, Warsaw, religion

SubID: 31953003928
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Collaborative governance in practice: what challenges and potentials does the boundary spanner bring to sport for social change?
Topic: Sport and social change
Author / Authors: Marlene Pedersen[1]
[1]University of Southern Denmark, Centre for Sports, Health and Civil Society

Short abstract:

Cross-sectoral collaboration has gained increasing attention over the past decade as a way to address societal challenges through sports. A strategy in such initiatives is the implementation of a 'bridge builder' role—an individual tasked with connecting schools and local sports associations to enhance vulnerable children's access to leisure activities. Despite the widespread use of the formalized 'bridge builder role,' research on how this role is practiced in everyday contexts, and the extent to which it can contribute to social change, has received sparse attention in research on sport for social change. This paper addresses this gap by exploring a Danish project employing 'bridge builders' in two socio-economically challenged urban communities.
Methodologically, the study draws on qualitative interviews. The bridge builders in the study are formally employed by schools but operate across institutional boundaries, collaborating with school staff, local associations, families, and children. This multi-method approach provides rich insights into their work and challenges in practice.
The analysis reveals that the effectiveness of the bridge builder role depends not only on formal assignment but also on the individual's ability to establish legitimacy across multiple fields. Findings highlight both the potential of collaborative governance to create inclusive access to sports and the tensions that emerge when professional boundaries are challenged, particularly by volunteer involvement. The paper identifies key challenges and successful strategies for fostering joint practice fields and offers recommendations to support the role of bridge builders in sport for social change.

Keywords: cross-sectoral collaboration, bridge builder, schools, local sports associations

SubID: 31953001326
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: You are expected to do everything right" - a norm-critical exploration of exercise norms in the gym and their relation with the healthistic discourse and gym exercise as the representation of health promotion
Topic: Sport and power relations, conflict and resilience, Sport and public health
Author / Authors: Pelle Pelters[1]
[1]Stockholm University

Short abstract:

Introduction: The gym is a well-established location for health promotion, imbued with health and exercise norms. Concepts of a healthistic discourse, disciplinary medical gaze and bio-citizenship are applied as theoretical frame to investigate the normative relation between gym exercise and health promotion.
Aims: From a norm-critical stance, this sub-study aims at identifying gym exercise norms and their relation with the healthistic discourse's normative frame to get a deeper understanding for gym exercise's position as prominent representation of health-promotion.
Method: 24 semi-structured in-depth interviews with Swedish active, reasonably healthy (= normal) gym-users aged 27-76 have been conducted, exploring pains in the gym and their meaning for exercise. Starting from the insight that norm-breaking is such a pain, exercise norms have been analyzed using qualitative content analysis.
Findings: Norms define gym exercise as an individual, committed, self-responsible, knowledge-/ awareness-based endeavor whose suitability is constantly surveyed. To enact this exercise frame norm-obediently, gym-users need to obey performance norms such as to do one's best, seek pains responsibly and adjust one's performance to different contextually defined performance standards in the gym. Traditional body building's former exercise norms of intensity, endurance and ambitiousness are hence replaced by norms emphasizing improvement, responsibility and surveyance in today's gyms. These exercise norms conform to norms characterizing the healthistic discourse and its representative, the model bio-citizen.
Conclusion: As exercise norms of 'normal' gym-users conform to health norms of healthistic bio-citizens, gym exercise is considered a perfect representation of the normative demands of health promotion and therefore its panacea.

Keywords: gym, exercise, norms, health promotion

SubID: 31953000357
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: In the Name of Achievement: Women's Fitness Body in an Era of 'Positivity'
Topic: Sport and power relations, conflict and resilience, Sport and gender, Sport and the body

Author / Authors: Bo Peng[1]
[1]The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Short abstract:

The fit ideal, disseminated from the culture of fitspiration on social media, is often positioned as a symbol of health and empowerment. However, its implications deserve scrutiny due to its links to body dissatisfaction and psychological distress. Unlike the predominant thin ideal, which is tied to patriarchal oppression as articulated by Michel Foucault's concept of the disciplinary society, the fit ideal presents a more complex paradox. While it incorporates elements of self-sexualization and objectification, it also intertwines ostensibly positive discourses with harmful impacts. This theoretical analysis explores how the fit ideal extends beyond the disciplinary mechanisms of the thin ideal, encompassing a dual role that combines empowerment narratives with the pressures of self-optimization. Drawing on Byung-Chul Han's concepts of achievement society and psychopolitics, this paper examines how the fit ideal fosters body dissatisfaction, self-exploitation, and possibly burnout. It perpetuates a model of self-discipline that, under the guise of positivity, enforces a regime of constant self-improvement, sustaining cycles of dissatisfaction and psychological strain. Furthermore, reclaiming the female body and embodied experiences requires a critical interrogation of these ideals, including their ties to neoliberal selfhood and the commodification of feminism, both of which perpetuate patriarchal oppression. By examining these power dynamics, this analysis offers a nuanced understanding of how contemporary fitness culture intersects with feminist empowerment and the relentless pursuit of self-optimization in the 21st century.

Keywords: fit ideal; female body; feminist empowerment; achievement society; burnout society; neoliberalism; self-discipline; self-exploitation; biopower; Michel Foucault, Byung-ChuL Han

SubID: 42604010926
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Motivation of volunteers at the 2023 Budapest World Athletics Championships
Topic: Elite and mass sport events
Author / Authors: Szilvia Perenyi[1], Balázs Polcsik[1]
[1]Hungarian University of Sport Sciences

Short abstract:

This research investigated volunteer motivation for the 2023 World Budapest Athletics Championships. Volunteer Motivation Scale for International Sporting Events (VMS-ISE) containing 19 motivational statements was completed by event volunteers (N=603); gender breakdown of sample: 31.9% male, 68.1% female. The applicability of the Volunteer Motivation Questionnaire in the Hungarian context and for the World Athletics Championships volunteers was supported by confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). The results of validity (convergent and discriminant) and reliability (internal consistency) analyses were satisfactory. In terms of socio-demographic characteristics, it seems that women, younger people, people with higher education and people actively involved in sport were the most likely to volunteer. Little variation was observed in motivational statements along socio-demographic variables, while significant variation was observed for active participation in sport. Volunteering for the community, liking sport and interpersonal relationships were the most important motivations for volunteering, while external motivations were not important for volunteers. The vast majority of volunteers (97.4%) indicated that they would participate in a similar sporting event as volunteers in the future. The results suggest that the modified VMS-ISE survey is a useful tool for measuring volunteer motivations at international sport events in Hungary and contributes to understanding volunteer motivations and identifying differences along background variables. By understanding differences in motivation, organisers of sport events can develop more effective volunteer recruitment and retention strategies.

Keywords: motivation, volunteers, survey, sports events, 2023 Budapest World Athletics Championships

SubID: 53255001566
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Perfectionism and Injuries in Women's Team Sports: Preliminary Findings
Topic: Violence in sport, Youth sport
Author / Authors: Saša Pišot[1], Ana Cikač[1]
[1]Science and Research Centre Koper

Short abstract:

Introduction: Perfectionism is generally defined as a combination of excessively high personal standards and overly critical self-assessment. Many athletes identify as perfectionists, a common trait in sports. Extensive qualitative research highlights the complex impact of perfectionism on athletes' personal and professional lives. Recent studies show that while perfectionism drives success in elite athletes, it also leads to significant personal and interpersonal challenges. Meanwhile, the growing issue of severe sports injuries among young athletes has become institutionalised, often regarded as an inherent part of the sport.
Objectives: Our research focused on whether perfectionism should be encouraged for its benefits or avoided due to its potential negative impact on athlete's injuries.
Methods: As part of the ongoing national project "Machine Learning to Reduce Injury Gaps in Women's Team Sports", which focuses on predicting and identifying risk factors, the Sport-Multidimensional Perfectionism Scale-2 (Sport-MPS-2) was used to assess the presence of perfectionism among top Slovenian young female athletes in team sports. A customised epidemiological questionnaire was also employed to evaluate injury data.
Conclusion: Injury monitoring within the project is ongoing. We will evaluate and compare the perfectionism questionnaire with the collected injury data. Based on the level of perfectionism, we will focus on: (i) the injury frequency throughout an athlete's career, (ii) injury frequency in the year following initial data collection, and (iii) the injury severity.

Keywords: sports injuries, perfectionism, female team sports, young athletes, Sport-MPS-2

SubID: 31953012677
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Perceptions of Budapest Residents on the Impacts of Mega-Sporting Events
Topic: Elite and mass sport events

Author / Authors: Balázs Polcsik[1], Szilvia Perényi[2]
[1]University of Szeged Juhász Gyula Faculty of Education, Institute of Physical Education and Sports Science
[2]associate professor

Short abstract:

This research examines pre-event expectations and post-event perceptions of the impacts of the 2020 UEFA European Football Championship and the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest among residents of the host city, Budapest, to answer our research question: how are Budapest residents' opinions on the events' impacts formed based on socio-demographic characteristics and sport involvement both before and after the events? The research questionnaire used an integrated, multidimensional approach—measuring positive and negative impacts—adapted to the Hungarian context. The repeated cross-sectional data collection was conducted on a representative sample of Budapest residents over 18 years old (n=1000 per event, considering gender, age, and place of residence) using questionnaire-based telephone interviews. The results show significant differences in the perceived effects before and after both events. Perceptions of positive and negative impacts decreased after both mega-events. Expectations of economic and tourism impacts after both events also decreased, as did levels of concern about traffic problems and safety risks. Significant differences between subgroups before and after the events were found in relation to gender, age, sport participation, and interest in the events. Involvement in sport and the events created differences in perceptions about the impact of the two events; a higher degree of involvement resulted in a more positive consideration of event impacts. Research on the perceived impacts of mega-events can be used to explore the views of local residents, as the results of these measurements may help sporting events better serve future needs and address the concerns of local residents.

Keywords: Euro 2020; WABudapest23; perceptions; perceived impacts

SubID: 74557017199
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Sport and masculinity literature: undoing gender via narratives of love and care
Topic: Sport and gender, Sport and social theory
Author / Authors: Richard Pringle[1]
[1]Monash University

Short abstract:

Sport and masculinities literature overwhelmingly link masculinities with men and boys. This linking indirectly acts to entrench understandings of gender as a binary. From Butler's (2004) perspective this is troubling as the gender binary underpins the gender order that sustains male dominance over females. With this concern in mind, I drew on Butler's work on undoing gender and Derrida's (1997) ideas on deconstruction to devise a method for examining men and boys—in the contexts of sport and concussion—in a manner that aims to disrupt the gender binary and dominant ways of understanding masculinity. I discuss my method and present the results using narrative inquiry as a means of representation. The narratives illustrates the instability of masculine/feminine signifiers, highlight the similarities rather than differences between men and women, emphasizes the importance of love and care in men's lives and attempts to invert the feminine/masculine hierarchy. I conclude by discussing the challenges of attempting to disrupt the gender binary.

Keywords: sport, masculinity, deconstruction, undoing gender, Derrida

SubID: 63906002524
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The Overlooked Spectrum: Fat Women's Physical Activity in Focus
Topic: Social justice in sport and physical activity, Sport and gender, Sport and the body
Author / Authors: Anna Puhakka[1]
[1]University of Jyväskylä

Short abstract:

This presentation examines the diversity of physical activity among fat* women, aiming to broaden understandings of how they move. Discussions about fat women's exercise often center either on its avoidance, the discrimination fat people face in exercise environments, or exceptional cases such as fat ultramarathon runners. In this study, however, I argue that fat women's physical activity consists of a broad spectrum of experiences beyond these discourses. I therefore aim to highlight other areas that are often given less attention in exercise culture and research, including within the sociology of sport. The analysis focuses on three key themes: movement for its own sake and as an expression of athletic identity; the role of social and communal aspects in physical activity, emphasizing shared experiences; and the significance of natural environments, as the study data highlights outdoor landscapes both visually and narratively as integral to fat women's movement experiences. The study data consists of two short documentaries, All Bodies on Bikes (2021) and The Fat Hiking Club (2018), which feature fat, physically active women. These materials are analyzed using qualitative content analysis and dialogic thematic analysis. By foregrounding diverse movement experiences, this study contributes to discussions on physical activity, embodiment, and social justice, highlighting the importance of creating physical and discursive movement spaces that acknowledge body diversity and promote gender equity.

*In this presentation, I use the term "fat" to describe individuals whose body weights exceed societal norms, aligning with fat studies scholars and activists who reclaim "fat" as a neutral descriptor.

Keywords: social justice in physical activity, fat embodiment, gender, qualitative methodology

SubID: 85208010088
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The Structure and Dynamics of Romanian Football: Navigating Tradition and Post-Fordist Challenges
Topic: Sport and power relations, conflict and resilience, Sport organization and governance, Sport and social change
Author / Authors: László Péter[1]
[1]Babeș-Bolyai University

Short abstract:

Football occupies a significant role in society, functioning as a complex institution, a major component of the entertainment industry, and a deeply rooted cultural phenomenon. In Romania, football is intricately woven into the local and regional social fabric, exerting a significant influence on community life. A systematic analysis of its social context not only provides insights into the sport itself but also sheds light on broader aspects of Romanian society, including political, ethnic, social, and economic relations.
This presentation applies Bourdieu's conceptual framework to examine the Romanian football field, arguing that its internal structure and conflicts are shaped by broader social transformations. These include economic restructuring during the post-socialist transition, ethnic relations, regional disparities, and political interests. By mapping the Romanian football field (based on document analysis and interviews), this study aims to uncover its internal hierarchies and identify the key institutions and relationships that define its operation. Drawing on recent research, the presentation will also showcase micro-case studies illustrating the ongoing processes of commodification and commercialization within Romanian football which influence the structure and working of the football field.

Keywords: social field, conflicts, capital, Romania, Bourdieu, social change, power relations

SubID: 53255007389
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Parasport and anti-doping: challenges and solutions
Topic: Sport and doping, Sport, politics and policy, Sport and disability

Author / Authors: Anna Qvarfordt[1], Sven Blomqvist[1], Göran Svedsäter[1], Kristina Fagher[2], Anna Bjerkefors[3]
[1]Department of Occupational health, psychology and sport sciences/University of Gävle
[2]Lund university
[3]Swedish school of sport and health sciences

Short abstract:

Parasports have experienced significant growth in recent years, with an increasing number of athletes, sports, and competitive levels. As in able-bodied sports, this environment may heighten the risk of doping. While WADA's anti-doping regulations apply to all athletes, there are indications that enforcement in parasports is inconsistent. Para-athletes face unique challenges, yet little is known about their perceptions of anti-doping. This study aimed to increase understanding of elite Para-athletes' experiences and perceptions of anti-doping procedures.
An online questionnaire, available in five languages, was used to collect data from 109 elite athletes across 22 sports and 24 countries during three major international competitions. The sample included 49% athletes with intellectual impairments, 27% with physical impairments, and 24% with visual impairments. Descriptive statistics were used to present the data, and inferential statistics analyzed relationships between subgroups.
Findings show that many athletes had limited experience with anti-doping procedures, including education, controls, and filing whereabouts, despite their high competition level. Among those tested, one in four could not provide a urine sample without assistance from a doping control officer or another person due to current technical limitations. Athletes who received anti-doping education felt more confident in avoiding unintentional doping, while those with intellectual impairments found it more difficult to stay updated on the prohibited list.
The results highlight the need for tailored anti-doping strategies in parasports, including procedural adjustments, improved education access, and technical solutions. Addressing these needs will enhance fairness and integrity in parasports.

Keywords: parasport, para athlete, anti-doping, sport policy

SubID: 63906006155
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: From the Track to the Screen: analyzing the digital presence of male and female motorsport athletes on social media
Topic: Sport and social media, Sport and gender
Author / Authors: Dorottya Borbála Rafáczné Gerics[1], Tamás Dóczi[1]
[1]Hungarian University of Sports Science

Short abstract:

The establishment of gender-exclusive categories, such as the W Series (2019) – now running as Formula Academy - and the FIM Women's Circuit Racing World Championship (2024), marks a significant shift in motorsports, a field still largely dominated by mixed-gender, but in fact, male-participated series. These initiatives by international federations with the clear intention of fostering gender equity, have not only provided new opportunities for female athletes, but have also made them more visible to the public, more involved in the media, and more noticeable on social media.
With the growing influence of social media, athletes from different sports are taking advantage of these digital spaces to showcase and promote their personal and professional identities to a huge audience. This study aims to examine the self-presentation strategies of male and female motorsport athletes on social media, based on the photographs they share on Instagram during the winter off-season. The subjects of the research are the athletes who will compete in 2025 in an all-women and a mixed-gender series, both for motorcycle and car racing. By analyzing these visual representations, the research investigates how gender dynamics shape digital self-representation in a relatively new sports context.
This study contributes to the broader discourse on gender and digital identity in sport, highlighting how social and cultural factors influence athletes' self-representation. The findings provide insight into how female motorsport athletes navigate their online identities compared to their male counterparts. Possible explanations and implications are discussed.

Keywords: motorsport, gender relations, social media, digital self-representation, athlete identity

SubID: 31953004977
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Money Talks: An exploration of the tensions and challenges in implementing an unrestricted fund within sport for development
Topic: Sport for development and peace
Author / Authors: Alana Richardson[1]
[1]German Sport University

Short abstract:

With rapid expansion in the field of Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) over the last 25 years, funding streams have not kept up with demand. Funding tends to be restricted, with Global North funders dictating programme outcomes for grantees in the Global South. Unrestricted funding has been suggested as a solution to help overcome the colonial and power dynamics apparent in SDP, yet there is a lack of studies focusing on the implementation of such a fund. This paper presents a case study of an unrestricted SDP fund created by global multidimensional women's fund. The case study includes interview data with organisational staff who implement the fund and grantees who have received the fund. The analysis presents the efficacy of their chosen funding mechanisms (regional review panels, unrestricted funding, and flexible reporting requirements) from the perspective of grantees. It then explores the tensions and challenges of implementing these approaches from the perspective of organisational staff. The findings demonstrate that the implementation of the decolonial principles is currently heavily reliant on the organisation playing an intermediary role between funder and grantee. This paper suggests that broader adoption of these principles is required for large scale change in funding structures in SDP.

Keywords: funding, sport for development, unrestricted, decolonisation, Global North

SubID: 95859004566
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: 'No Place to Hide?' - A Qualitative Study of Elite Cyclists' Surveillance Imaginaries and Practices
Topic: Sport and new technologies
Author / Authors: Stian Røsten[1]
[1]RESPONSE – Research Group for Sport and Society, Faculty of Social Sciences, Nord University

Short abstract:

Professional sports teams use a multitude of technological devices to optimise and control athletes' performance, health, and recovery. The extensive use of technological devices paves the way for an array of surveillance practices within elite sports, where almost no aspect of athletes' lives seems to escape the "gaze". While research highlights that the collection and processing of athletes' data is a source of disciplinary power, this study expands the unilateral focus on top-down surveillance by examining how elite cyclists negotiate, engage with, and handle surveillance practices of themselves and others. The empirical data comprises interviews with 10 men and 8 women Norwegian elite cyclists. Drawing on Lyon's descriptions of "surveillance culture", and the analytical concepts of "surveillance imaginaries" and "surveillance practices", the findings show that the cyclists' mutual roles of "being watched" and "watchers" are prevalent while they train and compete (e.g., monitoring of heart rate, power output, body temperature) but also surround their daily lives at home (e.g., monitoring of sleep, food, body weight). The cyclists' surveillance imaginaries contribute to an understanding that the collection and processing of data are needed for their "own good" to "maximise performance". These imaginaries, in turn, inform various surveillance practices that work at top-down (e.g., surveillance of coaches and doctors), peer (e.g., surveillance of teammates and competitors) and individual (e.g., self-surveillance) levels. The study offers valuable insights into the implications of data-driven practices in elite sports.

Keywords: elite cyclists, surveillance culture, digital technology, athlete data

SubID: 42604005257
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Understanding and managing hybrid organizations in local sports facility ser vices provision of Contemporary Finland
Topic: Sport organization and governance
Author / Authors: Kerkko Huhtanen[1], Anna Katriina Salmikangas[1], Hannu Itkonen[1]
[1]University of Jyväskylä

Short abstract:

The Finnish welfare society relies on strong public and civic sectors, with an emerging private sector. Traditionally, the public sport sector creates opportunities and facilities for citizens, while the civic sector organizes activities. However, economic depressions, new public management doctrines, and marketization have disrupted this setup. Currently, public funding focuses on physical activity environments for larger user groups and renovating aging sports facilities, with new facilities often built through hybrid arrangements.
Our research explores how hybridity is manifested and managed in local sports facility construction in Finland. We use a multiple case study design, examining three recent projects involving partners from public, civic, and private sectors. The managing organizations vary: private-owned enterprise, sport clubs' co-owned enterprise, and multi-owner enterprise with minority municipal ownership. Data includes project documentation and thematic interviews with experts, analyzed using Vakkuri and Johanson's framework on hybrid governance and value creation.
Hybrids, though not new, are conceptually underexplored in Finnish sports facility service provision. Our research enhances understanding of hybrid facilities' mixed ownership structures, which can evolve over a project's lifespan. It highlights various funding arrangements, management of incongruent goals, and diverse control mechanisms. From an impact perspective, the research identifies new roles for municipalities in hybrid settings, such as advisor, anchor client, and guarantor, and the compromises they face in these projects.

Keywords: hybrid governance, public service provision, municipalities, sports facilities

SubID: 21302005677
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Is stadium violence part of football fan culture? How personal experiences and perceived media narratives shape spectators' attitudes towards football in the stadium.
Topic: Violence in sport, Sport and media, Sports spectatorship and fandom
Author / Authors: Christiana Schallhorn[1], Felix Heeßel[1]
[1]Johannes-Gutenberg-University

Short abstract:

Context and theoretical framework: Spectator violence at sporting events, particularly football matches, has become a critical social issue, intertwined with the role of the media in amplifying its presence. However, historically, violence in sports contexts ranges from ancient times to modern ultra and hooligan groups, creating a perceived link between football and aggression (cf. Frustration & Aggression Theory, Dollard et al., 1939 or Routine activity approach, Felson, 2016).
Aims/objectives: This study examines the impact of personal experiences in stadiums and perceived media representations of stadium violence on spectators' attitudes towards attending football matches. It addresses a research gap by including the effects of media consumption on spectators' perceptions of stadium violence, thus considering the interrelationship between one's own experiences and those conveyed by the media.
Methods: The research uses eight qualitative guided interviews with stadium attendees (age: 24-53 years, 3 women, 5 men) and qualitative content analysis according to Mayring to examine the interplay between media representations of violence, own experiences of violence and spectators' perceptions of safety and participation in football events in the stadium.
Findings: The results highlight the dual role of the media in shaping perceptions of football-related violence alongside personal experiences in the stadium. While exaggerated portrayals may discourage attendance due to perceived risk, they may also desensitise or normalise aggression, particularly among avid sports media consumers.
Conclusions and contribution: The study demonstrates the significant influence of the media in constructing public perceptions of stadium violence, with implications for sports safety policy and media responsibility.

Keywords: violence; stadium; football; spectators; media

SubID: 85208012397
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Addressing marginalized groups in local sport policy – Good practice examples from Germany
Topic: Special session organised by Till Müller-Schoell and Remco Hoekman: Local sport policy for marginalized groups: a governance approach on policy change and good practices

Author / Authors: Till Müller-Schoell[1], Constanze Schulte[1]
[1]German Sport University

Short abstract:

The beneficial effects of sport are unevenly distributed along well-known socio-structural divisions. In the realm of local sport participation and sport policy-making in cities the complexities of inclusive and exclusive mechanisms constituting marginalisation become important. The structures of local sport policy from clubs to associations and sport administrations prove to be a key infrastructure for the exercise of inclusive and exclusive practices favouring some groups and relegating others to peripheral positions in sport. German cities and municipalities face difficulties implementing and maintaining inclusive policies.
The paper aims at the reconstruction of the decision-making for and implementing of local policies that include marginalised groups. In more general terms, we inspect the role of networks across policy fields and organisational realms as well as a pronounced role of local authorities as possible preconditions for the inclusion.
Methodologically, the research builds upon seven good practice examples in urban contexts and applies qualitative content analysis of documents and in-depth interviews. The data is analysed using process-tracing and social network visualisations. Findings suggest a strong role of boundary spanning networks and non-organised sport actors, but also include examples of organisational re-orientation within organised sport. The structures of local sport policy from clubs to associations and sport administrations prove to be a key infrastructure for the exercise of inclusive and exclusive practices favouring some groups and relegating others to peripheral positions. At the same time, in our good practice examples we can identify alternative networks in policy-making and room for change within the traditional setting.

Keywords: local sport policy, marginalized groups, sport participation, good practice

SubID: 53255005305
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Prevention of extremism in organized sport. A study on the prevention landscape of German sports associations
Topic: Extremism and sport: Forms and their Prevention

Author / Authors: Klaus Seiberth[1], Tobias Schleifer[2], Felix Kühnle[2], Enrico Michelini[3]
[1]University of Stuttgart
[2]Technical University of Darmstadt
[3]Humboldt University of Berlin

Short abstract:

Extremism is a central threat to society, which organized sport in Germany is also confronted with. For this reason, sports associations have become increasingly involved in the prevention of extremism in recent years. The presentation exposes findings from a current research project that systematically recorded and analysed the programmatic engagement of German sports associations in the prevention of extremism. The associated study was based on a qualitative research design. Within the framework of document analyses, 350 official text documents of German sports associations were content analysed. The presentation provides empirical insights into the study and aims to trace tracing the prevention landscape of German sports associations. The main focus lies on the conceptional and preventive frameworks of the programmatic activities. The study shows that extremism prevention is anchored as a target topic in several German sports associations. In addition, the study indicates that the preventive activities are largely aimed at specific forms of extremism and prevention. In the course of their programmatic engagement, German sports associations have become important civic and political players within the field of extremism prevention.

Keywords: extremism, prevention, sports associations, Germany

SubID: 21302002955
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Ellen Wille - 'the queen of women's football' and her 1986 speech's impact on women's football worldwide
Topic: Sport and gender
Author / Authors: Bente Ovedie Skogvang[1]
[1]Inland Norway University

Short abstract:

Before the FIFA Congress in Mexico City in 1986 no woman had entered the table for speakers at the FIFA Congress. The Norwegian Ellen Wille was one of the first women in the Executive Board in the Norwegian Football Association at that time, when she put women's football on FIFA's agenda. Wille criticised the shortcomings in FIFA's annual report lacking any information about women's football. Wille's speech have been crucial for women footballers worldwide and led the way to the first Women's World Cup (WWC ,1991) and the first Olympic competition with female football players (1996). She proposed a football world championship for women; WWC. At the same time she underscored the importance of integration of women's football in the Olympic programme, and she asked for common rules for all countries. Her speech has had huge impact on the development of women's football in the world with new opportunities to compete, and she therefor has been named 'the Queen of Women's Football.' Football playing girls and women worldwide experience discrimination, and lack of equality in the treatment from national and international governing bodies with low income, few spectators on the stands, less qualified coaches, and they often play at low-quality pitches. This paper will present and discuss data from interviews and document analysis from this part of the history of women's football. Findings show the importance of addressing women's sports in traditionally male sports by women themselves. It also takes a long time to make changes in 'the man's world'.

Keywords: football, women, history, Ellen Wille, FIFA

SubID: 74557009505
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: A scoping review of existing main practices, solutions, and programmes in the field of sport for persons with intellectual disabilities
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and disability
Author / Authors: Michelle Skov Blagdon[1], Adam Brian Evans[1]
[1]University of Copenhagen

Short abstract:

Objective: The aim of this scoping review is to identify and categorize the main practices, solutions, and programmes in the field of Intellectual Disability (ID) sports in relation to life skills development, coaching and grassroots organizations.
Methods: Ten electronic databases and six specific journals were searched using specific key words for the search string to identify relevant articles. The process was guided by the JBI methodology for scoping reviews by Peters et al. (2022). A total of 65 peer-reviewed articles, insight reports and book chapters, published between 2000-2022, were included, focusing upon social and socio-psychological aspects of team sports for persons with ID.
Results: Consensus supports the idea that team sports can foster the development of life skills. The most effective sport programmes should emphasize the social aspects of sports, extend beyond the sporting context, improve athletes' communication skills, and strengthen the coach-athlete relationship. Coaches play a crucial role by creating positive environments that support both physical and psychosocial skill development of persons with ID. A self-reflective approach can further empower coaches. For grassroots organizations aiming to establish and grow sports for persons with ID, qualified staff, comprehensive information, athlete independence, and social support is key. Finally, engagement with local authorities and organizations is essential for growing sports for persons with ID.
Conclusion: There is a need and call for the development of specific programmes that are implemented, monitored, and evaluated to guide future ID sport programmes and policies. This scoping review highlights elements to be included in such programmmes.

Keywords: intellectual disabilities, scoping review, social inclusion

SubID: 21302007164
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Sport and outdoor activities for marginalized groups in Norway
Topic: Special session organised by Till Müller-Schoell and Remco Hoekman: Local sport policy for marginalized groups: a governance approach on policy change and good practices

Author / Authors: Oskar Solenes[1], Solveig Straume[2], Mari Eik[1]
[1]Molde University College
[2]Molde University Colleges

Short abstract:

Although European sport policies in general contends that sport is for all, some groups still experience cultural, economic and social barriers to sport participation. The Erasmus+ ALLSTARS project ("Good Practice for Active Lifestyles in Local Sports Policies") used a common methodology across five European countries, including Norway, to identified projects and programs that worked for the inclusion of marginalized groups in sport. Building on the Norwegian project data, the research question addressed in this paper is: which formal and informal networks enable the development and sustainability of inclusive local sport projects? Five different sports projects were singled out and studied in detail. A mixed methods approach, including surveys, interviews and data workshops was utilized. For each project, at least two individuals were interviewed with the intention to illuminate success factors, and how different networks contributed to the development and sustainability of the projects. In total, we conducted 11 interviews with altogether 16 informants. Each interview was recorded and transcribed. We used a shared coding system among the five partners. In this paper, we emphasize networks and relations between different stakeholders. Preliminary results point in the direction of networks highly dependent on dedicated individuals. With a few exceptions, it seems like local sport policies develop less as a result of political processes, but rather on personal engagement and networks. We are still in the process of analyzing the data and guarantee that this will be done in due course before the conference, and that the results will be presented accordingly.

Keywords: local sport policies, inclusive sport,

SubID: 74557011439
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: MUNICIPAL SPORTS MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE: A BRAZILIAN INDEX FOR MUNICIPALITIES
Topic: Sport organization and governance, Sport, politics and policy, Special session organised by Till Müller-Schoell and Remco Hoekman: Local sport policy for marginalized groups: a governance approach on policy change and good practices

Author / Authors: Fernando Starepravo[1], Fernando Mezzadri[2], João Moretti[2], Edson Hirata[3], Giovanna Moura[4]
[1]State University of Maringa / Sport Intelligence Research Institute
[2]Federal University of Parana / Sport Intelligence Research Institute
[3]State University of Maringa / Federal Technologic University of Parana
[4]State University of Maringa / Unicesumar

Short abstract:

Evaluation is one of the phases of the Policy Cycle, representing the stage in which all policy processes are assessed and monitored. This phase enables the identification of problems, the proposal of alternatives, as well as the planning and monitoring of implementation. In the context of sports, some countries have developed assessment indices to evaluate various aspects of the sports field, such as its social significance and athlete performance. However, there are still no indices specifically designed to assess sports management at the local or municipal level. Therefore, this study aims to evaluate sports management in Brazilian municipalities by developing an index for this purpose: the IGGE-M (Index of Public Management and Governance in Sport – Municipal). The IGGE-M was created based on 40 questions from the database of the Sports Intelligence Research Institute (IPIE). The data collected from these questions were grouped into four dimensions: (1) the nature of the public body responsible for sports management in the municipality (IGGEnat); people (IGGEpeop); (3) planning (IGGEplan); and (4) transparency, participation, and social control (IGGEtranpartcon). Each dimension was assigned a specific weight based on its relative importance. The data were analysed by establishing a ranking of municipalities according to the sum of the weighted scores for each dimension. The results revealed that the management and governance of sports policies in Brazilian municipalities have significant room for improvement, particularly in key areas of public governance, such as social control and participation.

Keywords: sport policies, management, governance, municipalities

SubID: 21302004686
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Chess as a serious leisure
Topic: Sport and leisure
Author / Authors: Jakub Ryszard Stempień[1]
[1]University of Lodz

Short abstract:

Introduction and theoretical frame. The presentation will employ the Serious Leisure Perspective by R. Stebbins to analyse chess as a leisure-time sport. Aims. The purpose of the study will be to demonstrate the specific characteristics of the social world of amateur chess in Poland. Research methods. The presentation will use the results of own researches over the past two years. The researches included: (1) standardized and fully representative analysis of online data on amateur chess tournaments in Poland (N=367 for 2023 and N=366 for 2024 – random samples); (2) individual in-depth interviews with advanced amateur chess players (N=15); (3) observations with photo-documentation of chess tournaments (N=15). Research findings. Basing on the collected empirical material, it will be demonstrated what role chess plays in the lives of amateur chess players. The issue of motivation (what drives people playing chess in the Serious Leisure mode) will be taken into account, as well as what are the typical career patterns of amateur chess players and what chess activities they undertake (including what positions and roles in the social world of amateur chess players do different individuals occupy and want to occupy). Particular attention will be paid to chess tournaments. Relevance. The study should make a contribution to extending the research findings of the sociology of sport in two dimensions that have so far been relatively poorly explored: (1) leisure-time sports; (2) mind sports.

Keywords: chess, serious leisure perspective, leisure-time sports, mind sports

SubID: 74557006797
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Sport/s work as boundary work: Sport club employees' shaped and shaping everyday work
Topic: Sport Organisations Research Network (SORN) specific session

Author / Authors: Cecilia (cc) Stenling[1], Maria Johansson[2], Jenny Svender[2], Josef Fahlén[3]
[1]Umeå University/University of Inland Norway
[2]Umeå University
[3]Umeå University/Norwegian School of Sport Sciences

Short abstract:

Professionalization is a persistent theme in sport organisation research because of its high theoretical and practical relevance. Among the various forms of professionalization, a fair amount of research attention has been dedicated to its organizational and systemic footprint. Much less is known about professionalization in its most basic and potentially impactful form: paid staff. Therefore, the purpose of this presentation is to begin to unpack the conditions for, characteristics, and consequences of sport workers' everyday professional life. Specifically, we draw on the concept of boundary work to place focus on how paid staff's everyday 'muddling through' involves interactions with internal and external stakeholders in which expectations around what it means to 'do a good job' are negotiated and (re)shaped. Empirically, the presentation builds on semi-structured interviews with 21 club employees in administrative/managerial roles in Swedish voluntary sport. Our analysis sheds light on the ways in which boundaries between paid staff and volunteers are raised to (re)establish role distinctions or smoothed over to collectively get work done. Our analysis is significant because it provides a rare insight into the nature of paid staff's everyday working life and the conditions for paid work in the sport sector. However, it is also important because it speaks to the impact of professionalization on key issues such as democratic governance and volunteering.

Keywords: sport/s work, professionalization, boundary work

SubID: 85208002709
Session type: OS - oral session)
Title: Job Opportunities and Skill Requirements for Sports Science Graduates in Switzerland
Topic: New trends in sport, Other issues related to the sociology of sport
Author / Authors: Fabian Studer[1], Benedikt Studer[2], Andres Werthmüller[2]
[1]Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen SFISM
[2]SFISM

Short abstract:

In the context of a rapidly developing world of sports (digitalization, professionalization), educational institutions are faced with challenges regarding the fit between sports science education and the skills needed in sports professions. The rare current research (Mrkonjic et al., 2022) analyzes required skills, but is limited to sports management and does not make any link to sports science education. The key questions are: What jobs are being advertised and what skills are required? Do graduates acquire the necessary skills through sport science programmes?
Selected job platforms in Switzerland were searched weekly during 2023 using specific keywords, focusing on jobs in sport (excluding sports teachers). The information from the resulting n = 520 job ads, such as terms of employment, tasks and required skills, was transferred to a database. The categories were deduced deductively. Demand in labor market is derived from the analysis of this data which then can be compared with the supply, i.e. with the skills taught by the sport science curricula at SFISM.
The analysis shows that the most frequently advertised jobs are in sports associations or clubs, in private companies and in the public administration of cities or municipalities, and that a very wide range of skills is required in the labour market. SFISM bachelor students are well prepared for management, teaching and scientific working. The greatest difference between the skills taught in the programme and those required in the advertised jobs is in the area of so-called future skills, such as ICT (information and communication technology).

Keywords: sport labor market, professional qualification, necessary skills in sports professions

SubID: 63906013149
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Sexual Violence and the Intervention Processes in Sport Clubs – Perspectives of Experts in Safeguarding
Topic: Child protection and safeguarding in sport, Violence in sport
Author / Authors: Annika Söllinger[1], Bettina Rulofs[1]
[1]German Sport University Cologne, Institute of Sociology and Gender Studies, Department for Diversity Studies

Short abstract:

Introduction & Objectives
When incidents of sexual violence are reported in voluntary sports clubs, intervention is complex and prone to error. The project "Safe Clubs", funded by the German Ministry of Research and Education, aimed to develop knowledge for supporting sport clubs. The objective was to analyse which structures enable sport clubs to establish successful intervention while also highlighting which mechanisms have a negative impact.

Methods
A total of 10 interviews with safeguarding officers from sport federations at the superordinate level (e.g. regional state federations, sport governing bodies) were conducted and analysed using qualitative content analysis. Results were evaluated through two focus group discussions with experts from the field of law, sport, child protection and victims' support.

Findings
Although every intervention needs an individual approach, general structures were identified to minimise the risk of a failed intervention. Starting with the training of safeguarding officers on the club level, developing guidelines for intervention for clubs and creating networks with other institutions in the field. Nevertheless, an intervention can fail, especially when clubs suffer from lack of resources, as human, time and financial resources.

Conclusion
The education of safeguarding officers in sports clubs as well as structural and cultural changes are essential for successful intervention processes in sports clubs. Furthermore, the necessity of creating local networks with other institutions in the field of violence protection is of utmost importance for clubs in order to create a safe environment which fosters not only prevention, but also an appropriate intervention after incidents were reported.

Keywords: violence in sport, child protection, safeguarding in sport

SubID: 74557003186
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Exploring Baskin's Role in Social Inclusion and Well-Being: Growth, Regional Disparities, and Policy Implications
Topic: Sport and social change, Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and well-being

Author / Authors: Luciana Taddei[1], Ilaria Primerano[2], Luca Grion[3], Luca Bianchi[4], Marta Candussi[5]
[1]CNR-IRPPS/University of Cosenza/University Magna Graecia of Catanzaro
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[4]Istituto Jacques Maritain/Università degli Studi di Trieste
[5]Istituto Jacques Maritain

Short abstract:

The study examines the rapid growth of Baskin, an inclusive sport adapted from basketball, and explores the factors that make it appealing to a wide range of population groups. Baskin integrates able-bodied and disabled participants within a highly competitive yet inclusive environment. Over the past two decades, It has expanded significantly in Italy, its country of origin, and internationally, promoting equity, diversity, and social cohesion (Andriola et al., 2023). The research combines secondary data analysis with ego-network data modules (Salvini, 2005) to assess the sport's impact on both individual and social well-being, with a particular focus on social change and community support (Castro et al., 2010). The study's sample includes participants from two distinct Italian regions aiming to uncover differences. Preliminary findings suggest that Baskin strengthens social networks and fosters notable benefits for participants, particularly those with psychological or mental disabilities. The study also highlights disparities between northern and southern Italy, attributed to variations in team composition and the sport's varying levels of diffusion. While Baskin shows considerable promise as promoting social inclusion, the research emphasizes the challenges of sustaining and consolidating its growth. Policy frameworks that support the sport's continued development at both local and national levels are identified as essential to overcoming these challenges. In conclusion, the study underscores Baskin's potential to act as a transformative force in fostering social inclusion, enhancing well-being, and creating stronger social networks, while also highlighting the importance of targeted policy interventions to ensure its long-term success and equitable access across regions.

Keywords: Baskin, inclusion, well-being, policies

SubID: 74557007368
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Smartphone applications and the fight against obesity through physical activity: the challenge of coordinating expertise
Topic: Sport organization and governance, Sport and public health, Sport and well-being
Author / Authors: Philippe Terral[1], Delphine Azéma[1], Yves Moralès[1]
[1]CreSco - University of Toulouse

Short abstract:

From a perspective rooted in the sociology of expertise, this paper examines the various stages in the development of the 'MyMouv' smartphone application. This is an e-health tool designed to encourage overweight young people to engage in physical activity and sport. Several actors, whom we will describe as experts, are involved in this socio-technical process: the medical actors in an obesity prevention and management network, RéPPOP (doctors, psychologists, dieticians, administrative coordinator, etc.), who commissioned the application, the computer specialists who developed it, the sports educators and the children and their families who use it. Our study is based on ethnographic observations of meetings and 25 interviews with the network coordination team and users of the application.
This technology has raised hopes (particularly of changing professional practices and models of care) but also fears (of replacing the human element, the paradox of getting young people to move around using 'screens') throughout its production process. The expertise of doctors and IT specialists is the most influential in the construction of the tool. The expertise of users (young people, families, sports educators) is only marginally involved, often indirectly, by imagining their points of view and their uses. As a result, the application is used very little in practice, due to a lack of coordination between these different uses and the associated expertise.

Keywords: sport-health, technology, expertises

SubID: 63906009066
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The Gendering of Technological Innovations in Sports Coaching and Refereeing
Topic: New trends in sport, Sport and new technologies, Sport and gender
Author / Authors: Anne Tjønndal[1], Stian Røsten[1], Egil Rogstad[1], Sigbjørn Skirbekk[1]
[1]Nord University

Short abstract:

While technological innovation in sport is a growing field of research, there is limited scholarly attention given to the intersections of technology and gender in sports coaching and refereeing. In this article we examine how gendered disparities in the development, implementation, and use of sports technologies impact women coaches and referees. Theoretically, we combine theoretical perspectives on the domestication of technologies (Berker et al., 2005) with feminist theories of the gendering of leadership ideals (Acker, 1992), and critical perspectives on techno-optimism in sport (Beer, 2018). Our article is based on 34 qualitative interviews with coaches and referees from football, ice hockey, ski jumping, and athletics in Norway (15 referees and 19 coaches). The findings demonstrate how women coaches and referees have limited opportunities to use novel technologies compared to their male counterparts, indicating that there are digital inequalities in access to technological innovation in sports. This further implies that the adoption of technological innovation may contribute to widening the gender gap in organized sports. Overall, the findings point to some of the challenges women's sports face due to gender-blind algorithms, women's underrepresentation in sports tech development, and sex-data gaps in sports performance big data. Thus, a key focus in our discussion is on the often-implicit bias through omission as a mechanism upholding and generating gendered biases that increase gender inequalities.

Keywords: sports technology, sport innovation, science and technology studies, wearables, gender and sport

SubID: 42604007926
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Cross-sector collaboration and social management of sports professionals: a national research project
Topic: Sport organization and governance
Author / Authors: Joop Truijen[1], Resie Hoeijmakers[2]
[1]Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences
[2]Mulier Institute / Utrecht University

Short abstract:

Voluntary sports clubs (VSCs) increasingly face challenges in organizing their workforce. The professionalization of work processes and the introduction of paid staff offer a promising solution to these challenges. However, professionalization may also lead to trade-offs, particularly affecting member commitment, including volunteering and participation in democratic decision-making (Elmose-Østerlund et al., 2020).
One potential cause of these trade-offs is the lack of appropriate competencies among professionals working in the VSC context (Fahrner & Schüttoff, 2020; Lucassen et al., 2022). Research suggests that these professionals primarily have backgrounds in sports technical skills or business, rather than in the management of membership-based organizations (Lucassen & Van der Roest, 2018). However, effective management across different occupational fields requires distinct competencies (Fahrner & Schüttoff, 2020).
In this presentation, we introduce the concept of social management for professionals in VSCs. Social management focuses on strengthening relationships and connections among sport club members, sports professionals, volunteers, and external stakeholders in the surrounding community. This approach can help revitalize and further activate the social values of voluntary sports clubs and sports facilities (Hoeijmakers, 2025). We will present the initial findings from our desk research and literature review, examining the presence of social management aspects in sport management studies in the Netherlands, municipal policies and practices across twelve participating municipalities, and educational resources (e.g., courses, workshops) provided by federations.

Keywords: social management, professional competences, cross-sector collaboration, voluntary sport clubs, sport professionals

SubID: 42604005055
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Doing Good in Professional Sports: Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Sustainability in Taiwan's Professional Baseball League
Topic: Sport and social change, Sport, climate, change and sustainability
Author / Authors: Kuo-feng Tseng[1], Chih-fu Cheng[2], Chi Chang[2]
[1]National Taiwan Normal University/ Graduate Institute of Sport, Leisure and Hospitality Management
[2]National Taiwan Normal University/ Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences

Short abstract:

Goodness is a universal value and virtue; it serves as one of fundamental moral standards and practices for individuals, organizations, and societal cultures alike. In professional sports, "doing good" plays a pivotal role at all level—from leagues and franchises to players and coaches—who integrate it into their goals and responsibilities toward stakeholders, society, and the environment. This commitment not only enhances the image of brands and players but also strengthens both internal and external relationships (Joo et al., 2021). Althouhg the importance of "doing good" has been discussed and explored, its impacts on the individuals involved still remains under-researched, particularly, in the context of developing professional sports leagues, such as the professional baseball league in Taiwan. To address this research gap, we conducted a multiple-case study involving three franchises and the league, employing text analysis of newspapers, interviews with those team managers, coaches, and players, as well as participant observation of events through the 2024 season. The findings reveal that these three teams perceive owning a professional sports team as part of their corporate social responsibility, and they view it as an extension of their business's social commitment rather than a strategy for maximizing economic profit. Through socially responsible initiatives, both the franchises and the league prioritize social sustainability, with a particular focus on players' backgrounds, especially those from marginalized communities. In conclusion, the motivations behind owning a professional team and its culture influences strategic decisions regarding implements and the selection collaborative partners.

Keywords: Chinese Professional Baseball League, social change, marginalized community

SubID: 85208003924
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Beyond the Pitch: Strategic action of the Players' Union and the Monopolised Field of Czech Football
Topic: Sport and power relations, conflict and resilience, Sport organization and governance, Sport, politics and policy
Author / Authors: Adam Urban[1]
[1]Charles University

Short abstract:

The governance of Czech professional football is shaped by historical legacies, structural dependencies and global dynamics. The players' union faces systemic challenges, including precarious self-employment contracts, delayed salaries, lack of collective bargaining rights and inadequate post-career support.
This study examines the emergence, role and strategies of the Czech football players' union over the last 15 years (2010-2025) and argues that its efforts are constrained by governance dependencies. It contributes to research on labour relations in sport by highlighting the contested nature of players' representation in post-communist societies, where professional athletes remain marginalised within national trade union structures and political discourse.
Using a multi-method approach, the study combines 14 qualitative interviews with officials from players' unions, FAČR, FIFPro and sports law experts, analysis of 40 media reports and official documents, and social network analysis (SNA) of 25 organisations to identify key actors and structural dependencies. Applying strategic action field theory, the study analyses the interactions between incumbents, challengers and governance units. The findings reveal a fragmented history of actor representation, evidenced by the temporary existence of two unions. The currently recognised union operates as a challenger within a monopolised governance structure, advocating for players' rights despite institutional inertia. While constrained by dependencies on the FAČR, the club association and the Ministry of Labour, its FIFPro membership provides external legitimacy and strategic resources.
This study situates Czech football labour relations within broader transformations in sports governance, offering insights into precarisation, monopolised governance and international networks in strengthening workers' representation in post-communist societies.

Keywords: labor rights, players' union, football, collective bargaining

SubID: 63906002328
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Constructing the Black postcolonial athlete: Dutch media portrayals of Churandy Martina (2012-2024)
Topic: Sport, nation and identities, Sport and colonialism, Sport, race and ethnicity
Author / Authors: Arne Van Lienden[1]
[1]Erasmus University Rotterdam

Short abstract:

In 2016, then-Prime Minister Mark Rutte called Curaçaon-born Dutch sprinter Churandy Martina 'the happiest man of the Netherlands, after me.' It symbolized the celebrity status Martina enjoyed in mainland the Netherlands, an impressive feat given that just a few years prior he had been competing for another and no longer existing country, the Dutch Antilles.
In this presentation I aim to shed light on the conditions that allowed for the emergence of Martina as a celebrity sporting icon and how his various subjectivities - a Black Dutch Carribean male - were rendered legible for mainland Dutch sport media audiences. This presentation wll employ a critical discourse analyis into how Martina was constructed in Dutch sport media during the Olympic Games between 2012 and 2024, drawing on insights from Cultural Studies and critical race theory.
The media discourses surrounding Martina are contextualized within a broader historical period characterized by the rise of radical-right politics in the Netherlands, and intensified debates on migration, racism, and colonial history. The study highlights the contradictory role of media portrayals of Black sporting figures like Martina. While such representations challenge racialized notions of Dutch citizenship and appear to promote a more inclusive vision of nationhood beyond Whiteness, they also reinforce racialized and commodified narratives of Black sporting celebrity.

Keywords: race, representation, Olympics, nationality, sport media

SubID: 53255006606
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The structure of disability sport in the Netherlands: an analysis of the network of organisations and their collaborative relationships
Topic: Sport organization and governance, Sport and disability
Author / Authors: Caroline Van Lindert[1], Robin Rauws[1]
[1]Mulier Institute

Short abstract:

Construing the structure of disability sport is complex. It is the domain of different social spheres and not just that of sports alone. A wide range of actors play a role in the disability sport system. This is true for the Netherlands as for other European countries (Van Lindert & De Jonge, 2023; Van Lindert, Scheerder & Brittain, 2023). In the Netherlands, the fragmented structure of the disability sport system is perceived as an obstacle to making progress on the ambition towards inclusive sports for persons with a disability. In co-governance with 56 organisations, the national government developed an agreement to coordinate activities of all those involved.
A network analysis should provides more insight into the possibilities for improved collaboration. Based on earlier work (Van Lindert & De Jonge, 2023), we conduct an analysis of the interests and forces of involved organisations. Data comes from an online questionnaire amongst all parties, completed during a networking session early 2025. Drawings of the network as interpreted by the actors will contribute. Results are input for discussions about the ideal network.
Using different frameworks, we present preliminary results on how roles, power and interests of stakeholders are distributed. Actors are positioned according to level (national, regional, local), type of organisation (government, intermediate, non-government) and by role (decision making, influencing, implementing, using).
Which framework is most suitable to distinguish between roles and responsibilities in the disability sport landscape will be discussed. We question whether a government can enforce collaboration between organisations in this way.

Keywords: disability sport, organisational structure, network analysis

SubID: 85208006648
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Working towards strong sport clubs; the role of the club developer in the Netherlands
Topic: Sport organization and governance, Sport, politics and policy, Sport and community
Author / Authors: Wikke Van Stam[1], Margot Keijzer[1]
[1]Mulier Institute

Short abstract:

Within a national policy program in the Netherlands (called the BRC), municipalities can use "club developers" to support sport clubs. They help strengthen clubs, and by that create and maintain a place where all Dutch people can participate in sport.
To get a better picture of these professionals' work, we conducted research into their tasks, goals, results, and place in the sport sector. We interviewed 14 club developers and 3 employers of club developers, and used a questionnaire amongst all Dutch municipalities (n=342) to assess the deployment of club developers within the BRC.
399 of 5.938 BRC professionals are club developers. Their main goals differ, but include creating a safe sport climate and making sport parks accessible to all. In some cases, they work within clubs (e.g. coaching coaches or management). In other cases, they strengthen clubs by creating strong networks between clubs and other organisations or areas (e.g. schools, neighborhoods). The results of their work are not easily measured, because their tasks vary and are broad. Club developers try to compensate by sharing success stories. It's not always clear where the tasks of BRC-funded club developers end and the work of non-BRC professionals starts.
Because club developer is a fairly new profession, the general view of what these professionals can or should do is not coherent. In the future, there should be more debate on how the role of club developer should be defined, how they should be paid and how they compare to other forms of club support.

Keywords: Club developer, sport clubs, National policy program

SubID: 63906000244
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Professional careers of international master's degree programmes' graduates and students of sport in Finland
Topic: Social inclusion and exclusion in and through sport, Sport and community, Sport and migration
Author / Authors: Hanna Vehmas[1]
[1]University of Jyväskylä

Short abstract:

Education, work and careers have changed fundamentally in recent decades. Globalization, digitalization and individualisation have increased students' and graduates' possibilities to choose study and working places. Also sport careers have become more complex and diverse. Increase in the student mobility raises questions of how many and why some graduates stay in their host country while others leave after graduation. Studies show that labor market opportunities and family ties are key influences in staying in a host country. In Finland for example foreign students value the high quality of education, standard of living, closeness to nature, balance of work and free time, public safety, human rights and democracy.
In Finland the highest degree leading education in sport is given only at the University of Jyväskylä (JYU) in which the first international master's degree programs (IMDPs) were launched in 2005. Since then some 600 students either in Biology of Physical Activity, Sport management, Sport and exercise psychology and Gerontology have started their studies. Until 2017, the programs were free of charge for all foreign students, after which tuition fees have been waived for students from outside the EU and EEA countries.
This study examines the employment and career situation, impact of education, and reasons and preventors of employment in Finland of all (n=600) international graduates of the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences of JYU. This census study data is collected by online questionnaires (webropol). Data collection began in December 2024 and the first results are expected in spring 2025.

Keywords: sport education, sport and employment, sport and social integration

SubID: 63906001368
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: How sport sociologists make theoretical interventions in the discipline: An anatomy of abstracts published in IRSS
Topic: Sport and social theory
Author / Authors: Thijs Velema[1]
[1]National Taipei University

Short abstract:

How do sport sociologists theorize about their objects of study and communicate their theoretical findings? Previous reviews of sport sociological research mostly focused on the themes and the theoretical concepts used but have not analyzed the type of theoretical interventions sport sociologists claim to make. And yet, such interventions lie at the heart of how a discipline moves forward to develop a set of theoretical concepts to explain observed empirical patterns. In this study, I analyze how sport sociologists use theory by examining the abstracts of all studies published in IRSS between 2019 and 2023. While some sport sociologists base their work on the grand theories in sociology – Goffman, Elias, Bourdieu, and Foucault seem to be particularly popular – others use more specific theoretical concepts such as race, gender, and nationalism. Most of these studies draw on these grand theories and theoretical concepts to inform their analyses and develop a framework to organize their empirical inquiries. With these theoretically informed frameworks, sport sociologists mostly seek to better understand the sport phenomenon of their interest or to make policy recommendations to practitioners. What sport sociologists are less interested in, though, is to critically interrogate their frameworks to contribute to the theory they use to understand their observations. This practical orientation makes sport sociology dependent on other fields for theoretical advances and limits the impact sport sociologists can make on the discipline of sociology.

Keywords: Sociology of sport, academic journals, scientometric analysis, social theory

SubID: 31953002284
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The complexity of changes in sport behaviour among newly moms: A qualitative study
Topic: Sport and leisure, Sport and gender, Sport and the body
Author / Authors: Tessa Visser[1], Mirjam Stuij[1], Agnes Van Suijlekom[1]
[1]Mulier Institute

Short abstract:

Former research shows that newly moms are more likely to quit sports or practice less frequently than newly dads, e.g. due to postnatal physical recovery or a lack of time. Although existing quantitative studies offer very insightful explanations, like having a supporting partner or nanny, these studies often overlook the complex and multifaceted individual experiences.
As part of a bigger research program named Transitions Into Active Living (TRIAL) the Mulier Institute conducted a qualitative study to give in-depth insight into experiences of newly moms with sports and exercise. We interviewed twenty-two moms about their sport behaviour and how this changed over time, not only as a result of motherhood but also due to other major life events. Data analysis followed a narrative-thematic approach.
Our findings show that there is no simple or general answer as to why some mothers change their sport behaviour. Though there are similarities, all of their stories are unique. We found that becoming a parent affects newly moms sport behaviour in different ways. While behavioural changes are not exclusive to becoming a parent but occur throughout life, the effects of becoming a mom seem more pressing. Lastly, our data illustrate how changes in sport behaviour are (highly) affected by gender roles and gendered expectations regarding motherhood and womanhood. We will thoroughly discuss these findings in light of the broader Dutch sport context.

Keywords: motherhood, sport behaviour, gender norms, qualitative research

SubID: 31953000455
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Current Early Prevention Plans for Mental Health Used in Division One Athletics
Topic: Sport and well-being
Author / Authors: Silke Voets[1]
[1]University of Stirling

Short abstract:

Mental health issues among NCAA Division One student-athletes are a growing concern, influenced by the high-pressure environment of collegiate sports and the stigma surrounding mental health care. Despite increasing awareness, there is no standardized approach to prevention and intervention across institutions, creating disparities in support systems. This study aimed to investigate the current early prevention plans for mental health in NCAA Division One athletics. It sought to identify existing protocols, their implementation, and the barriers faced by athletic departments in addressing mental health needs. Using a mixed-methods approach, data were collected from Athletic Directors, Athletic Trainers, and Mental Health Professionals through surveys. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS 28, while qualitative responses underwent thematic analysis.
The findings indicate significant variability in mental health protocols across institutions. While some departments implement proactive measures like mental health screenings, education programs, and embedded clinicians, resource constraints, staffing shortages, and stigma hinder consistent application. Male athletes and individuals from underserved backgrounds are particularly vulnerable to these barriers.
The study concludes that a standardized mental health framework is essential for NCAA Division One schools to address these gaps effectively. Recommendations include increased funding, the integration of culturally competent mental health professionals, enhanced training for staff and coaches, and the use of digital tools to improve accessibility. These findings contribute to the growing body of research emphasizing the importance of prioritizing mental health alongside physical health in collegiate athletics.

Keywords: NCAA, Mental Health

SubID: 85208010089
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Balancing Adventure and Preservation: The Impact of Leave No Trace Practices on Sustainable Outdoor Activities in China
Topic: Sport for development and peace, Sport and leisure, Sport, climate, change and sustainability

Author / Authors: Xinpu Wang[1], Yu Huang[2]
[1]Loughborough College
[2]Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai

Short abstract:

This study explores the promotion and impact of Leave No Trace (LNT) practices within China's outdoor activity sector over the past decade, with a focus on environmental challenges in ecologically sensitive areas such as glaciers and high-altitude regions. The rapid growth of outdoor activities, including hiking, camping and mountaineering, has intensified environmental pressures in rural and wilderness areas. These pressures are compounded by inadequate infrastructure to manage pollution, waste, and other environmental impacts arising from human activities. In response, leading institutions such as the Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA) and outdoor industry leaders like Coach Kailas have promoted LNT principles to enhance sustainable outdoor practices.
This study draws on semi-structured interviews with over twenty key stakeholders, including outdoor instructors, CMA administrators, and industry practitioners. The findings reveal that promoting LNT philosophy has led to increased environmental awareness and responsible behaviour among outdoor enthusiasts, but not extended to the broader public. The research further highlights that policies aimed at protecting natural areas and mitigating the impact of outdoor activities remain underdeveloped, with enforcement and infrastructure lagging behind the growing demand for outdoor recreation.
Despite government initiatives promoting environmental protection and sustainable development, tensions persist in rural areas where economic growth often conflicts with environmental preservation. These challenges create concerns within local communities and highlight the need for more comprehensive policies, improved infrastructure, and community-based solutions. This research provides insight into sustainable outdoor practices in China and underscores the importance of balancing economic and environmental priorities to protect vulnerable ecological regions.

Keywords: Outdoor activities, Environment issue, Sustainable development, Sustainability

SubID: 31953007208
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Collaboration between Sports Federations in Elite Sport: The Case of Baden-Württemberg
Topic: Sport organization and governance, Sport, politics and policy
Author / Authors: Torsten Wojciechowski[1]
[1]EHiP

Short abstract:

Introduction
In the German state of Baden-Württemberg, there are two regional sports federations for twelve sports and three regional sports federations for ten sports. 18 of these 22 sports have formed sport-specific working groups in the field of elite sport. Some of these collaborations have now developed from loosely linked working groups into formal organisations.

Aim and theoretical background
The aim of this research is to analyse the cooperation within these collaborations. The theoretical basis of the analysis is the collaborative governance theory. The central research question is: How is cooperation organised in these collaborations?

Methodology
Based on the theoretical background, expert interviews were conducted with those responsible for the existing collaborations in Baden-Württemberg. The transcribed interviews were qualitatively analysed using MAXQDA.

Results
Some of the experts describe the cooperation as good, while others point to conflicts at a personal or organisational level. From the experts' point of view, the formalisation of the collaboration goes hand in hand with an improvement in cooperation and an increase in the commitment of the partners.

Conclusion
The results show that the institutionalised forms of collaboration are more effective and efficient, and at the same time promise greater commitment and better cooperation than loosely coupled forms of collaboration. The findings allow for a deeper understanding of the under-researched collaboration between sports federations - even beyond Baden-Württemberg. The findings can also be applied to collaborations between sports federations in other constellations.

Keywords: sport federations, collaborative governance, elite sport

SubID: 63906001684
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Sport Politics and Party Politics an Finland. From Class-Based Pluralism to Monoparty System?
Topic: Sport, politics and policy
Author / Authors: Wojciech Wozniak[1], Hanna - Mari Ikonen[2]
[1]Faculty of Economics and Sociology, University of Łódź
[2]Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Jyväskylä

Short abstract:

Sport in Finland has a fundamental societal role as the nation's favourite pastime. For decades, it was also a field of class-based political divisions. Since 1990s, these divisions ceased to exist and the sport system underwent significant reforms in accordance with the rules of new public management.
During this period two processes occurred in parallel. The first concerns the transformation of sports policy in accordance with neoliberal ideas, the second relates to the alleged depoliticization of sport-related policymaking in Finland. While the former was critically re-appraised and scrupulously analysed in numerous papers and reports, the latter remains relatively understudied. Both processes were intertwined with the restructuring of the institutional setting in which sport operates in Finland. The system was previously decentralised, whereas now, the fundamental and decisive role is played by Finnish Olympic Committee.
The paper is based on the analysis of policy documents and interviews conducted with crucial politicians, policymakers and experts operating in the field of sport policy in Finland. Preliminary findings show that the political manoeuvres behind the façade of declarative consensus concerning the significance of sport (mainly as a tool of the health policy) lead to de facto take over of the majority of the institutional sport system by one political circle with dominant role of Kokoomus (National Coalition Party). We will show that this political circle has a clear ideological profile and agenda and discuss the circumstances and results of the aforementioned processes in reference to both elite sport policy and "sport for all" agenda.

Keywords: Finland, sport policy, politics of sport, transformation of sport system, party politics

SubID: 21302011979
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: The End-of-Career Transition of Paralympic Athletes: Insights from a Qualitative Case Study
Topic: Sport and well-being, Olympic studies, Sport and disability
Author / Authors: Hanwei Zhang[1], Astrid Schubring[1]
[1]Department of Sociology of Sport, Institute of Sociology and Gender Studies, German Sport University Cologne

Short abstract:

The end-of-career transition has been found to be demanding for many athletes, especially in Olympic sports. For Paralympic athletes, transitioning to a new career might be distinct and more challenging compared to able-bodied athletes. Previous studies indicate that Paralympic athletes face financial issues, health problems, and identity crises (Smith et al., 2016, Bundon et al., 2018). However, knowledge is still limited regarding Paralympic athletes' experiences with end-of-career transitions.
This presentation will provide insights into selected findings from a qualitative study exploring the end-of-career transition of Paralympic athletes. The study's aim was to understand the challenges athletes face and explore changes in their lifestyles and health-related behaviors. Using a retrospective qualitative longitudinal case study design, semi-structured interviews with biographical mappings were conducted with 10 athletes from Germany and Switzerland who had retired past 2019. Data collection and timeline analysis followed/were based on thematic and life-course perspectives, integrating insights from critical disability studies.
The findings indicate that, in addition to the challenges encountered by able-bodied elite athletes, Paralympic athletes also face specific challenges in their family/private, professional and social life during their end-of-career transition. However, athletes who had substantial support resources, such as strong family networks, reported better well-being during the end-of-career transition. Future research should explore targeted interventions to prepare and support the end-of-career transitions. Furthermore, sport organisations should develop sustainable support systems that ensure the well-being and quality of life of former Paralympic athletes.

Keywords: paralympics, qualitative research, retirement, well-being and health, sociology of sports

SubID: 63906001086
Session type: OS - oral session
Title: Organizational Barriers to Physical Activity Participation among Divorced Single Mothers in China's IT/Internet Industries
Topic: Social justice in sport and physical activity, Sport and public health, Sport and gender
Author / Authors: Chunhong Zhou[1], Győző Molnár[1]
[1]University of Worcester, UK

Short abstract:

Overtime culture is pervasive in China's IT/Internet industries. Women in these industries reported the highest level of work-related stress and lack of time for physical activity (PA). Divorced single mothers (DSMs) in these industries may face heightened marginalization in PA participation due to overtime and parenting demands. Nevertheless, limited research has examined the organizational barriers to their PA participation.
This paper explores the intersection of overtime culture, work field, gender, and marital and parental status in formulating organizational barriers to DSMs' PA engagement in China's IT/Internet industries and offers recommendation for addressing these barriers.
Twenty-two semi-structured interviews were conducted to explore DSMS' PA experiences. Intersectionality was employed for data analysis and Marxist feminism was utilized for data interpretation.
Findings show that organizational barriers to DSMs' PA participation include the conflict between male-oriented schedule arrangements for workplace PAs and parenting responsibilities, limited access to workplace PA facilities, and unequal allocation of PA resources that favoured male employees.
Overtime culture, male-dominated workplace PA norms, gender dynamics in IT/Internet industries, and divorce-related challenges have intersected to create organizational barriers to DSMs' PA participation. Profit-driven IT/Internet industries promoted workplace masculinity, characterized by extensive overtime, fierce workplace competitions, and male-dominance, which contributed to ruthless employee exploitation and a deprivation of DSMs' time and opportunities for PA. To increase DSMs' PA participation will require organizational/structural support to remove identified organizational barriers by introducing flexible-and-gender-specific work schedules, gender equality in allocating workplace PA resources, stricter enforcement of the labour law regarding overtime.

Keywords: intersectionality, organizational barriers, overtime, divorced single mothers, physical activity, IT/Internet industries, China

SubID: 42604001446
Session type: PS - poster session
Title: Compensation Theory as a Dimension of Sports and Physical Activity: Its Limits and Forms in the Czech Republic.
Topic: Sport and public health, Sport and leisure, Sport and social class
Author / Authors: Jitka Buriánková[1]
[1]Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Charles University

Short abstract:

This study offers a fundamental exploration of compensation theory in the Czech Republic, examining it as a strategy that disrupts rational behavior. The primary aim of the paper is to investigate how the principles of a healthy lifestyle interact with the challenges of daily life, including work stress, unhealthy eating habits, and other adverse phenomena. One section of the text identifies key domains—diet, mental and personal well-being, and physical activity—and places them within the broader context of attitudes and opinions related to compensatory theories.
Whether the choice of a particular lifestyle is purely an individual matter occurring within a specific social context, or whether it is more of a product of social conditions, we draw on the study - Cockerham (2005, 2022, 2023). These studies represent a theoretical attempt to connect different perspectives, specifically the link between agency and structure, and we can view them more as a program or set of propositions rather than a testable model. The concept of cultural omnivorousness, which innovates Bourdieu's theory, emphasizes the plurality of possibilities in shaping a lifestyle, while also referencing Marx, who stressed the structural conditioning of lifestyle. On the other hand, Weber focuses on individual choice and the components of status that lead to social action, where actors are often aware of the framework of their actions and consciously follow it.
These definitions serve as a foundation for empirical analysis. The hypotheses were tested using a representative dataset from the "Lifestyles"2024 study (N=1095) , which included questions about compensation strategies.

Keywords: compensation theory, healthy lifestyle, physical and sports activity, demographic factors, stress management, coping mechanisms.

SubID: 42604006324
Session type: PS - poster session
Title: The relationship between life transitions and career development in Taiwanese elite athletes
Topic: Sport and social class
Author / Authors: Hsin-ying Chien[1]
[1]National Taiwan Normal University

Short abstract:

The inner will of athletes is shaped by various social experiences and structures. The concept of life course is a process of interaction between individuals and society, gradually developing and influencing changes in their life course through cultural backgrounds, environmental factors, interpersonal interactions, and social structures. This study employs in-depth interviews with five athletes who have achieved three consecutive championships in Asian and Olympic events. The results indicate: 1. Athletes exist in the competitive sports world while simultaneously living in the reality of everyday life, where survival conditions are influenced by external social structural systems, leading to the development of specific behavior patterns. 2. The correlation between social structural systems and the life course of athletes reveals that what athletes ultimately pursue is a stable career development and a desire for work. However, due to the fear of lacking social competitiveness, they strive to utilize available resources during their athletic careers, including reward money and the hope of using outstanding performance to secure stable career development in the future. 3. An athlete's life course serves as the foundation for future career development, as they navigate age, environmental pressures, economic factors, and performance outcomes. These experiences make athletes realize that competitive sports do not simply exist, prompting them to start planning for career transitions. However, due to their lifelong dedication, they can only seek development through limited transition methods, and the prize money earned during their athletic careers ultimately becomes a safeguard for their future career transitions.

Keywords: elite athletes, life transitions、career development、socialization、inner willpower

SubID: 95859000844
Session type: PS - poster session
Title: The Forgotten Child – Abusive behaviour towards Young Referees in Swedish Sport Clubs
Topic: Child protection and safeguarding in sport, Violence in sport
Author / Authors: Inger Eliasson[1]
[1]Department of Education

Short abstract:

Child protection has rapidly ascended to a prominent position on the Swedish sports policy agenda particularly since child protection measures were enacted into law in 2020. Despite the progress made under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, one group of children that appears to have been forgotten by the safeguarding initiatives in sports and academic research is young referees. The primary aim of this research project was to gain in-depth insights into the experiences and conditions of young referees while officiating in Swedish sport clubs. Specifically, the study aimed to examine the experiences and effects of emotionally abusive behaviour directed towards young referees officiating team sports matches. Data was gathered through semi-structured interviews conducted with 13 young referees officiating in both male and female football, and floorball games. The participants comprised seven girls and six boys aged 15–18 years old. The analysis followed inductive (reflexive) thematic analysis. The findings reveal that young referees are exposed to emotionally abusive behaviour to a harmful extent. This abuse manifests through various forms of verbal and non-verbal criticism, aggressive behavior, and gendered prejudices expressed towards female referees. Consequently, the young referees experience anxiety, stress, fear, a decline in self-confidence, and diminished motivation to continue officiating. The study concludes that emotional abuse is predominantly expressed within the context of male teams. The discussion centers on how sport-governing bodies can develop initiatives to provide support, protection, and education for young referees, aligning with the UNCRC.

Keywords: children's rights, safeguarding, officiating practices, team sport, gender

SubID: 95859005884
Session type: PS - poster session
Title: Board changes in sports clubs - a study on intergenerational practice
Topic: Sport and power relations, conflict and resilience, Sport organization and governance, Sport and social change
Author / Authors: Kathrin Fahn[1]
[1]Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Short abstract:

The recruitment and retention of volunteers, especially board members, has been perceived as an increasingly existential problem for sports clubs (Seippel et al., 2023). Studies often focus on the individual motives of volunteers, while the conditions and the consequences of volunteering are rarely the subjects of investigation.
Therefore, the presentation examines the processes and consequences of board changes and their embedding in socio-spatial and organisational structures. The data were collected as part of the BMEL-funded project "Civic Engagement in Peripheral - Rural Areas of the New Federal States".
The actor-theoretical model of sports club development (Nagel, 2007) serves as a heuristic framework. Sports clubs are corporate actors that develop through the ongoing mutual constitution of members' social actions and social structures over historical time. In this context, club boards are dominant actors for the development of sports clubs.
To reconstruct group-specific and cross-group orientations and experiences, 18 group discussions were conducted with current and former board members in 9 rural sports clubs. The data was analysed using the documentary method (Bohnsack, 2021).
The external demands (financial administration, liability, licences) and internal expectations (skills, availability) promote the professionalisation and intensification of board groups engagement. Internal criticism leads to intentions to terminate. During generational change, the club identity and board group culture is (re)negotiated and (re)produced. The cases show how younger members stimulate innovation and how the established board members assert their orientations. The results suggest that board groups should promote the integration of new members and limit the terms of office.

Keywords: civic engagement, case studies, board change, documentary method

SubID: 31953005924
Session type: PS - poster session
Title: Specific Management Tasks to Ensure the Welfare of Equine Athletes - a pilot study
Topic: Sport and well-being, Sport, climate, change and sustainability
Author / Authors: Erzsébet Hegyi[1], Anita Boros[1], Gábor Géczi[1]
[1]Hungarian University of Sports Science

Short abstract:

Sustainability of equestrian sports extends beyond financial and social aspects to include environmental responsibility, influencing horse welfare and stable management. This study aims to identify key welfare and sustainability challenges in equestrian sports management by examining how institutional structures, regulatory frameworks, and cultural norms shape welfare practices. The research explores how environmental considerations, such as pasture use, sustainable feeding, and water conservation intersect with equine well-being.
A pilot study (Hungary, 2024) was conducted using a qualitative research design based on semi-structured in-depth interviews with six stable managers representing different roles in equestrian sport (trainers, breeders, stable owners). The interview protocol was structured around the 5-domain model (Mellor et al., 2020) to assess physical and mental welfare conditions. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis, identifying key patterns in welfare perceptions, management strategies, sustainability integration. The study revealed divergent welfare interpretations, with informal management tools dominating over structured frameworks. While basic welfare standards are upheld, eco-conscious practices appear sporadically rather than as part of a comprehensive strategy. The findings emphasize the need for standardized management approaches that integrate formal welfare frameworks with sustainable resource management.
This study contributes to sport sociology by examining how institutional norms, regulatory gaps, and environmental awareness shape welfare and sustainability in equestrian sports. Horses are not just sports animals but cultural and historical symbols. Their treatment reflects broader social values on ethics, animal rights, and responsible sportsmanship. Poor welfare conditions can damage public perception of equestrian sports, leading to reduced participation, sponsorship withdrawals, and stricter regulations.

Keywords: sustainability, equestrian sport, horse welfare

SubID: 85208002205
Session type: PS - poster session
Title: The Impact Language on Shaping Stereotypes of Athletes: Experimental Manipulation of News Reporting Phrases
Topic: Sport and media, Youth sport
Author / Authors: Yawen Hsu[1]
[1]National Chiayi University

Short abstract:

Recent studies have confirmed that negative academic stereotypes about athletes, such as the "dumb jock" stereotype, can negatively affect their academic performance, attitudes, and career aspirations. This study applied the Social Categories and Stereotypes Communication (SCSC) Framework proposed by Beukeboom & Burgers (2019) to examine the interplay between language and stereotypes. A total of 622 questionnaires were collected for the study. Participants were exposed to 24 manipulated news sentences, consisting of 12 stereotype-consistent and 12 stereotype-inconsistent sentences, with some specifically targeting negative stereotypes of athletes through negation bias manipulation. Participants then read a news article adapted from real-world reports describing athletes and completed a survey including scales and open-ended questions to express their thoughts on the protagonist and their potential future development. The analysis revealed significant differences in the use of affirmative and negated language across age groups. Participants aged 50–60 exhibited higher expectations of stereotypes compared to other age groups and were more likely to demonstrate stereotype-driven behavior and use generic beliefs when triggered by stereotypes. Conversely, participants aged 20–30 and 30–40 were less influenced by stereotype triggers. Since language use can contribute to the further transmission and reinforcement of stereotypes, the findings of this study offer valuable insights for educational institutions and athletic training professionals.

Keywords: stereotype transmission, media influence, shared knowledge

SubID: 53255002877
Session type: PS - poster session
Title: Sport Fan Community as a Safeguard Against Uncertainty?
Topic: Sport and crisis
Author / Authors: Veronika Hásová[1]
[1]University of West Bohemia in Pilsen

Short abstract:

In an age characterized by high levels of individualization, the breakdown of traditional values, and all-encompassing uncertainty, the question arises as to where individuals should seek a measure of elementary security for the functioning of society. In the past, this security was provided by various communities or religions. In the Czech Republic, where there is a high level of non-beliefs, religion does not fulfill this function. The question is therefore whether this function can be substituted by other communities, such as communities of interest. As part of my ethnographic case study, I have been researching a sports community for 13 years, focusing, among other things, on whether this elementary security can be provided by a sports fan community.
Among the main findings is that individualization and other social crises (such as inflation, COVID-19, etc.) completely affect the whole community, including the so-called "core," the most loyal fans. However, these crises are mostly turning points that cause (enable/accelerate) the onset of generational changes within the community that are necessary for its dynamics. At the same time, it appears that individuals find benefits within the community, the main ones being a sense of belonging and security. This supports the argument that sports fan communities can help individuals overcome social insecurity.

Keywords: hockey, community, individualization, fandom, ethnography, Czech Republic

SubID: 31953003644
Session type: PS - poster session
Title: When does awe enhances sport fan superstitious behavior? The moderating role of team identification
Topic: Sports spectatorship and fandom
Author / Authors: Che-chun Kuo[1], Ying-lien Ni[2], Shih-chi Hsu[3], Wen Hsin Chang[4], Lung Hung Chen[5]
[1]National Taiwan University of Sport
[2]National Chiayi University
[3]Central Police University
[4]National Taipei University of Technology
[5]National Taiwan Sport University

Short abstract:

Guided by the theoretical perspective of awe, this study investigates the positive effect of awe on sports fan superstitious behavior. Additionally, drawing upon social identity theory, we explore a key boundary condition contributing to the enhancement of awe. We propose that team identification, a robust psychological connection between fans and sports teams, plays a contingent role in strengthening the positive relationship between awe and sports fan superstitious behavior. A total of 180 on-site sports fans who provided complete data were included in the analysis. Our results suggest a significant positive relationship between awe and sports fan superstitious behavior. Furthermore, we observed a noteworthy moderating effect of team identification, indicating that sports fans with high team identification perceiving high levels of awe display more pronounced superstitious behavior compared to those with low awe in sports events. These findings align with our expectations, offering a novel perspective for the literature on awe and underscoring the importance of team identification as an individual difference factor in this context.

Keywords: positive emotion, sport fandom, superstition

SubID: 42604003507
Session type: PS - poster session
Title: Identity conflict and its impact on dual career adaptability among student-athletes
Topic: Sport and power relations, conflict and resilience, Sport and well-being

Author / Authors: W.-c. Lu[1], S.-h. Lin[2], Y.-f. Chang[1], Y.-l. Chen[1]
[1]National Taiwan University
[2]National Pingtung University

Short abstract:

The pursuit of dual careers has attracted significant interest in the field of athletics, leading to numerous research studies. Previous studies have examined the effects of athletic and academic identities on sports performance and career outcomes. However, a significant research gap exists regarding the impact of identity conflict on dual career adaptability, particularly from a micro-level perspective. To fill this gap, the current study aims to clarify how identity conflict impacts dual career adaptability. College student-athletes were recruited as participants, and data were collected via questionnaires. Hypotheses were tested using hierarchical regression analysis, alongside 1000 bootstrap resampling tests to establish a 95% confidence interval. The findings revealed that identity conflict negatively affects the dual career adaptability of student-athletes. Furthermore, self-concept clarity emerged as a mediating factor in the relationship between identity conflict and dual career adaptability. Specifically, student-athletes experiencing higher levels of identity conflict demonstrated reduced self-concept clarity, which in turn negatively influenced their adaptability in managing dual careers. These results contribute to the discourse on dual careers for student-athletes and suggest implications for conflict management strategies and holistic career development among college athletes.

Keywords: career plan, self-concept clarity, dual career

SubID: 74557004488
Session type: PS - poster session
Title: Why do sports center consumers with failure self-control exhibit more green behavior? The mediating role of guilt
Topic: Sport and leisure, Sport, climate, change and sustainability

Author / Authors: Ying-lien Ni[1], Che-chun Kuo[2], Shih-chi Hsu[3], Wen Hsin Chang[4], Lung Hung Chen[5]
[1]Department of Physical Education, Health & Recreation, National Chiayi University
[2]Department of Recreational Sport, National Taiwan University of Sport
[3]Department of Crime Prevention and Corrections, Central Police University
[4]Physical Education Office, National Taipei University of Technology
[5]Doctoral Program for Transnational Sport Management and Innovation, National Taiwan Sport University

Short abstract:

Objectives: Prior research suggests a positive link between self-control and prosocial behavior, including environmentally friendly actions. However, how self-control states influence consumers' green behavior in sports and leisure settings remains understudied. This study examines the relationship between self-control failure and green behavior, with a focus on the mediating role of guilt. Methods: An experimental design was employed with 530 sports center consumers, using a between-subjects approach. Participants were randomly assigned to either a self-control success group (n = 275) or a self-control failure group (n = 255). Findings: Results show a significant negative relationship between self-control failure and green behavior. Additionally, guilt mediates this relationship, suggesting that heightened guilt can encourage pro-environmental actions despite self-control failure. Discussion: These findings highlight guilt as a key mediator in activating moral norms that promote green behavior. The study extends the understanding of environmental sustainability in sports and leisure organizations by demonstrating how guilt can enhance consumers' environmentally responsible choices. Conclusion: These insights provide practical implications for organizations aiming to encourage sustainable behavior through strategic CSR messaging and behavioral interventions.

Keywords: state of self-control, environmental sustainability, guilt

SubID: 31953007659
Session type: W - workshop
Title: Against Modern Football and social research: Is there a crisis?
Topic: Sports spectatorship and fandom
Author / Authors: Benjamin Perasović[1]
[1]Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar

Short abstract:

Since the mid-2000s, European social scientists have shown a growing interest in the "Against Modern Football" movement. The heterogeneous social movement mostly struggles against increasing commercialisation and political instrumentalization of football. While early research primarily focused on single case studies, recent years have seen a shift towards comparative approaches and the development of typologies. However, studying football fans and their protests has somewhat fallen out of favour. Some researchers have shifted their focus to other topics, while others have left academia altogether. This is paradoxical, as studying fans and their protests in response to perceived crises is more relevant than ever. Understanding these dynamics can provide valuable insights into how people respond to global crises more broadly. One example is the freshly published book 'Against Modern Football Understanding Clubs Founded and Operated by Supporters', whose authors will participate in the discussion.
Against this backdrop, the workshop will explore the potentials, challenges, and limitations of researching football fandom. It will begin with a brief introductory statement from the panel presenting examples emphasising potential of the research topic, followed by an open floor for questions and discussions.

- The following researchers have already confirmed their participation:
- Moderation: Sunčica Bartoluci (Croatia)
- Marko Mustapic (Croatia)
- Mateusz Grodecki (Poland)
- Christian Brandt (Germany)
- Benjamin Perasovic (Croatia)
- Olga Ruzhelnyk (France)

Keywords: soccer, fans, social movement

SubID: 63906008469
Session type: W - workshop
Title: BODY WELL-BEING, HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AND DIGITAL FITNESS
Topic: Sport and new technologies, Sport and the body
Author / Authors: Loredana Tallarita[1]
[1]University od Enna Kore

Short abstract:

The research analyses the impact of digital fitness culture on body health care and active lifestyle construction applying the correlational paradigm of Ardigò (1997). Body-exercise in the gym (Eichberg, 1989; Sassatelli, 2006, 2010, 2014; Matteucci, 2019; Tallarita, 2017, 2019, 2024) and the use of digital applications allow us to observe the many ways in which individuals put into practice the personalized project of body health and to detect the most significant forms of reflexivity. The focus of the research is centered on a case study (Yin 2014) involving a gym where 60 semi-structured and in-depth interviews were conducted (8 to fitness instructors and 52 to regular gym-goers: 26 women and 26 men, whose age range varies from 22 to 70). The analysis of in-depth-interviews and the identification of the most relevant scientific literature on the observed phenomenon (Yin 2014, Schütz 1982, Glaser & Strauss 1967) has allowed us to discover trends in the construction of healthier and more active lifestyles and the most significant cultural forms of body health connected to digital applications (Lupton, 2015, 2017) and new fitness technology.

Keywords: body well-being; health; digital fitness; active lifestyle; gym.

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