

NASSS 2017 Session List

Open Traditional Paper Presentation Sessions

Academic Capital: Student Athlete Matriculation, Social Support, and APR

Organizer(s):

Dervon Francis, Western Illinois University, dd-francis@wiu.edu

Algerian Hart, Western Illinois University, a-hart2@wiu.edu

Alvin Parker, St. Augustine's University, adparker1@st-aug.edu

Presider(s):

Dervon Francis, Western Illinois University, dd-francis@wiu.edu

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Alvin Parker, St. Augustine's University, adparker1@st-aug.edu

Abstract:

In 2005 the NCAA instituted the academic progress rate (APR), which measures how well Division I schools move their student-athletes toward graduation. Acknowledging the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) definition of academic success (e.g., grade point average, graduation), it is plausible that understanding how college athletes perceive academic success, and the value of social support can aid in achieving academic success. Papers in this session will address (a) where/how the value of student athlete matriculation intersects with academic progress vs. athletic prowess, (b) how a diverse body of college athletes "are/aren't" equitably supported to achieve academic success, (c) the role of the APR in the advancement of student-athlete academic success.

Aging Bodies and Physical Activity

Organizer(s):

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Presider(s):

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Abstract:

The social construction of aging as a process of disease, decline, and loss draws on the dominant discourse in Western society that aging is a medical problem that can be fixed. Consequently, with its low cost and many physical, mental, and emotional health benefits, physical activity is typically promoted in a neoliberal context as a way to "combat the effects of aging." As a result, remaining active has become a measurement of how successfully one ages. In consideration of the conference theme, papers are invited to this session that focus on the political, economic, and cultural forces that impact the role of physical activity on aging bodies. Additionally, papers are also invited that examine how physical activity can be a form of resistance against the negative discourses associated with aging bodies and that explore the embodiment of physical activity in later life.

Critically 'Mapping' Physical Culture in the Sporting Metropolis: Baltimore

Organizer(s):

Tyler Sigmon, Towson University, tsigmon@towson.edu
Ryan King-White, Towson University, rwhite@towson.edu
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Presider(s):

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Abstract:

Much has been researched and written about physical culture in the City of Baltimore (a comprehensive citation list could not fit in an abstract). Andrews' has suggested that Baltimore is the "Archetypical Neoliberal City" (2015) emblematic of the a- and e-effects this ideology can have on an urban population. More to the point, research on Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the failed Grand Prix experiment, a homeless running group, the "fittest city in America" marketing campaign, changing populations in previously destitute areas, urban soccer leagues, recreation centers, and bike culture have all called into question neoliberal answers to neoliberal problems. In this session, we hope to take a nuanced approach with some seemingly "successful" campaigns undergirded by the socio-political context from which they emerged. More specifically, we will critically evaluate the Baltimore Sport and Social Club, "Classic 5" Golf Courses, and other seemingly effective neoliberal programming from a PCS perspective.

Culturally Relevant and Competent Coaching

Organizer(s):

Samuel T. Twito, The University of Texas at Austin, twito@utexas.edu

Presider(s):

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Abstract:

Coaching continues to be of interest to researchers at NASSS, many of whom were coaches themselves. The impact of a coach on an athlete, be that positive or negative, cannot be overstated. This session welcomes paper that address the need for, adoption of, and utility of coaching styles and practices that are culturally relevant and culturally competent. These papers could be theoretical recommendations, from research on coaches, or commentary on the ways athletics departments do or do not support culturally relevant coaching practice, among others.

Decolonial and Diasporic Sporting Imaginations

Organizer(s):

Daniel Burdsey, University of Brighton, D.C.Burdsey@brighton.ac.uk
Aarti Ratna, Leeds Beckett University, A.Ratna@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Presider(s):

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Abstract:

This session invites considerations of racialized Others' multifarious, dynamic, and complex engagements with sport and physical culture across varied post/colonial and/or diasporic geopolitical frames of register. Following the recent special issue of *Sociology journal* on 'Global Futures and Epistemologies of the South: New Challenges for Sociology' (ed. Bhambra and De Sousa Santos, 2017), we welcome papers that employ decolonial and diasporic imaginations, expansive sociological frameworks, and/or epistemologies that derive from the Global South. In the process, this session deconstructs and critically evaluates normative and western-centric notions of race and racialization across multiple post/colonial contexts. Papers might address (but are by no means limited to) the following themes: how different physical and material bodies in/of motion are constituted by broader post/colonial political, economic, and cultural arrangements; global differences in the materialities and epistemologies of research; and the construction and flows of "knowledge" within sociology of sport research and curricula.

Deepening Sport Sociology/Studies Teaching with Sport Practice

Organizer(s):

Samuel T. Twito, The University of Texas at Austin, twito@utexas.edu

Presider(s):

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Abstract:

As teachers of sport sociology/studies, we have a unique opportunity to connect classroom content to the physical practice of sport to better help our students understand how sport responds to the social context(s) in which it operates. Drawing on both pedagogies and performances in this year's theme, this paper session explores how the performance of sport or physical activity can improve and deepen learning. Papers could speak to strategies presenters have found effective in the classroom, present a theoretical or conceptual rationale for the value of performing sport as part of a sport studies curriculum, or speak to another aspect of the performance-pedagogy intersection.

Emotional Politics of Racism in Sport

Organizer(s):

Alaina M. Di Giorgio, University of Tennessee, adigiorg@vols.utk.edu

Charles D.T. Macaulay, University of Connecticut, charles.macaulay@uconn.edu

Presider(s):

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Charles D.T. Macaulay, University of Connecticut, charles.macaulay@uconn.edu

Abstract:

With heightened racial tensions expounding our society over the last number of years, the sports world has not failed in becoming embroiled in these pertinent issues. This session is inspired by the theory presented by Paula Ioanide (2015) and is seeking presentations focused on the political and subsequent policy implications rooted in emotional attachment to racially oppressive ideas. The hegemonic economies of emotion are what guide people in expressions of racism and discrimination and provide moral justification to support institutionalized oppression without conscious awareness (Ioanide, 2015). The organizers wish for this session to delve into emotional politics, racially oppressive systems and how they intersect with sport.

Evolution of Activism: The Significance of the Celebrity-Athlete's Platform

Organizer(s):

Algerian Hart, Western Illinois University, a-hart2@wiu.edu

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Presider(s):

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Anthony Williams, Western Illinois University, al-williams4@wiu.edu

Abstract:

In Dr. Harry Edwards 2016 NASSS Keynote Address, "The Fourth Wave: Black Athlete Protests in the Second Decade of the 21st Century", he articulated an otherness between each wave of athlete activism. Dr. Edwards cautioned that the 4th Wave, where technology is a powerful tool, has emboldened the "Celebrity Athlete" to have a platform to promote issues that can generate an instantaneous value. Papers in this session will address (a) how the Celebrity Athlete activism platform impacts/influences fans, (b) how activism and the Celebrity Athlete play a crucial role in social change, and or (c) how Celebrity Athlete activism can bridge the divide on what can be very controversial issues?

Feminist Politics in Sport and Society

Organizer(s):

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Presider(s):

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Abstract:

This session will explore the contemporary landscape of sport and society through feminist perspectives. What might feminist thought and politics offer to people in sport? How might sport advance the interests of feminist-inspired social movements that collectively work to “end sexism, sexual exploitation and oppression”? (hooks, 2000: 1) We solicit papers that explore complex experiences and complicated politics fashioned through and in response to the sporting realm. We warmly welcome theoretical and methodological papers as well as exploratory works-in progress.

Gender, Race and Sport: Intersections/Assemblages

Organizer(s):

Ann Travers, Simon Fraser University, atravers@sfu.ca
Robert Pitter, Acadia University, robert.pitter@acadiau.ca

Presider(s):

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Abstract:

This session provides a space for queer/trans/feminist, post-colonial and critical race scholarship to be discussed in an integrative manner. Papers drawing on critical intersectional scholarship on gender, sexuality and race or assemblage theory that highlight the ways in which sport is mobilized to enforce/normalize/resist hierarchies of oppression and inequality are particularly welcome.

Global Sports Chaplaincy: A Case for Governance?

Organizer(s):

Steven N. Waller, University of Tennessee, swaller2@utk.edu

Presider(s):

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Abstract:

The focal point of this session will be on the proliferation sports chaplaincy as a global phenomenon and the efforts to organize and professionalize this discipline. Sports chaplaincy is defined as the "the provision of ongoing pastoral and spiritual care, by permission, to those of faith or no faith, for the holistic well-being of all involved in the community of sport" (CEDE, 2017). Central to organizing practitioners and organizations that sports chaplains affiliate with is the task of creating a system of governance in the form of "National Peak Bodies" (NPBs) who will marshal professional registration, certification and education/training efforts. The session will explore: 1) the evolution of sports chaplaincy as an element of global sport; 2) governance in the US and other countries; and 3) potential challenges to the advent of the implementation of NPBs. The session ideally fits into the "politics" element of the conference theme.

Ice in Our Veins: Sociological Examinations of Hockey

Organizer(s):

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Presider(s):

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Abstract:

Hockey is a cultural, economic, and political fixture in North America, particularly the Northeast. Governments, corporations, educational institutions, families, communities, and others invest heavily in the sport, which is characterized as a source for positive child and youth development, community and nation building, and lucrative business opportunities. Perhaps because of this wealth of social value, there tends to be an aversion to critiquing hockey, not unlike sports in general, and the contested culture that surrounds it. Indeed, hockey both constitutes and is constituted by a particular set of values and traditions that can be ambiguous: the necessity of fighting in the men's game; the under representation of minority groups; the sport's use as a tool for integrating newcomers; concerns over head trauma; the cost and accessibility of participation; the nature of parental involvement, and more. This session seeks papers that offer theoretical, empirical, and interventionist perspectives on ice hockey and sledge hockey at all levels worldwide. Papers should unpack dominant ideals and address the consequential and substantial role that hockey plays in political, economic, and cultural contexts.

This session fits well with the theme of the conference because its goal is to problematize physical and material aspects of hockey that are causes and effects of broader political, economic, and cultural understandings of subjects such as nationhood, safety, inclusion, and socialization as they intersect with factors such as race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, socioeconomic status, and physical embodiment.

Performing Politics and Power: Elite White Male Matters in Sport

Organizer(s):

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Justin R. Garner, Texas A&M University, j.garner11@tamu.edu
Kristi Oshiro, Texas A&M University, oshirok10@tamu.edu
John N. Singer, Texas A&M University, singerjn@tamu.edu

Presider(s):

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John N. Singer, Texas A&M University, singerjn@tamu.edu

Abstract:

With the publishing of *Elite White Men Ruling* (Feagin & Ducey, 2017), a light has been shone on the key powermongers and decision-makers that form and maintain a global system of elite-white-male dominance. As elite white men continue to shape the ways in which sporting bodies become politicized, there is a need for critical dialogue in the world of sport regarding these actors. Therefore, the focus of this session is to interrogate white men with power in and through the sporting context. We encourage a multitude of paradigmatic and theoretical approaches, including neo-Marxism, (anti/post-)colonialism, (post-)feminism, queer theory, and more. Elite white men and their acolytes act and perform distinct roles in the politics of power in the sport industry. Thus, this session seeks to centralize these key players and spark a critical discussion on matters of elite white men.

Politics and Embodiment in Disability Sport

Organizer(s):

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Presider(s):

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Abstract:

This session will critically examine the intersectionality of cultural politics and embodied impairment. All too often sociological accounts of disability sport have simply been descriptive and lacking in the theoretical and methodological rigour that is the hallmark of high quality sociology of sport. While these studies have been important foundations in advancing disability sport studies and the politicization of disability sport, it is important to move towards a more embodied understanding of this realm. Our intent is to actively engage the sociology of sport community in critical discussions that put disability sport under the same spotlight as has been the custom in able-bodied sport. We invite papers for this session that draw upon a variety of theoretical perspectives and disciplinary foundations.

Power of (College) Sport: Intercollegiate Athletics and/as Social Justice

Organizer(s):

Yannick Kluch, Bowling Green State University, ykluch@bgsu.edu
Travis R. Bell, University of South Florida, trbell@usf.edu

Presider(s):

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Abstract:

This session examines the potential of intercollegiate athletics to be used as a platform to promote social justice. Despite critiques of the college sporting environment as being "essentially hostile to independence of mind" (Sage, 1998), student-athletes have often used their involvement in college sport to address social injustices (see e.g. Smith, 2009; Ruffin, 2014). As such, one of the reasons why college sports matter is because of their ability to serve as an important site to advance social justice efforts. Session presenters examine how athletes, stakeholders, administrators, and/or fans have used their involvement in intercollegiate athletics to advocate for minority and marginalized groups in sports and beyond. Presentations can focus on the social justice work of individuals (e.g. a particular student-athlete activist), a team, a service-learning course, an athletics department, or a university as a whole. All methodologies and theoretical frameworks are welcome.

Race, Class, Neoliberalism, and Elite Interscholastic and Youth Sport

Organizer(s):

Joseph N. Cooper, University of Connecticut, joseph.cooper@uconn.edu

Presider(s):

Joseph N. Cooper, University of Connecticut, joseph.cooper@uconn.edu

Abstract:

The proliferation of commercialized interscholastic and youth sport across multiple societies reflects the continued growth of practices and values rooted in neoliberalism and capitalism. For example, in the United States (U.S.) evidence of this growth include exorbitant apparel and sponsorship deals with high school and youth sport programs, increased mass media coverage of youth sports, and widespread privatization of elite youth sport development (i.e., creation of athletic-centric sport schools). A primary focus of scholarly inquiry into this phenomenon thus far has centralized economic systems while minimizing and often times overlooking key factors such as race. Using interdisciplinary theories in conjunction with sociological lenses, this session will explore the intersection between race, class, neoliberalism, and elite interscholastic and youth sports. Rooted in historical developments, proposals will examine the emergence of specific trends within and across various contexts and present multi-level implications (macro-, meso-, and micro-).

Revisiting Race and Ethnicity in Canadian Sport and Physical Activity

Organizer(s):

Simon Barrick, University of Calgary, simon.barrick@ucalgary.ca
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Presider(s):

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Abstract:

This session invites papers that discuss race and ethnicity in the context of Canadian sport or physical activity (PA). This topic has taken on heightened academic and political importance with the acceptance of over 40,000 Syrian refugees to Canada since 2015, as well as racially charged rhetoric and policy discussions (e.g., Bill M-103 and President Trump's travel ban executive order) permeating political and popular discourse across North America. This session links with the conference theme as sport and publically-engaged sport research, as much as ever, matter in the lives of racialized minorities in Canada. For instance, how do racialized minorities experience sport/PA within the context of Canadian multiculturalism? Does sport/PA participation shape the integration of new immigrants into Canadian society? What role(s) do/can socio-cultural researchers play in fostering more welcoming spaces for racially and ethnically diverse individuals to experience sport/PA in Canada?

Social Movements and Sport Activism: Connections between Resistance Efforts

Organizer(s):

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Akilah R. Carter-Francique, Prairie View A&M University, arfrancique@pvamu.edu
Billy Hawkins, University of Houston, hjbilly@central.uh.edu

Presider(s):

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Akilah R. Carter-Francique, Prairie View A&M University, arfrancique@pvamu.edu
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Abstract:

Throughout history, broader social movements have influenced the state of affairs within sporting contexts. Consequently, activism occurring in non-sporting spaces such as political and economic realms has prompted similar actions within and connected to sport. For example, social movements such as those centered on Pan-Africanism, Civil Rights, Women's Rights, Human Rights, Worker's/Labor Rights, and many more have inspired athletes, coaches, managers, scholars, and community members' efforts in challenging unjust and inequitable sporting systems. Consistent with sociological foundations, the aim of this session is to contextualize the significance of socio-historical, socio-political, and socio-cultural timing of specific instances of resistance within and beyond sport. Key concepts such as activism, social justice, hegemony, counter hegemony, rights, power, privilege, equality, and equity are central to these investigations.

Sociological Critiques of Oppressive Sporting Systems and Structures

Organizer(s):

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Presider(s):

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Akilah R. Carter-Francique, Prairie View A&M University, arfrancique@pvamu.edu
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Abstract:

Formalized organizations are created to systematize the production of specific cultural products. In the case of sport, organizations serve a range of functions from coordinating competitions, managing budgets, and engaging in social outreach. However, despite the various benefits derived from sport organizations and institutions, in many instances, these structures reinforce dominant ideologies and exacerbate widespread inequalities and inequities. Dominant ideologies such as patriarchy, White supremacy and privilege, capitalism, and ableism to name a few are pervasive in sport governing bodies, institutions, and programs. Proposals in this session will incorporate a range of sociological theories in examining the problematic nature of overtly and covertly oppressive sporting systems and structures across international contexts.

Sociology of Sports Coaching

Organizer(s):

Brian Gearity, University of Denver, Brian.Gearity@du.edu

Presider(s):

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Abstract:

Theoretically rich, complex, and diverse. Traditional and contemporary methodologies. Problematizing taken-for-granted assumptions. Writing beyond the walls of the ivory tower to moving writing and scholarship that makes a difference. Curriculums have changed and novel questions asked. New ways of practicing, of living, are being explored. Scholarship has focused on power relations, identities, knowledge development, roles, performances, and interpersonal relations. Newer discourses explore the body, gender, sexuality, race and ethics. All of this is happening in the thriving field of the sociology of sports coaching.

More scholars continue to orient their scholarship to sport coaching, and specifically coach-athlete relations and effective and ethical ways of understanding and transforming individuals and society. We are all called to show the theoretical and practical value of a sociocultural understanding, critique or intervention to sports coaching. We encourage submissions (presentations and performances) that transgress, disrupt boundaries and birth new discourses. Get in the game.

Sport and Family

Organizer(s):

Steven Ortiz, Oregon State University, sortiz@oregonstate.edu

Presider(s):

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Abstract:

This session focuses on how sport "matters" in the family. Specifically, it addresses how family/relational issues are reflections of "matters of concern," and how family/relational issues are managed or mismanaged, when examining the influence of parents on their children participating in youth sport programs, or influence of spouses/partners on their spouses/partners who have careers in professional/elite sport. The noninvolvement, involvement, or overinvolvement of parents in their children's participation in sports, or spouses/partners in their spouse's/partner's career in professional/elite sport, may require a negotiation of the boundary between the social institutions of family and sport. It may involve an awareness of the stressors experienced by children participating in sports, or experienced by spouses/partners in their careers in professional/elite sport. It may entail an understanding of the roles parents perform in their children's participation in sports, or roles spouses/partners perform in their spouse's/partner's career in professional/elite sport.

Sport and Religion

Organizer(s):

Jeffrey Scholes, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, jscholes@uccs.edu

Presider(s):

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Abstract:

Despite the common sentiment that sport and religion have little to do with each other, their relationship has a long-standing history marked by contention, mutual apathy, cooperation, and even equation. As the session title suggests, papers that focus on the intersection of sport and religion in general are welcomed. As such, possible topics include: the role of religious belief, ritual, or prayer in sport; the authority of sport at religious high schools/colleges; and sport-as-a-religion, to name a few. In accordance with this year's conference theme, papers that emphasize the role of the body in sport and its historically contentious place in many religious traditions are appreciated. How is religion shaping the relationship between body and mind/spirit in sport, and how does this relationship bear itself out in the politics of sport, especially as it concerns emergent forms of activism amongst athletes?

Sport and the Environment in the Era of Denial

Organizer(s):

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Abstract:

The United Nations confirms 141 parties ratified the Paris Agreement and the agreement officially entered into force on November 4, 2016. Only a few days later, citizens in the United States elected Donald Trump to be the next president. Since inauguration, Trump, an active climate change denier, has opposed any measure of environmental regulation – appointing climate change denying Scott Pruitt as head of the EPA and rolling back President Obama's climate regulations.

Over the last decade, sport organizations, leagues, and non-profits have made concerted efforts to mitigate the impact of sport on the environment – or at the very least attempted to profit off the appearance of limiting environmental impact. Given the changes in governmental structure and the role of sport in the environment, in this session, we invite presentations that engage with issues surrounding sport and the environment at large and that deal with political processes and environmental actions of sport organizations, specifically.

Sport Environment and the Sociology of Concussion Injuries

Organizer(s):

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Presider(s):

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Abstract:

With the detrimental effects of concussions becoming an emerging topic, it is important to understand "the vulnerable brain" in relation to the political, economic, and social process of sport. To be sure, the normalization of tolerance towards injury in a competitive and masculinist sport environment – in particular, a concussion as an invisible injury – may have played a critical role. Furthermore, considering the contemporary sport environment as composed of revenue-driven enterprises, athletes' attitudes towards concussions must also be understood as pertaining to the economic value of body, self, and play, where the invisibility of concussions may be utilized to foster the exploitative agenda of the market force. Furthermore, an investigation of how ethnicity, gender, and sport category may contour the socialized perceptions of concussions can serve to reveal unequal patterns of knowledge. Thus, a reflection on the sport environment through a theoretically engaged inquiry - such as Foucault's thesis on the technology of self, concussions as moral injuries - will lead to a nuanced and critical research agenda.

Sport, Physical Culture, and Corporeal Economies

Organizer(s):

Adam Beissel, University of Maryland, abeissel@umd.edu
Christopher McLeod, Florida State University, cm12d@my.fsu.edu

Presider(s):

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Abstract:

This session will provide a forum for scholars looking to share their research on the political economies of the moving and active body. Scholars are encouraged to submit both theoretical and empirical research on the behavioral, developmental, and sociological economics of sport, physical culture, and fitness active body phenomena.

Sport, Physical Culture, and Labor

Organizer(s):

Matthew Hawzen, Florida State University, mgh14@my.fsu.edu

Presider(s):

Matthew Hawzen, Florida State University, mgh14@my.fsu.edu

Abstract:

For this session, labor is understood in the dual sense, as social class and productive activity. I encourage submissions that critically engage sport and physical activity as a site of labor production, politics, and power. Submissions are welcome to take on a diverse array of perspectives including (but not limited to) Marxist, feminist, phenomenological, critical race, and affect theories. Topics in this session are meant to be broad, ranging from the embodied experiences of sport labor (athletic, manufacturing, and service), resistance and unionization, to the political economies and institutional arrangements labor works with and against.

Sport, Physical Culture, and Social Justice

Organizer(s):

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Ally Quinney, Florida State University, aq16@my.fsu.edu

Presider(s):

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Ally Quinney, Florida State University, aq16@my.fsu.edu

Abstract:

This session has been established for scholars wishing to share research on and toward sport's capacities to promote social justice. Contributors who are doing critical and activist-based work on sport and social justice are encouraged to submit to the session.

Sport, Society, & Technology

Organizer(s):

Jennifer Sterling, University of Iowa, jennifer-sterling@uiowa.edu

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Presider(s):

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Abstract:

This session invites papers that are broadly concerned with issues related to the cultural and sociological study of science, technology, and sport. Potential topics include, but are not limited to: sport technologies and technologies of the active body; issues related to medicine, risk, and sport; doping, drugs, bioethics, and the active body; (dis)ability, gender, race, class, and sexuality, technology and sport; sporting labs and scientific practices; representations of science and sport; sport 2.0 (e.g. digital interactions); and, sustainability and sport. While open to a range of perspectives, we are especially interested in papers that explore science, technology, and sport intersections - 'matter(s)' and meanings - through science and technology studies or digital humanities approaches.

"Stick to Sports": Policing Dissent in the Era of Trump

Organizer(s):

Guy Harrison, Arizona State University, gharris7@asu.edu

Presider(s):

Guy Harrison, Arizona State University, gharris7@asu.edu

Abstract:

In a socio-political sense, sport has come to imitate life; the hierarchies associated with white nationalism and supremacy, heteronormative patriarchy, and advanced capitalism have all been brought to bear on, and have mattered to those who occupy, the sporting world. As increasing numbers of athletes, coaches and commentators have spoken out in recent months in response to the current, divisive political environment, those who wish sport to remain apolitical have responded with a resounding "stick to sports!" which can largely be understood as an utterance used to police political and social dissent in the sporting world.

This traditional paper session aims to analyze the "stick to sports" phenomenon from all angles and perspectives, particularly those of athletes, coaches, commentators and fans. All theoretical and methodological frameworks are welcome. Papers that examine the responses of athletes, coaches, and commentators to the Trump administration's policies and rhetoric are strongly encouraged.

Still I Rise: Examining "Sport Matters" for Women of Color

Organizer(s):

Akilah Carter-Francique, Prairie View A&M University, arfrancique@pvamu.edu

Presider(s):

Akilah Carter-Francique, Prairie View A&M University, arfrancique@pvamu.edu

Abstract:

In the 2016 Rio Olympics, the media documented women of color as making a significant impact by competing in a number of sports from track and field and basketball to gymnastics, boxing, swimming, water polo and fencing. The combination of their physical presence and corresponding accolades expressed through social media's #BlackGirlMagic intimated that "Sports Matter" for Black women across the world. However, some women of color, for example Black women in the United States, found themselves at the center of socially, politically, religious, and culturally based commentary that negated and/or overshadowed their athletic accolades. But as Maya Angelou presents, "You may write me down in history/With your bitter, twisted lies/You may tread me in the very dirt/But still, like dust, I'll rise". Papers in this session will discuss the experiences of women of color in sport and physical activity and the theoretically based pathways to "rise" above marginalization, stereotypes, and navigate issues of representation

Strengths Matter: Framing Sport within a Strengths and Hope Perspective

Organizer(s):

Victoria Paraschak, University of Windsor, parasch@uwindsor.ca

Presider(s):

Victoria Paraschak, University of Windsor, parasch@uwindsor.ca

Abstract:

Deficit-based renderings of the physical activity experiences of 'outsiders' reinforce their perceived location on the periphery of mainstream sport. Conducting research within a strengths and hope perspective provides an alternative account of those individuals, by focusing on existing strengths, forging connections to resources that further those strengths, and acknowledging elements of co-transformation as we work together to identify and achieve a preferred future. Researchers in this session outline ways that using a strengths and hope perspective 'matters' to the work they do, to the individuals they interact with during that research, and to themselves. Documenting various Individuals' personal accounts reinforces their understandings as central to rather than on the periphery of 'legitimate' sporting experiences. The ways they draw upon and/or serve as a resource for others as part of a hope-enhancing environment also demonstrates one way that 'sport matters' can enhance social inclusion in and (at times) beyond sport.

Teaching the Sociology of Sport: Ideas, Issues and Innovations

Organizer(s):

Linda Henderson, St. Mary's University, linda.henderson@stmu.ca

Presider(s):

Linda Henderson, St. Mary's University, linda.henderson@stmu.ca

Abstract:

The scholarship of teaching and learning is an important part of any academic conference. This session invites participants to share their practical strategies and/or concerns for effective teaching and learning in the sociology of sport.

The Embodied Self: Corporeality and the Subjective Experience

Organizer(s):

Faye Linda Wachs, Cal Poly Pomona, flwachs@cpp.edu

Presider(s):

Faye Linda Wachs, Cal Poly Pomona, flwachs@cpp.edu

Abstract:

This session provides an opportunity to explore the experience of embodiment. Often, bodies and selves are treated as separate. This session explores the embodied self as central to the subjective experience.

The Future of the Discipline: Undergraduate Research

Organizer(s):

Faye Linda Wachs, Cal Poly Pomona, flwachs@cpp.edu

Presider(s):

Faye Linda Wachs, Cal Poly Pomona, flwachs@cpp.edu

Abstract:

This session provides an opportunity for our wonderful undergraduate members to showcase their research. If enough papers are submitted, they will be grouped by topic.

The Sporting Life: Work, Family, and Fandom

Organizer(s):

F. Michelle Richardson, The Citadel, FRichard@citadel.edu
Alexis Richardson, California University of Pennsylvania, ric6702@calu.edu

Presider(s):

F. Michelle Richardson, The Citadel, FRichard@citadel.edu
Alexis Richardson, California University of Pennsylvania, ric6702@calu.edu

Abstract:

It is possible that if you are a fan of, work in, are married to, or participate in sport; it can become an all-consuming entity. So much so that it can and does affect your life in a variety of ways. This session seeks to illuminate the joys, challenges, and conflicts that can occur in the lives of sport administrators, coaches, participants, family, and fans.

The Struggle for the Heart of Youth Sport

Organizer(s):

Dale Sheptak, Baldwin Wallace University, rdsheptak@hotmail.com
Amanda Curtis, Lake Erie College, acurtis@lec.edu

Presider(s):

Dale Sheptak, Baldwin Wallace University, rdsheptak@hotmail.com
Amanda Curtis, Lake Erie College, acurtis@lec.edu

Abstract:

There is a power struggle in youth sport between business development and youth athlete welfare. The business model for youth sport programs demands high levels of financial and personal commitment with the promise of 'making it to the next level' in return. For example, the 'youth sport industry' in the United States is estimated to generate \$7 billion in economic impact when the cost travel and tourism are included. However, as the business of kids playing sport grows, many are drawing attention to the concurrent growth of potentially harmful byproducts and calling for reform. Issues such as increasing occurrences of head injuries, repetitive overuse injuries, abusive coaches and parents, psychological and physical burnout, and lax enforcement or presence of coaching education have given rise to organizations and initiatives intended to advocate change within the sphere of youth sport.

This session is intended to explore the role of sport sociology in shaping change in youth sport on a local, national, and international level. We invite research or personal narratives on involvement with organizations or initiatives that promote better, healthy, kid focused sport programs. In doing so, we hope to create dialogue and the sharing of ideas from across the globe that will aid in creating a more development centered and kid focused youth sport culture.

Title IX at 45: Women in Sport Today

Organizer(s):

Erica J. Zonder, Adrian College, ezonder@adrian.edu

Courtney L. Flowers, Texas Southern University, flowerscl@tsu.edu

Presider(s):

Erica J. Zonder, Adrian College, ezonder@adrian.edu

Courtney L. Flowers, Texas Southern University, flowerscl@tsu.edu

Abstract:

On the 45th anniversary of Title IX, there is cause to celebrate women in sport. Most notably, participation opportunities for women and girls have increased by 560% at the college level and 990% in high schools (WSF, 2017). Despite this success, women in sport still face challenges. One needs to look no further than recent controversies for both the U.S. Women's Soccer team and the U.S. Women's Hockey team to see that female athletes today are still marginalized, paid less than male counterparts, and are objectified by the media.

This session seeks to explore the current state of Title IX and gender equality in women's sports. More specifically aligned with this year's conference theme "Sport Matters: Physics, Politics, Performances, Pedagogies," this session will highlight the "matters of concern" for women in sport today.

Trauma-Informed Sport: Body Work and Shifting Assumptions of Trauma

Organizer(s):

Cathy van Ingen, Brock University, cathy.vaningen@brocku.ca

Nik Ives-Allison, Brock University, nik@nivesallison.com

Presider(s):

Cathy van Ingen, Brock University, cathy.vaningen@brocku.ca

Nik Ives-Allison, Brock University, nik@nivesallison.com

Abstract:

This session seeks to speak to the role of sport, physical activity and body-oriented research interventions in addressing trauma. Trauma discourse is increasingly used in social theory and policy and trauma-informed language and practice has become more common in both the health and social service sectors. In this session, we are looking for papers exploring issues of what 'trauma-informed care and practice' looks like in a sporting context. What are the effects/affects of locating trauma in individuals rather than communities? What kind of possibilities could come out of expanding our understanding of trauma through the bodily experiences provided by sport and physical activity? In what way, might the framework of trauma need to be problematized?

True Education: Exploring Contemporary Relationships of Blacks, Sport, and Education

Organizer(s):

Wardell Johnson, Eastern Kentucky University, Wardell.Johnson@eku.ed

Charles Crowley, California University of Pennsylvania, crowley@calu.edu

Akilah Carter-Francique, Prairie View A & Am University, arfrancique@pvamu.edu

Presider(s):

Wardell Johnson, Eastern Kentucky University, Wardell.Johnson@eku.ed

Charles Crowley, California University of Pennsylvania, crowley@calu.edu

Akilah Carter-Francique, Prairie View A & Am University, arfrancique@pvamu.edu

Abstract:

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1947) once said "The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. . . . Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." The history of Blacks in sport denotes Blacks intellectual prowess and the role of education in sport through their sporting experiences and opportunities. Examining the current role of education for Blacks in sport organizations and institutions is of interests to promote "true" educational efforts. Papers in this session will address (a) the ways sport and physical activity aid in educational engagement, (b) efforts that aid in the academic engagement and identity development of Blacks in sport, and/or (c) the role of education in the attainment of careers and/or methods and strategies of survival for Blacks in sport organizations and institutions.

Open Paper Session

Organizer(s):

Joshua I. Newman, Florida State University, jnewman@fsu.edu

Presider(s):

Joshua I. Newman, Florida State University, jnewman@fsu.edu

Abstract:

We invite scholars whose work contributes to the overarching conference theme, or the advancement of the sociology of sport more generally—but does not align with the specific themes listed above—to submit to this session. Papers in this session will be clustered thematically.

Pre-Constituted Presentation Sessions

New Voices in Critical Cultural Studies of Sport

Organizer(s):

Darcy C. Plymire, Western Illinois University, dc-plymire@wiu.edu

Presider(s):

Darcy C. Plymire, Western Illinois University, dc-plymire@wiu.edu

Abstract:

This session showcases the work of student scholars in critical cultural studies of sport. Papers include critical readings of race, gender, commerce, youth culture, and sport.

Participants:

Marissa Webb, Western Illinois University
Peyton Crosser, Western Illinois University
Crystall Dooley, Western Illinois University
Taylor Clayton, Western Illinois University