

### OPEN SESSIONS PROPOSED BY NASSS MEMBERS

A description of each session follows this list. Open Roundtable Sessions are listed on the last 2 pages.

- A Joyful Queering of Stories of Gender in Sport\*\*
- Action and Adventure Sports
- Activism, Sport & Social Movements: Individual to Institutional Perspectives\*\*
- Applied Sociology\*\*
- Blackness, anti-Blackness, and Sport\*\*
- Catch Them Doing Something Right: Communicative Dynamics in Youth Sport\*\*
- Challenging Settler Colonialism in Sport and Physical Culture\*\*
- Classroom Sessions Using Sociology Case Studies\*\*
- Contemporary issues surrounding female college athletes\*\*
- Critical Approaches to Allyship in Sport\*\*
- Critical Muslim Studies, Sport, and Physical Culture\*\*
- Community development through sport and recreation
- Contemporary Sport and Neoliberalism
- Critical Approaches to Athlete Health
- DEI and Sport Sociology Pedagogy: Curriculum, Course Changes and Innovation\*\*
- Disability and the Sociological Study of Sport: An Open Invitation
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Social Justice and Sport in the New Era
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in physical culture
- Economic,Socio-Cultural,Mental Health,Ethical Issues in College Athletics
- Examining the Evolution of the HBCU Ecosystem in the Social Media Paradigm
- Fat Play: Rethinking Sporting Bodies and the Benefits of Movement
- Intersectional experiences of Black girls and women in sport\*\*
- Issues of Power in Sport Governance\*\*
- Labor, Harm, and Abuse in Sport\*\*
- Making Things Unworkable: The Bodily Experiences of LGBTQI+ Issues in Sport\*\*
- Many Names, Same Problem: Patriarchy, Gender-Based Violence, and Sport\*\*
- Medicalized Bodies: Athlete Experiences with Chronic Illness and Cancer\*\*
- Minority Serving Institutions: Beacons of hope
- Navigating Resistance to Anti-Racism in the Academy
- New Insights in/on Sport Activism Research\*\*
- ¡Pa'lante! Advancing the Commitment to more Latinx Representation at NASSS\*\*
- Performance and Performativity in Soccer Fan Community Activism
- Policy and participation: The politics of inclusion\*\*
- Recruitment to Retirement: Experiences of International College Athletes in the United States\*\*
- Sexual Violence in Sport: Stemming the Tide
- Social Connections Through Play: Back to Basics
- Social Justice, Platforms and Awareness, & Mechanisms for Change
- Sport and the Urban Spaces of Spectacle
- Sociocultural Understandings of Sports Concussions: Where are We Now?\*\*\*
- Sport, Newcomers, and Urban Space: Contested Terrains\*\*
- Sport, physical (in)activity, and anti-colonial autoethnography\*\*
- Sport, race and the outdoors\*\*
- Sporting Diaspora: The Quest for Belonging\*\*
- Teaching Sport Studies\*\*
- Technology Advancement and the Minorities influence on ESport
- The Commodification of the Sporting Body\*\*
- The Impact of Experiential Learning on Sport Management Education\*\*
- The Sociology of Sports Coaching\*\*
- The Wake of the 2023 World Cup
- Watching social change: The influence of spectatorship on identity politics\*\*
- Water the ways of our sports?\*\*\*

**Session Title**

A Joyful Queering of Stories of Gender in Sport\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Anna Baeth

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**Session Description**

In a 2022 interview with Shireen Ahmed on *Burn It All Down*, trans athlete and activist, Chris Mosier, stated: "...taking away sports isn't going to make me not be trans, and it's not going to make a kid not be trans ... it's just going to make our life incredibly more challenging. And so, by telling trans people to lean into their joy, to celebrate their victories and accomplishments and celebrate the love that they have for themselves and other people in their community, that is a form of resistance" (Ahmed, 2022, para. 39). This session, a response to Mosier's statement, focuses on resistance via the accomplishments, celebrations, love, joy, and victories of transgender, nonbinary, and genderqueer folks in sport. We invite papers and narratives that focus on this theme broadly. Scholars, athletes, and storytellers of all genders and with any connection to this work are invited to submit a paper, narrative, or story to tell.

**Session Title**

Action and Adventure Sports

**Name of Organizer**

Iilina Arsova

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**Session Description**

For this session, we invite abstract submissions addressing research related to action and adventure sports. Scholars, at times, refer to the same activities as action, adventure, extreme, or lifestyle sports (Breivik, 2010; Cohen et al., 2018; Collins & Collins, 2019; Immonen et al. 2022; Thorpe, 2014) and definitions vary. The term adventure sport is often used in commercial and tourism settings (Cohen et al., 2018; Mackenzie, 2021), as well as outdoor education (Estabrook & Collins, 2019). The mid-2010s saw a renewed scholarly interest in action sports (e.g., Thorpe, 2014, 2017; Wheaton, 2015). With this foundation in place, it is time to take stock of how the study of these sports has progressed in recent years. Whether one uses the term adventure sports or action sports, a multitude of related phenomena await exploration, including socio-cultural factors, motivation, constraints, access, fear and safety, media representations, gender, disability, sustainability, and activism.

**Session Title**

Activism, Sport & Social Movements: Individual to Institutional Perspectives\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Yannick Kluch

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**Session Description**

Historically, scholars have rightfully focused on athletes as driving forces in activist efforts across various social movements (Cooky, 2017; Cooper et al., 2019; Kluch, 2020) – from the Civil Rights Movement and movements for women’s and equal rights to more recent social movements (e.g., Me Too Movement, Black Lives Matter). Moving beyond athlete-centered research in the literature (i.e., research examining individual athletes’ activism), the goal of this session is to explore collective and institutional forms of activism in the context of sport (Jolly et al., 2021). Specifically, presentations should examine ways in which institutional power is (or can be) utilized for activist impact. Topics may include, but are not limited to, explorations of institutional change agents, policy as activist tools, institutional barriers to activism, collective organizing for activist impact, social movement influence in and through sport, and/or institutional procedures/practices as they inform activism.

**Session Title**

Applied Sociology\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Joseph Mills

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**Session Description**

Sociology’s impressive array of theories offer untold intellectual insights for anyone connected with sport. Sports’ natural scientists, policy makers, program directors, coaches could all benefit from a sociological—deeper and broader—understanding of the environments in which they operate. Collaborations are however rare, even though calls to develop the applied aspects of sociology are far from new (e.g., Chalip, 1990; Cooky, 2017). In sports broader academic context, sociology can be depicted as a discipline of critique with few, if any, practical applications. We invite submissions that explore sociology’s collaborative, applied and practical values to any area, discipline or profession in sport. Example topics might include:

Activism, social justice, media and social media bias

Applying social theory as an applied sport science

Trans-disciplinary explorations of natural sciences and sociology

**Session Title**

Blackness, anti-Blackness, and Sport\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Joseph N. Cooper

**Institutional Affiliation**

University of Massachusetts Boston

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**Session Description**

The purpose of this session to explore how the phenomenon of Blackness has been embodied and manifested in and through sporting spaces. Modern day sport has a deep connection to colonialism and thus the foundations, structures, systems, policies, and norms of sport in neocolonial spaces reifies anti-Blackness. Papers in this session will explore the interplay between Blackness, anti-Blackness, and sport across international milieu. Topics such as physical and cultural expression, performance, symbolic violence, activism, organization formation, and media counternarratives are welcomed.

**Session Title**

Catch Them Doing Something Right: Communicative Dynamics in Youth Sport\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Christopher Streeter

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**Session Description**

LaVoi and Stellino (2008) state that, “children develop beliefs in their abilities, maintain certain expectations of themselves, and acquire sport-related value systems based largely on the influence of their parents” (p.142). Parental expectations, pressures, and criticism surrounding sport achievement is detrimental to young athlete’s interests, ability, intrinsic motivation, enjoyment, and stress (Elliott & Drummond, 2015; LaVoi & Norris, 2011; LaVoi & Stellino, 2008; Tamminen et al., 2017). This session seeks to explore the social dynamics and communication between youth athletes and impactful leaders at the conclusion of a sport activity. Specifically, an exploration of the car ride home, do parents/guardians/coaches/leaders do more harm than good when addressing a child’s performance? What do these relationships and social dynamics look like? Are parents “catching them doing something right” or criticizing their play? All authors with related scholarship, including theoretical/conceptual work or proposed/ongoing/finished empirical research, are invited to submit.

**Session Title**

Challenging Settler Colonialism in Sport and Physical Culture\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Alexandra Giancarlo

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University of Calgary

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**Session Description**

This session will highlight a range of projects that coalesce around one theme, loosely defined: how Indigenous peoples and settlers challenge, and ultimately seek to disrupt, settler colonial norms in movement cultures. Presenters will take up and interrogate questions pertaining to, for instance, the politics of land dispossession and the workings of settler colonialism in the present, and the relationship of sport and physical culture to reconciliation in settler colonial states. Moreover, presenters will illuminate the ways Indigenous peoples and co-conspirators are working towards alternative futures, those not circumscribed by settler colonial violence.

**Session Title**

Classroom Sessions Using Sociology Case Studies\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Hailey Daehnke

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**Session Description**

This is an open session where presenters will share case studies that can be used in classroom settings.

Case studies are a valuable teaching tool. They allow students to examine real-world scenarios and discuss different options. This allows for a variety of critical thinking, a tool critical in the workplace. As sociological issues often contain complex topics with many sensitive issues, case studies provide a significant way to allow students to work through these issues. Students who complete case studies report higher levels of perceived learning gains, greater student engagement, and greater understanding.

Case studies can be done using several different methods in the classroom, such as analysis based or dilemma based. The presentations will outline the case study and will include a few suggestions of how to best utilize the case study in the classroom, such as suggested questions, activities, etc.

**Session Title**

Contemporary issues surrounding female college athletes\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Alex C. Gang

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**Session Description**

50 years after the introduction of Title IX, the participation of women in college sport has seen a steady increase. Their growing representation may serve as an indicator of positive progress; however, female college athletes face various challenges and barriers in different niches within contemporary intercollegiate athletics. While previous studies pinpoint inequities prevalent in women's college sport from the perspectives of various stakeholders (e.g., college athletes, administrators, staff, coaches), there remains a need to obtain a comprehensive understanding of how female college athletes perceive and experience various emerging issues and challenges.

**Session Title**

Critical Approaches to Allyship in Sport\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Yannick Kluch

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**Session Description**

Explorations of sociological research on allyship, sport, and physical activity remain scarce. To address this gap, we invite scholars to present research focused on allyship – the active and consistent practice amongst people in positions of privilege and power to operate in support of, and solidarity with, a marginalized group – in the context of sport and physical activity, with a particular focus on how “intentional, culturally conscious, and critically reflexive allyship as activism on an individual and institutional level will further enhance social justice movements by [countering] the decentring of oppressed voices” (Jolly et al., 2021, p. 3). While we welcome all methodological and epistemological approaches to the topic of allyship in and through sport, we are particularly interested in critical approaches to allyship behaviors and commitments in hopes of identifying ways allyship can be more efficient in eradicating social injustice(s).

**Session Title**

Critical Muslim Studies, Sport, and Physical Culture\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Adam Ehsan Ali

**Institutional Affiliation**

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**Session Description**

This session welcomes a broad range of papers that critically engage with Muslim, Middle Eastern, and South Asian representations and/or perspectives on sport and physical cultures. We are especially interested in papers that use sport as their entry point to interrogate and critique Orientalist, Eurocentric, and positivist understandings of perceived civilizational hierarchies, as well as those that engage with intersectional, postcolonial, and decolonial epistemologies. Such papers may include but are not limited to those that: explore sport within the context of the post-9/11 era; focus on omnipresent forms of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism in various countries of the Global North and Global South; or trace the disproportionate surveillance and securitization of Muslim, Middle Eastern and South Asian communities by governmental authorities and/or civil nodes of society. Submissions that illuminate and legitimize the knowledge and experiences of those from within these communities through sport and physical culture are also highly encouraged.

**Session Title**

Community development through sport and recreation

**Name of Organizer**

Christine Dallaire

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**Session Description**

This session invites papers, presentations or performances that reflect on the contribution of sport and recreation to community development. You might explore how communities are reinforced (or not) through sport and recreation initiatives or explore how development is questioned or reinvented through community sport and recreation. Alternatively, you might focus on sport and recreation (or physical culture) communities who are using models of development that challenge those used by mainstream organizations or groups.

**Session Title**

Contemporary Sport and Neoliberalism

**Name of Organizer**

Taylor Henry

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**Session Description**

Within the twin contexts of increasing globalization and privatization, sport at all levels has not been immune from these changes and accompanying inequalities. Dating back to the Reagan and Thatcher eras, decades of Western promotion and implementation of Neoliberal policies and ideologies impact sport at a variety of levels, from media coverage and promotion of sport to rules of competition and public funding for sport organizations. This session invites scholars from all methodological and disciplinary fields to consider the impact of Neoliberalism on contemporary sport. Proposals can range from issues in professional and international competitions to local and youth sport events.

**Session Title**

Critical Approaches to Athlete Health

**Name of Organizer**

Caitlin Clarke

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**Session Description**

This session seeks papers concerned with athlete health broadly. Of particular concern are the ways such participation impacts marginalized groups including BIPOC and LGBTQ+ athletes, as well as immunocompromised athletes and those with other health conditions that may be exacerbated by or created by sport participation. Specific attention to these groups is needed given the disproportionate rate of health inequities in the aforementioned marginalized groups. Such concerns warrant new critical and holistic approaches to athlete health. Therefore, this session invites such papers to further the conversation regarding health and sport participation, especially in relation to longterm health outcomes and/or approaching health holistically from a biosocial perspective and/or using such frameworks as Critical Race Theory, Critical Public Health, Syndemics, Cultural Health Capital, and Biomedicalization.



**Session Title**

DEI and Sport Sociology Pedagogy: Curriculum, Course Changes and Innovation

**Name of Organizer**

Robert Case

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**Session Description**

The purpose of this session is to provide an opportunity for faculty who teach courses related to sport sociology to talk about the ways they are infusing DEI topics, content, and information into their classes. In recent years, many colleges and universities have infused more DEI topics and information into college courses in order to have faculty and students gain a better understanding of various DEI issues. This comes in the wake of The purpose of this session is to provide an opportunity for faculty who teach courses related to sport sociology, sport and social issues, and sport and social justice to talk about and present the ways they are infusing DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) knowledge, information, concepts, principles, and practices into their classes. Over the past three years many colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada have made a concerted effort to infuse and expand more DEI topics and information into college curricula and courses in order to have faculty and students gain a better understanding and appreciation for various DEI issues. This comes in the wake of the George Flood tragedy and Black Lives Matter social change initiatives. The study of sport including the many social issues that surround sport are fertile areas for the study of DEI issues that exist in sport and society. Historically, sport sociology courses have devoted specific units or modules to the study of racism in sport through readings, guest speakers, class discussions, etc. This session is an opportunity for faculty who have infused DEI topics, issues, and concepts into their sport sociology related courses to present on what they are doing in terms of DEI linked curriculum changes, teaching methods and course materials, student learning and class activities, new course development, readings, videos, student assignments, special projects, online course opportunities, guest speakers, field trips, internships, and innovative ideas.

**Session Title**

Disability and the Sociological Study of Sport: An Open Invitation

**Name of Organizer**

James Brighton

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**Session Description**

In spite of sociological research into disability sport gaining momentum in the last decade, the lives of disabled athletes remain under-represented. Furthermore, with the exception of a few notable scholars, there remains a lack theoretical and methodological imagination through which these explorations are made and adequate acknowledgement of the historical and political foundations of the disability studies movement. Resultantly, whilst offering potential, much sociological analyses of disability and sport remains methodologically impoverished and bereft of theoretical critique. Accordingly, this session calls for contributions to add to the analysis of disability sport including, but not limited to, the following: empirical research into the lives of disabled athletes; narratives of disability; media (under)representation in disability sport; and approaches taken to theorizing and researching disability sport differently. In particular, research into intersections of disability alongside other underrepresented identities in sport (e.g. race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, age and class) are welcomed.

**Session Title**

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Social Justice and Sport in the New Era

**Name of Organizer**

F. Michelle Richardson

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**Session Description**

In the United States of America, the practice of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the framework of Critical Race Theory (CRT) are being policed through legislative policies in states like Florida, Texas, and Arkansas. These attacks on efforts to bring multiple and often underrepresented voices to higher education are not only affecting the ability of sport sociologists to engage students in critical dialogues about how people are viewed and how it affects their sport participation but also the livelihood and health of scholars whose work is centered on bringing these voices to the forefront. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1947) once said, "Education has a two-fold function to perform in the life of man and in society: the one is utility and the other is culture". This session invites scholars to share papers on the strategies and best practices on coping and successfully navigating this new terrain.

**Session Title**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in physical culture\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Simon Barrick

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**Session Description**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) has become commonplace language throughout physical culture settings (encompassing sport, leisure, recreation, physical activity, dance, movement, play, health, and related areas) in the Global North. DEI has various meanings in contemporary society such as distinct, yet interconnected, concepts, strategies, and/or ideologies, as well as a normative frame(s) for addressing inequity and fostering welcoming physical culture environments. In this session, presenters are invited to contribute to this burgeoning area of scholarship through critically interrogating the place of DEI in physical culture. This session is purposefully open so presenters can approach this topic from a perspective that is meaningful to them and their disciplinary background(s). Possible topics may include exploring existing/past DEI efforts, studying expansions to the DEI acronym (e.g., Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility; Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion), and/or moving beyond DEI towards more emancipatory approaches such as anti-oppression, anti-racism, and/or anti-colonialism.

**Session Title**

Economic,Socio-Cultural,Mental Health,Ethical Issues in College Athletics

**Name of Organizer**

Robert Case

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Old Dominion University

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**Session Description**

College athletics is a multi-billion dollar industry that plays a major role in American society. In the past, it has been plagued by a number of issues related to commercialization and the athletic arms race, player name, image, and likeness issues, academic integrity problems, transfer portal and athlete recruiting issues, exploitation of minority athletes, Title IX and gender equity, player violence and drug scandals, escalation of coaching salaries, illegal behavior by coaches, academic clustering and athlete graduation rates, sexual assault by athletes, realignment of conferences, influence of television and the media on college athletics, unionization of athletes, and the mental health of college athletes. The list goes on and on. The purpose of this session is to explore issues that impact the future of college athletics from socio-cultural, economic, mental health, and/or ethical perspectives with the hope of shedding additional light on these issues and providing suggestions for their possible resolution in the future.

**Session Title**

Examining the Evolution of the HBCU Ecosystem in the Social Media Paradigm

**Name of Organizer**

Dr. J. Kenyatta Cavil

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**Session Description**

This session explores individual, social, and environmental factors of the social capital in higher education, college sports and specifically, historically Black institutions as it pertains to social media and the continued evolution and growth in the historically Black college and university (HBCU) ecosystem and how they interact to influence participation on social media. In the context, this session welcomes research that explores the social ecological frameworks of the HBCU ecosystem. The social ecological framework takes into account the multifaceted influence of individual, social, and environmental/policy factors interrelating in a given context (Stokols, 1996). Utilizing this framework allows for the integration of multiple contexts to analyze wide-ranging social systems (i.e. higher education, sports, HBCUs) (Chrismaan et al., 2021; Preiser et al, 2018; Craike, Symons, & Zimmermann, 2012; Oetzel, Ting-Toomey, & Rinderle, 2006). This HBCU ecosystem has emerged as an intersection of the Black community, HBCUs themselves, Black collegiate athletic conferences (i.e. conferences housing HBCUs e.g. Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC), Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC), and Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC)), social media enterprises and organizations. This session seeks to examine and answer these following questions, what were several of the historic causes for the cultural empowerment of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and how is that illustrated by the fans today throughout the various social media platforms? Where does the HBCU ecosystem of HBCU sports culture participate in the social media domain? How does the HBCU ecosystem of HBCU sports culture participate? How does blackness exist in these spaces in a sporting context?

**Session Title**

Fat Play: Rethinking Sporting Bodies and the Benefits of Movement

**Name of Organizer**

Kasie Murphy

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**Session Description**

Sport is often viewed as a way to eliminate fatness. Fat people are encouraged to “get active” as a way to lose weight and attempt to conform to neoliberal body norms that prioritize thinness and demoralize fat existence. Stereotypes about fat bodies are incredibly common among health and fitness professionals who often attribute fatness to a lack of self-control over diets and exercise (Diedrichs & Puhl, 2017; Rubino et al., 2020). It is not surprising then that many fat people feel uncomfortable engaging in physical activity in public (Harjunen, 2019).

**Session Title**

How to Activate in Anti-CRT/DEI Spaces

**Name of Organizer**

Dr. Courtney Flowers

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**Session Description**

In the United States of America, the practice of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the framework of Critical Race Theory (CRT) are being policed through legislative policies in states like Florida, Texas, and Arkansas. For example, Florida’s Governor Ron DeSantis and HB 999 intimates that the teaching of CRT indoctrinates to impose ideological conformity, to try to promote political activism (San Felice, 2023). These attacks on efforts to bring multiple and often underrepresented voices to higher education are not only affecting the ability of sport sociologists to engage students in critical dialogues about how people are viewed and how it affects their sport participation but also the livelihood and health of scholars whose work is centered on bringing these voices to the forefront. Strategies including rephrasing syllabi and renaming centers for diversity to focus on culture or climate are short term solutions to continuing this work while redressing the larger issue of hegemonic whiteness and maleness dictate political narratives and inform educational policies. The purpose of this roundtable discussion is to promote conversation and provide ways that students and faculty members can continue to engage in DEI efforts in states, institutions, and other social entities where it is prohibited.

**Session Title**

Intersectional experiences of Black girls and women in sport\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Dr. Akilah Carter-Francique

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**Session Description**

The purpose of this paper session is to amplify the state of Black girls and women in sport. Black women have occupied sporting roles as athlete, coach, and leader within educational institutions, national and international organizations, and as champions and spokespersons for media campaigns particularly in the area of health and wellness and social justice. But living at the intersections, Black women's representation is often met with negativity despite displaying excellence. We welcome papers that speak to these issues & challenges and offer insight that will promote equity, inclusion, and cultural competence to support Black girls and women's efforts to participate and lead.

**Session Title**

Issues of Power in Sport Governance\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Max Klein

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**Session Description**

The governance of sport organizations significantly impacts the entire organization. As Hums et al. (2023) illustrate, the governance structures of sport organizations critically influence the power, control, and policy decisions within these organizations. Within the context of power, it is critical to note sport organizations cannot be disconnected from marginalizing structures, including capitalism, sexism, and racism, specifically when supposedly resisting these very structures (Szto, 2015). Salient power issues within sport governance include inequitable representation across race and gender (Byers et al., 2022; Piggott & Pike, 2020) and deficits in organizational culture, such as the lack of accountability (Geeraert et al., 2014). As a result, this session seeks to address instances where issues with power in sport governance have resulted in inequitable, structural outcomes across local, national, or international sport. All authors with related scholarship, including theoretical and conceptual work or proposed, ongoing, and finished empirical research, are invited to submit.

**Session Title**

Labor, Harm, and Abuse in Sport\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

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**Session Description**

Sport is perhaps the most popular form of culture in society today. For many, sport provides an outlet for pleasure and relaxation and can function as an 'opiate' to negotiate the rigors of everyday life. Yet, although sport can provide fans and onlookers with meaning, pleasure, and emotional investment, how is it experienced by those whose labor and participation are used to produce and sustain the spectacle? Indeed, the contemporary lifeworld of elite sport is rife with stories of harm, abuse, and exploitation by those who participate in it. Look no further than the recent Safe Sport in Canada Parliamentary hearings or the very current calls for a national judicial inquiry into abuse in Canadian sport by scholars and athletes alike. In this session, papers will explore the familiar realm of contemporary sport from a perspective that underlines the ways in which 'play' is transformed into work in the world of elite sport and, thus, the political economy of contemporary capitalist society. In particular, we call for papers that explore the many connections between capitalist sport, labor, and abuse and how sport may actually be a primary modality through which power is exercised and capitalist exploitation and harm are realized.

**Session Title**

Making Things Unworkable: The Bodily Experiences of LGBTQI+ Issues in Sport\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Anna Baeth

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**Session Description**

Bayard Rustin was a prolific thinker and leader in the social movements for civil rights, socialism, nonviolence, and gay rights in the United States in the 1960s. Rustin is quoted as saying "We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers ... Our power is in our ability to make things unworkable. The only weapon we have is our bodies. And we need to tuck them in places so wheels don't turn." In this session, we interrogate the ways scholars, activists, and allies might utilize their power to make current structures and systems that facilitate anti-LGBTQI+ momentum in sport unworkable. We are especially interested in sporting bodies as weapons for pacifism and inclusion. Still, we welcome papers and presentations (format variable) that focus on bodily experiences and queerness or LGBTQI+ issues in sport broadly.



**Session Title**

Many Names, Same Problem: Patriarchy, Gender-Based Violence, and Sport\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Lilah Drafts-Johnson

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**Session Description**

While the language describing gendered harm within sociology of sport literature varies from violence against women (VAW), gender, sexual harassment, and abuse (GSHA), and gender-based violence (GBV), this strand of research identifies a common root issue: how do we confront patriarchy's legacy and resulting gendered power relations within sport organizations (LaVoi, 2016)? Acknowledging debates on terminology (see DeKeseredy, 2020) and the necessity of an intersectional approach in GBV research (Crenshaw, 1991; Collins, 2006), this session seeks to carve a space for scholars engaged with work that combats sexual abuse, violence, and coercion, as well as sexism, gender inequity, and other forms of GBV in sport. We invite presentations that examine GBV at individual, organizational, and structural levels; conceptualize innovative theoretical frameworks; posit trauma-informed and survivor-centered methodological approaches; and problematize GBV's intersection with other forms of oppression including but not limited to racism, colonialism, classism, heterosexism, and transphobia.

**Session Title**

Medicalized Bodies: Athlete Experiences with Chronic Illness and Cancer\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

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**Session Description**

Chronic illness and cancer often hamper active bodies, causing pain or disability, or even an end to athleticism. In addition, medicalization of the human body can cause those inflicted with chronic illness or cancer to become identified by those conditions. This session will provide a venue for discussing the cultural, historical, political, and sporting implications of the medicalized ill body.

**Session Title**

Minority Serving Institutions: Beacons of hope

**Name of Organizer**

Dr. Akilah Carter-Francique

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**Session Description**

Many institutions have been challenged with navigating notions of diversity, equity, and inclusion over the past few years and in recent months. MSI's (AAPISI, HBCU, HSI, TCU) have thrived in these spaces since their inception and continue to lead the way. The purpose of this session is to amplify the efforts of MSI scholars in DEI and beyond. We welcome papers that discuss DEI efforts and the importance of collaboration, allyship, and mentorship for students and faculty of color as well as papers that share creative and scholarly works forged at MSIs.

**Session Title**

Minority Ethnic Female Soccer Fans in England: UEFA Women's Euros.

**Name of Organizer**

Katie Taylor

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**Session Description**

Women's sport continues to gain popularity with higher attendances, media coverage and increased corporate investment. Research indicates that women's sports are often considered more family-friendly than men's and are often marketed with an association to femininity. Besides gender-specific research, we know little about how inclusive the space is for women of different backgrounds and intersections. Utilising a Black intersectional feminist methodology allied to Critical Race Theory (CRT) principles, this paper explores the experiences of minority ethnic women who attend soccer matches in the United Kingdom. It reveals the positive and negative experiences these women have faced and the structural barriers that make their spectatorship arduous. It concludes with recommendations that key stakeholders and governing bodies from different sports can adopt to help diversify their audiences at women's sports events.

**Session Title**

Navigating Resistance to Anti-Racism in the Academy

**Name of Organizer**

Tori Justin

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**Session Description**

Despite the rise in DEI programs across the US over the past near decade (spurred by national cases of anti-Black police/vigilante violence, continued systemic racial oppression, and the grassroots mobilization of BLM), Higher Ed continues to be met with social and political resistance against the teaching of critical race theory, Black feminist theory, and any instruction that works to increase anti-racist intersectional cultural competencies. Beyond the blatant legislative bans in “anti-woke” states, even in seemingly progressive institutions, it is not uncommon for educators to feel pressured to, for example, modify their syllabi, course curriculum, teaching portfolio, and/or grant applications to exclude and/or dilute their anti-racist epistemological and pedagogical approaches. This open session aims to provide a space for NASSSers to discuss how they are handling forms of resistance to anti-racist pedagogy and practice in their respective institutional/departmental spaces and share best practices for moving forward.

**Session Title**

New Insights in/on Sport Activism Research\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Joseph Cooper

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**Session Description**

Scholars have increasingly examined sport as a site in and through which activist movements can gain traction (Cooper et al., 2019; Ferguson & Davis, 2020; Kluch, 2020). Much of the sport activism literature, however, tends to focus on individual athletes in the U.S. and North America. To extend the literature on sport activism, this session encourages scholars to explore new angles, sites, or avenues for activism research as it is informed by the sociology of sport in global milieu. Potential areas of inquiry include activism research in areas currently rarely focused on (e.g., sport activism and its impact on mental health), understudied sites of activism (e.g., high school athlete activism), experiences of underrepresented groups in activist research (e.g., trans athletes’ activism), sport activists other than athletes (e.g., coaches), activist research in physical activity spaces, and/or sport activism in geographical areas beyond the U.S., North America, and the “Global North.”

**Session Title**

Outside the Lines: Negotiating Social and Racial Norms of Little Dixie

**Name of Organizer**

James F Byland

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**Session Description**

Moberly, located in the north central Missouri region historically known as “Little Dixie,” has deeply rooted practices concerning racial relations and its own unique history around integration. The Moberly Greyhounds basketball team won back-to-back national championships in 1954 and 1955 when they were all white, and they repeated the feat in 1966 and 1967, this time as an integrated squad. Examining this era bookended by national championships raised the following questions: What was the economic, political, social, and educational environment of Little Dixie and Moberly up through the 1960s; how did African Americans navigate the economic, political, social, and educational obstacles during their pursuit to fully participate and exhibit agency within the larger fabric of society; how did Black Greyhounds adjust to the duality of being a Black male and student athlete in a Predominantly White Institution (PWI) embedded within a white power social structure in Moberly; and how did the uniform allow them to move between prescribed societal roles? The process to discover those answers revealed how Moberly’s existing power structure used traditional community values in order to maintain hegemony over communities of color and less affluent citizens. While appearing to make large, grand gestures of racial harmony and social acceptance, the community elite simply readjusted the semantics without ever threatening to relinquish (or even share) their authority during this era. In discovering how those in power chose to represent that readjustment through its media coverage as well as its more visible junior college basketball squad, we gain insight into a community that perceived itself as integrated and inclusive. In reality, however, they ultimately failed to apply the lessons learned on the hardwood around these racial dynamics to their own social circles to create a truly integrated, welcoming, and inclusive environment for African Americans.

**Session Title**

¡Pa'lante! Advancing the Commitment to more Latinx Representation at NASSS\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Jaime Morales

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**Session Description**

Twenty-three years into the 21st century, Latinxs continue to make their mark in various sporting landscapes. In 2022, notable achievements include: Diana Flores quarterbacking Mexico to win gold at the World Games; Jeremy Peña winning the World Series MVP; Chile's Christiane Endler being named to FIFA Women's World 11 and Argentina winning the World Cup for the third time. In spite of these achievements, Latinxs continue to be rendered invisible in critical sports studies scholarship and also underrepresented within NASSS. This was the topic of conversation in a panel discussion at last year's conference. Thus, we invite any graduate students, junior scholars or seasoned faculty who center Latinidad and sports in their work to join us in this movement as we continue to move "Pa'lante" and draw attention to the experiences, challenges and issues of the Latinx diaspora represented in both North American and International sporting cultures.

**Session Title**

Performance and Performativity in Soccer Fan Community Activism

**Name of Organizer**

Chris Stone

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**Session Description**

Like the spontaneous musicality of New Orleans, soccer fans embrace improvisation in the orchestration of support for their clubs. This manifests itself in culturally specific and globally generic forms through glocalised performances in the stadia, on the streets and in bars or fan events throughout the world. Tifo displays, popular music parody, drumming and dance, irreverent (sometimes abusive) chanting, of the ultras, of fan activists, and of casual fans caught up in the choral occasion performatively contribute to both the spectacle and supporters' self-definitions. This session is dedicated to learning more about how and why such performances exist and the changing meanings attached to them. From showing support to the team and collective forms of belonging to politically charged statements and the performativity of identity politics, we would like to encourage papers from fan scholars and scholar fans that engage and involve the audience in the performances of soccer fandom.

**Session Title**

Policy and participation: The politics of inclusion\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Anna Posbergh

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**Session Description**

Sport participation is a political issue. Discussions around the purported need to balance fairness, safety, and health dominates so-called inclusion policies, resulting in regulatory approaches that are equally as political and shift depending on the activity/sport, region, and level of play. Notably, those who dictate who can/are included influence interpretations of inclusion, often upholding dominant ideas of “fairness,” “protection,” and health. Underlining these concerns are normative constructs of sex, gender, race, nationality, and ability, which converge to reinforce logics and policies that often benefit those who fit within majoritarian groups. This session will focus on the development and implementation of policies or other strategies of governance, at any level of sport/physical activity, particularly how ideas of gender, race, ability, nationality, etc. shape, mitigate, or exclude participation. We invite papers that interrogate, problematize, or challenge inclusion in sports groups, leagues, or competitive categories, and how/why/under what contexts participation is (not) offered.

**Session Title**

Recruitment to Retirement: Experiences of International College Athletes in the United States\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Simran Kaur Sethi

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**Session Description**

The purpose of this session is to amplify research about international college athletes (ICAs) and their experiences across all higher education institutions (HEIs) in the United States (U.S.). This session welcomes topics related to ICA recruitment, admissions, academic enrollment, athletic experiences, cultural and social adjustment, health and wellness, Name, Image and Likeness (NIL), advocacy and activism, intersectionality, career preparation, job search/workforce experiences and more. In addition to amplification and exploration, providing best practices and strategies for athletic department staff, athletic administrators, higher education institutions, national governing bodies like the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) etc., and the U.S. workforce/employment market are encouraged. Raising critical questions arising from your research, leaving audience with food for thought and/or hosting space for discussion is also appreciated.

**Session Title**

Sexual Violence in Sport: Stemming the Tide

**Name of Organizer**

Lars Dzikus

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**Session Description**

This session invites contributions to the study of sexual violence in sport, particularly related to prevention. In recent years, cases of systematic sexual abuse in sport in the United States have repeatedly made headlines. Examples include the cases of Jerry Sandusky (Penn State football coach), Larry Nassar (USA gymnastics and Michigan State team doctor), Richard Strauss (Ohio State team doctor), and Greg Stephens (youth basketball coach in Iowa). A recent lawsuit in Knoxville, TN involving a local gym illustrates that sexual abuse is not limited to large-scale sport organizations. Several scholars have generated significant research related to sexual violence in sport (e.g., Brackenridge, 1997, 2001; Dzikus, 2012; Fasting et al., 2003, 2005, 2007; Leahy, 2008, 2010, 2015; Lenskyj, 1992). Clearly, however, more needs to be done to design, implement, and evaluate programs aimed at preventing sexual abuse in sport.

**Session Title**

Social Connections Through Play: Back to Basics

**Name of Organizer**

Maura B Rosenthal

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**Session Description**

Social connections reduce risk of premature death, diabetes, depression, high blood pressure and anxiety (Office of the US Surgeon General, 2022). Socializing at NASSS typically has involved drinking in the hotel bar, asking questions in sessions, eating meals together, and taking early morning runs or walks. We haven't often played together, just for fun. In this free-form and open session bring your jump ropes, your sidewalk chalk, your smiles, your creativity and even your crafting projects. Let's just play and connect in new ways. I might even bring the beloved colorful parachute from the New Games Movement in the 1970's. Everyone is welcome! Note: Maura says that instead of submitting an official, typical abstract, you could simply submit your favorite game or movement idea, which may help her determine appropriate "play" equipment to bring. This is meant to be intentionally experimental, so submit and/or just show up to play.

**Session Title**

Social Justice, Platforms and Awareness, & Mechanisms for Change

**Name of Organizer**

Brittany Schulz

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**Session Description**

Over the past few years, we've seen increased social justice discussions on sexual violence and women's rights, racial justice and equity, and LGBTQ+ rights. Some of these were represented through hashtags across various social media platforms which include, but not limited to #MeToo, #YesAllWomen, #BlackLivesMatter, and #LoveWins. Social media is creating an environment where people, sports organizations, and communities can dialogue and have open discussions regarding social justice issues. Social media and other platforms are being used as a mainstream news outlet rather than traditional forms of media due to them being over-politicized. The use of various platforms allows for more engagement and creates greater awareness to discuss issues impacting various societies. This open session aims to facilitate discussion amongst scholars and practitioners on the use of social media as a social justice mechanism, particularly the inclusion of a variety of voices and backgrounds.



**Session Title**

Sport and the Urban Spaces of Spectacle

**Name of Organizer**

Michael Friedman

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**Session Description**

New Orleans is one of the preeminent tourist destinations in the United States with its extensive visitor infrastructure that includes several sport venues. New Orleans also has frequently hosted major sports events, including six NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four since 1982 and ten Super Bowls. Such a sport-centric promotional strategy is common as cities throughout North America and Europe have transformed downtown areas into spaces of and for spectacular consumption with convention centers, museums, sports facilities, casinos, major hotels, and urban shopping centers. Using such infrastructure, cities compete to host teams, events, championships, all-star games and player drafts of major sporting organizations, such as the IOC, FIFA, Formula 1, NFL, NCAA, NBA, NHL and MLB. This session invites papers that examine how sport has been used to transform urban spaces into consumption-oriented destinations through the construction and operation of sport venues and the attraction and hosting of sporting events.

**Session Title**

Sociocultural Understandings of Sports Concussions: Where are We Now? \*\*

**Name of Organizer**

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**Session Description**

Over the past two decades, with the advent of the concussion crisis (Malcolm, 2020), sports sociologists have done ample work investigating the sociocultural aspects of sports concussions. Conversations around the medicalization of concussions (i.e., Malcolm, 2016, 2020), the embodiment of concussions (i.e., Bridel et al., 2019; Ventresca, 2020), the media's role in constructing concussions (i.e., Karimipour and Hull, 2017), athlete's negotiation, response to and resistance to concussions (i.e., Dean, 2019) and concussion policies (i.e., Liston et al., 2016), and a plethora of other avenues of research have emerged. In this time, we've also seen the implementation of various technological and policy solutions for concussions, but have we reduced the number of concussions sustained? Have we mitigated the risk of head trauma in sports? It's time we take stock of the promises made and where we are now. This session welcomes completed/ongoing research and/or proposals that advance our knowledge of where the field of sociocultural understandings of concussion stands or research that helps advance our knowledge on the sociocultural implications of concussions. Contributions can address various topics related to sociocultural understandings of sports concussions. Possible topics can include but are not limited to: the impact of culture, gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and age on the experience and management of concussions; the role of culture and social norms in shaping attitudes towards concussions and concussion management; and the role of policy in shaping sociocultural understandings of concussions.

**Session Title**

Sport, Newcomers, and Urban Space: Contested Terrains\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Padma Prakash

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**Session Description**

In recent years, the influx of migrants, both within and between countries, is contributing to unprecedented ethnic and racial diversity in populations across the globe, particularly within postindustrial economies. Among the many ways this has impacted society is in the process of integration/assimilation that occurs at various levels of culture, including sport, gender being a significant factor. In addition, the influx of newcomers is also a factor in the social and political production of space, especially urban spaces. Such processes are neither easy nor straightforward especially in relation to sporting formations where entrenched structures might tend to keep newcomers out. In this session, we invite papers examining (theoretically, methodologically and/or empirically) the ways that urban spaces and newcomer cultures (both broadly defined) are produced and/or constrained in and through sport and physical culture. In particular, we encourage critical analyses of sport and the urban as contested spaces for newcomers.

**Session Title**

Sport, physical (in)activity, and anti-colonial autoethnography\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Jason Laurendeau

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**Session Description**

In this session, we invite contributors to autoethnographically interrogate, trouble, and disrupt the logics of settler colonialism at work in sporting spaces and/or the field of sport sociology which also shapes our research and teaching activities. We seek submissions that work against colonial practices, discourses, histories, and presents. To this end, we invite work that may speak to anti-colonialism, critical disability studies, decolonization and liberation, Indigenous sovereignties as they pertain to sociology of sport, physical activity, or recreation. Moreover, we encourage contributors to consider the ways settler colonialism and other key systems of alterity (e.g., cisheteropatriarchy, ableism) work in concert with one another to structure sport and our studies thereof. We hope that this session can contribute to the fraught but vital project of imagining futures not circumscribed by settler colonialism and its attendant violences.

**Session Title**

Sport, race and the outdoors\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Shabana Ali

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**Session Description**

This session invites papers that examine the inter-locking relationship between sport, race and the 'great outdoors'. More specifically, we invite projects that resist the notion that racialized peoples do not participate in outdoor sports, as well as papers that problematize the discursive and material conditions that constrain the participation of some groups. Equally, we call for research that complicates the racialized outdoor sporting experience, through the inextricable consideration of the land on which outdoor play transpires. Here, land is not understood as the inert backdrop on which human movement plays out, but rather as an intra-active participant, a symbol of national identity, a site of Indigenous dispossession and resurgence, an environment impacted by human dissonance, and more. These meanings are infinitely complicated when crossed with the politics of identity and the dominant cultural practices of sport. Papers considering the inter-locking themes of race, sport and the outdoors are welcome.

**Session Title**

Sporting Diaspora: The Quest for Belonging\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Md Saidur Rahman

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**Session Description**

Sport sociologists have applied the concept of the diaspora to understand cultural identity, social integration, nationalism, and citizenship. On the one hand, diasporic communities have utilized sports to connect with their homelands and establish transnational linkages, where particular sport emerged as an integral element of their lived experience. On the other hand, sports can also function as a contested space for cultural struggle, where diasporic communities resist or embrace the dominant sporting practices of their hostland. Thus, diasporic sporting spaces are interconnected with assimilation, hybridity, resistance, and multiculturalism. The proposed session invites graduate students and early career researchers, especially those situated in the Global North, to submit papers that focus on the sporting practices of diasporic/immigrant communities and their encounters with native, Indigenous, and colonial sports in the hostland. This session aims to foster critical dialogue and knowledge exchange among the participants to assess various dimensions of the sporting diaspora.

**Session Title**

Teaching Sport Studies\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Jennifer Sterling

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**Session Description**

Teaching is an important – though often under-valued and under-researched – role of Sport Studies faculty in higher education (and beyond). This session offers the opportunity for Sport Studies scholars, educators, and practitioners to explore, reflect upon, and share their teaching practices, pedagogies, and philosophies. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL); pedagogical approaches; teaching tools and technologies; student assessment strategies; teaching assessment strategies; case studies of specific assignments or approaches to particular content; course design; curriculum development; approaches to teaching various student populations; graduate student teaching development and mentorship; teaching within the context of various institutions and departments; the role of teaching for tenure and non-tenure track faculty, for administrators and public scholars, etc.; navigating controversial topics, classroom conflicts, and institutional policies; and teaching inclusively and about inclusivity. Creative approaches, interactive presentations, and shared resources are welcome, as are – given the conference theme – discussions of the role of teaching in NASSS and the sociology of sport more broadly.

**Session Title**

Technology Advancement and the Minorities influence on ESport

**Name of Organizer**

Charles Crowley

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**Session Description**

The term ESport has gradually gained momentum over the past few years and has entered the mainstream entertainment industry as ESport is starting to become a global multiple-million-dollar industry. As the global industry male and female players alike express interest in the market of gaming a question arises, is diversity included in E-Sports? Women gamers are often bullied, and gender biases occur with online gaming. As research conduct states stereotypes and gender assumptions around gaming continue to persist, and this often results in female individuals not being able to identify themselves as “legitimate” gamers (Madden, D., et al 2021) Exposing more women and minorities to ESport culture can provide more opportunities for gamers to attend college and even job opportunities. As E-sports grow, a more inclusive environment is needed to foster the future generation of minority gamers. The Future of ESport and opportunities for students to enter into a competitive industry of STEM professionals.

**Session Title**

The Commodification of the Sporting Body\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Estee Fresco

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**Session Description**

We invite contemporary and historical analysis of how the sporting body is commodified. In other words, we ask: how have physically active bodies become products available for exchange within a capitalist economy? Topics may include: the branding and marketing of athletes’ body parts; the transformation of exercising bodies into profitable data; how fans’ skin function as a medium for the expression of corporate messaging; the entanglement of human and non-human commodities within the sport media industry; and the commercial uses of athletes’ bodies post-mortem. We welcome papers that consider the materiality of bodies and their entanglement with non-human actors. In addition, we encourage submissions that do not assume a universal sporting body but, rather, use theoretically sophisticated understandings of race, gender and sexuality to advance an understanding of how specific bodies in specific contexts are commodified.

**Session Title**

The Impact of Experiential Learning on Sport Management Education\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Shelby Masse

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**Session Description**

"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I'll remember. Involve me and I'll understand." - Confucius. Experiential learning engages students to "learn by doing" and to reflect on the experience. Research has shown that practical and applied sport management experiences not only appeal to future employers but fosters opportunities for students to gain knowledge through the transformation of experience (Brown et al., 2018; Kolb & Kolb 2009). With many universities and colleges holding COSMA or AACSB accreditations, experiential learning within sport management curricula is frequent practice. Due to Sport Management education being housed in multiple departments, business, kinesiology, or education, experiential learning factors into all disciplines. Therefore, this session seeks to share the benefits, successes, and challenges of experiential learning in practice, while also allowing presenters the opportunity to network and share their experiences. All authors with related scholarship, including practical/theoretical/conceptual work or proposed/ongoing/finished empirical research, are invited to submit.

**Session Title**

The Sociology of Sports Coaching\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Joseph Mills

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**Session Description**

The sociology of sports coaching is an academic field approaching twenty years of development. Today, more than ever, broader and deeper understandings of sports' coaching's many complexities and problematic realities, make a sociology of coaching more pressing than ever. Rising mental health rates, drop-out, injuries, bullying cultures, the growing popularity of e-sports over physical sports, as well as issues of identity, representation, DEI, relationships, and power. We call for creative, innovative and challenging papers that explore how the sociology of sports coaching can move from its academic ivory tower and solidify its place with policy makers and coach education programs.

**Session Title**

The Wake of the 2023 World Cup

**Name of Organizer**

Chris W. Henderson

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**Session Description**

The 2023 Football World Cup in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia will have considerable impact on sport, particularly women's sport & women's soccer. According to FIFA, 1 billion people watched the 2019 World Cup in France. In the interim, the American National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) and English Women's Super League (WSL) secured unprecedented media rights contracts and attendant viewing audiences. The tournament will be the first women's World Cup to include 32 teams with a significant number of the new slots being filled by nations in the Global South. Sociological research done in the build-up to the event has pointed out its complicated gender politics and the complexities of the ways in which indigenous populations and cultures are being incorporated. This session aims to start a discussion of research on the events of the 2023 World Cup with particular interest in critical cultural findings made at and during the event itself in order to understand its impact.

**Session Title**

Watching social change: The influence of spectatorship on identity politics\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Layla Cameron

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**Session Description**

This panel invites research that explores the power dynamics that emerge from spectatorship in sport. Such work might include how spectators interact with media representations of athletes and/or sport, the influence of audiences on sports phenomena, and other aspects of spectator voyeurism. We particularly welcome papers that consider the intersections of race, class, sexuality, fatness, and/or gender. As the root of the word conference is "to confer" - or have discussions and exchange opinions - we invite proposals in all phases of development, not only completed projects. In this session, we will leave significant time for what we hope to be a rigorous question and answer period, as well as inclusion of short video clips to support each presentation.



**Session Title**

Water the ways of our sports? \*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Miruthula Queen Anbu

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**Session Description**

Water nourishes our bodies, and water is a way of knowing and living in many cultures around the world. At the intersection of “sport and culture” we can find human powered watercraft sports such as dragon boat racing, rowing, kayaking, outrigger canoeing, and stand up paddle boarding (Dragon Boat BC, n.d.). While the water sports community continues to grow worldwide, there has yet to be a panel session dedicated to exploring and sharing how we engage and understand the water through sport. This session will be dedicated to the invite and (re)introduce NASSS to the social, cultural, spiritual, environmental, and political spaces in which individual, teams, and/or human-powered water sports or “muscle-powered boating” sports shape communities and water spaces (Benjamin et al., 2023). More importantly, the session hopes to continue discourse on the importance of learning about water sports within academia.

**Session Title**

Open Paper Session

**Name of Organizer**

NASSS

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**Session Description**

Unsure where to submit or don't see an obvious fit? You may submit to this NASSS-led Open Session. Conference organizers will review all abstract submissions here and then organize sessions based on topical themes and space. You may also consider emailing other session organizers to inquire if your abstract would be a good fit for their session. NASSS Conference is an inclusive space and we welcome sessions here to that end.

**OPEN ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS****Session Title**

Advancing the Implementation of Sport Sociology Research into Practice\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Shea M. Brgoch

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**Session Description**

The goal of this roundtable is to discuss the need for a greater focus on knowledge utilization in sport research. Often, what researchers know and what practitioners do exist in relatively separate and autonomous domains (Dearing et al., 2012). Several factors contribute to these research-practice gaps, including high volumes of research production (Ruff, 2002), differing priorities among scholars and practitioners (Tucker & Parker, 2014), and the slow diffusion of findings through journals (Funk, 2019). Pulling on calls for research dissemination - combined with vast amounts of underutilized primary research - we argue that more time be spent on bridging gaps between practitioners and scholars. In this roundtable, scholars will be asked to present their ideas on implementation. This may include drawing on other applied industries (e.g., medicine, climate science) for utilization strategies (e.g., narrative communication), designing research synthesis studies, integrating implementation science frameworks, and developing customized knowledge products or tools.

**Session Title**

Implementing UNDRIP Through NASSS Alignment: Possibilities and Next Steps\*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Victoria Paraschak

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**Session Description**

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP, 2007) outlines 46 articles guiding respectful government-Indigenous relations, such as protecting the culture of Indigenous Peoples' languages, education, sports, and traditional games. Over the past year, an ad hoc, Board created, NASSS-UNDRIP Alignment Committee has focused on rationale for NASSS's alignment with UNDRIP; a reimagining of our conference structures; an examination of UNDRIP aligned practices currently existing within other organizations; decolonial and anticolonial practices that might be implemented by NASSS; and ways of (re)structuring NASSS as an ethical space. During the roundtable discussion, committee members will briefly outline our current thoughts on these key areas, as foundation for a collaborative discussion with the audience on feedback and potential next steps, guided by our collective responsibility, as an organization operating on Turtle Island, to foster sustainable and appropriate Indigenous relations within historically colonized and colonial academic spheres (Mackay, 2022; Whitinui, 2021).

**Session Title**

Sport management faculty and ethical issues facing student athletes: What is our role? \*\*

**Name of Organizer**

Dana Massengale

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**Session Description**

There is no shortage of unethical behavior in college athletics. The addition of name, image, and likeness (NIL), to college athletics, in combination with the transfer portal have brought unique opportunities and challenges to college athletes. As sport sociologists and sport management faculty, student athletes come to us for mentorship in an attempt to navigate this changing economic-fueled environment. We are privy to otherwise confidential information that has in the past remained in house. This roundtable will discuss questions and concerns regarding our role as faculty in helping our students, as well as decisions of reporting or whistleblowing on unethical behavior by coaches and athletic staff at our own colleges and universities.