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People in Professional and
Leisure Sports.**

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**Deutsche
Sporthochschule Köln**
German Sport University Cologne

**Institut für Europäische
Sportentwicklung und Freizeitforschung**
Institute of European Sport Development
and Leisure Studies

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Program of the Congress

Wednesday, 04.10.2023

09.00-09.30: Arrival and Reception

09.30-10.00: Opening Ceremony - Bolz, D., President CESH, Mittag, J./Wassong, S, GSU

10.00-12.00: Session 1 | Sport Development & Biographical Perspectives - Entanglements
[Chair: Mittag, J.]

12.00-13.15: Lunch Break (canteen/mensa)

13.15-14.15: Session 2 | The impact of Media and Commercialisation [Chair: Sbeti, N.]

14:15-15.15: 100 Years Stadium Müngersdorf - Keynotes: Molzberger, A. (DSHS) and
Schleicher, W. (Sport Administration Office)

16.00-16.45: Welcome by Timmer, G. (Sport Administration Office) & Guided Walking Tour
Stadium Müngersdorf

17.00-17.30: Coffee Break

17:30-19.00: Session 3 | Transnational and International Perspectives on „Stakeholders“ in
Sport between Participation and Politicization [Chair: Carpentier, F.]

19:00: End of day 1

19.00: Optional sport activity

Basketball game with GSU-students (MA DEV) and Get-Together

Thursday, 05.10.2023

07.30: Jogging „Adenauer Lake“ with T. Müller-Schoell

09.00-10.30: Session 4 | People in Sport and Fascisms [Chair: Serapiglia, D.]

10.30-11.00: Coffee Break

11.00-12.00: Parallel Sessions

Session 5 | Between Ancient and Modern Times [Chair: Mittag, J.]

Session 6 | Cultural Transfers [Chair: Müller-Schoell, T.]

12.00-13.30: Lunch Break (canteen/mensa)

13.30-15.00: Session 7 | The Role of Stars and Heroes [Chair: Bolz, D.]

15.15: Transfer to the German Sport Olympic Museum Cologne (DSOM)
<https://sportmuseum.de/en>

16.00-18.00: Session 8 | Guided tour through Museum, Introduction and Keynote:
Höfer, A. (Director of Museum)

19.00: Short walking tour through the Roman and Medieval part of Cologne on the way to the restaurant

20.00: Social Dinner at Heller's Brauhaus, Roonstr. 33

22.00: End of day 2

Friday, 06.10.2023

07.30: Jogging „Cologne-Outdoor-Fitness“

08.45: Meeting of the Fellows of CESH

09:00-10.30: General Assembly of CESH

10.30-12.00: Session 9 - Panel on biographical paths and new perspectives of sport history in Italy [Chair: Archambault, F.]

12.00-13.30: Lunch Break (canteen/mensa)

13.30-15.00: Parallel Sessions

Session 10 | Athletes and Affiliations in Transition [Chair: Mittag, J.]

Session 11 | Academic Perspectives [Chair: Krüger, A.]

15.00: Conclusions and Closing Ceremony

15:30: End of day 3

16.00: Optional sport activity (basketball) & Get-Together

Saturday, 07.10.2023

Optional Event: *“Italia-Germania in undici istantanee. Storie di una relazione sportiva e sentimentale”* (Panel dedicated to relations between Italy and Germany in Sport.

12.00, Italian Cultural Institute Cologne

“The baseball kings of yesteryear”: Tracing the life stories of Dutch Caribbean baseball stars in the Netherlands, 1960-1980

Jan F. Bant (M.A., PhD student), Radboud University

This paper studies the lives of three elite Dutch Caribbean baseball players in the Netherlands between 1960 and 1980. I analyse the lives of Hudson John (Aruba 1939), Simon Arrindell (Curaçao 1932-1999), and Hamilton Richardson (Sint Maarten 1940). These athletes are considered to be among the best baseball players to have played in the Netherlands and Europe. They changed the level and the style of playing, and have been described as the “baseball kings [who] gave Dutch baseball a face.”¹ The paper follows their life trajectories and studies their biographies as case studies of the entanglements of sports and post/colonial migration. In doing so, it studies who these baseball players were, how they were received by Dutch society, and how they saw themselves as sporting migrants. Research on the intersections of sports and post/colonial migration in the Netherlands has received little attention, even though the two are often fundamentally interwoven.

This research relies on newspapers articles to reconstruct the lives of the baseball players, as well as their public perception, reception, and representation. Both text and images are analysed to study representation styles and patterns. I analyse interviews to study their migratory experience and self-understanding. Methodologically, I conceptualize sport as a contact zone. Mary Louise Pratt defined a contact zone as a “social space where cultures meet, clash and grapple with each other, often in contexts of highly asymmetrical relations of dominance and subordination, like colonialism, slavery, or their aftermaths.”² Social and cultural discourses, stereotypes, and assumptions become explicit in encounters on sport fields.

In this paper I argue that these “baseball kings” form a fruitful perspective on the ambiguous nature of post/colonial migrations in a time when migrants from the Caribbean to the Netherlands were still relatively small in number. On the one hand, sports gave these athletes an opportunity to move up in society, but on the other hand they were discriminated against and were represented as exotic Others in Dutch media. Following the life stories of these baseball players shows how a still relatively homogenous Dutch society reacted to the influx of post/colonial migrants. More broadly, I conclude that sports historians can fruitfully use sports as a perspective on processes relating to identity formation, negotiation, and representation. These types of questions are often studied by sports sociologists and anthropologists, but not so much by sports historians.

Jan Bant (1995) is a PhD Candidate in sports history at Radboud University Nijmegen and the University of Curaçao. His dissertation looks at the history of baseball in the Kingdom of the Netherlands through perspectives of belonging, representation, and creolization. He is part of the Re/Presenting Europe research project, which studies the influence of colonialism and migration on Europe by looking at popular culture, including sports.

Football training in France and Germany. A comparison based on the international games of the 1930s

Corentin Joseph (PhD student) & Prof. Daphné Bolz, University of Rouen, Normandy

In the 1930s Europe was marked politically by the rise of fascism, and socially by the development of sport and the media. Football was profoundly affected by this situation and increasingly considered as much a propaganda tool as a game. This paper focusses on the French and German cases, and analyses the evolution of football training on the basis of the four international matches played in 1931, 1933, 1935 and 1937. In fact, while the French and German national teams both had an average level of football in the 1920s, these four matches revealed a widening gap that France was not be able to close. This research, based on French and German periodicals, shows that the reasons for Germany’s progressive football domination were structural differences in the introduction of coaching, the role and education of trainers, the training vision and the effect of professionalism.

Aliza Wirtz Swimming between two Homelands

Udi Carmi, Tel-Hai Academic College

The cross-Galilee swim competition, held annually since 1943, has been chosen among the ten events symbolizing Israeli culture and way of life. Justifying the national status of this sports enterprise and turning it into an effective educational means necessitated designing it to correspond with prevailing Zionist myths. Hence, to serve as a role model in this event the Zionist movement chose an individual whose life story represented Zionist values: Aliza (Lieselotte) Wirtz. Wirtz was born in August 1920 in Munich, Germany. Cross-Galilee swims had already been held in the 1920s, some officially documented. But when Aliza Wirtz successfully swam across the Sea of Galilee in 1942, she was declared the first person to do so. Her erect stance and athletic appearance made her a particularly appropriate candidate to serve as a role model for muscular Judaism, a term coined by Max Nordau to represent the new Jew who was physically and morally strong. The image portrayed by Aliza served as an ideal marketing component in disseminating the Zionist idea. The way she described her experiences in the cross-Galilee swim reflected the national myths that shaped society's values at that time and became entrenched in Hebrew culture in Eretz Israel. Her descriptions ranged from the lakes of Bavaria of her childhood to the biblical landscapes of the Sea of Galilee. Indeed, Wirtz's dual response, which entailed mystification of the Galilee landscape on the one hand and longing for the scenery of her childhood on the other, was typical of immigrants transitioning between two homelands. Her sense of déjà-vu in recognizing her old and familiar homeland in the new and strange land she now called home served as an example for other immigrants who had left their past behind and adopted Eretz Israel as their new homeland. Aliza Wirtz thus served as an educational role model for an immigrant society that was coalescing into a nation. The cross-Galilee swims that preceded the "first swim" were pushed to the margins of history and disappeared from the public consciousness, for they did not serve the efforts to create new traditions or generate affinity for the values the event's initiators sought to instill.

The failure of an "Olympic Europe": a marker of France's declining influence or the difficulties of creating Europe through sport (1960-1975)

Pascal Charitas & Cyril Polycarpe, Université Paris Nanterre

After the Second World War, France participated in European policy as a "power multiplier" and instrument of "reincarnation" (Dulphy, 2006) through the Schuman Plan (1950) and the European Economic Community (1957). However, it was not until the 1960s that the ambition of French sports policy emerged through European diplomacy within the International Olympic Committee.

From 1960 to 1975, two key figures in the French sporting and Olympic movement translated the challenges of France's influence in European sport into two different projects: Maurice Herzog's and Count Jean de Beaumont's. The former, High Commissioner for Youth and Sport (1958-1966) in the Gaullist Fifth Republic, then a French member of the IOC (1970-1994), initiated in 1965 the (re)structuring of "Olympic Europe" via the European National Olympic Committees (1967, 1969) in order to organise the European Youth Games as a "positive manifestation of solidarity and of the desire to create a common Europe, or as a stadium for European sportsmen and women" (Minutes, 17 March 1970, p.3). The second, a French member of the IOC (1951-1990), drew on both his presidency of the French Olympic Committee (COF, 1967-1971) and the Association of European NOCs (1968-1975) to reorient the European Games into a national project of moral education through sport: addressing French youth after May 1968 through the French Games. However, neither the regional European Youth Games nor the Jeux de France would have a lasting future. In sporting and political terms, do the shifting of projects between these two men and their successive failures reveal the decline of France's sporting influence or the difficulties of uniting Europe at the IOC?

The reduction in the asymmetrical influence hitherto wielded by France in Olympic and European sports policy lies at the very heart of the European Games and ANOCE. Based on archive collections that have been little studied due to their dispersal (Lausanne, Pierrefitte), we examine the construction

of the French sporting nation and its diplomatic influence through the prism of cultural and political history (Franck, 2012).

Ukrainian football players and the collapse of the Soviet Union. On the way from the Soviet to the Ukrainian football player

Kateryna Chernii (Assoc. PhD), Leibniz Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam

One year after Ukraine declared its independence in August 1991, one of the biggest sports newspapers *“Ukraynskyi futbol”* (Ukrainian Football) published an article that among other things especially addressed the departure of Ukrainian players abroad as a biggest threat for Ukrainian football. “Our best talents have scattered across Europe. Some fell so low that they agreed to play for the Russian national team. With all our love and all the good we have done for them in Ukraine, they have met us with such deep ingratitude.” The crisis that Ukrainian football faced in the early 1990s was a direct result of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the new challenges encountered by the former Soviet players.

Unlike the organizational and economic issues, the personal aspect remains rather neglected in the research on the post-Soviet transformation in the field of sports. Therefore, in my paper, I would like to address this gap by focusing on the Soviet Ukrainian football players and their careers in times of uncertainty. I will analyse the personal challenges of Ukrainian football players after the collapse of the Soviet Union in the light of the political and economic developments of that time. How did collapse of the Soviet Union shape the professional careers of the former Soviet players? How did the FIFA-decision to declare Russia the sole successor of the Soviet legacy influence the careers of the Soviet Ukrainian players? What challenges did they face as football players and as Ukrainian citizens?

Regarding the methodological approach, the following methods will be of central importance: 1) A historical-critical analysis of popular literature, media materials and memoirs 2) Methods from the field of oral history 3) Methods of biographical research. To my main sources belong: Ukrainian sports newspapers: *“Ukraynskyi futbol”*, *“Sportyvna Hazeta”*, conducted oral history interviews as well as published memoirs of the former footballers and their contemporaries.

The paper aims to analyze the significant challenges encountered by Soviet Ukrainian players on their transition to becoming Ukrainian players after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. These challenges often resulted in drastic changes or even the complete collapse of their professional careers. Many players were confronted with difficult choice between their professional career and their loyalty to Ukraine. Both national concerns and the issues of social and professional security played crucial roles for the former Soviet Ukrainian football players due to the economic crisis and general uncertainty at that time.

The emergence of sports institutions and the development of a new form of existence: Comparative psychology of Greek and modern athletes

Bruno Deltour, Strasbourg University

Leaving one's name in the history of one's discipline, seeing one's life punctuated by training, going to the threshold of overtraining and sometimes exceeding it, being affected by depression at the end of one's career: so many mental concerns and singular psychological realities linked to the development of sport, with which we have become familiar. Things that were not unknown to the ancient Greeks, far from it. In the last ten years or so, the view of Greek athletic precedent, long seen as tinged with religious or warlike archaism, has profoundly changed (Christesen 2012, Roubineau 2016). If we can attribute the development of sporting institutions to a process of constitution of an egalitarian social space not only in England (Elias 1986) but also in Greece (Vernant 1962, Veyne 1993), then we have a solid basis for comparison. We are no longer in an indeterminacy of similarities and differences. We are better able, through comparison, to identify the social specificities of the two models. After focusing my Lisbon and Bucharest papers on institutional aspects, I turn to the psychological implications of this comparison. The thoughts, emotions, sensations and humour of people far back in time are not totally foreign to us: the effort of knowledge produced by historians,

anthropologists and translators is not in vain. It allows us to undertake comparative approaches with ever greater subtlety, to discern between elements of structural parallelism and cultural differences. The development of sporting institutions, i.e. systems of competition and regular instituted practices, even at a distance of 2,500 years, generates a particular form of existence and shapes psychologies, will be the subject of this paper.

Michel Mathiot: the origin of a new gymnastics' pedagogy (1950-1970)

Pauline Déodat, Sébastien Laffage-Cosnier & Magali Sizorn, Université de Franche-Comté

In France, studies on the evolution of gymnastics pedagogy are generally limited to analyses of the influence of Swedish gymnastics before the 1950s. In the 1970's, studies were carried out on the eclecticism of the methods resulting from the publications of Noël (1961), Piard (1968) or Carrasco (1972). After having carried out a study on the federal pedagogy through the magazine *Le Gymnaste* between 1950 and 1970 (ISHPES 2022), the question is now focused on innovative practices. If the federation broadcasts a single voice, some coaches seem to take certain pedagogical liberties to take gymnasts to the highest level. What about the new practices between 1950 and 1970?

Olympian, coach and first Regional Technical Advisor of France, Michel Mathiot (1926-1999) participated in four Olympic Games between 1948 and 1960. He is therefore a figure of French gymnastics. Once his career came to an end, Michel Mathiot became assistant national coach in the 1960s. The first results of a thesis show that Michel Mathiot is also an original pedagogue.

In comparison with the traditional pedagogy promoted by *Le Gymnaste*, the study of Michel Mathiot's way of training allows us to understand a new pedagogy. In what way and to what extent is the pedagogy established by Michel Mathiot different from that of the French Gymnastics Federation?

Thanks to oral sources (about twenty interviews) but also written sources (planning of sessions, articles in *Le Gymnaste*), this study highlights a different way of training in gymnastics between 1950 and 1970. Made up of trust and benevolence, it would seem that Michel Mathiot's pedagogical relationship with the gymnasts he trained differed from the strict authority promoted by the federation. Indeed, although he retains certain principles of traditional pedagogy, Michel Mathiot seems to be detached from the federal model.

The analysis sheds light on one facet of gymnastics pedagogy in France. We will show how Michel Mathiot transmits content to the gymnasts he trains in order to understand how his approach differs from the federal pedagogy.

Social groups in sport and their change

Christodoulos Faniopoulos (PhD) & Konstantinos Piperas (M.sc.)

In October 2014, the 18th CESH congress took place in Edessa (population 18,000), the capital of the prefecture of Pella in Greece. There it was decided by the organizers to hold on the last day of the congress, which coincided with the 102nd celebration of the liberation of the city, a night water race of 5 kilometres on the riverside routes of night Edessa. Delegates and citizens of Edessa took part in this race. The number of participants reached 124 people. Since then, every such day this race became an institution. Citizens of all ages take part every year, as well as entire families, sports and professional teams. The number gradually increased and reached 700 entries in 2019. Many residents of the city began to prepare for this competition and at the same time train and participate in other cities' races. The change in the sports culture of the city seemed to be affected by this race as well. Even if for 2 years the race did not take place due to the Corona virus, in 2022 when it was repeated, sports memory helped 500 participants to stand at the start. This shows us that mass amateur sports events, where any citizen has the opportunity to participate, regardless of personal sports level, create a culture of participation in sports events and improve the physical condition of citizens. In this context, we conducted qualitative research in order to capture the views of 100 citizens who participated in the night water races. Participants of the study differed in regards of their main occupation as well as their financial background. More specifically, our sample was comprised by teachers, housewives, police officers, workers civil servants and private employees. The main research tool was a questionnaire

with both close-ended and open-ended questions. The aim of the questions was to explore participants' motivations for participation and find evidence that demonstrate an overall change in massive sports culture. We sought to explore participants' motivations and find evidence. Research data showed that 75% of the participants did indeed develop a culture of participation in athletic events that include citizens, regardless of their level of physical activity.

Fascism, Sport and Youth: the Impact of Sport on Young People in Fascist Italy

Erminio Fonzo (PhD), University of Salerno

The importance of sport in the plans of the fascist regime is well known. Fascism considered sport an essential tool for the political socialization of the youth and the creation of the "new man". Therefore, the youth organizations of the regime - *Opera Nazionale Balilla*, *Gruppi Universitari Fascisti*, *Fasci Giovanili di Combattimento*, and *Gioventù Italiana del Littorio* - were committed to spreading sports among their members. During the *Ventennio*, physical activities became a mass phenomenon among Italian young people for the first time.

Against this background, it is interesting to analyze the impact of sports on the lives of young people. The issue needs to be examined from several points of view. First of all, the political impact: the regime aimed to fascistize the youth through sports and strengthen the government's consent, but it did not achieve all the expected outcomes. Furthermore, sports had a significant impact on the personal lives of young people, facilitating their socialization. For example, through competitions and sports contests, many young people from rural areas had the opportunity to leave their villages and experience a "new world". Therefore, participation in sports activities was an important element of the nationalization of the masses and, more generally, contributed to "making Italians". Of course, the impact was different based on social categories, as not all Italian young people were involved to the same extent.

My paper aims to analyze the impact of sports on young people, taking into account some essential points: which social categories were most involved in the spread of sporting activities; how many young people who began their sporting career within the youth organizations continued it autonomously; what effects the participation in the sporting activities of fascist organizations had on their political beliefs; and how sports influenced their lives and ideas.

The paper will be based on several sources. To examine which categories were most involved in sports activities, I will primarily rely on the documents of the *Archivio Centrale dello Stato* (Central State Archive) and *Archivio Storico del CONI* (Archive of the Italian Olympic Committee). For the effects of sports on the lives of young people, the main sources of my paper will be the numerous memoirs published after the fall of fascism by people who had been enrolled in youth organizations. I will also consider the press of the time and the official documents of the Fascist party.

Good Riddance, Marge Schott

Dr. Craig Greenham, Associate Professor, University of Windsor (Department of Kinesiology)

From 1984 to 1999, Marge Schott was the majority owner of the Cincinnati Reds (Major League Baseball). Female club ownership was quite rare – Schott was only the second to do so without the benefit of inheritance. Without a strong knowledge of Schott, pundits lauded her addition to the proverbial old boys' network that traditionally and conservatively operated MLB. Schott, it was widely believed, was a symbol of progress and someone that could modernize baseball, seemingly by virtue of her sex. She proved to be an eccentric personality and media fascination, but not a force for positive change. Her racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic scandals marred her stewardship of the Reds and overshadowed any on-field success. Ultimately, Schott's fellow owners tired of her misconduct and, with league backing, forced Schott to sell her interest in the Reds.

This proposal is part of a larger biographical effort on Schott that aligns with the *Biographies in sport transition* subtheme of CESH 2023, along with *Success and failure in professional sport* and *Actors in sport*. A Schott biography was written by a Cincinnati sportswriter in the early-1990s that pre-dated several key controversies, including her Adolf Hitler remarks that led to her unceremonious removal

from the ownership ranks. This project aims to provide a complete account of Schott's time at the helm of the Reds and contextualize her ownership missteps with those of modern-day owners, namely Donald Sterling and Robert Sarver of the NBA. From this effort, we can see a shift in public perceptions as it relates to attitudes on progressive issues among professional sport magnates.

For the purposes of this presentation, Schott's final controversy is put into focus. Schott made scandalous comments that were sympathetic to Hitler in 1996. At this point, any apology, retraction or clarification could be categorically dismissed. She was already found to be in possession of Nazi paraphernalia, referred to her black athletes as her "million dollar n*ggers," called baseball players that wore ear rings "fruitcakes," and made anti-Asian slurs. The baseball establishment finally realized Schott was beyond redemption. Leaning on media accounts and interviews, the story of her ouster is examined.

Hans Fritsch - Flag Bearer in the Nazi Olympics and the historical limits of symbolism

Arnd Krüger, Georg-August Universität Göttingen

For Tony Mangan Hans Fritsch (1911 – 1987) was a symbol of Nazism. The flag bearer of the German team of the Summer Olympics in Berlin, was blond, big, and strong. He was personally selected for this prominent task by Hans von Tschammer and Osten, the Reichssportführer. But what constitutes a symbol when the life path of that symbol does not show what that symbol stands for?

Marching with the flag had tired Hans Fritsch's arm and instead of winning the expected medal in the discus throw, possibly even gold, he finished 11th and did not make the final. After his graduation for high school (Abitur) Fritsch had joined the police force, mainly for the training in athletics. When the German Luftwaffe was founded, he joined for better training conditions, and spent most of the time in training and had not even learned to march properly. Being a disappointment, marching out of step and not winning, his privileged career as a full-time athlete (he was also one of the best German decathletes) was over. Shortly after the Berlin Games he was restationed with the Luftwaffe in Braunschweig where he was taught to fly. Fritsch never joined the Nazi Party nor any of its organizations, except for a sports club.

Eventually he became a very successful fighter pilot, highly decorated for downing many enemy planes. As such a successful pilot he was then restationed to train young pilots. When there were not enough planes left, he was made part of a newly founded Wehrmacht unit composed of leftovers from decimated German troops. This Army was supposed to defend the city of Oldenburg in the German northwest to the last bullet. When the high-ranking Nazi officials had left the city, Fritsch - as a Colonel - was part of the commanding chief of staff which surrendered this Army without a single shot outside of the city. They had left Oldenburg which stayed basically unharmed.

Fritsch, speaking fluently English, was the interpreter of the capitulation negotiations. The British recognized him as the Olympic athlete and flag bearer and hired him on the spot as their own interpreter. Oldenburg was not only a city, but also the capitol of the State of Oldenburg, a former Dukedom. Later on, the British made Hans Fritsch part of the State government, responsible for culture and sports. With the founding of the Federal Republic, military occupation was over, he lost his job. As he had foreseen this, he had built up a business as representative for knives, forks and household silverware, and later on also for industrially produced golden jewellery. When West Germany was building up its own Air Force, Fritsch was reactivated and helped to get it started.

For decades, Fritsch was the elected chair of the German Olympians and eventually the founder of the Lower Saxony Institute for Sports History (NISH). He converted much of the shrines of the Berlin Olympics commemorating the death of German soldiers into a place of mourning for athletes of all nations who had died by wars and civic annihilation.

He did not go too well with the leaders of the German sports movement, as he kept the athletes' perspective. Of Willi Daume, president of the German Olympic Committee and member of the IOC, who had claimed that he was an Olympic participant in Basketball at the 1936 Games, he said: "He did not march in behind me." Daume was in the preselected group but did not make the final cut. When Germany boycotted the Moscow Olympics, Fritsch called this "foolish" and went to Moscow to meet

many of his old athletic pals. However, Fritsch was definitely not a communist who went to Moscow to praise his comrades but was more or less an unaffiliated conservative.

How can somebody who was not a Nazi be a symbol of Nazism? Visually, he certainly was. Therefore, he was selected for the task, but what makes a symbol when the person stands for something quite different? The changing roles of Hans Fritsch over much of his lifespan will be discussed in this context.

The paper is based on archival sources, including the extensive personal files of Hans Fritsch, and on oral sources.

Representing the New Man: the image of cyclists in popular and sports literature during the fascist Ventennio

Clément Luy (PhD student), Université de Rouen Normandie

In Fascist Italy, the construction of a New Man, ready to defend the Fatherland and the regime, was paramount. Sport and physical education were obviously part of this anthropological project, since the New Man, before being a soldier in wartime, had to be a sportsman in peacetime.

Although Fascist Italy had a long list of sports that represented this project of the New Man, cycling was not immediately included. Cyclists, in fact, did not quite fit the criteria of the Fascist New Man, a fact that has been highlighted by several historians (Marchesini, Pivato). However, just because it was not favoured by Mussolini and the top leaders did not mean that it was not practised by some of his organisations, such as the *Dopolavoro*, the *Milizia Volontaria per la Sicurezza Nazionale* or the *Fasci Giovanili di Combattimento*, the latter two of which were intended to provide military education for young Italians.

In the press as well as in sports and popular literature, there is no shortage of ways of representing cyclists as part of the project to build a New Man. Many journalists and writers attempted to valorise cyclists, who also became heroic fighters in the service of the Fascist idea.

Based on a sport that was particularly popular in the Italy of the Ventennio, these authors – who often presented themselves as enthusiasts - developed this idea of the New Man, with several aspects: heroism, virility, self-sacrifice, and above all an anti-intellectualism that was very present and characteristic of a Fascist rhetoric that wanted to unite body and mind, or, to use the slogan of the Fascist students, « the book and the musket ».

This presentation will be based on several texts, written by more or less known authors: the journalists Vergani and De Martino, the humorist Campanile or the fascist leader Pavolini, several times minister during the *Ventennio*. What they all have in common is that they wrote popular novels about cycling, presenting the athletes in different ways and with different facets and points of view on the Fascist new man project. Often these works are written as a continuation of a journalistic work in sports magazines. The aim of my paper is to analyse the image of athletes that these texts disseminate in order to better understand how it is placed at the service of the fascist anthropological project, and to try to see if this has had consequences on the athletes and their trajectories, leading them, or not, to bend to the demands of this project.

Sport for Development: A social movement captured by elites?

Louis Moustakas (des. PhD), Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln

Background/Objectives: Sport for Development (SFD) and ideas of “sport for good” have been present since the 19th and 20th centuries. Over the last 30 years, however, there has been a growth, formalisation and diversification of actors involved in SFD activities, mainly as civil society or non-governmental actors emerged against the background of neoliberalism and the withdrawal of state social service provision.

Though SFD arguably has roots in elite structures, many civil society organisations were born from an explicit response to socio-political conditions within their localities, and the SFD movement has often aligned itself with systemic goals such as social cohesion, equality and peace. As such, though some of these emerging organisations aligned neatly with prevailing power structures, many worked

to challenge current sporting or government structures and opted to eschew government support altogether. In that sense, the SFD movement became disparate and multi-faceted and could be seen as an emerging civil society vector that could work to challenge dominant structures. Thus, as with other more general civil society actors, these SFD organisations posed a potential challenge to existing norms and power relations.

Over time, the SFD sector has coalesced around a variety of structures, and many of these more ‘rebellious’ tendencies have been dampened. Though some have argued that these structures show the professionalisation of the field, in this presentation, I will argue that this so-called professionalisation emerged as part of a conscious process of elite capture by corporate and political actors.

Methods/Sources: Using Olúfẹ́mi O. Táíwò’s work as a foundation, I will explore how elite forces worked to repurpose and disarm the SFD movement through a process of elite capture. To support these findings, documentary sources from the SFD field are used, including programme documents, policy documents, and historical reviews.

Results: Elite actors captured the field of SFD in three interconnected ways. First, elite actors established far-removed decision sites that set the standards and priorities of the broader field. Second, these decision sites were underpinned by increasingly complex technocratic infrastructures. Thirdly, and ultimately, the growing focus on meeting distant standards and criteria reduced collective action in the field.

A match made in hell? German Trade Unions and the Sport Sector

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Sport systems and industrial relations systems in Europe are diverse, so are the respective labour relations in the sports field as an intersection of both. As the commercial relevance of sport increases, questions of labour standards, remuneration and interest representation become ever more relevant, but in many contexts there is little integration into the traditional systems of labour representation. Why this turns out to be the case in Germany, is traced in this paper as a reconstruction of the few instances when unions showed interest in sports and vice versa.

The study analyses the state of the literature as well as documents and archival material to identify the spells of union engagement with sport and the spells of sports people’s engagement with unions. In a second step the paper develops the respective historical narratives and aims to identify hypotheses as to why the romance has never actually flourished into a match.

Czechoslovak concept of a sports hero. Model analysis on the example of Emil Zátopek (1948-1956)

Václav Pechman, Fakulta tělesné výchovy a sportu

The most successful Czechoslovak athlete in the 1950s was long-distance runner Emil Zátopek. He achieved extraordinary sporting feats under a regime with a communist monopoly of power. This research develops a model analysis of the Concept of the Sporting Hero according to David Norwood (1982). The main aim is to place the phenomenon under investigation in the socio-historical scheme of Czechoslovakia between 1948-1956. The work asks the question of the influence of individual and institutional inputs on social status and attempts to shed new light on the treatment of the sports star. A content analysis of documents (periodicals, books, films, personal correspondence, notes) provided the definition of the determining, limiting and influencing factors identified by the model. In line with social constructivism, a provenance approach was applied in the selection of sources. The criterion of linguistic authenticity of Czech and Slovak materials takes into account the performative influence of language on the formation of reality. The findings contribute to the understanding of the mechanism of ideological appropriation of a public figure. Emil Zátopek’s origin, profession and character traits corresponded with the ideal of a communist hero. Running, as a knowledge and material-intensive discipline, was accessible to a wide audience. The communist regime possessed the tools to integrate

the thrilling feats of running into a promoted framework of meaning. The systemic adoration of Zátopek did not aggravate him per se as much as it did the interests of the power holders.

Unchanged Biographies: Romania's Team Members after the 1919 Interallied Games

Bogdan Popa (PhD), Nicolae Iorga Institute

Research Objectives: This contribution represents a collective biography of the delegation sent by Romania to the 1919 Interallied Games, organised in Paris by the American Expeditionary Force with the aid of the Young Men Christian Association. This is a final part of my research into this topic.

Previously, I have explored the political and diplomatic reasons behind the decision to participate in the games. As acknowledged by the contemporaries, Romania barely had a sports life before joining the First World War in 1916, on the side of the Entente. During the war, sport did not evolve into a favourite pastime of the Romanian soldiers, much unlike the armies on the Western front. In 1919 volunteers were sought among the officers and soldiers. But the decision of the Army to request the support of the 1912 established Romanian Federation of Sport Societies proved more rewarding. The organisation was able to contact many surviving pre-war members and provide for an important part of the delegation. Teams able to compete in athletics, boxing, horse riding, football, swimming, wrestling, rugby, fencing, lawn tennis, and shooting were formed in this combined manner.

Sources and material: Some personal archives of the members of the 1919 delegation are held by the National Library of Romania, the National Archives, or the Library of the Romanian Academy of Sciences. Newspaper articles from 1919 in Romanian are rare: on one hand, the circulation of the news was difficult at the time, on the other hand the interest for sports outside the thin circle of actual practitioners was scarce. This is compensated by the excellent sports newspapers and magazines published before and after the Great War.

Results: The analysis of the collective biography of the 1919 team reveals itself as both challenging and rewarding. Many of those sent to Paris were active in sports competitions before the war. Most of these were descendants of the Bucharest middle-class and aristocracy, part of social networks well-connected with the similar milieus of Western Europe, particularly of France. The rugby and tennis teams are the best documented example. However, many members of the 1919 delegation, especially those from athletics, football, and shooting originated from different milieus, with limited access to resources and important social positions.

My thesis is that the participation in the 1919 Interallied Games did not alter the life track of those involved. Most of those active before the war remained so after 1919, some taking charge of the official administrative positions within different sport organisations. Yet, for those recruited for proficiency in physical exercises from the ranks of the drafted soldiers, any type of sports career ended with the Interallied Games. Such findings must be seen in the general context of a fractured society, characterised by a thin European level social and intellectual elite coexisting, in a marring manner, with a mass of population exposed to illiteracy and reduced economic means.

Rival in the arena, allies in the shadows. The alliances between the factions of the Circus Maximus

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The factions of the circus were four, and each one was distinguished by a colour that determined its name: *Albata*, *Russata*, *Veneta*, *Prasina*.

Domitian was who introduced two new factions whose existence was short-lived, as evidenced by the fact that after the death of the emperor, there is no more news of the *Purpurea* and *Aurata*. But the classical sources are not so specific with the origin and evolution of the other four. In Byzantine times, there was a clear tendency towards the *Veneta* and *Prasina* factions, the other two disappearing almost completely.

The mosaics, pottery and *Defixionum tabellae*, describe scenes related to the circus, constituting valuable information to investigate the colours. We analysed the repetition of the same names of charioteers in the epigraphy. This may lead us to think that a charioteer was famous in a local area and

his fame led him to be represented in different places. Or there were several *aurigae* with the same name, which can be interesting reflections about the particular use of onomastics in the field of a circus.

In addition, some charioteers raced under different colours throughout their sports career, as if they were a contemporary football player in a transfer market. The question in this research is what interests are behind these movements between factions? Were there direct connections between them?

This research proposes a new interpretation of these movements of charioteers between factions. *Veneta* and *Prasina* could have gained strength against the other two, being *Albata* and *Russata*, the quarries of the charioteers, then, *aurigae* could debut among the ally of their teams.

Kalos kagathos. Sporting and architectural career of Wojciech Zabłocki (1930 – 2020)

Kamil Potrzuski (Research Associate), Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego

Wojciech Zabłocki was born in 1930 in Warsaw, where he died on the eve of his 90th birthday. His early youth was marked by the tragedy of the Nazi occupation, during which the political situation forced his family to leave Warsaw and settle in Silesia. Zabłocki began his fencing practise there. In the 1950s and 1960s he developed into one of the world's best competitors, participating four times in the Olympic Games (Helsinki, Melbourne, Rome, Tokyo) and winning three medals in the team competition in sabre (two silver and bronze). He successfully combined professional fencing training with architectural studies and the preparation of his first projects. After finishing sports career, Zabłocki practised amateur fencing in veteran competitions as well as reconstruction of historical, mostly XVIIIth century fencing. He was also an academic teacher, Polish Olympic Committee activist, but above all he started full time architectural practise and become an excellent architect specializing in the design of sports facilities. His most famous projects include the sports hall and combat sports pavillions in the Olympic Preparation Center at the University of Physical Education in Warsaw (mid-1960s), sporting complexes in Konin, Zgorzelec, Puławy, but above all the complex of facilities for the Mediterranean Games in Latakia, Syria (1984). He designed also the facilities of the Olympic Games in Warsaw 2012, which, however, had no chance of being implemented due to the fact that the candidacy of Warsaw finally has not been submitted. Zabłocki's legacy, generally highly regarded by art historians, can be found in the National Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning in Warsaw (in which there are more than 300 volumes of his projects, studies etc.), as well as in many other archives (e.g. the archive of the University of Physical Education), printed architectural albums or specialized press. However, this sources have been a subject of a historical research only to a little extent. Hypothesis that Zabłocki created his own, unique style of design, starting from functional, international modernism, but creatively transformed under the influence of inspiration with natural and cultural diversity, requires thorough source verification. The question is to what extent sports career of Zabłocki left a mark on architectural practice. Another interesting issue is also to what extent the political reality of the People's Republic of Poland influenced Zabłocki's work and whether this artist, due to his wide recognition related to his sporting past and private life - he was married to the well-known Polish actress Alina Janowska - Zabłocka (1923-2017) - he had wider opportunities for creative expression than many other talented architects of this times. The extent of this impact can also be examined on the basis of the statement of the designer himself, who left several memoirs, as well as numerous press and Internet interviews, including an in-depth interview with the author of this abstract conducted in January 3rd, 2019. The extensive biography of this exceptional athlete and artist is still to be written, and this paper is intended to be a contribution to it.

“The future belongs to the strong”: Olexander Anokhin (1882–1920)

Anna Prikhodko (PhD), Yaroslav Mudryi Law University

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, the sport gradually began to become a trend in public life in Ukrainian lands, subject to the Russian Empire. Under the pressure of doctors, teachers and sports enthusiasts exercise practices were introduced into the men's schools' curricula and the army's

military training. Sports events and organizations have gradually become part of the daily life of the urban population. The October Revolution in 1917, the Civil War 1917–1922, the Soviet power, and the communist regime rode like a heavy roller over the fates of many of the central actors of sport at that time, often tragically. Many pioneers of sports were ranked among the enemies of the Soviet regime and deleted from the annals of sports history. Only the collapse of the USSR (1991) made it possible for sports historians to start to return undeservedly forgotten names to the public field. This study analyzes the biography, scientific, sports, and educational activities of the Ukrainian doctor, athlete, teacher, manager, public figure, promoter of sports ideas and physical education, the founder of the scout movement in Kyiv, Olexander Kostyantynovych Anokhin (1882–1920). Thanks to his initiatives and efforts, at the beginning of the 20th century, Kyiv turned from a provincial city into one of the centers of the sports life of the country. The life story of Olexander Anokhin is an example of public service for educating young people on the ideals of humanism, patriotism, Olympism, a healthy nation, etc. However, the bright but tragic biography of Olexander Anokhin contains many “blind spots” and contradictory facts, and this stimulates the researchers’ interest in his person.

Women in Andalusian sport (1975-1985): the beginnings of the conquest of public space

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This research is part of the project "Women and gays in Andalusian sport: the conquest of public space (1975-2000)" funded by the Andalusian Research Plan.

Objectives: to show the sporting experience of Andalusian women during the period 1975-1985. To analyse heteronormative and discriminatory behaviour, which limited women's sporting practice.

Methodology: On the one hand, documentary, bibliographic and archive analysis (personal and public). On the other hand, semi-structured interviews with women practising sport during the period 1975-1985.

Results: The transformation of the sporting model at the end of Franco's regime was neither synchronic nor similar throughout Andalusia as far as women's sport was concerned. In fact, reminiscences of the previous sporting model (of different types and scope) converged with a strong development of a culture of gender equality and visibility of women in the public space and in the field of sport. There were different areas of discrimination of female athletes compared to male athletes: material resources and sports facilities, characteristics and relevance of competitions, institutional support for female clubs or athletes, and the presence of women's sport in the media. Finally, it should be stressed that these reminiscences of the previous sporting model, together with the intrinsic characteristics of a markedly heteronormative society, led to a lack of public visibility of sexual diversity in women's sport. Thus, the sporting sphere was a space of discrimination for women of different sexual orientations.

“Marginalizing disabled athletes even further?” Anti-apartheid activism and the politicization of disability sport around the 1980 Summer Paralympic Games in Arnhem

Paul Reef (PhD student), Radboud University

The 6th Paralympic Games in Arnhem were the first Paralympics from which South Africa was excluded. While previous studies have discussed the role of growing international pressure to ban South Africa from Paralympic Sport over apartheid during the 1970s, the Dutch decision to effectively ban South Africa's multiracial Paralympic team remains understudied. This paper analyzes the societal debate over South African participation and the politicization of the Arnhem Paralympics in the Netherlands. Whereas boycott opponents argued for the neutrality of sport and protecting the interests of already marginalized disabled athletes, opponents successfully shifted the debate to a discussion on apartheid. The paper argues that, paradoxically, these debates formed a watershed moment for the development and broader societal recognition of disability sport as *sport* rather than something completely separate from regular sport in the Netherlands. By doing so, it on the one hand contributes to the growing interdisciplinary field of disability studies, also in sport research, and on the

other hand to recent studies on activism, athlete activism, and social movements in sport and around international sporting events. The paper is grounded in a qualitative analysis of Dutch government archives, the local organizing committee's and (disabled) sport associations' archives, archival material of protest groups, and contemporary media sources. It takes a historical approach to analyzing how specific actors have sought to (de)politicize disability sport and which arguments they used.

Initially, the Dutch government reiterated its position concerning the contested 1978 FIFA World Cup: sport is autonomous and separate from politics. But over the course of 1979, left-wing parties and anti-apartheid activists turned the participation of South African disabled athletes into a national debate about supporting the apartheid regime. Conversely, the organizing committee as well as disabled athletes and athlete associations not only argued that sport should be politically neutral, but also that this politicization would further marginalize disability sport in both the Netherlands and South Africa. Opponents of the boycott in parliament and the press also copied this marginalization argument. Perhaps surprisingly, the simultaneous debate on boycotting the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics on human rights was almost entirely separate from the Paralympic discussion. At first the main actor in this debate, the Dutch Committee for Human Rights and the Moscow Olympics, was against politicizing disability sport but it eventually supported the boycott. After parliament also voted in favor of a boycott, the right-wing Dutch government accepted this decision and threatened to cut funding to the Paralympics. However, the main reason it took a pro-boycott position was out of fear of economic sanctions by African states led by Nigeria and sporting sanctions against the Netherlands, as the UN Special Committee against Apartheid had denounced South African participation in the Arnhem Paralympics. To conclude, the entanglement of sport and politics in this case was contingent on the polarized debate on apartheid in the Netherlands rather than an a priori engagement with disability sport.

The weal and woe of oral history – 50 years of Sports science at the University of Karlsruhe

Prof. Swantje Scharenberg, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie

Recently, a BA thesis at KIT dealt with the topic of 50 years of Sports science at the University of Karlsruhe. As methodology the author used oral history. If we work on contemporary history of an organization, oral history seems to be an appropriate approach. Some contemporary witnesses from the 1970s and 1980s are still alive and can help to preserve memories, not documented in the archives yet. You should take that into consideration.

However, oral history is much more than to interview one witness for a specific period of time. Obviously, one person can create history, as he/she/it wants to have it seen, the rules of archive materials - to protect living persons – are sometimes hindering in finding the “truth”.

Even if sports history is only taught in a few sport institutes in Germany, the history of an organization should not be neglected, but regarded as important. And more than that: it should be of special interest to deal with the own history – for the institute itself, but also for the students. It might also influence the decision where to study for newcomers for example. In addition to that, you might find that there is a school of thought developed during a period of time.

50 years of Sport science at the University of Karlsruhe will be taken as an example to explain the weal and woe of oral history and to take up the cudgels on behalf of a history of an organization and a more or less complete documentation.

Zeno Colò: the last amateur and first professional of Italian Alpine Skiing

Nicola Sbetti (PhD), Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Zeno Colò (1920-1993) is widely recognized as the first truly male Italian champion in Alpine Ski. Among many other successes, he set the speed world record on skis (Chilometro lanciato) in 1947, he won gold medals in both downhill and giant slalom, and silver in slalom at the Aspen World Championships in 1950 and, even more important, he won the Olympic gold in the downhill at the 1952 Oslo Games. However, the aim of this presentation is not just simply to illustrate his career, which initially was ruined by the war. The focus of the presentation will be mostly his final part of his career,

when, after the Olympic victory, he accepted to sponsor some skis, ski boots and sporting clothing. Accused of professionalism by the Italian Ski Federation, Colò couldn't participate at the 1954 Aare Championship. In 1956, Italy hosted its first Olympics ever in Cortina d'Ampezzo and Colò was still the best Italian skier and the possibility that he could win a medal for Italy sparked a debate whether it was possible to re-admit him as an amateur. The aim of this presentation is to analyze through the press and the official documents of CONI, FIS and IOC, how Zeno Colò embodied the debate on amateurism and professionalism in Italian alpine ski at the eve of the 1956 Winter Olympics, when Colò was only a torchbearer.

Mater Dolorosa. The Superga Tragedy and the Women's "Grande Torino"

Daniele Serapiglia (PhD), Universidad Complutense de Madrid

In 1949, the Superga tragedy marked one of the most important moments of national mourning in post-war Italy. Indeed, the Christian democrat government attempted to turn the funeral of the "Grande Torino" players into a symbol of a new republican Catholic identity. Starting from this perspective, through the study of press and archive sources, this paper, for the first time and in an original form, aims to interpret the event from a gender standpoint, analysing the allegorical function of the women close to the players who died in the tragedy.

Much more than an Italian hero: Marco Pantani and the creation of an immortal sporting legend

Juan Antonio Simón Sanjurjo (PhD student), Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Marco Pantani (1970-2004) is one of the great heroes of Italian sport, with an international impact that very few sportsmen in the history of this country have managed to reach. "Il Pirata" was an Italian professional cyclist, winner of the 1998 *Giro d'Italia* and the *Tour de France* of the same year. On 14 February 2004 Pantani was found dead in a hotel room in the Italian seaside resort of Rimini. This research analyses the image of this sporting hero and how he has been transformed into a collective symbol through the narration of his life in a wide range of cultural products such as books, films, TV series and consumer goods of all kinds. At the same time, this research also aims to carry out a bibliographical review of the main biographies that have been published about Pantani in recent years, analysing and comparing how the image of one of the most controversial sportsmen has been constructed through these books.

The Rise and Fall of Women's Football in 1990s Romania: A Transition from State Control to Market Forces

Ileana Gabriela Szasz (PhD), National university of political Studies and Public Administration Bucharest

This paper explores the trajectory of women's football in Romania during the 1990s, tracing its evolution from state-controlled sports activity to a market-driven endeavour. Drawing upon an analysis of media archives, personal archives and life story interviews with former players, the study examines the pivotal moment when women's football was officially recognized in 1990, shortly after the Romanian Revolution. It highlights the initial local popularity, success, and performance of the prominent factory teams, which dominated the early years of the sport's official development.

However, as the country underwent de-industrialization, women's football began to suffer the consequences. Prior to 1989, all teams were affiliated with workers' factories, which provided a sense of stability and support. In the first championship forty-six teams participated. Yet, the dismantling of these factory teams left women's football in a precarious position. Players' profiles transformed from factory workers and amateur athletes to individuals with unsteady jobs and insecure sporting activities. The lack of support from the Romanian Football Federation and the lack of private investments in women's football resulted in the dissolution of championship-leading teams, forcing players to constantly switch between different teams that eventually disappeared.

Despite the challenges, elite players who had the privilege of representing the national team considered themselves fortunate. Their participation in international competitions allowed them to travel and accumulate symbolic capital within their local communities. However, as the 1990s progressed, the championship faced further obstacles, with dwindling participation and shrinking resources. In this context many National Team players decided to flee their teams during away games. By the end of the decade, only four teams remained to compete in the Championship, reflecting the near-dissipation of women's football in Romania.

This study sheds light on the complexities of the transition from state-controlled sports to market-driven initiatives within the context of women's football in Romania. It underscores the detrimental effects of de-industrialization on the sport and the challenges faced by players as they navigated an uncertain landscape. Furthermore, it highlights the struggles for financial support and recognition from the football federation, which led to the disintegration of once-prominent teams.

Ultimately, this examination of women's football in 1990s Romania provides valuable insights into the broader social, economic, and cultural transformations that occurred during this period. It offers a nuanced understanding of the impact of political changes on sports, the role of the market in shaping athletic landscapes, and the resilience and determination of women athletes in the face of adversity.

reflect on the possible ways to study these events by using, in particular, the journalistic and the oral sources.

Cultural Transfer? – Gorodki in Karlsruhe/ Germany

Jennifer Wolf (BA student), Karlsruher Institut für Technologie

“Integration through sports” started as a project in 2000 in Karlsruhe, due to the situation of especially young late repatriates. The adolescents were often lacking of German language skills and therefore facing a lot of difficulties concerning working perspectives. They tend to isolate themselves. The city of Karlsruhe came up with the idea to offer a different kind of sport for repatriates, taught by a Russian coach in Russian language. One of the sport offer was and is Gorodki, an Eastern European throwing game, originated in Russia. Extraordinary and as an obvious sign, in 2001 in Karlsruhe the first Gorodki playing field in Germany has been built.

Therefore, the question arises, why exactly Gorodki is regarded as a facilitator for integration and to what extent a cultural transfer occurs.

Regarding recently conducted interviews by the author of this paper, based on a review of the origin of Gorodki and a similar children's game, we can infer that the acceptance of their late repatriate culture in general and the game Gorodki specifically played a vital part to their integration into the German society. In Karlsruhe inventions were made to develop the game. Events like world championships were a facilitator to rise the popularity in Germany. By addressing their multicultural background and enabling them to freely practice this sport, Gorodki is also a means in the current situation, when many people from similar region and sporting backgrounds seek refuge in Germany. Gorodki as a regional and national wide known sport in Ukraine can ease integration and enables them to prolong their (sports)culture.

From Punk to God: Actors in the Superhero-making Network in the Golden Age of American Sports (1920-1930)

Xiaohui Monica Wu (PhD student), Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln

Against the background of industrialization, urbanization and the post-war period, the United States in the 1920s underwent profound changes in terms of economic, social structure and popular culture. When it comes to popular culture, new things like movies, music and sports quickly became the mainstream culture of American society at that time. Popular cultural idols resulting from cultural consumerism began to appear, and sports superheroes were the most important popular cultural idols back to the Golden Age of American sports. Based on this background, it is relevance to explore the process of sports superhero production, actors in the superhero-making network, and the relationship between the process and the specific historical era, which is 1920s.

This study attempts to answer the following four questions, which are:

1. Why did sports superheroes emerge in the Golden Age in the 1920s?
2. How was the superhero produced? What actors contributed to the process?
3. To what extent have the career paths and life trajectories of professional athletes been greatly altered by the actors and those 10 years?
4. Why is the Golden Age of American sports considered as the root of American sports?

As qualitative research, the study collects historical sources and materials including photos, news reports, documents, biographies, etc. through the historical data collection method of archival research at the first position, then analyzes and interprets the collected materials through historical ethnography and social network analysis. Facing the "past", to understand the "present". Through the interpretation of history, make history alive, and constantly reconstruct or invent history.

This research uses rich and detailed historical materials, including primary sources like photographs, letters, diaries, theses, dissertations, scholarly journal articles, interviews, and autobiographies. Secondary Sources like histories, biographies, literary criticism and interpretation also significantly contribute to the research.

The following four conclusions are drawn by this study. Firstly, the birth of sports superhero is the call and product of the specific historical era. Media-oriented sports events are the foundation and soil for the formation of those big names. Secondly, sports event managers, sports media (reporters), sports agents, sponsors, audiences and other actors jointly wrote the superhero myth. Thirdly, the media and reporters are the core driving force for the final formation of the superhero myth. They add and amplify the brand influence and commercial added value of professional athletes which totally change their life trajectories. Fourthly, many elements of the current American sports running network began to emerge during the Golden Age.