



**Deutsche
Sporthochschule Köln**
German Sport University Cologne

Zentrum für Olympische Studien
Olympic Studies Centre

M.A. Olympic Studies Newsletter

Edition No. 11/ 2021

Foreword

Dear all,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 11th edition of our M.A. Olympic Studies Newsletter. The pandemic has been a challenge for all of us, and this is also true for the M.A. Olympic Studies management team. We have had difficult decisions to make, trying to find the best solutions for the conduction of the study modules and for our participants. To ensure the protection of student health and continuation of our programme, the 2020 September Module of the 7th Intake was taught completely online. However, in view of avoiding back-to-back online modules, we decided to postpone the intake's next module, which took place this September (2021) in Barcelona as a hybrid module.



With most travel bans lifted in September, we were delighted to welcome the majority of the students from the 8th Intake to commence their first Module at the German Sport University in Cologne on-site. However, travel restrictions and problems with vaccine recognition still existed for some of our participants, which is why we decided to offer this module also in the hybrid format. Without doubt, hybrid teaching is challenging from both an organizational and a teaching/learning perspective. It is for this reason that we hope to be able to host a module completely on-site in March 2022 once again - the personal exchange is one of the greatest aspects of the M.A. Olympic Studies after all. However, the situation remains volatile and we will try to find the best solution for participants.

In general, we are pleased to say that the development of the M.A. Olympic Studies is extremely promising. The number of received applications and subsequent admissions have continually increased throughout the years. With this being said, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Olympic Solidarity for their ceaseless extraordinary support and cooperation. Olympic Solidarity awarded 17 scholarships for the 8th cohort of the M.A. Olympic Studies International Master's Degree Programme, which is the highest number of scholarships since the commencement of our collaboration in 2012.

In the New Zealand Centre for Olympic Studies News, Prof. Culpan has already been able to reveal an exciting update for the future of Olympic Studies: Dr. Susannah Stevens, Co-director of NZCOS, will join the M.A. Olympic Studies team in 2022. Within the news from the OSC Cologne, I would like to mention the publication of my new book on the IOC's Athletes Commission. It is freely available for download, and you will find the link below.

As it has been a while since we have disseminated a larger newsletter, we decided to present you two of our alumni in this edition: Guatemala's Rogelia Bravo and Egypt's Inas Hussein - we thank both of you for sharing your experiences with the M.A. Olympic Studies and your personal stories with us.

Enjoy reading this issue!

With best wishes,

Stavros Vlasyris

M.A. Olympic Studies News

8th Intake of the M.A. Olympic Studies Journey Commencement

From 26th of September till 2nd of October, the Olympic Studies Centre of the German Sport University Cologne welcomed the participants of the 8th Intake of the M.A. Olympic Studies for their 1st Module.

The 8th Intake is the largest group so far, consisting of 34 participants from 30 countries. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the module was conducted under a hybrid teaching scenario, 21 students attended on-site at the GSU and 13 students participated online.

The week started off with the official opening ceremony where the students were welcomed by Prof. Wassong. Great appreciation must be given to Maria Bogner, Head of The Olympic Studies Centre in Lausanne, and Nicole Girard Savoy, Olympic Solidarity Head of Finance, who gave opening addresses to the students via video, reflecting the continuous support of the M.A. Olympic Studies by their institutions.

Both the M.A. Olympic studies team and the new students were happy to welcome Leah Bonga, Project Coordinator for Olympic Solidarity, and Annett Chojnacki-Bennemann, Board Member



of the M.A. Olympic Studies Alumni Circle, at the opening ceremony and to receive their opening addresses onsite. The opening ceremony was followed by a social get-together at the guest house of the German Sport University Cologne. The 1st Module focused on the topic of Ethics, Values and Olympic Education. The teaching team consisted of Prof. Otto Schantz, Prof. Karen Joisten, Prof. Jens Flatau, Prof. Stephan Wassong, Rory Flindall and Daniel Quanz. The week involved lectures, group discussions, social gatherings and ended with a written exam on Saturday, 2nd of October.

16 Scholarships awarded by IOC's Olympic Solidarity



The IOC, through its Olympic Solidarity Programme, has awarded 16 scholarships for the 8th cohort of the M.A. Olympic Studies. This number is the highest received by the program since its implementation by the Olympic Studies Centre of the German Sport University Cologne

in 2010. Prof. Wassong was tremendously pleased about this development. Referring to conversations with senior staff members of the Olympic Solidarity Department, Prof. Wassong states that the IOC appreciates the current study programme's profile and especially its pragmatic orientation as a part-time master's. The M.A. Olympic Studies Programme Management Team expresses its gratitude to the IOC and Olympic Solidarity for their ongoing support.

Graduate Olya Abasolo at the GSU on ITA's fight against doping



As part of the Master's program International Sport Development and Politics at the German Sport University Cologne, M.A. Olympic Studies graduate Olya Abasolo was invited as a guest speaker on January 21st 2021.

Olya is currently Education Manager at the International Testing Agency (ITA). She presented very interesting and important insights into the essential work undertaken in the fight against doping on the part of the ITA to the students. Through her realistic assessment of current developments, she stimulated the students and engaged in an enthralling discussion session.

Hilla Davidov at the iLEAP Workshop

On 11th and 12th December 2021, The Inclusive Leadership Program (iLEAP) Workshop 2021, supported by the IOC Young Leaders and the Malaysia Olympians Association, took place as an online event. The workshop was targeted at young sport's leaders (13-17 years old) and focused on 4 cores which are sport values, healthy living, life skills, and social competency. With IOC Young Leader Tania Lee (Malaysia) as leader, each core was led by speakers and professionals in their field. M.A. Olympic Studies Graduate Hilla Davidov was part of this committee, acted as a speaker and co-led the sport values session of the workshop. A total of 22 young

leaders, including persons with disabilities, participated in this inspiring workshop.



Philipp Wäßler on Holistic Sports Coaching



M.A. Olympic Studies graduate Philipp Wäßler, Coaching Educator at the Eidgenössische Hochschule für Sport Magglingen (SUI), held a guest lec-

ture on Holistic Sports Coaching as part of the Master's program International Sport Development and Politics. As an Olympian in Modern Pentathlon, a long-time national coach for different federations, as a coaching educator and with experience in working at the management level for the International Pentathlon Federation, he offered the students valuable insights in his vast practical experience as a coach educator, backed up with accurate theoretical and academic analysis.

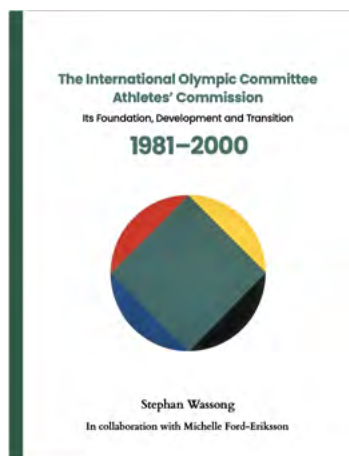
OSC Cologne News



Publication on the IOC Athletes' Commission

The year 2021 marks 40 years since the foundation of the Athletes' Commission. On this occasion, the book "The International Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission - Its Foundation, Development and Transition" was published by Prof. Wassong. Michelle Ford-Eriksson, a former member of the Athletes' Commission from 1985 till 1988, contributed to the book with some personal impressions in a special chapter on the role of athletes at the Olympic

Congress in Baden-Baden. The research by Prof. Wassong provides a closer look into the establishment and development of the IOC Athletes' Commission from 1981 till 2000 and identifies the Commission as an important institution in order to strengthen the voice and position of the athletes within the network of the Olympic



Movement. Authentic insights into the activities of the Commission and its growing institutional representation and recognition of the athletes are provided by interviews and statements from active and former members of the Athletes' Commission, including IOC President Thomas Bach, who was a founding member of the commission.

IOC press release:

"New Book explores the rise of the athlete voice within the Olympic Movement since 1981"

<https://olympics.com/ioc/news/new-book-explores-the-rise-of-the-athlete-voice-within-the-olympic-movement-since-1981>

The book is free of charge and available online:

Olympic World Library - [The International Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission : its foundation, development and transition : 1981-2000 / Stephan Wassong - Detail \(olympics.com\)](#)

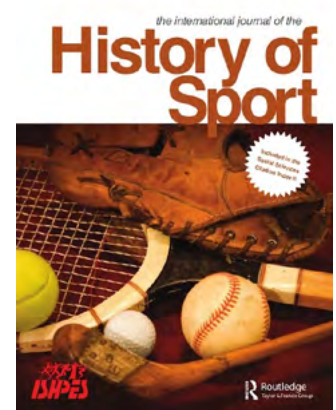
Special Edition of the International Journal of the History of Sport (V. 38, Issue 10-11)

A special issue of the 'International Journal of the History of Sport' has been published on the topic 'The Athletes' Voice in History' in November 2021. The special issue is the result of the academic cooperation between the Olympic Studies Centres of the University of Western Ontario (London, Canada), the Victoria University (Melbourne, Australia), and the German Sport University Cologne. It is the third special issue which resulted from the aforementioned triangular academic relationship. In this special issue, Prof. Wassong was in the role of editor-in-chief in collaboration with his colleagues Prof. Rob Hess and Prof. Angela Schneider. Prof. Wassong is also the author of the article "The Membership Composition of the Athletes' Commission of the International

Olympic Committee: Between Appointments and Elections, 1981-2000" and corresponding author of the overview article which paths the way into the edition's overarching topic.

You can read the full article on:

https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/fhsp20/38/10-11?nav=tocList?gclid=EAlaIqobChMltla4ssHR9AIVD9UYCh3RqgqIEAAYASAAEgLHKvD_BwE&



Abhinav Bindra Foundation - Olympism and its values



The Abhinav Bindra Foundation, based in Chandigarh (India), is dedicated to the Promotion of Athletes and Youth Sports. It has been

running a webinar on Olympism and its values since June 2021. The Olympic Studies Centre Cologne is

an important cooperation partner in this project. On November 23rd, Prof. Wassong gave the keynote lecture on Olympism for Youth Development. Hilla Davidov (Israel), M.A. Olympic Studies alumna and PhD candidate at the Institute of Sports History, was invited as a participant for the discussion panel.

Online Meeting of the Olympic Studies Centres

Since the 2012 London Olympic Games, an International Colloquium of Olympic Studies and Research Centres have been organised every four years. Prof. Wassong acts as chair of the steering committee of these international colloquiums. The 3rd edition of this event was held on 23rd and 24th September 2021. The online Colloquium was organised by the University of Tsukuba, Japan and attended by 48 representatives of Olympic Studies Centres. The team of the Olympic Studies Centre of



the German Sport University Cologne presented the Centre's ongoing research and teaching activities.

IOA Anniversary and Olympic Flame Lighting



On the 17th and 18th October 2021, the 60th anniversary of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) was celebrated with a festive and academic programme. Prof. Wassong, who is a member of the IOC's Olympic Education Commission, was invited as a guest and speaker. Just in time for the anniversary, the extensive renovation work of the IOA had also been completed. At the same time as the ceremony, which was also attended by IOC President Thomas

Bach and the members of the IOC Executive Committee, the Olympic flame for the Olympic Winter Games in Beijing in 2022 was lit in Ancient Olympia and handed over to the first torch runner.

On the occasion of the anniversary, the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee (CIPC) donated a statue of the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937). As president of the CIPC, Prof. Wassong presented the statue to the IOA. The President of the IOA, Isidoros Kouvelos, appreciated this donation and addressed it accordingly within his speech for the anniversary celebration in the presence of IOC President Bach and the attendees from the IOC Executive Committee. The statue is centrally placed in the atrium of the IOA auditorium building.

OSC Barcelona News



Centre d'Estudis Olímpics
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

7th Intake of the M.A. Olympic Studies



During a week, 22 students from 16 countries and four continents have been studying, in person or by videoconference, the module of the M.A. Olympic Studies dedicated to media and commercialization of the Olympic Games, coordinated by Prof. Emilio Fernández Peña.

From the 6th to 11th September, students have learned from expert faculty about the influence of media and marketing on the Olympic Movement, gaining critical insight into the business and media strategies of the IOC, organizing committees, and TOP program sponsors, as



well as the impact of new media on the relations between the Olympic Movement, media and consumers.

The teaching staff was led by Prof. Emilio Fernández Peña, director of the UAB Sports Research Institute and the Olympic Studies Centre. Included as teachers were Dr. Andrew Billings, executive director of the program in sports communication, journalism and creative media at the University of Alabama (USA), Jose Ramon Diez, television producer for ten Olympic Games opening and closing ceremonies, and Aino Hiisku, International Olympic Committee Marketing Rights Activation Manager.



During their stay, students were able to enjoy a visit to the Barcelona Olympic and Sports Museum and the Barcelona'92 Olympic facilities. They also had the practical experience for a television production of an Olympic event - table tennis - at the Faculty of Communication Sciences audiovisual sets, directed by TV producer Jose Ramón Diez.

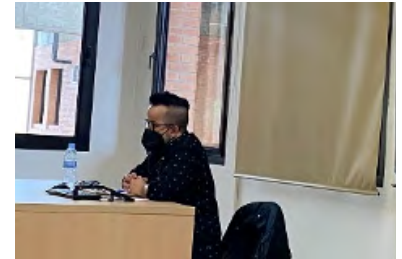
Doctoral thesis



In 2021, two members of the UAB Olympic Studies Centre obtained their PhD after four years of pre-doctoral contract. Adolfo Nieto Losada

obtained his doctorate in September 2021 with a thesis on the management of the personal sports brand of football superstars through social media. The thesis was directed by Prof. Emilio Fernández Peña.

Oriol Figuera Godoy obtained his doctorate in September 2021 with a thesis entitled Social networks, violence and football: The Spanish ultras through Facebook and Twitter in the 2017/2018 season of La Liga. The PHD was directed by Dr. Natividad Ramajo Hernández.



Juan Antonio Samaranch Salilachs' visit to the UAB

On November 2021, the current vice-president of the International Olympic Committee since 2016, and son of the former IOC President, visited the UAB Olympic Studies Centre on the celebration of its more than 30 years of academic activity and IOC recognition as the oldest university OSC in the world. During the visit the future of the OSC-UAB was discussed together with Mr. Gabriel Masfurrol, President of the UAB Social Council.



IOA International Developing Group



The director of the UAB Sport Research Institute and the Olympic Studies Centre, Prof. Emilio Fernández Peña, is part of the working group for the development of the new educational activities of the

International Olympic Academy (IOA).

The Working Group is formed by nine academics and experts specialised in the Olympic studies, representing institutions from Greece, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Germany and Sport. Its objective is to rethink the IOA as an institution of educational and training innovation in the field of Olympic studies. Its action is framed in the renewal plan for the Academy promoted by the International Olympic Academy, with a budget provision of twelve million dollars.

OSC Canterbury News



Putahi Akoranga Orimipia 0 Aotearoa

November 2021

The 2021 academic year for the NZCOS draws to a close in December. As in many places across the globe, 2021 has been a challenging year. Despite the challenge, the Centre has been involved in many noteworthy activities. Prof. Ian Culpan continues to be involved with the Olympic Studies Masters Programme at the GSU. In 2022 it is planned that Dr Susannah Stevens, Ian's co-director of the NZCOS will also join the Master's team. This year the Master's Programme underwent an in-depth accreditation process where Prof. Culpan was initially involved in discussing academic matters associated with the programme with the international panel of experts. Given the very supportive accreditation report resulting from the review, Prof. Culpan, in conjunction with GSU staff have been involved in making changes to the Module Olympic Athletes and Elite Sport in Transition, to ensure it continues to provide cutting edge, contemporary academic material. Other international initiatives involving both Prof. Culpan and co-director Dr. Susannah Stevens have involved online congress presentations in India (2), Indonesia (2), Brazil (3) and numerous New Zealand presentations. Of special note is the collaboration with the Brazilian e Museum do ESporte and Comite Brasileiro Pierre de Coubertin in Rio de Janeiro.

Given that 2021 saw the Tokyo 2020 (21) Olympic Games, personnel from the NZCOS were interviewed by New Zealand media on multiple occasions on aspects of the Games. Materials from these interviews were on-live radio, and TV, and articles appeared in the national newspapers.

Prof. Culpan continues to teach (on-line in 2021) and supervise master's students in the University of Peloponnese and IOA Olympic Masters programme. Furthermore, both Dr. Stevens and Prof. Culpan continue to be involved in the Global Foundation for Community Health. Prof. Culpan is an executive board member and senior scientific advisor for this Foundation and Dr. Stevens is part of the Future Leadership Programme. The work of the Foundation has become globally significant as it collaborates with UNESCO in working towards achieving the United Nations 17 Sustainable Goals. In 2022, both Ian and Susannah have been invited to present in Turkey, China, and Barcelona.

The NZCOS continued its 2021 research programme with over a dozen academic publications in international journals and book chapters. Diagoras: The International Academic Journal for Olympic Studies was scheduled to publish its 5th Issue in October this year, but unforeseen technological 'hacking' issues associated with University of Autonoma Barcelona has seen this publication delayed. Hopefully its publication is imminent. Finally, it is important to acknowledge the relationship that the NZCOS has with the GSU Olympic Studies Centre. This is a highly valued collaboration and the close association that Prof. Culpan has with Prof. Wassong continues to develop despite the challenges of COVID-19.

Report compiled by Prof. Ian Culpan, Director of the New Zealand Centre for Olympic Studies, University of Canterbury, NZ.

Graduates

Inas Hussein

Inas Hussein was a participant of the third intake of the M.A. Olympic Studies Programme. Joining the programme, Inas was already working for the Egyptian Olympic Committee as international relations specialist.

When joining the Egyptian NOC in 2008 as a translator following her graduation from the Faculty of Arts, English Literature and Language Department, Inas was not new to sports as she was an avid tennis lover and had practiced the sport as a hobby for over 8 years. She also experimented with other sports such as karate and swimming; but tennis was her favorite. So, it was not strange that she instantly loved being part of the Olympic Movement and was taken by the philosophy and values of Olympism. Wanting to learn more about the sports and Olympic world, Inas decided to educate herself and pursue her post graduate studies in sports, so she joined the MEMOS programme (Executive Masters in Sports Organization Management) offered by the IOC and Olympic Solidarity and finished the degree in 2012. Then, she embarked on the journey with the M.A. Olympic Studies, which she was introduced to in 2011 during her participation of the IOA Young Participants' Session. Thanks to the grant and financial support of Olympic Solidarity, she managed to enroll and be part of the programme, which proved to be a very special, insightful eye opener and above all introduced her to a group of marvelous friends for life. Meeting people from different countries, studying together, and discussing sport related topics from completely new angles has helped shape Inas's perspectives and career related choices.

Inas's M.A. thesis was on the topic of "The Relationship between the Egyptian IOC Members and IOC President Avery Brundage" under the supervision of Prof. Norbert Müller. Understanding the past contributions of Egypt to the Olympic Movement and the influential personalities from Egypt was a necessary step to understand where Egypt currently stands on the sports and Olympic fronts; and what is needed to retain this stature. Inas' participation in the M.A. Olympic Studies helped her

leverage her position within the sports field, excel her career in sport; and added credibility to her voice even at a young age.

Inas currently has many hats within the sports world, she is the director of Olympic Solidarity and international relations at the Egyptian NOC, a post she holds since 2013. She is

an IOC Athlete365 Career+ programme outreach educator, helping athletes power up for their future, find their passions beyond the field of play, and transition smoothly from professional sports to life with its broader aspects as well-rounded individuals, while maintaining a healthy balance in their high-performance career. She has also recently joined World Rowing as the development manager consultant for Asia and Oceania. Inas is a young female sports leader in her region taking on diverse initiatives and projects related to gender equity, sports integrity and competition manipulation, athletes' dual careers, among others. She has led and contributed to many successful projects throughout her career in sports.

In the future, Inas wishes to continue developing herself and maintain working within the international sphere of sports; and maybe find a way and time to undertake a PhD, a major goal included in her bucket list. Inas speaks, Arabic, English, French and a little bit of Spanish. She loves reading, journaling and watching movies; and she sees herself as a global citizen of the world. She also believes that sports can have a positive impact and is a powerful tool towards the holistic development of our world.

You can find more about Inas's activities on: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/inas-hussein-9399b754/> or email her: inas_hussein@hotmail.com



Graduates

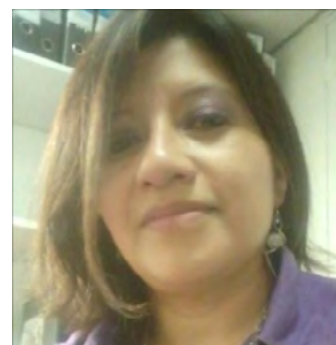
Rogelia Nicté Bravo Navarro

Rogelia Nicté Bravo Navarro (Guatemala) was a participant of the 5th Intake. She has always had strong a relation with human rights and academics, as her parents were professors at a public university and human rights activists in the 1980's, when Guatemala was still under a dictatorship. Witnessing the UN developing several cultural and sport activities for refugees from Central America, Rogelia explored sport as a tool for youth development under difficult circumstances: a time for play with others without political issues. She got her diploma in physical education, sport and physical recreation in the Public University San Carlos of Guatemala. Although she is convinced that sport is an excellent tool to increase social cohesion in countries in the peace process, in parts of sport's working environments she could still observe too much abuse from the institutions as part of a historical heritage of an elite class, where exclusion and discrimination still existed and where athletes were not sufficiently protected.

In 2016, after proving herself in an internal application process, the NOC of Guatemala gave her the opportunity to participate in the M.A. Olympic Studies with a scholarship. Her motivation was to support programs to help people avoid violence and increase human development with an intercultural approach. She was also drawn to the programme by the prestige of the German Sport University Cologne, which has a long history of alliance with federated sport in Guatemala.

During the M.A. Olympic Studies, she especially enjoyed discussing issues that are similar in Guatemala and other countries and learning about responses and best practices developed by scholars and professionals in the field. This opened up new perspectives to her

on many topics from gender issues to sports for people with disabilities. Fostering friendship with international partners in the M.A. Olympic Studies was also a plus, which led to the development of a network of important professionals in their fields who support many mutual activities. Rogelia is convinced that education is the main tool that could improve Guatemala, but the countries coaches' education historically has had several faults and, in some cases, preserved violence. Therefore, in her master's thesis, supervised by Daniel Quanz and Prof. Wassong, she reviewed the history of coaching education in Guatemala, focusing on initiatives of the NOC and of the Confederación Deportiva Autónoma de Guatemala and international co-operations as well as challenges such as the disruption of projects due to changes in government.



Since 2018, she has been part of the National Olympic Academy as Head of Olympic Studies, where she is making strong alliances with national and international Universities through lectures in Olympism, Ancient Sport, Social and Political Issues, Marketing, and others fields connected to the Olympic Movement. Rogelia's main goal in this regard is the implementation of an Olympic Studies Centre, which develops and improves multidisciplinary research and especially social and humanist approaches. Another field of her particular interest is the partnership for ancestral sports, in which sports programmes for youth in rural areas of Guatemala are supported and developed – focussing on traditional Mayan sports that are gaining popularity once again among the long neglected indigenous population of Guatemala and the inclusion of girls and women. You can contact Rogelia via rogeliabravo@gmail.com.

Dates

March, 13th - March, 19th 2022:
8th Intake, Module 2

March, 27th - April, 2nd 2022:
7th Intake, Module 5

September 2022:
8th Intake, Module 3