

M.A. Olympic Studies - NEWSLETTER

Edition No. 1 - 2014

Foreword

Dear all,

It is with great pleasure that I can introduce you to the first newsletter of the M.A. Olympic Studies, today. Primarily, the intention of the newsletter is to enhance the flow of information among graduates and participants and to encourage you to stay connected in the network which we have established already. It is the plan to inform you, amongst others, on the latest development in each intake of the programme. In addition to this, a section is reserved to include short outlines of the career progression of a graduate. This is done to keep all alumni up to date and to highlight that graduating from the programme can be really beneficial for career development in the long term.



There is a certain degree of pride to inform you already in the foreword that in June 2013 the first graduates of the programme have received their final degrees at the official Graduation Ceremony of the German Sport University Cologne. This was a really festive event, which gave the professors the opportunity to honour the academic achievements of their students. Moreover, it is good to learn that the programme is continuously growing in its international reputation. This becomes clearly evident from the application numbers for the fourth intake, which will start in March 2015. We have already more than 60 interested people, which have an exciting and diverse professional background in the world of sport, education, management etc. It is our pleasure to review and then process all applications within the next months.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those, who have contributed to the installation and the development of the M.A. Olympic Studies. There is not enough room here to name them all but I would like to emphasize in particular the professors and module leaders of our partnering institutions: Professor Thierry Terret of the University of Lyon (formerly), Professor Norbert Müller of the Technical University of Kaiserslautern, Professor Karen Joisten of the University of Kassel, Professor Ian Henry of Loughborough University, Professor Emilio Fernandez Pena from the Autonomous University Barcelona and Professor Jens Flatau from the Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel. Moreover, I would like to express my gratitude to support which the implementation and development of the programme has received from the IOC and its Olympic Studies Center. You could learn more about this in the section *Latest News*.

I hope that you enjoy reading the first edition of the M.A. Olympic Studies. Of course, I encourage you to give me some feedback as it must be the ongoing goal to improve the concept of the newsletter to such an extent that it meets the expectations of all of you.

Best wishes,

Stephan Wassong
(Executive Director of the M.A. Olympic Studies)

Latest News

Extension of IOC Support



The international part-time M.A. Olympic Studies will receive further support of the International Olympic Committee. IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach has granted continuous official support for the programme in the years 2014 and 2015. In his letter, he has emphasized the uniqueness of the degree programme and the high-quality of the teaching content. Beyond doubt, this outlines the increasing reputation of the M.A. Olympic Studies.

It must be highly valued that the IOC has been interested in the programme from its first planning stages. In particular this is true for the engagement of the IOC's Olympic Studies Centre which contributed much to both the implementation and development of the international academic project concept. Since 2013, the global profile of the programme has been further increased by the support of Olympic Solidarity. Through the ongoing support of the IOC the M.A. Olympic Studies is able to preserve ongoing quality and continuity.

Olympic Studies Centre signs cooperation agreement with the University of Johannesburg



It is intended that the cooperation results in the establishment of an Olympic Studies Centre at the University of Johannesburg, which would be the first one of its kind on the African continent. The Olympic Studies Centre Cologne will act as consulting institution from 1st October 2014 for a total of three years.

On recommendation of the Olympic Studies Centre of the International Olympic Committee, representatives of the South African university had already visited the Institute for Sport History / Olympic Studies Centre in summer 2013. During a visit to Johannesburg in October 2013, the Academic & Managing Director of the Olympic Studies Centre, Univ.-Prof. Wassong, and his team became convinced about the determination and the professionalism behind the initiative. On this occasion, first synergy effects have already been discussed with the President of the South African National Olympic Committee, IOC member Sam Ramsamy.

First concrete initiatives foresee the implementation of workshops on topics relevant for selected target groups of the Olympic Movement, which will be conducted by staff members of the Olympic Studies Centre Cologne annually during South African winter months. Moreover, the staging of a regular scientific symposium as well as the establishment of a library on Olympic Studies is anticipated.

For the Olympic Studies Centre Cologne, which is active in teaching, research and consultancy, the signing of the cooperation agreement is another step forward in its aim for an increasing internationalisation and expansion of its working areas.

Start of 4th Intake

At the Olympic Games 2014 in Sochi, the complexity of staging the biggest sporting event in the world has become once more apparent. Multifaceted issues have been analysed in order to guide the future development of the Olympic Movement. Without doubt, an important momentum in these discussion is the IOC President's Olympic Agenda 2020.



From an academic point of view, to understand the Olympic Movement it is important not only to obtain knowledge about the Olympic Games themselves, but also to acquire detailed interdisciplinary knowledge on humanistic values, which are so important for the uniqueness of Olympic Sport and the Olympic Movement. To address this need, the German Sport University Cologne and its partners will continue to offer the M.A. Olympic Studies and start a 4th Intake in March 2015. By August 2014, there have been more than 60 enquiries by anyone interested in participating with a great variety of nationalities from all five continents (e.g. Russia, USA, India, New Zealand, Slovakia, Brazil, Uganda, South Africa, Turkey, Jordan, Oman ...) and professional backgrounds. It is the clear intention to encourage participants from the Southern Hemisphere to apply for the programme and the applications demonstrate the increasing global profile of the study programme and the growing interest in it. We strongly encourage participants from the Southern Hemisphere to take part in the M.A. Olympic Studies. Applications for the 4th intake of the programme can be made until 30th September 2014. Please promote the M.A. Olympic Studies within your organisation. Interested people who want to participate and enhance their knowledge about the Olympic Movement can contact the Programme Coordinator Jörg Krieger (J.Krieger@dshs-koeln.de) to get an application form. For more information on the programme, please visit the new website of the M.A. Olympic Studies on www.dshs-koeln.de/olympicstudies.

WISE Convention in Lausanne in May



From May 7-8 the executive team of the M.A. Olympic Studies represented the programme at the convention WISE (Work in Sports Exhibition) which took place in Lausanne. The WISE Convention is an international platform for career development in sports and supported by the IOC. The 2-day event gathered around 1,000 participants in Lausanne and fostered careers in the sports industry in a 360°sharing platform between leaders of today and tomorrow as well as active and former athletes. The team of the M.A. Olympic Studies had the opportunity to present the programme at the exhibition and informed potential participants about the objectives and contents of the programme. As we have learned from applicants to the 4th intake, this initiative has been of success and triggered much interest in the programme.

News – 2nd Intake

6th Module in April 2014

In March 2014, the final module of the 2nd intake took place at the German Sport University Cologne. The fifteen participants of the 2nd Intake dealt with the topic “International Relations and the Olympic Movement” in their last module. Besides Prof. Wassong, they were taught by Prof. Dr. Ian Henry from Loughborough University with Prof. Dikaia Chatziefstathiou from the Panteion University acting as guest lecturer. Topics such as the relationship between the IOC and the UN or the historical background of politics and the Olympic Movement have been discussed. The concluding presentations of the participants dealt with specific and actual topics related to subject of the module. The participants of the 2nd Intake are now going to work on their master thesis.



News – 3rd Intake

2nd Module in April 2014

The twenty-two participants of the 3rd Intake were taught on the topic of “Olympic Athletes and Elite Sport in Transition” by a core teaching team of the Olympic Studies Centre of the German Sport University Cologne. Thereby contemporary topics such as the Youth Olympic Games or lessons of the 2009 Olympic Congress in Copenhagen as well as sport historical issues have been on the agenda. The topic “The Ancient Olympic athletes” was presented by Prof. Wolfgang Decker. Prof. Ian Culpan from the University of Canterbury (New Zealand), who has been invited as a guest professor. He gave lectures on his research focus: the athlete as a role model and the relationship between athlete and coach. Further seminars were conducted by Prof. Norbert Müller and Prof. Jens Flatau.





The third module week of the M.A. Olympic Studies for the 3rd Intake of the programme currently takes place at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). The module is under the direction of Prof. Emilio Fernandez Pena from the UAB, which has been a partner of the programme since the start.

The participants deal with the topic “Olympic Games – Media and Commercialization”. The historical development of the relationship between the Olympic World and Worlds of Media and Commercialisation is analysed from the Games of the first Olympiad in Athens in 1896 until the present day. The relationship between media sponsors, and Olympic organisations and their values is a critical focus of this module.

Graduates

Hyo-yeon Lee

In every edition of the newsletter, we would like to inform you about the Graduates of the M.A. Olympic Studies and how they have profited from the programme.

We start that series with Hyo-yeon (Vicky) Lee, who has graduated from the first intake in summer 2013. Vicky has written her M.A. thesis on the topic of “Pursuit of Answer and Direction for the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games in comparison with the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games” under the supervision of Prof. Emilio Fernandez.



It is fair to say that Vicky has benefited from her participation in the M.A. Olympic Studies as it has enabled her to lift her professional career in sport to the next level. Before and during her studies, Vicky had worked for the Seoul Fencing Federation but she always wanted to become involved with sport on the international stage. Thus, she decided to apply for a position on the Organising Committee of the 2014 Incheon Asian Games following her graduation and was accepted. On the Committee, she now works as an NOC Services Manager and is responsible for the management of 45 NOCs. This means that she coordinates all NOC meetings and educates all NOC assistants, which will work with her during the time of the Asian Games. The event, which is officially known as the XVII Asiad, takes place from September 19 to October 4 this year, and is recognized by the IOC. It is staged since 1950 after former IOC President Sigfrid Edström had expressed the wish to see regional games in Asia.

We are proud that Vicky is now part of this historic event and wish her all the best in her position.

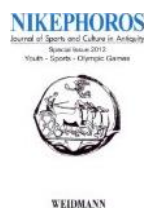
Olympic Research Publications

The Youth Olympic Games (edited by Dag Vidar Hanstad), Routledge, 2014, 250 p.



This is the first book, which is entirely devoted to the topic of the Youth Olympic Games. It critically examines the origins of the new Olympic event and the motives of the IOC to install such a unique format, as well as the organisation and management of the Games and their wider impact and significance. The first part of the book discusses the relationship between the YOG and the ideology of Olympism in the context of broader developments in youth sport competitions. The second part investigates a wide range of managerial aspects including the bidding process, finance, the prominent role of young people on the organising committees and as volunteers, the role of media and sponsors, and the distinctive competition structure. The final part of the book assesses the current and likely future impact of the YOG on the host cities and countries, the IOC and on national youth sport policies.

Youth, Sports, Olympic Games. Special Issue of Nikephoros. Journal of Sports and Culture in Antiquity 2012 (edited by Werner Petermandl & Christoph Ulf), Weidmann, 2012, 268 p.



This special edition of the Nikephoros journal contains 25 articles to the Youth Olympic Games, which are divided in three chapters: 1. Sport in Antiquity, 2. Olympic Games on Their Way to Become Modern 3. Youth, Sport, and the Olympic Games Today. In Wolfgang Decker, Norbert Müller and Stephan Wassong, three lectures of the M.A. Olympic Studies have contributed to the edited book.

Olympism, Olympic Education and Learning Legacies (edited by Dikaia Chatziefstathiou & Norbert Müller), Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014, 218 p.



This book is largely a collection of papers presented at the symposium “Olympism, Olympic Education and Learning Legacies”, organised by the Comité International Pierre de Coubertin (CIPC). It was held during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games at Canterbury Christ Church University in the United Kingdom. The symposium drew together presenters and audience members from twenty-five nations on four continents to discuss current and future challenges of education and the Olympic Movement. While most books on the Olympics focus on economic issues or on aspects related to the management of the Games (such as legacies and impacts), this book remains faithful to Coubertin's original vision about youth, sport and education. Olympism as a philosophical and educational idea is analysed in particular detail. Coubertin's thoughts play a central role in many of the contributions of leading academics in the field, while historical perspectives unveil new insights. Young researchers are given a platform to publish their own accounts in interpreting the Olympics.

The Olympics: Past and Present (edited by Andreas Amendt, Christian Wacker & Stephan Wassong), Prestel. 2013, 320p. (English and Arabic versions available)



This lavishly illustrated book takes readers into the world of ancient Olympia and the modern Olympic Games. Filled with photographs, drawings, and maps, it explores the natural environment of the sanctuary and the important political and cultural role it played. Archaeological discoveries give a fascinating picture of an ancient Olympia whose legacy of peaceful competition and athletic excellence lives on. The first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896 and, since then, the number of nations competing has grown from 14 to more than 200. In addition to numerous illustrations, this book includes fascinating essays that offer a global perspective on the phenomenon that the Olympic Games have become and trace its evolution from a great idea to a grand spectacle. It looks at aspects of the Games from the first Winter Olympic Games in 1924 to the highly politically charged Olympics in Berlin in 1936; from doping scandals to the growth of the Paralympics and is a great asset to the library of anybody interested in the Olympic Movement.

Sport in der griechischen Antike. Vom minoischen Wettkampf bis zu den Olympischen Spielen (Wolfgang Decker), Arete. 2012, 320p. (revised version)



This book deals with sport in Ancient times and is separated in several chapters with the following themes: Roots and beginning of sport, the agon, the disciplines, the organisation, the athletes, the sport facilities, sport and art.

To find out additional Olympic –related publications and resources we encourage you to contact the IOC Olympic Studies Centre. A unique collection on the Olympic Games, the Olympic Movement and Olympic sports and many other topics related to Sports and Olympism can be consulted directly on the spot or may be requested via the international loan service.

Contact mailto:studies_centre@olympic.org for any question or consult www.olympic.org/studies for more information on the OSC resources.

Dates

30.09.2014	Application Deadline for the 4 th Intake
30.10 – 31.10.2014	12 th International Symposium for Olympic Research in London/Canada
09.03 – 14.03.2015	4 th Module week, 3 rd Intake (Cologne)
22.03 – 28.03.2015	1 st Module week, 4 th Intake (Cologne)