



**International Sociology of Sport Association**  
**Association Internationale de Sociologie du Sport**  
A Sub-Committee of ICSSPE  
Research Committee 27 of ISA  
Affiliated with UNESCO

### **ISSA eBulletin (2013-3)**

In this issue we highlight:

- Highlights of ISSA 2013 World Congress of Sociology of Sport
- ISSA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: 2015
- Future ISSA Conferences
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  - ISSA/RC27 (Sociology of Sport) at the 2014 XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology
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- Other Call for Papers (Journals)
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  - *Sociologie du Travail*: Special Issue on Producing Sport Performance

## **ISSA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT 2013**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The 2013 ISSA World Congress of Sociology of Sport was held in Vancouver, Canada, June 12-15. The academic program included 153 abstracts presented by 170 registered delegates from 27 countries including Canada, the UK, the USA, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, New Zealand, Switzerland, China, Netherlands, South Korea, Brazil, Norway, and more.

The sessions on “Sports Policy and Politics”, “Sport: Contesting Sovereignties” (the theme of the 2013 Congress) and “Sports and Gender” attracted the largest number of papers. The subtheme of “Sport Mega-Events” was also popular among delegates.

#### **The recipient of the 2013 Graduate Student Paper Award**

Kristi Tredway of the University of Maryland (United States) received the Graduate Student Paper Award for her paper titled “Serena Williams: Gender, Race and (the Perception of) Violence in Women’s Professional Tennis.”

She appears in this photo with Eunha Koh (ISSA VP Awards) and Elizabeth Pike (ISSA President).



#### **The recipient of the 2013 Honorary Member Award**

Professor Gerald Kenyon obtained academic degrees from the University of British Columbia (B.P.E.), Indiana University (M.S.), and New York University (Ph.D.). He was an Instructor at the University of Saskatchewan (1956-58), and held the positions of Assistant, Associate and Full Professor at the University of Wisconsin (1961-1970) before returning to Canada to serve as Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Human Kinetics and Leisure Studies at the University of Waterloo, with a cross-appointment in the Department of Sociology. Following his tenure at the University of Waterloo (1970-1982) he became the Vice-President, Academic at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada where he also served as Acting President before his retirement in 1987.



Dr. Kenyon was a founding member of the International Committee for the Sociology of Sport (the former name of ISSA), a member of the Executive Committee from 1970-1984, served as General Secretary from 1971-1984, as a member of the Editorial Board of the *International Review of Sociology of Sport*, 1971-75, and as the Director of the ICSS “Sport Socialization Project”, 1969-77. While serving as Dean of the Faculty of Human Kinetics

and Leisure Studies at the University of Waterloo he hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on the Sociology of Sport. He also published the ICSS Bulletin for several years from his office.

Professor Kenyon was an active contributor to the sociology of sport literature at the beginning of the sub-discipline. He was senior author of the first paper in North America calling for a “sociology of sport” (1965); authored a paper in the first volume of the *International Review of the Sociology of Sport* (1966); co-authored the first anthology of the sociology of sport (*Sport, Culture and Society*, 1969); and co-authored one of the first textbooks in the field (*Sport and Social Systems*, 1978). Notably, he established the first doctoral program in Canada for the sociology of sport and appointed a number of outstanding sport sociologists to his faculty including Alan Ingham, John Loy, Barry McPherson and Nancy Theberge.

Professor Kenyon appears in this photo with Professors George Sage (USA), Pinar Yaprak Kemaloglu (Turkey) and John Loy (USA).



### Keynote Speaker

Professor Alan Bairner from the University of Loughborough, UK, gave the keynote presentation titled “Sport, Music and Song: ways of seeing aboriginal identities in modern Taiwan.”

A total of 181 delegates and accompanying guests took part in the academic and social program, including the Closing Dinner Cruise as shown on the following photos.



### **ISSA 50TH ANNIVERSARY: 2015**

As part of our preparations to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2015 the ISSA Executive Board is calling on all past and current members to submit photos, documents and other materials that document the history of the association, congresses and journal.

We will gladly accept any items. We will be happy to copy and return these to you, or to add relevant items to the ISSA Archive as part of our ongoing efforts to record the history of the ISSA and IRSS.

For further information about the Archive and/or to donate items, please contact the ISSA President at:

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### **FUTURE ISSA CONFERENCES**

There will be two ISSA conference-related opportunities in 2014. The first will be **ISSA's regular annual conference held July 9-13, in Beijing, China**. The conference is hosted by China's prestigious institution, Peking University. The second ISSA-related conference will be in association with **the International Sociological Association in Yokohama, Japan on July 13-19**.

The ISSA Congress in Beijing has been scheduled in order to encourage and facilitate the opportunity for members to attend both ISSA 2014 (Beijing) and ISA 2014 (July 13-19, Yokohama).

2014 offers a unique opportunity to attend 2 world class conferences and experience two fascinating cultures within a short time frame and relatively close geographic proximity. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Steve Jackson: [steve.jackson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:steve.jackson@otago.ac.nz).

### **ISSA 2014 WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT**

#### **World Congress of Sociology of Sport 2014**

**Beijing, China**

**July 9-13**

**"Sociology of Sport and the Challenges of Social Change"**

Sport, an educational fixture and an entertainment enterprise, is a part of society. As a complex social phenomenon, it exists in every corner of the society and influences people's life. Sport has the potential to be an effective channel for physical and socio-economic development. Moreover, as a universal language, sport can be a powerful medium for social change given that it: contributes to social cohesion, tolerance and integration, can be utilized to bridge cultural gaps, facilitate economic development, resolve conflict, enhance a healthy life style, promote social





equity and justice, and educate people in ways that very few activities can. However, today's world is changing rapidly and examples of social resistance are emerging in many places. *The International Sociology of Sport Association* invites papers that address the wide range of ways in which sport serves as both a site and barrier to social change. How is sport related to social change with respect to identity politics: gender, race and sexuality? How has globalization had both a positive and negative impact on social change? Can sport play a role in Development and Peace, Sport for All and Human Rights movements? How can sport best be structured and promoted in order to promote positive social change?



### Session Subthemes

- Sport and National Identity
- Sport, Politics and Policy
- Sport, Business and Management
- Sport Mega-events
- Sport Governance
- Sport and Racial/ Ethnic Identity
- Sport and Ethics
- Globalization and Sport
- Sport, Health and the Life Course
- Sport, lifestyle and New Technologies
- The Future of the Sociology of Sport: Opportunities and Challenges
- Sport Media
- Sport and Gender
- Sport and Disability
- Sport and Social Class
- Sport and Human Rights
- Sport Spectatorship and Fandom
- Physical Education and School/University Sport
- Sport and Sexualities
- Other Related Issues with regards to the Sociology of Sport



## ISSA 2014 will be held at Peking University

Founded in 1898, and originally known as the Imperial University of Peking, it was the first national university covering comprehensive disciplines. It played a pioneering role in the course of China's modernization. Peking University is located in the Haidian district of Beijing, the capital city of China (see the city map), The district is concentrated with many well-known colleges and universities, in the western suburb of the city. The university campus is the former site of the Qing Dynasty royal gardens and it retains traditional Chinese-style landscaping including traditional houses, gardens, pagodas as well as many notable historical buildings and structures. The campus site is also situated near the Summer Palace, the Yuan Ming Yuan Imperial Garden and the Fragrant Hill, famous tourist sites of Beijing. In addition, Peking University is also adjacent to Zhongguancun, China's Silicon Valley, and thus enjoys convenience of life - economically, technologically and socially.

### CONGRESS REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDES:

Welcome reception (July 13) Coffee/Tea Breaks (July 10, 11, 12)  
Closing Dinner (July 12) Lunches (July 10, 11, 12)  
Sightseeing (July 13)

### Early Registration Rates (On or Before 31 March, 2014)

#### ISSA Members

Cat A: 428 US\$  
Cat B: 298 US\$ (including Cat A Students)  
Cat C: 128 US\$ (including Cat B Students + Unwaged)  
Cat C Students: 88 US\$

#### Non-Members

Cat A: 628 US\$  
Cat B: 480 US\$ (including Cat A Students)  
Cat C: 330 US\$ (including Cat B Students + Unwaged)  
Cat C Students: 128 US\$

### Late Registration Rates (After March 31, 2014)

#### ISSA Members

Cat A: 680 US\$  
Cat B: 528US\$ (including Cat A Students)  
Cat C: 380 US\$ (including Cat B Students + Unwaged)  
Cat C Students: 188 US\$

#### Non-Members

Cat A: 850 US\$  
Cat B: 680 US\$ (including Cat A Students)  
Cat C: 528 US\$ (including Cat B Students + Unwaged)  
Cat C Students: 380 US\$

Accompanying Guests (for a person accompanying a delegate but has no professional interest in the academic program); the fee includes Welcome Reception, Closing Dinner/sightseeing and access to the Exhibition/Poster Displays: 125 US\$

### Key Dates

- Abstract Submission Deadline: 10 December 2013
- Abstracts selection: 11 December 2013 – 15 January 2014
- Confirmation of Abstract Acceptance/Rejection : 20 January 2014.
- End of Early Bird Registration: 31 March 2014
- Abstract Presenter Registration Deadline: 25 March 2014

**The 2014 ISSA World Congress website will be fully operational soon.**

**For more details, please visit <http://www.issa2014.org> after August 1<sup>st</sup>.**



**FACING AN UNEQUAL WORLD: CHALLENGES FOR GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY**  
**RC 27 Sociology of Sport: Sessions**  
**Yokohama, Japan**  
**13-19 July 2014**

ISSA will organize 18 sessions at the International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama, Japan, July 13-19, 2014. ISSA is represented in the International Sociological Association through "Research Committee 27 Sociology of Sport" (RC27).

Please direct any questions to RC27 Program Coordinators: Kimberly Schimmel ([kschimme@kent.edu](mailto:kschimme@kent.edu)) or Steve Jackson ([steve.jackson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:steve.jackson@otago.ac.nz))

**ISSA + ISA & RC27 membership:** Presenters and attendees to RC27 sessions **must** be members of ISSA (International Sociology of Sport Association) + ISA and of RC27. The benefits of joining these professional associations are listed below.

To join ISSA: (see the ISSA membership section below)

To join ISA/RC27: (4-year membership) go to: [http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb\\_i/index.htm/](http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm/) or you can use the Online Membership System at: <https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>\*

\*Please make sure to also select "RC27" (Sociology of Sport) in the "Research Committee" section of the membership application.

Benefits of Membership

1. ISSA: Subscription to 6 issues of the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* (SAGE), discounted conference registration fees and access to ISSA services including our Mentor program.
2. ISA/RC27: Membership is for 4 years and offers subscription to 4 issues per year of your choice of 2 SAGE journals: *Current Sociology* or *International Sociology*.

**Abstract Submissions, June 3, 2013 -September 30, 2013:** Submit your abstracts directly to ISA's World Congress of Sociology website, here: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>

**RC27/ISSA Sessions:**

**Session 1:** Sociology of Sport in an *Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology of Sport- Special session on the Congress theme*

**Session 2:** Inclusion/exclusion in sport

**Session 3:** Sport, bodies and identity politics

**Session 4:** Sport, health and risk

**Session 5:** Sport, politics and policy I

**Session 6:** Media and sport 1  
**Session 7:** Media and sport II  
**Session 8:** Sport and national identity I  
**Session 9:** Sport and national identity II  
**Session 10:** Globalization and sport  
**Session 11:** Sport, spectacle and mega events  
**Session 12:** Sport, politics and policy II  
**Session 13:** Sport and development  
**Session 14:** Children, Youth and Sport  
**Session 15:** Sport in Asia  
**Session 16:** Contemporary Issues in the Sociology of Sport I  
**Session 17:** Contemporary Issues in the Sociology of Sport II  
**Session 18:** RC 27/ISSA Business Meeting (ISSA Executive Board)

### **BECOME AN ISSA MEMBER**

The International Sociology of Sport Association/ Association Internationale de Sociologie du Sport invites membership applications for 2013. ISSA comprises an active body of scholars who study sport from the perspectives of sociology, social psychology, anthropology, history and political economy.

#### **The objectives of ISSA include:**

- fostering research in the social scientific study of sport
- encouraging international communication among scholars
- promoting collaborative cross-national research projects
- developing scholarly exchange via:
- promoting communication with other national and international sport-related organizations
- sponsoring annual symposia
- publication of the International Review for the Sociology of Sport

#### **All members receive:**

IRSS (6 issues per year) Print and Online • Information and discounts on ISSA conferences and publications • Access to members' only area of websites • the ISSA eBulletin

ISSA membership is for the full calendar year, January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, regardless of the month you join.

Membership details are available on the SAGE – International Review of Sociology of Sport website. We highly encourage you to use the online payment subscription process on the SAGE IRSS web page. It is efficient, secure and ensures that membership applications are processed in a timely fashion and provides you with an automated reply that confirms your membership.

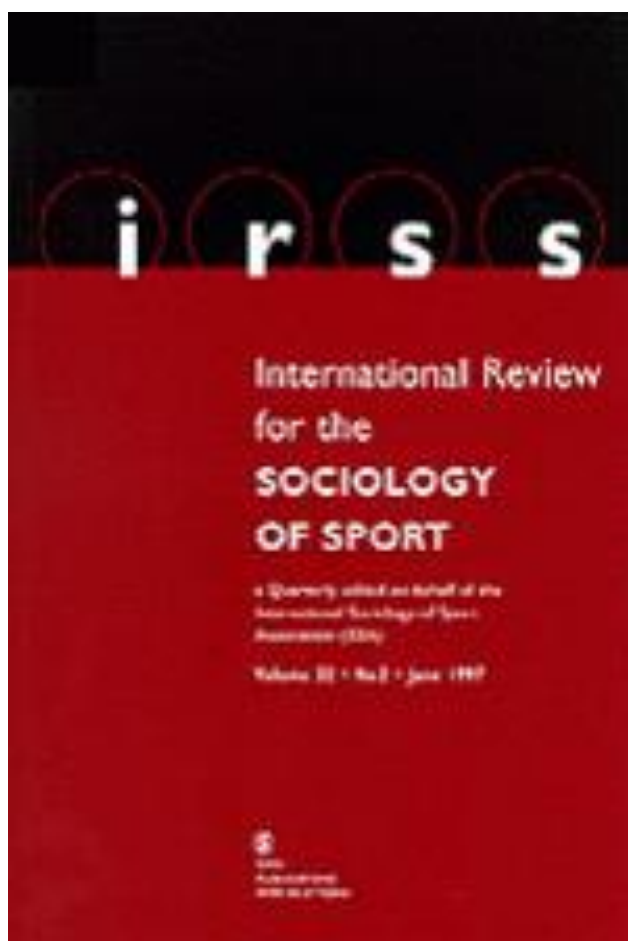
**Members from Europe:** <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/journals/Journal200937>

**Other members:** please start from the above [web page](#) and then click on the top left hand corner link: **Change location**. Indicate your region on the world map. This will ensure that you access the SAGE web page that will allow you to pay your subscription/membership fees.

Please use the online payment subscription process on the SAGE IRSS web page. It is secure and ensures that membership applications are processed in a timely fashion. It also provides you with an automated reply that confirms your membership.



## INTERNATIONAL REVIEW FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT



**Special Issue**  
**SPORT AND ALCOHOL**  
**Extended Deadline: August 1, 2013**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Guest Editor**  
**Catherine Palmer**  
**University of Tasmania**

### **FOCUS AND TOPICS**

There is little doubt that alcohol features in many aspects of contemporary sport. Promotional practices, alcohol use and misuse by players and spectators, and sports-based interventions in alcohol prevention and recovery programs (among other things), make sports-associated drinking a rich source of interest for sociologists, anthropologists, policy-makers and health professionals alike. While a considerable body of research has explored the relationships between sport, alcohol and masculinity (and there is certainly more to be done), new relationships to sport and alcohol are emerging that can further advance understandings of the social meanings

embedded in sport-related drinking, the range of social problems it contributes to and their implications for scholarship, policy and practice. It is timely then to re-examine sport-related drinking in ways that widen the empirical and theoretical base so as to better understand the diversity and complexity of drinking and drinkers in sport.

The research questions, topics and problematics raised and addressed in this Special Issue should aim to extend and enhance knowledge and understandings in the sociology of sport and related disciplines. Towards that goal, this special issue solicits papers that can contribute to new research agendas in the sport-alcohol nexus. Papers are invited on, but not limited to, the following themes:

- drinking and masculinity
- women, sport and drinking (as sportswomen, fans, audiences, or through other identities/relationships)
- non-drinkers in sport drinking cultures
- media representations and promotional culture
- methodological issues and innovations in exploring sport-related drinking
- theoretical contributions to exploring and re-defining sport-related drinking
- implications for policy and practice
- prevention and /or rehabilitation

Papers that address these or other themes in varied cultural and /or geographical contexts are particularly encouraged.

## MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS

Manuscripts for the Sport and Alcohol special issue should be submitted online by **August 1, 2013** at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/irss>. In the submission process, authors should both note submission for the Sport and Alcohol special issue in a cover letter and choose "Sport & Alcohol Special Issue" as the "Manuscript Type." Manuscripts should be 6000-7000 words (inclusive of references, endnotes, tables, and figures) and follow the Manuscript Submission Guidelines at <http://irs.sagepub.com/>. All manuscripts will be subject to peer review under the supervision of the Special Issue Editor and Editor-in-Chief. Expressions of interest, abstracts for consideration, and questions may be directed to the Special Issue Editor Catherine Palmer at [catherine\\_palmer@hotmail.com](mailto:catherine_palmer@hotmail.com).

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### Message from John Sugden

Hi friends,

Sorry I missed many of you at the Vancouver Conference, but, as you may have heard I was kidnapped by aliens and whisked away to the mysterious planet stroke! Happy to report that I've since escaped and am back on earth to continue to drink it dry, ravage its population and generally lay waste.

Seriously though, my recovery has been greatly accelerated by the many kind messages of support that I have received from the ISSA family worldwide and for this I am extremely grateful.

I will be back to annoy you all and lead you astray very soon, hopefully for many conferences to come. As you may have learned from a cinema near you recently, it takes a lot to destroy the "man of steel", fondest regards, John

John Sugden  
Professor Sociology of Sport  
Head of Research and Graduate Centre  
School of Sport and Service Management  
Director Football4Peace  
University of Brighton

*ISSA is happy to share information about conferences, seminars, awards, jobs etc. We will gladly include your news in our eBulletin and the ISSA website. ISSA is always looking for ways to improve communication and serve our members. We encourage you to submit comments and suggestions.*

*Please send any feedback and information to the ISSA General Secretary, Christine Dallaire at: [christine.dallaire@uottawa.ca](mailto:christine.dallaire@uottawa.ca)*

*N'hésitez pas à communiquer avec moi en français!*

*In addition: Please remember that ISSA also has its own **Facebook** page, and you are welcome to share information via this group.*



### OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE)**

Issue No. 64 of the ICSSPE Bulletin is now available and can be obtained through our members' area. The issue deals with Sports Law and has been compiled thanks to the great work by the editors, Kari Keskinen and Lauri Tarasti.

The ICSSPE Seminar "Communities and Crisis – Inclusive Development through Sport" will take place from 18 until 23 October 2013 in Rheinsberg, Germany. Interested participants may register as from now. Therefore we would kindly ask you to disseminate the following link and information amongst your members, partners, colleagues and students:

<http://icsspe.org/content/communities-and-crisis-%E2%80%93-inclusive-development-through-sport-1>



Routledge are pleased to offer you **14 DAYS FREE ACCESS** to the sport and leisure collection including **International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics**. All you need to do is visit:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/r/sportstudies> and sign in to your Taylor & Francis Online Account. Don't have an account? [Register here](#) to enjoy your access to over 25 cutting-edge journals.

Online access for 14 days from activation, to all content published from 2011 to 2012. Voucher can be activated once and valid until 31/12/2013.

### OTHER FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES



**Abstracts submission and further information:**

<http://www.playthegame.org/conferences/play-the-game-2013/aarhus.html>

## TWO-DAY CONFERENCE

### ***Sport, Leisure and Social Justice***

19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2013



# University of Brighton

This conference aims to explore and expand questions regarding the role of both sport and academics in addressing issues surrounding social justice and equity. Specifically: How have the traditions of academics & public intellectualism shifted? What is, and should be, the relationship between academics and social activism? How can universities continue to engage with concerns about equality, human rights and social justice?

Within an increasingly neoliberal, market-driven higher educational context Henry Giroux identifies that the university in contemporary times has come to resemble 'a marketing machine essential to the production of identities in which the only obligation of citizenship is to be a consumer' (2012, p.246). He asks:

What role *should* the university play at a time when politics is being emptied out of any connection to a civic literacy, informed judgement, and critical dialogue, further deepening a culture of illiteracy, cruelty, hypermasculinity, and disposability? (ibid, *emphasis added*.)

Critical commentators, including Giroux, are thus promoting the potential role of education-based interventions in challenging this process. Indeed, they are emphasising not only the abilities, but also the *responsibilities* of academics in establishing a "politics of advocacy and possibility", and engaging in "acts of activism" (cf. Denzin and Giardina, 2012). The potential contributions made by academics and students are seen as central because the university represents 'a vital democratic public sphere that cultivates the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for the production of a democratic polity' (Giroux, 2012, p. 246). More broadly, Les Back and Nirmal Puwar (2012, p. 14) argue that:

What we choose to be concerned with, or focus on and listen to, involves making judgements not only about what is valuable but also what is important. Sociology has a public responsibility to pay attention to vulnerable and precarious lives.

Specifically related to sport studies, sport practices and sport cultures, we engage with four themes:

- Socio-cultural scholars of sport and leisure as public intellectuals
- Sport development and peace (SDP)
- Sporting communities and campaigns for change
- Social Justice through media, new media, film and documentaries

The conference will be hosted by the Sport and Leisure Cultures research cluster at the University of Brighton. Priority areas of interest and expertise include: sport, politics and international relations; communities, exclusions and the cultural politics of resistance in sport; traditional and new media cultures and the sporting landscape; and 'alternative' lifestyle and non-mainstream sporting cultures. We also welcome input from other relevant areas.

We envisage a lively event prioritising debate and discussion. Potential contributors are encouraged to submit abstracts of 150 words for one of the following forms of presentation:

- 20-minute conference paper
- Poster presentation
- 15-minute round table paper proposal (either individual papers or as a group of up to 4 papers)



The conference is supported by: British Sociological Association Leisure and Recreation Group, Political Studies Association Sport and Politics Group and Taylor and Francis Publishers.

Please send abstracts to [d.c.burdsey@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:d.c.burdsey@brighton.ac.uk) and [j.c.caudwell@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.caudwell@brighton.ac.uk)

For details of the event go to: [www.brighton.ac.uk/sasm/justice](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/sasm/justice)

### **OTHER CALL FOR PAPERS (JOURNALS)**

#### **SOUTH AFRICAN REVIEW OF SOCIOLOGY SPECIAL EDITION 2015 SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT**

Sport in South Africa is important and is taken seriously. Large sections of the population participate in, watch and consume a range of different sports. South Africa regularly produces world class athletes and teams who dominate in a number of sports on the global stage. The country has successfully hosted various sports mega-events such as the recent 2010 FIFA World Cup. Sport in South Africa is a billion rand industry with significant private and public investment. Sport in South Africa is arguably one of the few 'unifiers' in a country with a long history of segregation, discrimination and social divisions. Despite the 'unifying' role sport plays in the country, it remains beset with divisions along the lines of 'race', class and gender amongst others.

We invite papers that address sport within South Africa. Colleagues may want to consider the following themes when submitting their abstracts and papers:

1. Controversies, debates and discourses in the sociology of sport
2. Sport and gender
3. 'Race', identity and sport
4. Consumption, leisure and sport
5. Sport for development
6. The state, political economy and sport
7. Sport, education and coaching
8. Sporting cultures and fandom
9. Sport and social history
10. Sport, philosophy and ethics

Guest editors:

- Dr Chris Bolsmann (School of Languages and Social Sciences, Aston University, Birmingham, United Kingdom)
- Prof. Cora Burnett (Department of Sport and Movement Studies, University of Johannesburg, South Africa)

**Deadlines:**                      Abstracts:    31 October 2013  
   Papers:        31 May 2014

#### **Submission Guidelines:**

1. Authors are invited to submit a 400-500 word abstract for consideration for the special issue. Selected authors will then be asked to produce a full paper based on their abstract for potential publication subject to a review process.

2. Submissions should be sent to: [sociologyofsport@gmail.com](mailto:sociologyofsport@gmail.com)<<mailto:sociologyofsport@gmail.com>>
  3. Articles should be 5000-8000 words in length.
  4. All submissions will be anonymously/blind reviewed by two independent assessors.
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# SOCIOLOGIE DU TRAVAIL

REVUE TRIMESTRIELLE

Paris,  
July 2013

## Call for contributions

Upcoming themed issue of *Sociologie de travail*

### Producing sporting performance

Coordinators: Olivier Aubel, Didier Demazière, Olivier le Noé, Fabien Ohl, Catherine Paradeise

**Contribution proposals should take the form of a text of 8000 to 10,000 characters (excluding bibliography). They must be e-mailed to the assistant editor of the journal ([socio.dutravail@sciences-po.fr](mailto:socio.dutravail@sciences-po.fr)) before 30 October 2013.**

There has been fairly extensive sociological research done since the late 1990s on activity in the sports sector. In France, much of this work has focused on subjects such as the professionalization of sports organisations, athletes' careers, the emerging outlines of a job market in sport, or careers for university graduates in sports sciences. This research has coincided with the emergence of a structured professional "sports" sector and has largely concentrated on professions in sport, in particular the identification of specifically sports-related skills. At international level, researchers, particularly in the English-speaking world, have focused more on sexual and racial discrimination in access to the sports employment markets, and on the globalisation of these markets and its effects, exploring issues such as migration amongst sports workers.

In this relatively rich field of research, the *work involved in producing performance – in the sense of competition-oriented practice – has been less widely investigated*, despite the fact that classifications and hierarchies lie at the heart of the worlds of sport. Such research as has been done on this topic of the production of performance has taken a largely critical perspective, looking at the different ways in which that production is subordinated to the activity of athletes.

This call for contributions arises out of this recognition of the situation of sociological research on sports work. *The objective of the forthcoming special issue of Sociologie du travail is to cover research that focuses on the production of performance*, in order to provide a diversity of sociological viewpoints on these labour-intensive activities and to go beyond a simple critique of the marketing of sports activity. In this approach, the research questions proposed to contributors are identified as open and not mutually exclusive avenues for exploration. Here, they are formulated around four major axes.

### **1. Organisation of the work and production of performance**

Performance in sport is often individually embodied in the figure of the champion. However, producing performance demands organised work to which many actors and institutions contribute. Who does what, with whom and how to prepare athletes for competition, recruit them, train them, treat them, fund them or create their media profile? Is it possible to identify the division of roles, the alliances, the conflicts and the hierarchies that emerge with varying degrees of clarity between the different bodies, professional or otherwise, involved in producing performance (trainers, agents, doctors, managers, as well as family, friends, etc.)? How are the contributions of these different actors coordinated, whether in the detection and training of a potential elite athlete, or in the selection and differentiation of talents within the group? Another possible question concerns the mechanisms that make the collective nature of this process invisible, which focus the spotlight exclusively on the superstar and the exception. Other potential questions relate to the skills and qualifications that provide access to these professional groups, such as high-level experience of sport, scientific and technical expertise, etc.

### **2. Experience of the work and production of performance**

Performance in sport is the outcome of long preparation, a mix of training and socialisation, commitment to learning processes and interpretation of specific experiences. Issues that could be explored here include the practice of physical preparation activities themselves, e.g. physiological care, but also the competitive arena itself, in particular the media profile of performances. How do athletes reconcile the two spheres of meaning in which their practices require them to operate: the world of high-level sport, which can often be precarious, and the “secular” world where their public entertainment is produced, funded, utilised and consumed, but where some also experience celebrity? The experience of the work in the production of performance can also be investigated through the processes of socialisation that accompany improvements in performance: what are their effects on the practices and representations of sports workers, how are these workers supported, managed or assisted in these processes? Another possible area of study could thus be the link between, on the one hand, the pleasure mechanisms associated with a form of work in which the body is the instrument, and on the other hand, the more painful experiences arising from intensive labour that places stress on bodies and minds.

### **3. Vagaries of the work and production of performance**

Sports performance develops through processes that differ from one discipline to another, but all are marked by uncertainties and changes of fortune. Although objective, data-based research remains to be done on the subject, precariousness seems to be a feature of the careers of many athletes engaged in the production of performance. Are there ways to identify more effectively the uncertainties they face, the career interruptions, the flexibility of their working conditions and the fragility of their economic and legal status? In addition, is it possible to describe the practices and systems used to combat the vulnerabilities and vagaries inherent in preparing for competition? The degree to which public and private sports actors are aware of these multiple factors varies greatly. Some sports disciplines include career (and post-career) support policies, but in what do these consist and what impact do they have? What is the role of international, national or local sports organisations in regulating the process of training for sports performance?

### **4. The markets for sport and production of performance**

Sports performance is valued in disparate ways, reflecting the conditions of heterogeneous labour markets. We therefore need a better understanding of these markets, which link the distinctive properties of athletes as workers with the symbolic and monetary rewards that express their value. What are the comparative tests through which differences in performance are perceived, consolidated or argued, and by what mechanisms are they recognised, rewarded or valued? How is the commensurability of exceptional sports performance established? Do the ways in which performance is valued amplify the differences and increase the inequalities through cumulative and self-reinforcing

mechanisms? How does this “sports value exchange” differ from one discipline, country and level of competition to another? Is it possible to describe the mechanisms used to regulate this equivalencing process, the network of actors who preside over it? What conflicts are there about the definition of value, and what impact do they have, particularly with respect to the institutionalisation of the criteria used to assess the sporting qualities and properties that justify the rewards? How do changes in the practice and spectacle of sport affect the economics of the assessment of specific performances?

These four axes open up multiple pathways for research, which should lead to a better understanding of the conditions, mechanisms, demands and consequences of the production of sports performance. The papers proposed should make a significant contribution to this central question, which is not confined to the issue of professionalism, developed to a different degree in different sports. Contributors are therefore asked not to confine their investigation only to so-called professional athletes. In fact, the term “sham professionalism” shows that paid athletes are not the only ones prepared to do the work needed to achieve high-level performance. In addition, research should not be restricted to sports practitioners alone; although they are often the ones in the spotlight, performance needs to be approached as a collective production. So it is important to explore the ecology of that performance and the contributions of the multiple actors (professionals, institutions, media, sponsors, spectators, family and friends, etc.), in other words to understand the athlete as a component in this productive and reproductive system. Finally, the objective of this number of the journal, with its focus on sports performance, is to take account of the variety of the ways in which the organisation, the experiences, the vagaries and the markets of the performance process are configured, by bringing together contributions on a wide range of sporting disciplines.

Potential contributors should describe their research subject and its relation to the literature, the empirical study, the materials used and the nature of the findings.

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The procedure is a three-stage process:

1. Contribution proposals should take the form of a text of 8000 to 10,000 characters (excluding bibliography). They must be e-mailed to the assistant editor of the journal **before 30 October 2013**.
2. The shortlist will be established by the coordinators, and distributed no later than **15 December 2013**.
3. Authors whose proposals have been shortlisted should send their article (max 75,000 characters) to the sub-editor no later than **15 March 2014**. The articles will be anonymously reviewed under the usual conditions by the journal’s editorial committee.

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