

NASSS Call for Abstracts – Session Descriptions

Roundtable Sessions:

- *“Choose Your Reading Set:” Students Taking Responsibility for Learning* (Roundtable)

Organizer: Maura Rosenthal

Ascribing to Weimer’s (2002) philosophy of sharing power with students to increase their responsibility for learning, I put students in all of my undergraduate classes in charge of their own learning wherever possible. For our first critical response paper, students choose to write from one of three distinct reading sets on analysis of sports media. In this roundtable, we will discuss ways faculty can help students take responsibility for their own learning in our courses. Large classes, small seminars and on-line courses all can benefit from techniques like increasing student choice and using student-generated summaries of class sessions. Please bring a lesson or a syllabus that you’d like to discuss and share with the group.

- *Insights on “Doing” the Strengths and Hope Perspective* (Roundtable)

Organizer: Victoria Paraschak

The Strengths and Hope perspective is co-transformative in nature; it intentionally directs both researchers and participants to be open to transformation through their shared interactions and the identification and adoption of a shared vision for a preferred future, which then frames future actions. Members of this roundtable will speak to their experiences while applying a strengths and hope perspective to their academic work (e.g., in research, in teaching), pointing out ways they have seen participants being transformed, and been transformed themselves as they adopt this approach. These stories, we believe, and the discussion which follows will help to demonstrate the inherently activist nature of this work.

- *“Practicing” Sport: Doing Critical Sociology in Sport & Physical Activity* (Roundtable)

Organizer: Matthew Hodler

Sociologists of sport have long critiqued the power relations that shape and influence sporting practices. Many of us play and work within these power relations as participants in Sport and Physical Activity as coaches, officials, parents, partners, trainers, and/or athletes. As such, we have the opportunity to practice our critical approach with friends, family, peers, and/or fellow community members. How do we practice our critical approaches with the sporting communities in our different publics? What challenges do we face in practicing and living our critical perspectives/doing our theory? How do we address these challenges? What sort of lessons can we learn from our experiences? This interactive and collaborative roundtable will provide space for critical scholars who engage in community building/social justice oriented practices to discuss their experiences and strategies, their failures and their successes, in an effort to continue engaging critically with multiple publics in Sport and Physical Activity.

- *Pride and Prejudice: Black Women and Sports Media* (Roundtable)

Organizer: Algerian Hart

From the 2016 Women’s Media Center’s annual report on the status of women in TV, news, movies, and even social media. Some things are unsurprising, like the fact that women are vastly underrepresented in sports journalism. To this point the Roundtable discussion will engage an extensive contextual framework concerning the positionality of Black women in Sports Media and how they deal with issues across a landscape that is dominated by exclusion. Moreover, the panel will explore issues that discourage the development of Black women from transcending gender bias within Sports Media. Utilizing the language and imagery of Black women in Sports Media, the panel will explore avenues that embrace the value of Black women in the arena of Sports Media today.

- *Publicly Engaged Sports Pedagogy (Roundtable)*

Organizer: Jennifer McClearen

Publicly engaged pedagogy affords the opportunity to train a new generation of scholars, leaders, and activists in the value of generating knowledge for and by the public as well as the necessity of developing mutually beneficial community partnerships. Moreover, the involvement of undergraduate scholars in work written for a public audience further troubles the boundaries of what counts as scholarship. This roundtable brings together scholar-teachers to share best practices in publicly engaged sports pedagogy. Some of the questions the roundtable may address include: What publicly engaged projects have proven successful at undergraduate and/or graduate levels? How do we negotiate partnerships that are mutually beneficial for students and community organizations? How do new media technologies facilitate opportunities for engagement? How do sports provide unique opportunities for publicly engaged pedagogy?

- *Sites of Change: Increasing the Presence of NASSS Online (Roundtable)*

Jennifer McGovern

One of the ways that sport scholars can increase their public engagement is through the use of new media: including websites, blogs, and various social media platforms. The purpose of this round table session is twofold: to highlight best practices of members who are currently engaging publicly through new media and to discuss how NASSS can improve their organizational presence in this realm. We are seeking panelists who can showcase their strategies for disseminating sport sociology through new media. We welcome your expertise, whether you are blogging, tweeting, creating YouTube channels, or using some other new platform that was invented after the call for sessions was due.

- *Socio-Cultural Trends that Influence Youth Motivation & Enjoyment in Sport (Roundtable)*

Organizer: Emeka Anaza

In many American communities, fewer youth are partaking in community and recreational sport programs or activities because of children being over-served, burnt out or injured, having average or below average ability, or coming from families with low-income or low SES background. This roundtable session aims to facilitate discussion amongst scholars and practitioners to identify socio-cultural trends that enhance sport experience and prolong the number of years youth participate in sports. The goal is to solicit groundbreaking strategies that can promote an inclusive environment for youth despite ability or background. It is crucial to discuss proactive solutions that lessen competition, but yet promote enjoyment among all children involved with recreational and community sport.

- *A Teaching and Learning Repository for the Sociology of Sport (Roundtable)*

Organizer: Jay Coakley

The goal of this session is to identify a business model for a sustainable teaching and learning repository consisting of refereed and edited text and multimedia materials designed for classroom use. A year of research on prospective platforms and publication procedures has led to questions that must be answered by potential users of the repository if we wish to provide students and instructors with high quality digital course materials that are free or easily affordable. The sociology of sport would be the first academic discipline to create such a repository.

- *Teaching the Sociology of Sport: Reaching Out to Our Publics* (Roundtable)

Organizer: Michael Malec

As Don Sabo noted in his NASSS presidential address, "Sport sociologists from the political left to the political right are embroiled by the politics of knowledge construction, and our myriad identities as theorists and researchers bring us closer to, or push us further from, the concerns and needs of community" (1995, p. 248). Thus, what is our role beyond the study of sport? Who should be responsible for public engagement? How do we do it? Answers to the first two questions might be: Our role is to teach our students about these concerns and needs; and NASSS members are responsible. It is the goal of this session to provide answers to that third question. We invite papers that attempt to answer this question.

Panel Sessions:

- *Consulting or Activism: Publicly Engaged Sociology of Sport* (Panel)

Gary Sailes

This panel session seeks to examine the CONSULTING activities of and opportunities for NASSS members and discuss the intersections between scholarship, activism, consulting, and entrepreneurship.

- *The Great NASSS Ideas Experiment* (Panel)

Organizer: Brian Gearity

How do we understand NASSS; its effects, problems, and benefits? What do these discourses tell us? NASSS is intelligent, inclusive, and caring. But perhaps also clunky, understaffed and under resourced, and unable to engage in a public sociology, hence the much needed conference theme. Yet in recent years the steady pulse of NASSS thumped into arrhythmia--the 2+1 initiative, a young scholar award, several special issues of SSJ, round table sessions, and an early career researcher award. Can we build upon these new practices to transform NASSS into a high functioning, progressive organization? NASSS knows critique, but it needs to know sustained progress. The purpose of this panel is simple--great ideas applied to NASSS--provocative, innovative, controversial, (un)attainable, memorable. Panelists will have an opportunity to present their ideas, followed by facilitated discussion and audience engagement. The outcome--an unforgettable experience exemplifying the spirit of scholarship.

- *Public Sociology of Sport: Moralistic or Radical Approaches* (Panel)

Organizer: Peter Donnelly

In 2002, Ian McDonald asked, "Is it possible to reconcile a commitment to progressive political change with sound sociological scholarship?" Five years later, Brett St.Louis similarly asked, "Is it possible... to build a form of (sport) sociological understanding that combines conceptual precision and analytical rigour with an oppositional value agenda and political commitment?" These questions have still not been resolved and it is continually tempting, when advocating a progressive agenda for sport, to stretch interpretation beyond the data (e.g., to make causal claims from correlational data). Whether we are dealing with, for example, equity issues, the positive or negative consequences of participation, or the risk of injuries, it is important to recognize whether the approach is moralistic or radical. This panel will argue that the moralistic approach will inevitably undermine the value of a public sociology of sport.

- *Teaching Sociocultural Issues and Sociology to Sport Coaches* (Panel)

Brian Gearity

"Every educational system is a political means of maintaining or of modifying the appropriation of discourse, with the knowledge and the powers it carries with it" (Michel Foucault). What, and how, are sport coaches taught? Why? Why should anybody bother with sociocultural issues when they can learn valid, applied knowledge from the physiology, biomechanics, psychology, and management of performance? While over the past 15+ years the discourse on the sociology of sport coaching has mapped and critiqued the dominant bio-scientific and neoliberal views of coach and athlete performance, teaching and learning are taken for granted. An engaged sociology of sport must be taught effectively to sport coaches. Thus, the purpose of this panel is to discuss teaching sociocultural issues and sociology to sport coaches. We invite submissions from teachers of sport coaches who can share why, what, and how they teach a critical and practical sociocultural approach.

Paper Sessions:

- *Black Activism in Sports* (Paper Presentations)

Organizers: Joseph N. Cooper, Akilah Carter-Francique, & Billy Hawkins

Historically, Black participation in sports in the United States (U.S.) has served as a symbolic form of representation, empowerment, and resistance in the face of vast racial inequalities and inequities. In addition, many Black athletes have leveraged their influence to engage in more overt social justice activism. Among the most famous acts of social justice activism in sports history occurred in 1968 at the Olympics when Tommie Smith and John Carlos symbolically raised their fists with Black gloves and removed their shoes during the medal ceremony to draw attention to various injustices being imposed upon marginalized groups in the U.S. In more recent years, protests of the University of Missouri football team with fellow Black student groups reflected another instance where Black athletes' utilized their power to ignite social change. The purpose of this session is to highlight previous, current, and potential future efforts of Black activism in sports.

- *Collaborative Qualitative Inquiry and Community Engagement* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Ronald L. Mower

In considering the conference theme of public engagement, this session explores the multifarious uses of active, participatory, and collaborative methodologies for community-based, and social justice oriented, forms of qualitative inquiry. For example, the use of self-directed photography to elicit dialogic encounters, empower participants, and give "voice" to the experiences of those marginalized and/or oppressed by existing structures of power and domination has gained traction within a variety of disciplines employing qualitative methods. Such methods provide space for individuals to tell their stories, share their perspectives, and contribute to the production of knowledge. However, how are the findings of such collaborative efforts disseminated? What purpose are they serving beyond the academic? What do our community partners gain from their involvement in our research efforts? How can we better leverage participatory qualitative methods to impact public policy, empower individuals and communities, and/or enact progressive social change? This session is open to papers addressing any aspect of public engagement through the use of collaborative qualitative methods.

- *Community Citizenship & Sport Organizations* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Nick Schlereth

Sport organizations possess a unique role in their communities, often relying on community stakeholders for purchasing tickets to games but also depending on them for funding stadiums and other initiatives for the sport organization. The academic literature has examined the role of sport as a community sport organization, serving as a body to deliver sport to a community but has not fully unpacked their citizenship role in their local community (Doherty & Misener, 2008; Misener & Doherty, 2012). Smith and Westerbeek (2007) discussed the role of sport in deploying corporate social responsibility in communities, but research has not developed an ideal strategy for displaying citizenship behaviors from a sport organization towards their local communities. Presentations in this session will examine citizenship actions of sport organization directed towards their local communities. Research should focus on the development of strategies for the development of relationships with community stakeholders that can derive increased value from the sport organization to the community.

- *Embodied Politics in Postfeminist Times* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Jessica Francombe-Webb, Kim Toffoletti and Holly Thorpe

Whereas once the discussion about women's relationship to sport and physical cultures was largely framed in terms of exclusion, marginalisation, sexualisation and objectification under patriarchy, researchers today are faced with new conceptual challenges. It has become increasingly difficult to speak about women who partake in physical activity as objects of a patriarchal economy in a postfeminist and neoliberal context that characterises women as active and knowing agents in the making of their own identities. In keeping with the approach of feminist critics of postfeminism such as Angela McRobbie and Rosalind Gill, we invite papers that approach postfeminism through a critical lens. We encourage presenters to incorporate the conference theme of public engagement by thinking through new critical vocabularies to understand the effects and affects of gendered forms of power operating in sport and physical culture, as well as the new framing of old modalities of sexism and inequality, in a period characterised by postfeminist sentiment. This could include, but is not limited to, analysis of media, self-authored media (blogging, tweeting, Instagram etc) and other entrepreneurial, media-savvy, and often body-focused, strategies that are being adopted and adapted by women in sport and movement cultures more broadly.

- *Engaging with and Understanding Adult Recreational Sports Participation* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Gretchen Peterson

Millions of adults across the globe participate in various sports activities on a recreational level. The purpose of this session is to explore our understanding of adult sports participation and to engage in debates about the nature of recreational sports. Many of the social issues that arise in professional sports have trickled down to affect recreational sports as well. Thus, understanding these issues in a recreational context contributes to our larger understanding of how sports are enacted in our communities. Given the large numbers of adult sports participants, calls for a publically engaged sociology of sport need to address these recreational contexts that are embedded in our local communities. This session will provide a venue for work that focuses on adult recreational sports participation and would be open to research addressing any recreational sport and using any methodology.

- *Ethics, Law & Sport* (Paper Presentations)

Organizers: Brenda Riemer & Erica Zonder

The purpose of this session is to explore the intersection of ethics, law, and both collegiate and professional sport. Numerous issues and incidents in the past year raise questions regarding the compatibility of these concepts and whether organizational reliance on the "moral minimum" is an accepted practice in sport today.

- *Experiences of Nature and Outdoor Sports* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Jennifer Wigglesworth

This session will explore complex experiences, subjectivities and embodiments that are fashioned through outdoor sporting experiences. Sometimes touted as lifestyle or nature-based sports, physical culture in the out-of-doors often challenges mainstream assumptions about what sport is; nature-based physical activities engage with nature in ways different from conventional sport, and the body in nature-based sport must anticipate and react to a continually changing environment. In keeping with the conference theme of publicly engaged research, outdoor recreation, sport and leisure offers an important avenue in which the sociology of sport can more fruitfully expand its research. The session welcomes theoretical, methodological, historical or exploratory research as well as works-in progress.

- *Female Athletes and Concussion Sport: Risks and Rewards* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Ken Muir

The purpose of this session to is explore the reasons why female athletes may or may not continue participating in traditionally "male-oriented" contact sport such as rugby, hockey, etc. Do athletes consciously weigh the risks/rewards of this participation and what role does this play in their potential on-going athletic careers?

- *Finding Your Feet: Socio-Cultural Readings* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Pirkko Markula

Feet act as an important grounding for our moving bodies. Their support is so often taken-for-granted that we only realize their existence when there is pain so bad we can no longer move. Most of the time, we encase our feet with shoes: sport shoes, exercise shoes, or dance shoes marketed in a disguise of protection, fashion, and functionality. Active engagement with the politics of knowledge construction around feet and physical activity, can bring socio-cultural researchers into meaningful dialogue with the concerns and needs of diverse communities. In this session, I invite papers that analyze, culturally, historically, and/or sociologically, the material meanings of feet in the context of commercialized, technologized movement industry. It is time for sport sociologists to kick off their shoes and engage in a debate of the social meanings of feet in contemporary society.

- *Gender, Race and Sport: Intersections / Assemblages* (Paper Presentations)

Organizers: Ann Travers & Robert Pitter

This session provides a space for queer/trans/feminist, post-colonial and critical race scholarship to be discussed in an integrative manner. Papers drawing on critical scholarship on gender, sexuality and race or assemblage theory that highlight the ways in which sport is mobilized to enforce/normalize/resist hierarchies of oppression and inequality are particularly welcome.

- *GLBTQ Athletes in the Media* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Andrew Billings

Submissions within this session should be advancing knowledge in the area of GLBTQ issues as rendered, shaped, produced, and interpreted within a mediated context. All epistemological approaches are welcome, and foci can be on any aspect of the mediated process, from production to content to effects and beyond.

- *Impacts of Global Sporting Events on Peace, Economies and Sportsmanship* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Diptesh Andrew DeChoudhury

Over this past decade we have seen a rise in the importance in mega-sporting events positively correlating with rise of global economies thus creating interesting objectives and impacts for these global sporting events such as peace, diplomacy, goodwill, sportsmanship, and international business trade between nations. For these reasons, this session will investigate these goals and objectives for sporting events at the local, national, and international level.

- *Knock Me Out At The Ballgame: Violence In Sport* (Paper Presentations)

Organizers: Mike Stocz, Alonzo Maestas & Nicholas Schlereth

This session will address a huge issue at all levels of athletics - violence around sport. Although some sports are inherently violent, spectators do still engage in violent activity before, during, and/or after athletic competitions. Some violent acts have leaked out into the public sphere, such as the attack on Bryan Stow at Dodger Stadium in 2011, to the bombings near Stade de France in 2015, and even acts of hazing. This session invites submissions that observe acts of violence in any format around sport, with preference given to abstracts that address possible solutions to these acts of violence. Violent acts involving athletes outside of the scope of their game will also be considered. Possible topics may include hazing, acts of violence against LGBT and/or transgendered athletes, hooliganism, and brawls between athletes and other athletes or fan fights.

- *Legacies of Sports Mega-Events in Rio de Janeiro: Intended and Unintended* (Paper Session)

Organizers: Bryan Clift & Jules Boycoff

Rio de Janeiro and Brasil more broadly are amidst processes of material and discursive reformation, at least partially attributable to the recent attention drawn from the 2014 FIFA World Cup and 2016 Olympic Games. Public and private individuals and organizations intend to render and sell city spaces palatable for consumption primarily directed toward international tourists. Yet, the representations and reproductions of urban space generated by such interests cut across the everyday lived realities of the city and its diverse inhabitants. This session provides a forum to examine popularly touted representations and reproductions of urban space and life, particularly those in contrast to the everyday stories told from within the “host” context. On-the-ground experiences encountered and engaged by scholars are encouraged. Authors in this session contribute to the dialogue and discourses associated with Brasil and Rio de Janeiro, either tacitly or explicitly with the Cup and Games.

- *Pedagogy, Praxis and Progression in Intellectual Disability Sport* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Natalie Campbell

Whilst the issue of disability sport is readily added to agendas, it is too often presented as a tokenistic and singular catch-all session which ignores the multitude of difference and intersection across, within and between different disability sport groups. Within this pan-disability approach, intellectual disability is one of the least considered areas of theoretical and practical progression. This session is dedicated to showcasing how those involved in the sociology of sport are researching, coaching, enhancing and understanding intellectual disability (ID) and intellectual disability physical activity and sport – from participation to competition, and from recreational to elite. Statistics report that the numbers of children with ID are remaining in mainstream education, yet are not receiving adequate inclusion in physical education session. Furthermore, adults with intellectual disability are more prone to obesity related illnesses. This session demonstrates how sociology of sport academics and practitioners can engage further with this often overlooked community.

- *Problems of the Prac-Ademic: Reflections on Professional Conflicts* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Natalie Campbell

The call for academics to do more than simply 'study' sport' is a contentious issue – is it ever possible be a world-class researcher as well as a world-class practitioner? The world of sport (from elementary school curriculum to elite professional sporting bodies) is fraught with people, policy and politics that often conflict with not only what research determines is necessary or best-practice, but also conflicts with deeply held personal morals and principles. This session calls for Prac-Ademics (those who both work in and study sport) to expose, reflect upon and theorize conflicts experienced whilst working within physical activity and sport. Personal reflexive accounts are sought which demonstrate the very difficult and very real tensions experienced between research and practice, especially when the implementation of research informed practice has been blocked by those who hold authority. To what extent can we ever really challenge poor practice if we are a paid member of the system?

- *Publicly Engaged Sociology of Sport: Social Work and Sociology of Sport* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: George Sage

Within the field of social work there is a growing sub-field called Social Work and Sport -- indeed there is a National Association for Social Workers in Sports -- and there are a variety of ways in which this professional work is manifested. The connections of professional and scholarly social work and sport and sociology of sport has the potential to be an excellent example of publicly engaged sport sociology because it can facilitate the integration of sport sociological knowledge with the growing sub-field of social work and sports by addressing everyday social issues, such as improving the needs of people in impoverished city neighborhoods through sports programs. Interactions between social work and sport and sociology of sport promotes experiences of seeing things socially and how they interact and influence each other, thus supporting what C. Wright Mills called, "epitomizing the vivid awareness of the relationship between experience and the wider society."

- *Representations of the Global South: The Engagement of Sport* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Grace Yan

In this session, ‘South’ is approached as a symbolic struggle for equality, power, voice and agency and not merely geographically-defined. In this regard, studies pertaining to marginalized communities, global diaspora, or any society and social group that continuously struggles with the shadow of post-colonialism will be of interest. Sport, in particular, has played a prominent role in engaging with various ideological and historical forces to give representations to those regions and people. While much of it occurs through mainstream sport media spectacles, the representational forms can contain a variety: the oral landscape, sport writings, films, etc. Through these sport artifacts, we observe an interplay of complex roles. On one hand, it confirms the hegemony of binary construction – the South as chaotic, weak, underdeveloped, etc. On the other hand, it gives vivid voices to uncover the absent, silent, and oppressed identities and struggles.

- *“Sings of freedom”: Discussing the Significance of Women of Color in Sport* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Akilah Carter-Francique

In 1983, the late Dr. Maya Angelou spoke of the “Caged Bird” and the recognition of a life beyond her captured self that “sings of freedom.” Similar to the “Caged Bird,” Black women are caught in the “matrix of domination” and caged within its oppressive racial, gender, and class constructs which can limit their voice and experiences (Collins, 2000). Despite these limits and interlocking oppressions, scholars work to illuminate the societal realities of Black women and women of color in the sporting contexts. The goal of this session is to: (a) understand theories and methods employed to explain Black women’s sporting experiences; (b) unveil the barriers when capturing Black women’s sporting experiences; and, (c) elucidate the representational benefits of voice for Black women in sport. Hence, this session welcomes presentations that promote scholarly efforts on- and acknowledge the significance of- “freedom” for Black women and women of color in sport.

- *Sociology of Sports Coaching* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Brian Gearity

Theoretically rich, complex, and diverse. Traditional and contemporary methodologies. Problematizing taken-for-granted assumptions. Writing beyond the walls of the ivory tower to moving writing and scholarship that makes a difference. Curriculums have changed and novel questions asked. New ways of practicing, of living, are being explored. Scholarship has focused on power relations, identities, knowledge development, roles, performances, and interpersonal relations. Newer discourses explore the body, gender, sexuality, race and ethics. All of this is happening in the thriving field of the sociology of sports coaching. More scholars continue to orient their scholarship to sport coaching, and specifically coach-athlete relations and effective and ethical ways of understanding and transforming individuals and society. We are all called to show the theoretical and practical value of a sociocultural understanding, critique or intervention to sports coaching. We encourage submissions (presentations and performances) that transgress, disrupt boundaries and birth new discourses. Get in the game.

- *Sport and Deviance* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Brian Menaker

Sport operates as a space where deviance is often celebrated and encouraged. Deviance is often ingrained in the culture of sport. In contemporary society, exposure of deviant behavior or the ability to flaunt deviance has expanded through the emergence of the surveillance culture. The public is offered the opportunity to engage with sport through new technologies which enable it to be more involved and connected with the sporting world than ever before. Social media, the 24-hour news cycle, the advent of smart phones with personal cameras, and other forms of surveillance now allow for more opportunities for sports figures to be deviant or be shown as deviant, whether purposefully or not. This session seeks papers that highlight how players, coaches, fans, owners, administrators, and any other participants engage in deviant behavior. Papers may address cheating, fighting, corruption, gambling, illegal behavior, or other deviance that emerge in the realm of sport.

- *Sport and Family* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Steven Ortiz

This session is an opportunity to examine the issue of support in sport families and sport marriages. Although the public has knowledge of support provided by parents and spouses, such public awareness may be somewhat limited, or based on normalized expectations or stereotypes. In contrast, there may be interpretations of support in sport families and sport marriages that the public is not fully aware of. Support is anticipated and freely offered by parents of children participating in organized sport programs, and by spouses of elite/professional athletes, but is there such a thing as too much support? Is it possible to provide support for reasons that may not be altogether altruistic? Support roles/patterns that influence sport participation of children and careers of elite/professional athletes are often complex, and may result in unintended and perhaps negative consequences for parents/children, children who later become elite/professional athletes, and spouses of elite/professional athletes.

- *Sport and Global Change: Opportunities, Challenges and Controversies* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Katharine Jones

Around the world, sport is used to generate interactions between former enemies and to promote peace. From The African Cup of Nations' "Every Shot Counts" immunization program, to Dikembe Mutombo's humanitarian work, the Olympics and World Cups, sport enhances compassion and understanding, while making competition between former enemies healthy and safe. Sport is used in development work, and often encourages national unity and growth. Yet International Organizations like the IOC and FIFA use mega-events to recreate conditions of neocolonialism, destroying communities with stadia, forcing governments to direct funds to projects that don't address local needs, and using corporate advertising to promote unhealthy products. Papers are invited that address either or both sides of this divide: the ways that sport can be used to create positive global social change; or the ways sport is used to enhance the worst of society: abuse, corruption, dislocation, and even war.

- *Sport and Politics: Roles Sport Can Play in Societal and Political Issues* (Paper Presentations)

Organizers: Nicholas Schelreth & Evan Frederick

Sport has been utilized to overcome political barriers, working to solve political differences between countries. Ping pong was utilized to establish dialogue between the United States and China, the University of Missouri football team's display of opposition to their school during a racial conflict, and the recent competition between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban National baseball team are all times when sport has aided in political situations. Oftentimes, athletes have removed themselves from political conversations because it can impact their brand image built through sport (Babiak, Mills, Tainsky, & Juravich, 2012). Sports and politics are interwoven into society and hold a great deal of potential for overcoming political and societal differences that exist around the world. Presentations in this session will explore the means by which sport has impacted the political landscape in the United States as well as around the world. Presentations can address issues that impacted social and political paradigms.

- *Sport and Religion* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Jeffrey Scholes

Despite the common sentiment that sport and religion have little to do with each other, their relationship has a long-standing history marked by contention, mutual apathy, cooperation, and even equation. As the session title suggests, papers that focus on the intersection of sport and religion in general are welcomed. As such, possible topics include: the role of religious belief, ritual, or prayer in sport; the authority of sport at religious high schools/colleges; and sport-as-a-religion, to name a few. In addition, in accordance with this year's conference theme, many religious traditions have a firm commitment to the pursuit of social justice. Papers may attempt to answer the question, how does religion inform, challenge, or stand pat in the face of injustice in the sporting world?

- *Sport and Sexual Violence: Using Research to shape policies and practices* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Jennifer McGovern

Cases of sexual assault and domestic abuse involving athletes are highly publicized, especially when those athletes are prominent figures in professional leagues, on college campuses, and within local communities. These cases have put pressure on sport organizations to reevaluate their approaches to sexual violence and domestic assault. As publicly engaged sport scholars, we ask and answer important questions about the relationship between athletes and these pressing issues but we are also called to use our research to help spark change within the sporting world. The purpose of this session is to present research that simultaneously explores the links between sport, and domestic abuse/sexual assault and uses that research to make recommendations about sport policies and practices at the professional, collegiate, or youth level.

- *The Sporting HBCU Diaspora, Social Change, and Public Engagement* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: J. Kenyatta Cavil

The Sporting HBCU Diaspora is the grouping of a people with a unique cultural heritage and a core framework emerged in intercollegiate athletics. However, in recent years HBCU institutions and athletic programs have experienced an intersection of public engagement due to the consequences of sports globalization, the new intercollegiate business model, and the commoditization of Black college athletes which raise concerns about the financial sustainability and educational value of these institutions. HBCUs have maintained an identity beyond the idea of Black individualized forced assimilation of the African American ethnic minority group. Although this is the case, many African Americans no longer desire to abandon their pasts. Instead, acquiring a de facto dual framework or, as W.E.B. Du Bois coined, a double consciousness. Can the ties with HBCUs be preserved or even reinvented? How has the Sporting HBCU diaspora changed? This session seeks to promote valuable dialogue of the HBCU diaspora.

- *Sport, Media and Mega-Events* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Lawrence Wenner

Research papers in this session consider the role(s) that media have come to play in shaping sporting mega-events. Papers in the session may (1) consider theoretical frames, strategic approaches, or key issues in studying the role of media and the forces of mediatization in sporting mega-events, or (2) take the form of individual or comparative studies of the media role and mediatization in particular sporting mega-events.

- *Sport, Physical Culture, and New Materialism* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Joshua Newman & Holly Thorpe

The session organizers encourage contributors who utilize “new” materialist approaches to theorize, empiricize, and problematize the active body (in sport, exercise, and physical activity contexts) to submit to this proposed session. Focusing on the generative and even agentic capacities of the body as thing (or the vibrant matter with which the active body interfaces), the organizers are looking for contributions that follow Latour’s (2010) invitation to take a compositionist approach to understanding the fleshed body or material object as constituting the biological, the political, the economic, and the technological. The objective of this session, therefore, is to feature contributions drawing upon new materialist, political ecology, developmental systems theory, and/or new material feminist approaches to examine the actors/actants and assemblages of movement-based material, political, and economic production. Presenters should seek to explore the extent to which a focus on the fleshed body and its material associations and assemblages might bring forth new insights or ontological and epistemological innovation to the sociology of sport and physical activity.

- *Sport, Society & Technology* (Paper Presentations)

Organizers: Jennifer Sterling & Mary McDonald

This session invites papers that are broadly concerned with issues related to the cultural and sociological study of science, technology, and sport. Potential topics include, but are not limited to: sport technologies and technologies of the active body; issues related to medicine, risk, and sport; doping, drugs, bioethics, and the active body; (dis)ability, gender, race, class, and sexuality, technology and sport; sporting labs and scientific practices; representations of science and sport; sport 2.0 (e.g. virtual sport, social media technologies, sports analytics); and, sustainability and sport. While open to a range of perspectives, we are especially interested in papers that explore public engagements with, or understandings of, science, technology, and sport intersections through science and technology studies or digital humanities approaches.

- *Strengths and Hope Perspective: An Activist Approach to Knowledge Production* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Victoria Paraschak

The Strengths and Hope perspective challenges a deficit-centred approach to knowledge by beginning every analysis with the strengths of the individuals engaged in the research. This research approach is fundamentally activist in nature, because it requires that subjects identify their strengths, their preferred future (or hope), and that they speak to how they have transformed others as well as been transformed by the activities in question. In keeping with practices of hope, researchers need to listen to the accounts of others with an openness to also being transformed through that process. This theoretical perspective undercuts any researcher approach which presumes he or she is outside of the research examination process. This process and the written account that emerges from such questions provides insights about individuals’ abilities to excel as they work towards a shared, preferred future, thus placing social relationships, personal strengths and self-reflection at the heart of the account.

- *The Struggle for the Heart of Youth Sport* (Paper Presentations)

Organizers: Dale Sheptak & Amanda Curtis

There is a power struggle in youth sport between business development and youth athlete welfare. The business model for youth sport programs demands high levels of financial and personal commitment with the promise of ‘making it to the next level’ in return. For example, the ‘youth sport industry’ in the United States is estimated to generate \$7 billion in economic impact when the cost travel and tourism are included. However, as the business of kids playing sport grows, many are drawing attention to the concurrent growth of potentially harmful byproducts and calling for reform. Issues such as increasing occurrences of head injuries, repetitive overuse injuries, abusive coaches and parents, psychological and physical burnout, and lax enforcement or presence of coaching education have given rise to organizations and initiatives intended to advocate change within the sphere of youth sport. This session is intended to explore the role of sport sociology in shaping change in youth sport on a local, national, and international level. We invite research or personal narratives on involvement with organizations or initiatives that promote better, healthy, kid focused sport programs. In doing so, we hope to create dialogue and the sharing of ideas from across the globe that will aid in creating a more development centered and kid focused youth sport culture.

- *Teaching the Sociology of Sport: Ideas, Issues and Innovations* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Linda Henderson

The scholarship of teaching and learning is an important part of any academic conference. This session invites participants to share their practical strategies and/or concerns for effective teaching and learning in the sociology of sport.

- *True selves: Exploring the role of authenticity in sport and fitness culture* (Paper Presentations)

Organizers: Cathryn Lucas & Kristine Newhall

The notions of authenticity, authentic selves, and/or true selves are often invoked in the coming out narratives of LGBT athletes and other LGBT people in the sport & fitness worlds: once a person comes out, they can finally be their true or authentic self. Presentations should critically approach the utilization of this concept by athletes, coaches, administrators, advocacy groups and campaigns. We especially welcome presentations that examine the relationship of authenticity to individual subjectivity and how this relationship is shaped by a range of identity factors such as race, gender, age, ability, nationality, and social class. Taking seriously these axes of power, we can ask who has access to outness and to what degree? Who is allowed to speak as out in the sport and fitness worlds? What are the implications of staking claim to one’s true self? How do narratives of authenticity shape our understanding of what it means to be LGBT?

- *Who Defines Me: Challenging Misguided Beliefs and Prejudice* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Alexander Deeb & Algerian Hart

American sport provides a space for athletes of all backgrounds to congregate in a singular space and work toward shared goals. However, athletes associated with minority groups are often identified solely by their “minority status,” such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and more. During successful moments, their talents and differences are highlighted and viewed as a “new wave” of athletes yet to come. In contrast, any shortcomings are labeled as an unsuccessful attempt to eradicate barriers for minority athletes. Thus, these athletes are unable to separate themselves from the stigma associated with their minority status. By identifying athletes using a single characteristic, a typically inclusive sport culture becomes separate and unequal. As the lessons of sport are often transferred into lessons for every day life, the purpose of this session is to challenge sport sociology scholars to dispel misguided beliefs and prejudice regarding minority athletes.

- *Why is Her Success Not Enough?* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: F. Michelle Richardson

Serena Williams wins three of the four Grand Slam tennis titles but causes a national uproar when she wins Sports Illustrated Magazine's Sportsperson of the Year honors over a horse that won the Triple Crown. The University of Connecticut's Women's Basketball Team is on the cusp of winning their fourth NCAA Basketball Championship in as many years, and yet some claim that they are bad for the sport. And the United States Women's National Soccer Team has been more successful than their male counterparts on the United States Men's National Soccer Team, yet their compensation is four-times less. This session is seeking presentations that will illustrate a better understanding of why no matter how much success women athletes attain, in the eyes of some sports fans it is never enough.

- *Women, Sport and Film* (Paper Presentations)

Organizer: Susan Birrell

Sport films are no longer considered "box office poison" - unless they are about women athletes. And serious scholarly analysis of women in sport films has lagged behind recent turns to critical analysis of sport films as a genre. This session explores facets of the relationships of women, sport and film, for example, critical reviews of particular films, how women athletes are represented in film, the role of women (Riefenstahl, Barrymore, Kusama) as filmmakers, and gendered differences in the way action scenes are filmed. Discussion will focus on new ways to explore this topic.