

20
23



THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL SPORT & DISCRIMINATION CONFERENCE



The intersectional nature of
discrimination in sport



TABLE OF CONTENTS



03	Welcome
04	About Us
05	Programme
12	Keynote Panel A
14	Keynote Panel B
15	Abstracts and Bios

Welcome

We would like officially welcome all the delegates to the sixth international Sport & Discrimination Conference at Erasmus University, Rotterdam. We are delighted to report that this year we received a record number of abstracts. The quality and calibre of the proposals were superb. The papers on offer are wide ranging, intersectional, and interdisciplinary, keeping in tune with the ethos of the conference. Our aim is to bring together scholars (at various career stages) and practitioners to share knowledge, discuss ideas and network. We would like to thank you for choosing to attend this year's Sport & Discrimination Conference and we hope you find it stimulating, useful and social. Let's share ideas and knowledge throughout the conference and beyond by tweeting @SportandDiscr11 and using the incredibly catchy hashtag: **#SportDiscConf23**





UK Organising Committee

Daniel Kilvington (Leeds Beckett University)

John Price (University of Sunderland)



The Netherlands Organising Committee

Jacco van Sterkenburg (Erasmus University)

Arne van Lienden (Erasmus University)

Carmen Longas Luque (Erasmus University)

Jasmin Seijbel (Erasmus University)

Palesa Mashigo (Erasmus University)

Gijsbert Oonk (Erasmus University)

Manou Anselma (Mulier Instituut)

Gijs van Campenhout (Utrecht University)

ABOUT US

**THE INTERSECTIONAL
NATURE OF
DISCRIMINATION IN
SPORT**

PROGRAMME

8.30am – 9am: Registration

Main Hall Sanders building, Erasmus University

9am – 9.15am: Welcome and Introduction

Sanders, Room 0.04

9.15am – 10.15am: Keynote Panel A

Racial and gender stereotyping and sports media

*Anne-Marie Anderson (NBC),
Arne van Lienden (Erasmus University),
Carmen Longas Luque (Erasmus University),
John Oliveira (Fare and OneWorld),
Jacco van Sterkenburg (Erasmus University)*

The opening key note panel will synthesize main findings from the Erasmus University research project on televised football and race which got funded by the Dutch Research Council NWO (2018–2023, "NWO Vidi" scheme). Arne van Lienden, Carmen Longas Luque and Jacco van Sterkenburg (coordinator) will pitch their main conclusions for the Polish, Spanish and English/Dutch contexts, respectively. Media experts and professionals Anne-Marie Anderson (NBC) and John Oliveira (OneWorld and Fare, amongst other things) will reflect on findings and share their experiences and expertise with the audience. The panel will be moderated by John Price and there will be time for a Q&A with the panelists.

10.15am – 10.30am: Refreshments



PROGRAMME

10.30am – 12noon: First Parallel Session

**Challenging Discrimination 1 – Chair Arne van Lienden
(Sanders, Room 0.04)**

Roger Domeneghetti

Bridging the gap: The Sports Media Identity Network

Rens Cremers

The influence of referees' agency in signalling and sanctioning discrimination within football

Jeremi Duru

Racial Inequity in American Youth Sports: Origins and Solutions

Jim Lusted & Daniel Kilvington

*What might anti-racist sport coaching practice look like?
Lessons from the anti-racist classroom*

**Experiencing discrimination 1 – Chair Carmen Longas Luque
(Sanders, Room 0.10)**

Nathan D'Hoore Nathan & Jeroen Scheerder

Experiences and negotiations of Dutch-speaking Muslim women in fitness participation in relation to Islam and the Hijab

Penny Miles

#Wales Away: Negotiating Gender & Nation in Away Fandom, from Euro 2016 & Beyond

Catherine Phipps

"The spectators ask, is it a boy or a girl? What is it?": Cultural cisgenderism and trans men's sporting experiences in Iran

Jasmin Seijbel

Antisemitism in football: Feyenoord supporters reflecting on antisemitism in Dutch professional men's football

PROGRAMME

Inclusion, exclusion and identity – Chair Yann Descamps (Sanders, Room 0.12)

Gijsbert Oonk

The Lies that Divide: In- and Excluding women at the Olympic Games in the longue Durée 1896-2024.

Neil O'Boyle

The love that dare not speak its name: Boxing, homophobia, and euphemistic discrimination.

Emma Pullen

Paralympians' social media use: Creating 'evental' sites of 'soft' activism through digital (disability) labour.

Chenqui Wang

Discrimination and the use of health related digital technologies by Chinese female students

12noon – 1pm Lunch

1pm – 2.30pm: Second Parallel Sessions

Experiencing Discrimination 2 – Chair Daniel Kilvington (Room, Sanders 0.04)

Chloe Phillips

What Does it Mean to be a Woman in Powerlifting? Exploring Women's Experiences in UK Powerlifting

Ursula Wolski

Gender inequalities in sport – exploring the experiences of female coaches

Colm Kearns

The Impacts of Online Abuse on the Personal and Professional Lives of Sports Journalists

Arne Van Lienden

From studio to screen: The production processes of Polish televised football and discursive (re)constructions of race/ethnicity

PROGRAMME

Challenging Discrimination 2 – Chair Jacco van Sterkenburg (Sanders, Room 0.10)

Irene Blum, Alexandre Diallo, Isabel Awad, Jacco van Sterkenburg

Colin Kaepernick and Black athlete activism: New media environment, new game?

Ayushi Agarwal

*Whom does doping and the use of technology advantage?
Understanding the role of socio-economic status and disability
in sporting success*

Clara Fiedler

*FUSSBALL KANN MEHR – working towards diverse decision-
makers in football*

Ciaran Crowley

Football Vétérans: any room for an 'old' man?

Representations of Discrimination 2 – Chair John Price (Room Sanders 0.12)

Desiree Campbell

*Taking the racing line: The Representations of Women Racing
Drivers in British Printed Newspapers Between 2010 and 2020.*

Aimee Bailey & Lucy Jones

*'Fairness versus inclusion': Representations of transgender
athletes in British newspaper reports*

Yann Descamps

*Running Towards Disinvisibilization and Empowerment? The
Representation of Disabled Female Athletes in Japanese Manga
Running Girl*

Zesheng Yang

*Soccer, Racism, and Regional Discrimination: A Case Study of
the Chinese Football Association Super League*

2.30pm – 2.45pm Break

PROGRAMME

2.45 – 4.15: Third Parallel Sessions

**Experiencing Discrimination 3 – Chair Jasmin Seijbel
(Sanders, Room 0.04)**

Vincent Reinke

Racism in German amateur football – The experience of Black male players

Jeroen Scheerder & Nathan D’Hoore

Racial stacking and pushing in relation to imperialism in Belgian junior and professional football

Steven Bradbury & Dominic Conricode

Racialisation and the inequitable experiences of racialised minority coaches in men’s professional football youth academies in England

Nyall Simms

Experiences of discrimination among parents of black schoolboy footballers in UK professional football academies

**Challenging Discrimination 3 – Chair Carmen Longas Luque
(Sanders, Room 0.10)**

Julia Belas

The fight against discrimination in Brazilian sports media

Palesa Mashigo & Jacco van Sterkenburg

One Rotten Apple or a Rotten Tree: Racism in European Football Culture

Jonathan Cable, Daniel Kilvington & Glyn Mottershead

No Room for Racism?: An Examination of Twitter Reactions to Players Taking the Knee During the 22/23 English Premier League Season

Jennifer Van De Pol

The Sport of Yoga: Cultural Appropriation or True Belonging?

PROGRAMME

Nationalism and identity 3 – Chair Arne van Lienden (Sanders, Room 0.12)

Lis Camelia

Understanding Sport Heroes and Belonging beyond Nationalism

LYU Dongye & Emanuel Leite Jr.

*'I'm American when in the US and Chinese when in China'.
Discussing the nation-building, identity, and sports using the
case of Eileen Gu*

Mateusz Grodecki

*Performative nationalism in football stadiums and fans' views
and attitudes. Evidence from quantitative research*

Michael Skey & Joost Jansen

*"Are there no more English men on the England national team?
Sad": An intersectional analysis of gendered/racialised social
media discussions of the England soccer team's 2021 and 2022
European Championship campaigns*

4.15pm – 4.30pm Break



PROGRAMME

4.30pm: Keynote Panel B

Anti-discrimination strategies in sports: A Dutch and US perspective

Houssin Bezzai (Royal Dutch Football Association KNVB)

Jeremi Duru (American University, US)

Agnes Elling (Mulier Institute)

The closing key note panel will focus on strategies to combat various forms of discrimination in sport. The Dutch Football Association KNVB has implemented a nationwide anti-discrimination program since 2019. Its programme coordinator Houssin Bezzai will reflect on the programme, its results and its challenges. Academic expertise and internationally comparative reflections will come from academic experts Agnes Elling (Mulier Institute - Dutch sports research centre) and Jeremi Duru (American University, US). Agnes Elling has been involved in the evaluation of the KNVB program, amongst other things. Jeremi Duru will share his expertise on how racial and gender diversity is addressed in the US context and internationally. Jacco van Sterkenburg will moderate the panel and there will be time for a Q&A with the panel.

5.30 Conference Close

**5.45pm – 7pm Drinks reception
(Sports Centre, Erasmus University campus)**

**8pm – Conference meal
(Restaurant Supermercado. Address: Schiedamsevest 91,
Rotterdam)**

Keynote Panel A: Racial and gender stereotyping and sports media

The opening key note panel will synthesize main findings from the Erasmus University research project on televised football and race which got funded by the Dutch Research Council NWO (2018-2023, "NWO Vidi" scheme). Arne van Lienden, Carmen Longas Luque and Jacco van Sterkenburg (coordinator) will pitch their main conclusions for the Polish, Spanish and English/Dutch contexts, respectively. Media experts and professionals Anne-Marie Anderson (NBC) and John Oliveira (OneWorld and Fare, amongst other things) will reflect on findings and share their experiences and expertise with the audience. The panel will be moderated by John Price and there will be time for a Q&A with the panelists.

Anne-Marie Anderson (NBC)

Anne Marie Anderson is a three-time Emmy Award winning broadcaster, keynote speaker and emcee. Having spent more than three decades in sports television both behind and in front of the camera, she has covered six Olympic Games, heavyweight title fights, golf's majors, NBA/MLB playoffs and the Super Bowl among countless other marquee events. With multiple Emmy Awards under her belt for her behind the scenes contributions to ESPN's SportsCenter, Anderson set out for a new challenge in front of the camera in 2000. Since then she has become one of the most experienced female play by play announcers in the country calling over 75 live sporting events a year on a variety of networks including ESPN, ABC, NBC, FOX and TBS. In addition, she has been recognized nationally for her journalism and leadership in the advancement of sport.

Arne van Lienden (Erasmus University)

Arne van Lienden is a PhD candidate at the Erasmus Research Centre for Media, Communication, and Culture. His research focuses on the content and production of discourses surrounding race/ethnicity in Polish televised football and the audience receptions of these discourses. Arne's research is part of the NWO-funded research project How racist is televised football and do audiences react? and is conducted under the supervision of prof. dr. Jacco van Sterkenburg and dr. Melodine Sommer.

Carmen Longas Luque (Erasmus University)

Carmen Longas Luque is a PhD candidate at the Erasmus Research Center for Media, Communication & Culture. Her research focuses on the role of discourses of race/ethnicity in televised football production and how these discourses are related to televised football content and audience receptions. This project is part of the research project funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) entitled How racist is televised football and do audiences react? Carmen's research is supervised by dr. Jacco van Sterkenburg (co-promotor), with prof. dr. Susanne Janssen as the promotor.

Keynote Panel A: Racial and gender stereotyping and sports media

The opening key note panel will synthesize main findings from the Erasmus University research project on televised football and race which got funded by the Dutch Research Council NWO (2018-2023, "NWO Vidi" scheme). Arne van Lienden, Carmen Longas Luque and Jacco van Sterkenburg (coordinator) will pitch their main conclusions for the Polish, Spanish and English/Dutch contexts, respectively. Media experts and professionals Anne-Marie Anderson (NBC) and John Oliveira (OneWorld and Fare, amongst other things) will reflect on findings and share their experiences and expertise with the audience. The panel will be moderated by John Price and there will be time for a Q&A with the panelists.

John Oliveira (Fare and OneWorld)

John Oliveira is an accomplished entrepreneur and strategist, with extensive experience as a CEO and in senior management positions at renowned organizations such as Publieke Broadcasting Amsterdam, Sanoma, and MTV Networks. He has made significant contributions as the former chairman of FARE, a European anti-discrimination organization closely linked to UEFA. Additionally, John actively serves as a board member of the youth platform Funx and holds a membership in the Dutch National Council for Culture. As the publisher of OneWorld, a journalistic platform, he sheds light on the interplay between climate justice, human rights, and identity.

Jacco van Sterkenburg (Erasmus University)

Jacco van Sterkenburg works as an Endowed Professor and Associate Professor in the field of race, gender, football, media and leadership. His Chair 'Race, Inclusion and Communication' is supported by football partners Fare, FIFPRO and UEFA, as well as Erasmus University Rotterdam and Erasmus Trustfonds. He leads a 5 year project on televised football and race in a European context funded by the Dutch Research Council NWO.



Keynote Panel B: Anti-discrimination strategies in sports: A Dutch and US perspective

The closing key note panel will focus on strategies to combat various forms of discrimination in sport. The Dutch Football Association KNVB has implemented a nationwide anti-discrimination program since 2019. Its programme coordinator Houssin Bezzai will reflect on the programme, its results and its challenges. Academic expertise and internationally comparative reflections will come from academic experts Agnes Elling (Mulier Institute - Dutch sports research centre) and Jeremi Duru (American University, US). Agnes Elling has been involved in the evaluation of the KNVB program, amongst other things. Jeremi Duru will share his expertise on how racial and gender diversity is addressed in the US context and internationally. Jacco van Sterkenburg will moderate the panel and there will be time for a Q&A with the panel.

Houssin Bezzai (Royal Dutch Football Association KNVB)

Bezzai played professional football in the Netherlands from 1999-2006. After his football career, Bezzai founded Sport United together with a partner. The company focuses, among other things, on the organisation of events and career counseling for athletes. Within the company, vulnerable youths are also guided through work and education. At the end of 2010, this work culminated in Fruit & Go – a smoothie / sandwich bar in Leiden, which was founded together with fellow former professional footballer Tim de Cler. That company merged into the Leids Inzet Collectief, a secondment company for youths with an occupational disability. Since March 2020, Bezzai has also been program manager for racism and discrimination at the Royal Dutch Football Association (KNVB).

Jeremi Duru (American University, US)

Professor N. Jeremi Duru teaches sports law, civil procedure, and employment discrimination, and he is among the nation's foremost sports law authorities. He is a co-author of one of the field's premier casebooks, *Sports Law and Regulation: Cases and Materials* (5th edition) (Wolters Kluwer), as well as one of the field's premier explorations of sports agency, *The Business of Sports Agents* (3rd edition) (U. of Penn Press). In addition, he is the sole author of *Advancing the Ball: Race, Reformation, and the Quest for Equal Coaching Opportunity in the NFL* (Oxford University Press), which examines the NFL's movement toward increased equality of opportunity for coaches and front office personnel.

Agnes Elling (Mulier Institute)

Agnes Elling studied human movement science (sports philosophy, Free University Amsterdam) and wrote her PhD dissertation on social in- and exclusionary mechanisms in sport regarding gender and ethnicity (2002, Tilburg University). She was a lecturer on research on sports in society at Tilburg University, Free University Brussels and Utrecht University. Since 2006 she works at the Mulier Institute – since 2011 located in Utrecht – as a senior researcher. Her interests and expertise include social inequalities and (intersecting) in/exclusionary mechanisms in sports, transitions in (elite) sports biographies and using mixed methods.



BIOS

THE INTERSECTIONAL
NATURE OF
DISCRIMINATION IN
SPORT



Whom does doping and the use of technology advantage? Understanding the role of socio-economic status and disability in sporting success

Ayushi A. Agarwal
(University of Oxford)

Maintaining a level playing field has become one of the central concerns in sports today. Doping as well as the use of technology that can render advantage is considered unfair, and therefore banned. This is demonstrated by the rules of sport delineated in inter alia the Olympic Charter, World Anti-Doping Code, and the International Paralympic Committee's policy on sport equipment.

However, the use of doping materials or advantageous technology depends not only on the intention to cheat, but also on access, and consequently, one's socio-economic position. In some cases, it can also intersect with a sportsperson's disability, as demonstrated by the case concerning Oscar Pistorius in the Court of Arbitration for Sport in 2008. In this sense, competitors in sport aren't necessarily equal. Yet, the word 'equality', 'discrimination' and even 'intersectionality' are entirely absent from the sports regulatory framework and relevant cases.

My work evaluates how the right to equality and the concept of intersectionality in international human rights law (IHRL) can create fairer outcomes in sport. I rely on the drafting history of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) to demonstrate that a concern for socio-economic equality was present in the minds of the delegates. I draw from cases in India and South Africa which demonstrate that socio-economic status of the petitioner, especially when combined with other identity markers, can be a factor in a finding of the violation of the right to equality.

I argue that the concept of equality and intersectionality should be suitably adopted in the regulation of doping and use of technology in sport.

Ayushi is a Ph.D. candidate at the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford. Her research is at the intersection of emerging technology, sports, and human rights. She previously read for the BCL at Oxford as a Weidenfeld-Hoffmann scholar. She did her undergraduate degree in law from National Law School, Bangalore, where she was a gold-medallist. She has taught law at The Queen's College and Mansfield College, Oxford. Her work has been published in journals such as International Journal of Discrimination and the Law and presented at conferences such as the Bonavero Institute Violence Against Women conference.

Contact: ayushi.agarwal@law.ox.ac.uk





'Fairness versus inclusion': Representations of transgender athletes in British newspaper reports

Bailey & Jones

Following the increasing visibility of successful trans athletes and the rise of anti-gender movements such as 'gender critical feminism', policies concerning trans women's participation in elite women's sport have sparked intense debate in online and traditional media. Although policies about trans inclusion have been in place at the highest levels of sports, such as the Olympics, for decades, the perceived disruption of long-standing categories which are rooted in the concept of sex as a binary and immutable fact has proven deeply controversial. The issue also relates to the broader discourse around the inclusion of trans women in female spaces more generally; this has become highly divisive, as gender critical voices argue that trans inclusion threatens women's 'sex-based rights'. In this paper, we investigate the discourse surrounding this debate via a specific case study: representations of the American swimmer and trans woman Lia Thomas, whose win at a women's 500-yard freestyle event in March 2022 led to widespread news coverage. We conduct corpus-assisted critical discourse analysis of British newspaper coverage of this story, taking a queer and feminist approach to the data. We find that news coverage of trans inclusion in elite sport typically reproduces cisnormative assumptions about binary sex, and that implicitly transphobic language is often used to frame trans identities as abnormal. In this way, the inclusion of trans women in sport is framed as being fundamentally unfair to cisgender women. We argue that this discourse suppresses any serious consideration of how trans women could be included in elite sport, and advocate for media coverage which is informed by – and which represents – a more balanced range of perspectives.

'Fairness versus inclusion': Representations of transgender athletes in British newspaper reports

Aimee Bailey is Lecturer in English Language at De Montfort University. She is a queer feminist linguist, primarily interested in the study of gender and sexual discrimination in mediated contexts using corpus linguistic and discourse analytic approaches. Her PhD research examined the construction of normative discourses in online media for lesbian and bisexual women, and her current projects explore how transgender athletes and charities are represented in the news media.

Contact: aimee.bailey@dmu.ac.uk

Dr Lucy Jones is Associate Professor in Sociolinguistics at the University of Nottingham. She is a discourse analyst and linguistic ethnographer working on a range of topics relevant to language, gender and sexuality. Her published research includes normativity and identity construction amongst LGBTQ+ youth, homophobic discourse in relation to same-sex marriage and HIV prevention, analysis of YouTube videos by trans vloggers, and older lesbians' identity construction. Her current projects include a study of identity and intersectionality in British LGBTQ+ youth groups and critical discourse analysis of how trans athletes in elite sport are represented within the news media.

Contact: Lucy.Jones@nottingham.ac.uk





The fight against discrimination in Brazilian sports media

Júlia Belas Trindad (University of Bristol)

Brazilian football has long struggled with racial prejudice. Even though it was known for years to be almost a “racial democracy”, with Black and mixed-race players at the forefront, there are also reports of racial abuse from supporters, club staff, other players and even members of the media. However, these were mostly overlooked until 2014 – when Santos’ goalkeeper Aranha had to endure a packed stadium filled with Grêmio supporters chanting monkey noises at him throughout a game. That same year, the Observatory for Racial Discrimination in Football was born. The NGO catalogues every year cases of racial – and other kinds of – discrimination in Brazilian football that are reported by the sports media, changing the narrative from “isolated cases” to a structural issue. Also, by highlighting discrimination in Brazilian football, the Observatory has become both a reference – working with clubs, the Brazilian FA and international organisations – and an agenda-setting agent, showing the media that it is important to report said abuse to make sure those responsible are held accountable. At this conference, I will present the results of my investigation on the role of the Observatory in Brazilian sports media and discuss the challenges faced by journalists who want to fight discrimination in the industry. The paper will be published in a special issue of the International Journal of Sport Science and Physical Education.

Júlia Belas Trindade is a Brazilian PhD student at the University of Bristol in the department of Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, currently researching the media representation of women footballers in Brazil. Júlia is also a sports journalist specialising in women’s football coverage and has covered events such as Brazilian national tournaments, England’s Women’s Super League, the UEFA Women’s Champions League and the Women’s Euros. As a journalist and researcher, she aims to improve media coverage of the women’s game respecting players’ identities and stories.

Contact: julia.belastrindade@bristol.ac.uk

Racialisation and the inequitable experiences of racialised minority coaches in men's professional football youth academies in England

Bradbury &. Conricode

The social and cultural arena of elite level sport can be understood as a series of contextually situated 'racial projects', within which sporting structures, discourses, populations, and spaces have become racialised over time. This is especially the case in elite level sports coaching, where the normative application of racialised ideologies, discourses, and practices has shaped the parameters of inclusion and exclusion in different ways for differently racialised minority coaches across a range of national and vocational contexts. This paper will offer an empirical and theoretical examination of racialisation and the inequitable experiences of racialised minority coaches in men's professional football youth academies in England. In doing so, the paper will draw on qualitative interviews with youth academy managers drawn from dominant and marginalised ethnicities (n=10) and racialised minority academy coaches (n=26). In particular, to illuminate their experiences of the ways in which the racialisation process has engendered inequitable interactions, representations, evaluations, and career outcomes. In this respect, the paper will focus on four inter-related areas of examination: (i) youth academies as racialised spaces, (ii) youth academies and racialised stereotypes, (iii) youth academies and racialised assessments, (iv) and youth academies and racialised outcomes. Finally, the paper will contextualise these findings from a Critical Race Theory perspective. In particular, it will draw clear linkages between the processes, experiences, and outcomes of racialisation in the coaching context under review, and the dominant neo-liberal discourses of meritocracy, race neutrality, colour-blindness, and normativity of whiteness embedded in elite level sports and sports coaching more broadly.



Racialisation and the inequitable experiences of racialised minority coaches in men's professional football youth academies in England

Dr Steven Bradbury is a Senior Lecturer in Sport, Equality, and Diversity, at Loughborough University. Over the last 20 years, he has conducted a range of impactful research projects examining racialised inequities in the playing, coaching and governance tiers of football and sports. Findings from this research have been published as reports, chapters, and articles, and presented to academic and stakeholder audiences globally. He is the co-editor of a new book entitled 'Race', Ethnicity, and Racism in Sports Coaching', and is presently leading a new research project examining racial diversity and inclusion in sports leadership at NGB's in the UK.

Contact: S.Bradbury@lboro.ac.uk

Dr Dominic Conricode is a Lecturer in Sport Management and member of the Sport Policy Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University. His research examines the existence and impacts of racialised inequities within men's professional football coaching in England, and the efficacy of positive action measures designed to address racialised disparities in this field. He has published in leading journals and seminal edited texts and presented at national and international conferences. He is presently involved in research examining volunteering in physical activity, sport and movement in Greater Manchester, and is a member of the England Hockey Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Group.

Contact: d.conricode@mmu.ac.uk



Jonathan Cable (Swansea University)
Daniel Kilvington (Leeds Beckett University)
Glyn Mottershead (University of London)
Chris Webster (PAFRAS)



No Room for Racism?

An Examination of Twitter Reactions to Players Taking the Knee During the 22/23 English Premier League Season

The killing of George Floyd in May 2020 prompted players in the English Premier League (EPL) to start making the anti-racist, anti-police brutality protest gesture of taking the knee before every game. On August 3rd 2022 this all changed when the EPL captains announced that they were no longer going to take the knee before every match (Premier League 2022). Instead, the act was performed on specific dates, and during specific time periods when the EPL ran their 'no room for racism' campaign. This paper uses Twitter data to explore fan reactions to announcements by the EPL, English Football Association, anti-discrimination charity Kick it Out, and EPL team accounts of when the knee was being taken. How much support remains for taking the knee? What criticisms exist around the protest action? This thematic analysis uncovers patterns of opinion and assesses the saliency of the anti-racist symbol years after the killing of George Floyd. The data is then used to offer some final thoughts on what sporting institutions, fans, social media companies, and more can do to continue to challenge racism.

Jonathan Cable is a Senior Lecturer in PR, Media, and Communications. His research interests lie in football culture, protest, and sport media. He has published on a range of topics relating to journalism studies including the book *Protest Campaigns, Media and Political Opportunities* (2016), journal articles on the use of clickbait by sport media outlets on the social media platform Twitter, and fan reactions on Twitter to suspected racism during a match.

Contact: j.d.cable@swansea.ac.uk

Daniel Kilvington is a Reader and Course Director in Media and Cultural Studies. His teaching and research primarily focus on 'race' and racisms within sport and media contexts. He has published several books including *Race, Racism and Sports Journalism* (2012) and *Online Research Methods for Sports Studies* (2019), all with Routledge. As well as funded research projects on topics such as online hate, and with the English Premier League examining anti-racist football coaching.

Glyn Mottershead is a Senior Lecturer in Journalism and former journalist who specialises in the teaching and training of digital research and communication methods to journalists. He has taught and researched journalism practice for almost 20 years, and has worked with early and mid-career journalists. His core teaching centres around the gathering, analysis and visualisation of data for journalistic purposes.

Dr Chris Webster is an assistant researcher in the School of Cultural Studies and Humanities at Leeds Beckett University. His research explores migration, 'race', racism and sport in relation to legacies of colonialism. Chris also works for Positive Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers (PAFRAS).

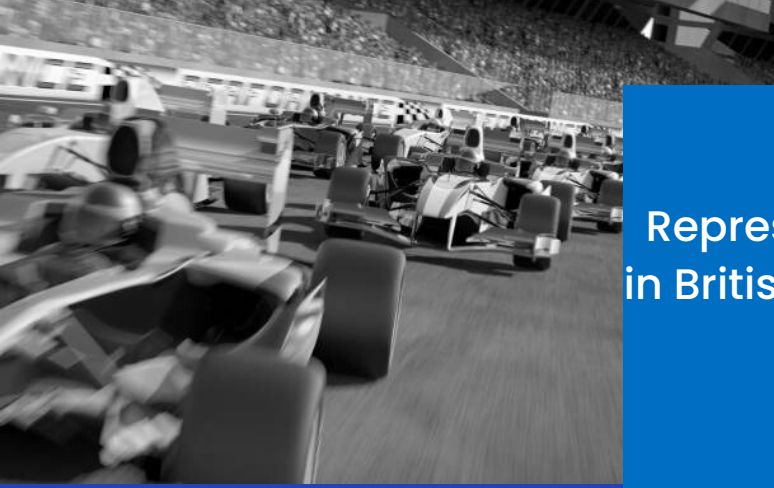
Understanding Sport Heroes and Belonging beyond Nationalism

Lis Camelia (Erasmus University)
Contact: camelia@eshcc.eur.nl

Sport heroes are crucial in the construction of identity. They function as mediated representations of values and norms that construct community and reinforce connectivity and belonging (Lines, 2001). Researchers in sport studies have particularly analyzed the role of sport heroes in the construction of national identities (Hu et al., 2021; Parry, 2021). In this literature, sport heroes are used by (national) media platforms to reinforce the idea of sameness within nations (Lechner, 2007). Consequently, difference has been seen as a challenge to the sustainability of nationalism and therefore has predominantly been tackled through the erasure and/or exclusion of this difference from the narrative of belonging (Harris et al., 2021). Nevertheless, the politics of belonging are not only limited to the framework of nationalism, but are connected to locality, migration, ethnic identities, transnationalism and much more. This research will look at sport heroes as a tool for myth construction in spaces of difference, negotiation, and multiplicity. Consequently, serving as a conceptual basis for the empirical research on the ways in which sport heroes affect the politics of belonging within superdiverse cities.

This will be an explorative presentation to understand the conceptualization of sport heroes beyond the boundaries of nationalism. It will focus on a conceptual understanding of sport representation and belonging that allows for the inclusion of identities that intersect within big urban cities in the Netherlands.





Taking the racing line: The Representations of Women Racing Drivers in British Printed Newspapers Between 2010 and 2020.

Desiree Campbell

(Northumbria University)

Contact: descampsyann@yahoo.fr

Desiree began her studies at Teesside University, from which she holds a BSc (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Sports Studies and an MSc in Sport and Exercise. Her passion for motorsports led her to continue researching this under investigated field. Currently she is a final year PhD (sociology) candidate at Northumbria University, funded by the university's RDF studentship, and her thesis focuses on the representations of women racing drivers in British newspapers between 2010 and 2020. She has varied research interests in motorsport, sport, gender, and the media.

Despite the large number of academic studies which have examined the media's representations of sportswomen, little academic research has focused on women racing drivers; this doctoral research aims to address that gap. The mixed-methods research comprised of a longitudinal media analysis and interviews with women racing drivers and motorsport journalists.

The media analysis examined 479 articles from six British national newspapers between 2010 and 2020 about women racing drivers. In addition, newspaper articles relating to men racing drivers were also examined to establish the accepted norms for reporting racing drivers in British newspapers. This research found that women racing drivers were barely visible in British newspapers' racing driver coverage in 2010 and 2020, despite an overall increase of 200% in the number of articles about them from 2010 to 2020. Moreover, women racing drivers' representations reflected those found in the existent research on media representations of sportswomen, whereby they tended to be (re)positioned as others. This other status of women racing drivers was found to have been constructed through various journalistic practices and narratives, including gender marking, infantilisation and focus given to non-task-related aspects in the reporting. Significantly, through gaining insights from journalists and women racing drivers, this research has shown that the representations of women racing drivers and the implications of such representations were shaped by complex interactions between fields (namely motorsport and media) and the individuals within those fields. This presentation will focus on one particular theme that was identified in the research, 'selling the story'.

The influence of referees' agency in signalling and sanctioning discrimination within football

RENS CREMERS MSC
(MULIER INSTITUTE)
TESSA VISSER MA
(MULIER INSTITUTE)
DR. AGNES ELLING
(MULIER INSTITUTE)

Football was always a place of hegemonic white masculinity: white men were dominant, tough, insensitive, and this was expressed in racist, sexist and homonegative microaggressions. Nevertheless, there is also a perception that the culture within Dutch football is changing. The Dutch Football Association, in cooperation with the national government, is rolling out a national policy programme to combat racism and discrimination in Dutch football. Thereby, the commitment is to change the football culture, characterised by discriminatory backstage talk, into a culture where discrimination is seen as unacceptable. An important factor here are referees, who are supposed to signal and sanction discriminatory behaviour. Although they have received training on anti-discrimination protocols from the football association, it is unclear to what extent they will agree with the shift from a culture in which discriminatory talk is often accepted to a zero-tolerance culture. Former research shows that individuals can oppose set norms through their individual freedom of agency. Especially in a football culture, whose backstage talk is characterised by discriminatory talk, it is unclear how referees will relate to the new imposed norms where discrimination is seen as unacceptable. This research addresses the question to what extent the individual freedom of action (agency) of referees affects the extent to which they signal and punish discrimination. We will present and discuss the results of data currently being collected through web-based questionnaires among Dutch football referees.

Rens Cremers MSc graduated as an interdisciplinary social scientist and is working as a researcher at the Mulier Institute. He conducts research on social inclusion, exclusion and sports culture in Dutch sport. His focus is on social issues of ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender with a focus on racism and lgbtiq+-discrimination in football.

Contact: r.cremers@mulierinstituut.nl



Football Vétérans: any room for an 'old' man?

Football Vétérans is defined by the Fédération Française de Football to include anybody 35 years and older. Like most rules, there are always a few exceptions! In my local league, Le District des Flandres de Football, 3 players over the age of 30 are also allowed to play with the team. This (limited) exception on age is included in Article 12-a of the league's rules (Annexe 3: Règlements des Championnats, Saison 2021-22).

Laws and limits on age are arbitrary by their very essence, evolving and the subject of lively debate: legal commentators have always said as such ('What is the magic of the age of 10? Why not 12, 14 or 16? Of course any age must be arbitrary', Glanville Williams, *Criminal Law*, 1978). Other characteristics like race or gender ('suspect grounds' in American legal parlance) have always been given more legal protection than age (see *Massachusetts Board of Retirement v Murgia* (1976) 427 US 307, where the US Supreme Court held that a mandatory retirement age of 50 for police officers was constitutionally permissible).

Thus, because ageing is part of life for all of us (we all grow older!) we often need to accept such limits on age. This conference will also give me a chance to explore how other European countries set age limits for Masters Football (Football Vétérans).

Finally, in line with other themes of the conference, Masters Football will also be used to examine how football can:

1. exclude people ("how marginalised groups encounter barriers and how these may be best overcome")
2. bring people together ("the role sport can play in bringing disparate communities together")

Is it a case of 'Football First' in accepting players to join the team? Or do non-football factors (class, occupation, race, accent, nationality, address, religion, origin, politics, gender orientation, age(!), etc.) play a bigger role?

Ciarán Crowley (Université de Lille)

Since 2014 I have been a tenured law and language tutor at the law faculty of Université de Lille. Over the years I have published short articles on a diverse range of subjects: life in France, football, law, bees and education. My main interests are football (naturally enough), literature and nature. Prior to moving to France, I studied law and philosophy in Cork and Oxford.

Contact: ciaranjcrowley@gmail.com

Running Towards Disinvisibilization and Empowerment? The Representation of Disabled Female Athletes in Japanese Manga *Running Girl*

Descamps

Studying sports manga allows to analyze gendered representations produced by Japanese popular culture and then consumed by foreign readers, especially the French. As it is the case with the media representation of sport in these two countries, female athletes remain in the shadow of the hegemonic male ideal. Also, disabled bodies are virtually invisible. Thus, three-volume manga *Running Girl* stands as a signifying case study. By telling the story of Rin, a disabled woman-athlete, author Narumi Shigematsu took part in a process of disinvisibilization of a part of the population which faces the effect of intersectionality both in sport and society. This study analyzes this “new” representation by relocating it historically, culturally and politically to better understand its importance.

Calling on cultural studies and media studies, this presentation studies to which extent this manga represents the tension between the symbolic liberation and oppression of disabled women-athletes at the intersection of sexism and ableism. More fundamentally, it questions sports manga and its role in producing freeing or framing discourses in relation to the bodies of these athletes through texts and images for a global audience.

First, it deconstructs the tension between shōjo aesthetics and a potential “female gaze”, and within a character who is as gendered as she is emancipated. Then, it highlights the importance of a latent norm before underlining the disinvisibilization of disability and the contestation of the Supercrip archetype. Last, by showing the promotion of the Olympic myth and Japanese bushido, as well as the rise of another ideal in which well-being and kindness would triumph over performances and discriminations, it discusses the politics of the representation of disabled athletic bodies in sports manga.

In a nutshell, this presentation assesses the part played by manga in an ongoing process of symbolic emancipation in which media and artistic representations take part in a historically signifying exposure of the challenges faced by disabled women-athletes, whose empowerment is still a work in progress.



Yann Descamps is an associate professor of sport history at the Université de Franche-Comté. Calling on various disciplines from cultural history to semiology and media studies, he is currently working on the representation of sports, race and gender in popular culture, from videogames to manga and animated series.

Contact: yann.descamps@univ-fcomte.fr

Experiences and negotiations of Dutch-speaking Muslim women in fitness participation in relation to Islam and the Hijab

D'Hoore & Scheerder

Nathan D'Hoore obtained his Master of Science at the Faculty of Movement & Rehabilitation Sciences of the KU Leuven in 2021. As a PhD student, he is currently preparing a thesis with a focus on social sport policy in Flanders.

Contact: nathan.dhoore@kuleuven.be

Jeroen Scheerder is Professor in Sport Policy and Sport Sociology at KU Leuven, Belgium. He was President of the European Association for Sociology of Sport (EASS) and currently he is Promotor-coordinator of the Policy Research Centre on Sport on behalf of the Flemish Government. His primary research interests focus on political and sociological aspects of sport and physical activity.

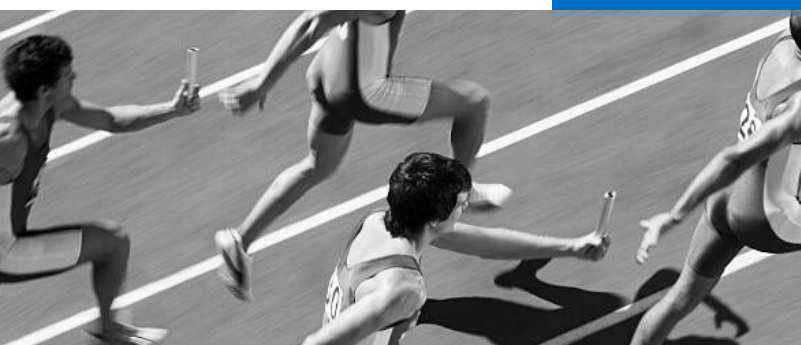
Contact: jeroen.scheerder@kuleuven.be

This study focuses on the results of a research exploring the experiences and negotiations of Dutch-speaking Muslim women in fitness participation in relation to Islam and the Hijab. Scholars argue that Muslim women face multifaceted challenges that hinder participation in mainstream fitness offerings. The combination of being a Muslim woman in Flanders (Belgium) and looking for a 'safe' fitness participation place proves to be a challenge. Specifically, a lack of appropriate facilities and negative associations with the Hijab constitute barriers to inclusive fitness participation. However, little academic research has focused on the lived experiences and negotiations of Muslim women in relation to fitness participation. Therefore, this research aims to increase understanding of discursive constructions of fitness, explores reasons for (not) participating in fitness modalities, and studies the relationship with dominant social discourses on gender, religion and culture of Muslim women. The aim of the study is informed by feminist poststructuralist and postcolonial theories and a critical discourse analysis approach is used to analyse fifteen semi-structured in-depth interviews with Hijab-wearing and fitness-participating Belgian Muslim women. Ultimately, centralising the voice of Muslim woman can provide insight into barriers and preferences to fitness participation and inspire policymakers for an inclusive offering. Data analysis has yet to take place.

Colin Kaepernick and Black athlete activism: New media environment, new game?

Dr. Diallo

Until quite recently, Black athlete activism in the United States seemed to be a phenomenon from the past. It had arguably been dismantled, for good, by colour-blind racism (Ansell, 1997; Bonilla-Silva, 2014; Leonard & King, 2009) and the increasing commercialization of sports (Agyemang, 2011; Cunningham & Regan, 2011; Rhoden, 2006). What prevailed instead among successful Black athletes was political apathy (Powell, 2008; Leonard & King, 2009; Roach, 2002). By relying on the case of former U.S. football player Colin Kaepernick, this paper revisits this narrative of political pessimism and questions its validity today. Adopting a practice theory-based perspective (Couldry, 2004), we examine Kaepernick's relation with the media by focusing on his interactions with and reflections on mainstream news outlets, as well as his use of social media between August 2016 and April 2018. This empirical analysis reveals novel and powerful possibilities for the re-politicization of minority group athletes in the contemporary media environment. Specifically, the study identifies and discusses the media strategies used by Kaepernick to by-pass conventional media platforms and reach large audiences directly, with messages that give voice to marginalized perspectives, uncover the logics of colour-blind racism, underscore its historical and structural underpinnings, and ultimately challenge racist stereotypes and social injustice. Hence, dwelling on lay theories of the media (McCurdy, 2011), our analysis helps to better understand the ways in which professional athletes strategically use their knowledge of both mainstream mass media and digital media to contribute to black activism in the US.



Dr. Alexandre Diallo is a Lecturer at Erasmus University Rotterdam and Research affiliate at the French School for Social Sciences. He held visiting position at The University of Cambridge (Judge Business school), Freie Universitat Berlin and is now a Visiting Lecturer at King's College. His research lies at the intersection of race, gender and social media, with a particular focus on sports-women.

Colin Kaepernick and Black athlete activism: New media environment, new game?

Diallo, Awad, Blum, Van Sterkenburg

Isabel Awad is an Associate Professor in the Department of Media and Communication at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and theme-lead on Inclusive Cities and Diversity in the Vital Cities and Citizens Erasmus Initiative. Her research and teaching pay special attention to the roles of the media in process of social inclusion and exclusion. Her publications include articles in journals such as Journal of Communication, European Journal of Communication, European Journal of Cultural Studies, Journalism, and Journalism Studies.

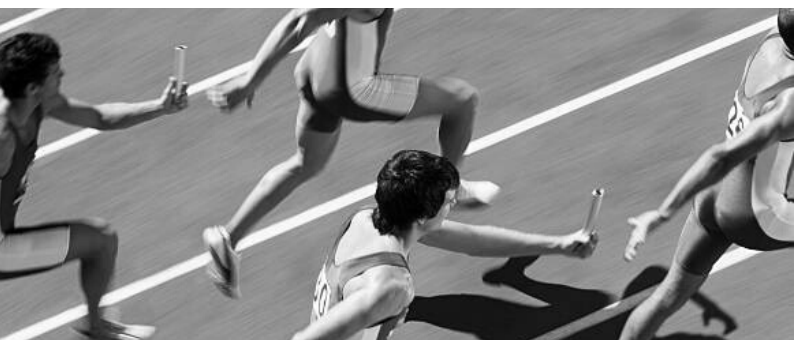
Contact: awad@eshcc.eur.nl

Irene Blum

A Danish PhD fellow from the department of Management, Society and Communication at Copenhagen Business School, my research interests are in the field of digital media, sustainability, and social movements. Specifically, I consider how the media landscape is facilitating social movement organisations (SMOs) in holding business accountable for misconduct through the concept of digital imaginaries. My PhD centres on this topic, as it aims to explore how social movement actors articulate digital imaginaries and how digital imaginaries are shaped by and shaping power relations.

Jacco van Sterkenburg works as an Endowed Professor and Associate Professor in the field of race, gender, football, media and leadership. His Chair 'Race, Inclusion and Communication' is supported by football partners Fare, FIFPRO and UEFA, as well as Erasmus University Rotterdam and Erasmus Trustfonds. He leads a 5 year project on televised football and race in a European context funded by the Dutch Research Council NWO

Contact: sterkenburg@eshcc.eur.nl



Bridging the gap: The Sports Media Identity Network

Roger Domeneghetti (Northumbria University)

The sports media is a compelling site of cultural negotiation which brings into sharp relief distinct social categories, in particular: gender, race, sexuality and dis/ability. Debates on these issues in a sporting context reflect, and are further contextualised by, contemporary debates about minority rights and identity politics of which social movements and associated campaigns, for example #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter, are a visible part. Thus, as Cairns (2018) argues, it is vital that sports journalists are equipped to handle such complex and challenging issues.

SMIN draws together researchers and practitioners already connected to existing complementary networks, including include the Black Collective of Media Sport (BCOMS), Sports Media LGBT+, the Ability Group in Sport, the Sports Journalists Association, the BBC, Channel 4 and the National Council for the Training of Journalists. The network aims to facilitate (i) industry-informed research in the field of sports media studies and related academic areas, (ii) produce recommendations for sports media practitioners, and (iii) sports journalism courses both within and outside the academy.

To date, SMIN has held two events one focused on sexuality and one on dis/ability. At these events, network participants have identified a series of challenges for equal representation within sports media and recommendations for the industry. These have, so far, been distilled into three distinct categories: (i) Language; (ii) Education, (iii) Humanity, which will be expanded in this presentation.

Domeneghetti is an assistant professor and programme leader in Journalism at Northumbria University. Following a 20-year career as a journalist, his research focuses on the societal history of sports media and the (re)presentation and negotiation of individual and collective identities therein. His first monograph *From the Back Page to the Front Room: Football's Journey Through the English Media* was first published in 2014. His second monograph *Everybody Wants to Rule the World: Britain, Sport and the 1980s* is due for publication in May 2023. He continues to write for a variety of publications including *The New European*, *The Blizzard*, and *BBC History Magazine*.

Contact: roger.domeneghetti@northumbria.ac.uk



Racial Inequity in American Youth Sports: Origins and Solutions

N. Jeremi Duru
(Washington College of Law)

Sports hold untold benefits for children. Children who engage in sports are, on the whole, physically and psychologically healthier than those who do not. In addition, participation in organized sports catalyzes relationship building skills and correlates with improved academic outcomes and reduced youth violence and crime. For these reasons, the United States of America's youth sports system, which creates often insurmountable barriers to entry for people of color from under-resourced communities, exacerbates societal inequities and must be reformed. Over the course of several decades, youth sports in the United States has transitioned from an egalitarian system designed to serve the public good to an exclusive, economically-driven, "pay-to-play" system that privileges the wealthy. Given the nation's history of chattel slavery and racially motivated economic exploitation, communities of color in the United States – and particularly African-American communities – are disproportionately economically depressed. Consequently, the socioeconomic barrier to youth sports participation doubles as a racial barrier. This paper proposes to eliminate this barrier to youth sports participation in the United States through reallocating a portion of the revenue US states derive from recently-legalized sports gambling to fund youth athletic opportunities.

Professor Duru is among the United States' foremost sports law authorities. He has a particular interest in sport's impact on society, with a principle focus on racial dynamics. He is author or co-author of five books and has conducted research and delivered lectures on the intersection of sport and society throughout the United States as well as abroad, including as: a Fulbright Fellow at Faculdades Integradas Helio Alonso in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; a Parsons Visitor at the University of Sydney in Sydney, Australia; and a Visiting Professor at the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing, China.

Contact: duru@wcl.american.edu






FUSSBALL KANN MEHR – working towards diverse decision-makers in football.

Clara Luise Fiedler, Project Manager at
FUSSBALL KANN MEHR

Numerous studies have shown that diverse teams deliver better results, are more innovative and are better at balancing risks. Nearly all industries have recognised this potential and are acting accordingly. They understand that diversity and especially inclusion does not happen by itself, but that it needs an intensive investment. German football, however, is still a male domain even though the number of women in management positions has tripled in the last three years. This should be good news. But the reality in numbers is: 4 out of 150 management positions in Bundesliga and Bundesliga 2 are taken by women. Even though the professional field of sport is highly attractive for graduates, they are not to be found in leadership positions, with still less than 4% of all management positions being occupied by women.



That is why FUSSBALL KANN MEHR, a non-profit organization was founded in May 2022 with the aim of increasing the proportion of women in football and thus ensuring the future viability and sustainability of football. FKM cooperates with the Bundesliga clubs Eintracht Frankfurt, Werder Bremen, VfB Stuttgart, VfL Bochum, and Hertha BSC Berlin as well as the media company Sky Deutschland. Additionally, FUSSBALL KANN MEHR works in two more areas to reach its goals: an online community building platform to connect women and men in sport, and the organisation of scholarships for female football players.

We at FUSSBALL KANN MEHR are convinced that the enormous impact of football can be unleashed again if it assumes its role as a driving force, represents its diverse following and develops a sensitivity to people's expectations and we want to invite everyone who wants to join this goal.

Since September 2022, **Clara Luise Fiedler** has been project manager at FUSSBALL KANN MEHR, the non-profit network organisation that, among other things, promotes gender equality and diversity in football.

After completing her Master's degree in International Sport for Development and Politics at the German Sport University Cologne, she worked as a project and communication support officer at the EFDN (European Football for Development Network). Afterwards, she worked as a project manager at Equaletics, a German association with the aim of establishing processes and structures in sport that enable fair and self-determined participation for all.

Contact: luise@fussballkannmehr.de

The Impacts of Online Abuse on the Personal and Professional Lives of Sports Journalists

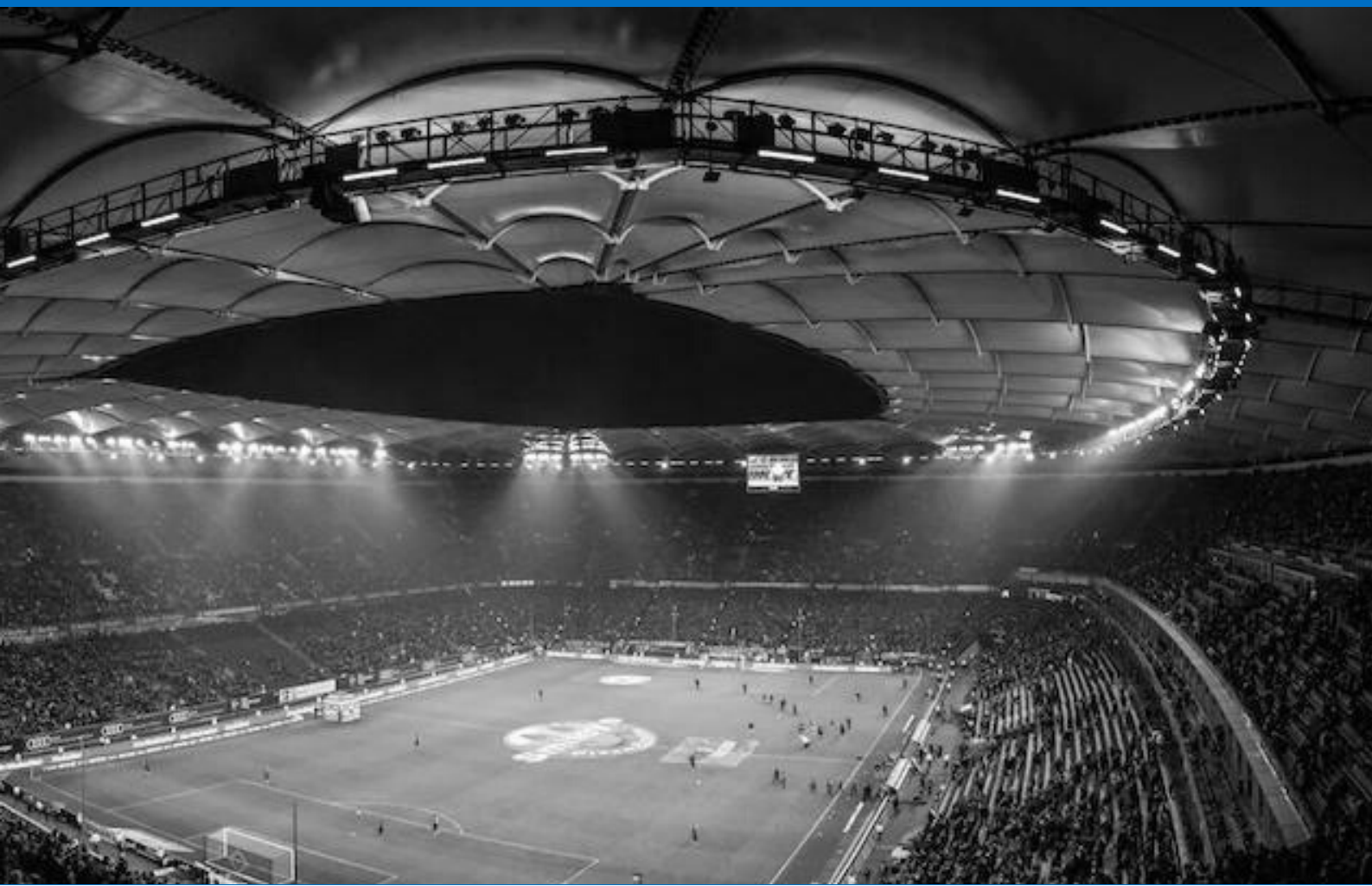
COLM KEARNS (DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY), DANIEL KILVINGTON (LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY), KATIE LISTON (ULSTER UNIVERSITY), GARY SINCLAIR (DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY), JACK BLACK (SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY), MARK DOIDGE (UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON), THOMAS FLETCHER (LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY), THEO LYNN (DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY) & PIERANGELO ROSATI (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND GALWAY)

The increasing digitilisation of the production and consumption of news media has fundamentally altered the relationship between journalists and “the people formally known as the audience” (Rosen 2006). Audiences can talk back to journalists, and the tone of this talk is not always pleasant or constructive. Suspicion of, and discrimination against, the mainstream media is a prominent feature of a socio-political climate that has seen a resurgence of right-wing extremism and conspiracy theorising. Football journalists, who have always faced an audience rife with tribal loyalties and fraught tempers, are particularly vulnerable targets of such discriminatory abuse. This is all the more concerning given the intersection of sport and socio-political issues. Once derided as the ‘toy box’ of the newsroom, football journalism is increasingly acknowledged as a platform for interrogating topics such as systemic racism, political and economic policy, and institutional sexism. Our paper collates data from over twenty interviews with football journalists in order to explore the impact of such abuse on their professional and personal lives. In doing so, it sheds light on how this climate of hostility shapes modern sports journalism on an institutional and individual level, ranging from the hostility faced by female and non-white journalists to the growing tendency for journalists to self-censor in anticipation of online attacks to the gaps in existing media structures that exacerbate these issues.



The Impacts of Online Abuse on the Personal and Professional Lives of Sports Journalists

Dr Colm Kearns is a postdoctoral researcher on the Tackling Online Hate in Football (TOHIF) Project. He is the co-author of the BAI-funded report 'RTE and Covid-19: Diversity and Public Needs,' and the author of another forthcoming report on the impact of the pandemic on Irish independent radio. Colm holds a PhD in Communications from DCU, with a thesis centring on the intersection of sport, advertising and national identity. He has published papers on those topics in journals such as *Television and New Media*, *Sport in Society*, and *Irish Communication Review*, in addition to having a chapter featured in the recently published collection, *Sport, the Media and Ireland: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*.
Contact: colm.g.kearns@dcu.ie



What might anti-racist sport coaching practice look like? Lessons from the anti-racist classroom

Dr. Jim Lusted, (The Open University) &
Dr. Daniel Kilvington (Leeds Beckett University)

There are now a multitude of strategies, policies and initiatives that seek to promote and embed principles of EDI (equality, diversity and inclusion) in sport, responding to the overt and covert discrimination that minoritised populations (including those from ethnic minority backgrounds) face – both in trying to access sport and in their experiences within sport settings. Surprisingly, there has been little specific attention paid to the role of the coach and the nature of coaching practice within this wider EDI movement. This presentation reports on the early stages of a project seeking to scope out some basic principles of what a specifically ‘anti-racist’ coaching practice might look like. We will summarise some of the key learning from an early review of research literature related to anti-racist education and begin to consider how this body of knowledge can help to make recommendations for future sport coaching practice. The project intends to create a number of resources designed to help coaches to create more inclusive, equitable – and explicitly anti-racist – environments for ethnically diverse athletes.

Jim Lusted is a Lecturer in Sport & Fitness at The Open University – one of the largest distance learning universities in the world. Over the last twenty years he has undertaken research on issues related to social inequalities in sport settings focused particularly on a critical interrogation of equality policies and strategies. He recently co-edited a Routledge collection titled ‘Race, Ethnicity and Racism in Sports Coaching’ (2021) with Steven Bradbury and Jacco van Sterkenburg. He has undertaken research projects with a number of organisations including The Football Association, Kick It Out, The Premier League and the England and Wales Cricket Board and is a long suffering supporter of Tottenham Hotspur.

Contact: jim.lusted@open.ac.uk

Daniel Kilvington is a Reader in Media and Cultural Studies at Leeds Beckett University. His teaching and research focuses on ‘race’, sport, and new media. He has published a number of articles, and is author of five books, including Sport, Racism and Social Media (Routledge, 2015), British Asians, Exclusion and the Football Industry (2016), and Sport and Discrimination (2017). He is the co-founder of the annual Sport and Discrimination Conference series and the Talking Race podcast. He is the trustee of the charity, the Zesh Rehman Foundation (ZRF) and works in collaboration with Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) in challenging online hate in European football.



'I'm American when in the US and Chinese when in China'. Discussing the nation-building, identity, and sports using the case of Eileen Gu

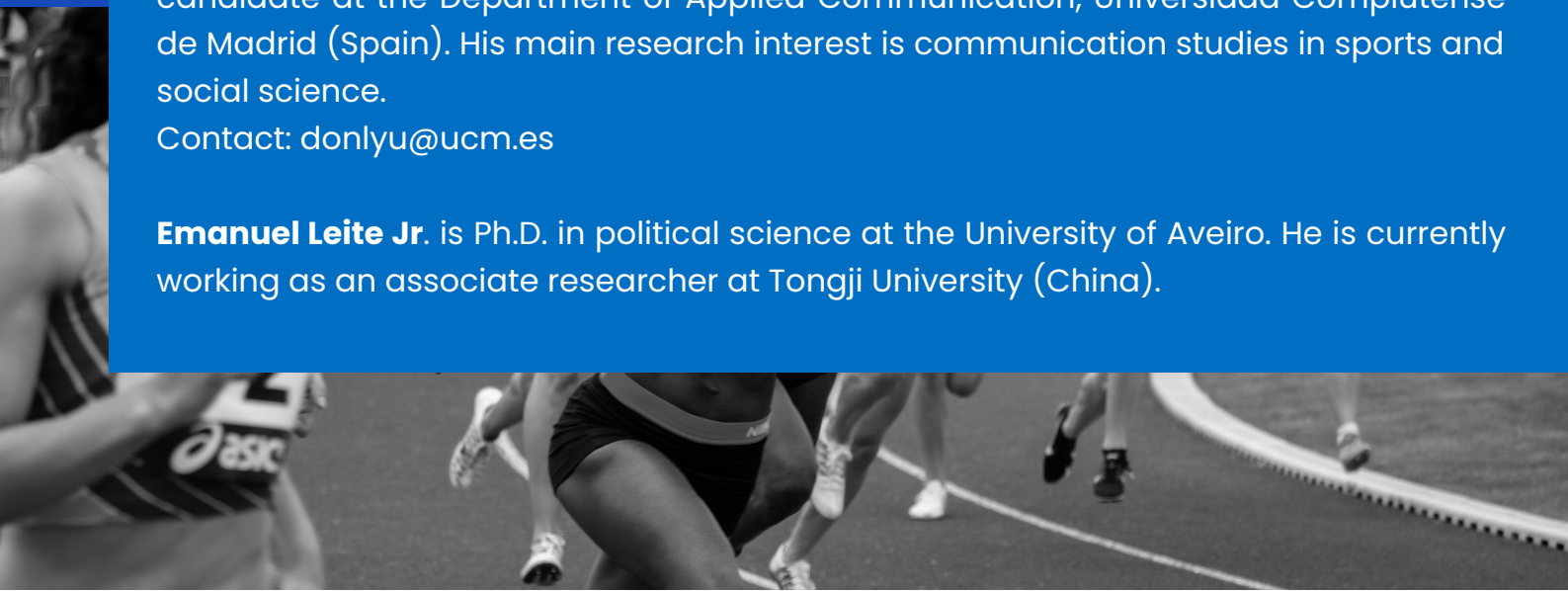
LYU Dongye & Emanuel Leite Jr.

With the process of globalization, the boundaries of national and national identities in modern sports are blurring. In recent years, the naturalization of overseas talented athletes is an emerging phenomenon in Chinese sports. However, Chinese public attitudes toward these naturalized athletes are quite mixed. Eileen Gu, a Chinese-American mixed-race athlete who represented China in the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, has drawn considerable public attention and controversy for both her great competitive success and her identity. This study takes female Olympics snowboarder Eileen Gu as a case and analyzes several intersecting factors that have influenced her identity construction, including sports and nation-building in the Chinese context, the medal policy of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, Sino-America international relations, and, Eileen Gu's personal discourse. By examining media discourses and previous studies on athlete naturalization, sports nationalism, and international relations, we further an understanding of the process of deconstruction and reconstruction of Chinese national identity. The study believes that the emergence of elite athletes like Eileen Gu will promote social inclusion and the rebuilding of national identity in China.

LYU Dongye is a research assistant at Tongji University (China), and a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Applied Communication, Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain). His main research interest is communication studies in sports and social science.

Contact: donlyu@ucm.es

Emanuel Leite Jr. is Ph.D. in political science at the University of Aveiro. He is currently working as an associate researcher at Tongji University (China).

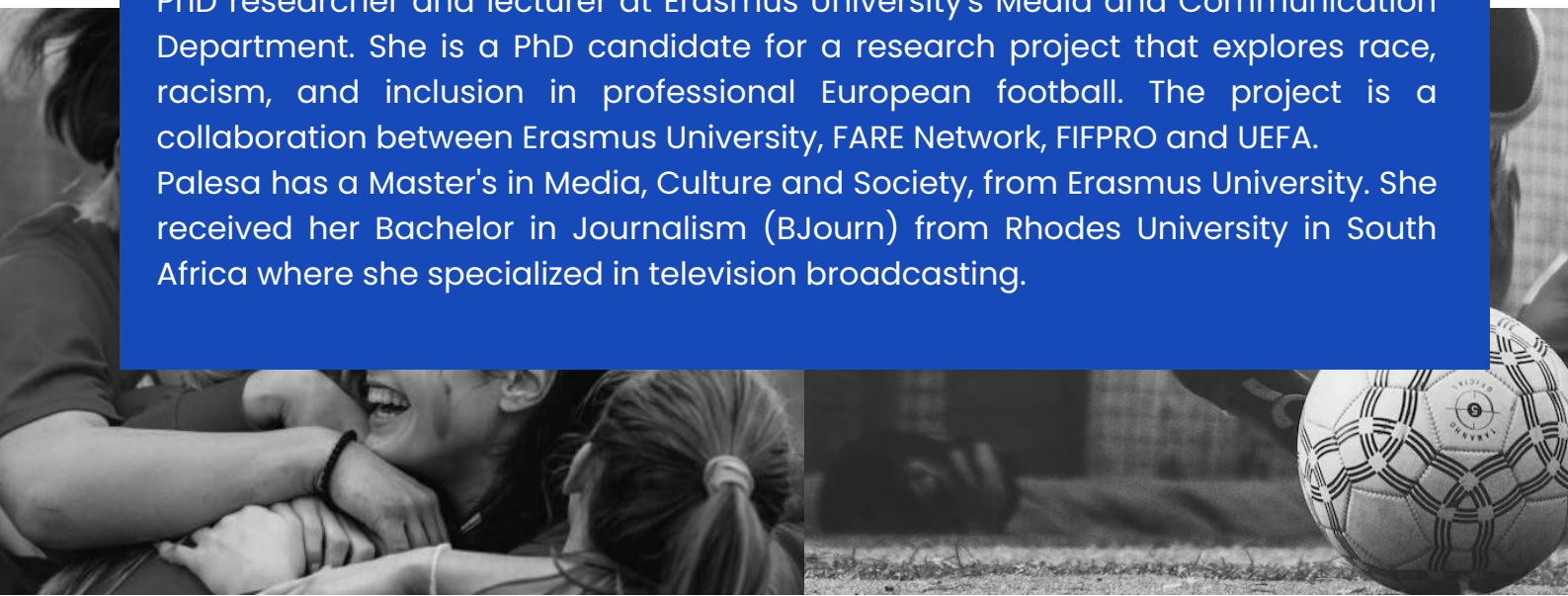


One Rotten Apple or a Rotten Tree: Racism in European Football Culture

Palesa Mashigo & Prof. Dr. Jacco Van Sterkenburg
(Erasmus University, Rotterdam)

Racial discrimination has long plagued the “beautiful game” of international football. Despite efforts by stakeholders to address discrimination in this popular sport, racially charged behaviour persists, particularly in European football culture. In light of this, the study which is a part of a larger project in partnership with FARE Network, FIFPRO and UEFA, will link empirical research to racism and inclusion and translate the findings into impactful contributions. Primary questions underlining the study concern systems, actors or environments that enable or sustain exclusionary practices in the football industry. Literature has shown that despite evidence, there is a common reluctance by some within football governing circles to acknowledge the systemic role race plays in football culture. To recognize how racism manifests in football culture, Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Critical Discourse Studies (CDS) will be adopted. As a framework, both bodies of theory offer a transdisciplinary research approach to football as a sporting practice. To better understand the nature of racial discourse among football leaders and how it potentially facilitates or acts as a barrier to inclusion and diversity in football, qualitative interviews are conducted with leaders from Spain, Poland, Romania, The Netherlands, France, Greece, Norway, and Denmark. As key decision makers in the industry there is valuable insight to be drawn from diverse leaders’ multiple perspectives and experiences in national football organizations. This research study aims to use scholarship to identify mechanisms of exclusion and to generate policy recommendations that will encourage an inclusive football culture.

Palesa Mashigo is a journalist turned academic. She is currently working as a PhD researcher and lecturer at Erasmus University's Media and Communication Department. She is a PhD candidate for a research project that explores race, racism, and inclusion in professional European football. The project is a collaboration between Erasmus University, FARE Network, FIFPRO and UEFA. Palesa has a Master's in Media, Culture and Society, from Erasmus University. She received her Bachelor in Journalism (BJourn) from Rhodes University in South Africa where she specialized in television broadcasting.





Culturally Diverse and First Nations women demolishing white colonial hierarchies and challenging discrimination in Australian sport by creating spaces of belonging

Hazel Maxwell, Michelle O'Shea, Nicole Peel, Jennifer E. Cheng

Sporting opportunities for women in Australia are considered in relation to critical whiteness theory. While old hegemonies and unequal power relations leading to exclusion, are still found, the landscape of sport for culturally diverse and Indigenous women is starting to change as these women create safe spaces of inclusion and belonging. Here we provide illustrations that investigate recent studies which try to dismantle white colonial hierarchies and legacies. Using an intersectionality lens based on strengths and hope, we share examples of bright lights visible through the darkness creating new and reimagined sporting spaces for these women. For example players from diverse backgrounds are welcomed by the “Matildas” (the Australian women’s football team) and they are encouraged to celebrate their cultural diversity within a football context. We also delve into the Swim Sisters, a mainly Muslim swimming group set up in response to the burkini ban in France to provide solidarity to women who wished to wear full-body swimwear at the pool or beach. Women here “push the boundaries” of what is considered the “norm” in Australian swimming and enter traditionally white Anglo spaces of sport. Finally we consider collective practices such as “yarning circles” and “Indigenous sporting rounds” with symbols and traditions derived from Indigenous cultural approaches which can facilitate truth telling, voice and reconciliatory agendas. In particular we look at how regardless of the Commonwealth Games’ complex colonial histories, they offer an important platform through which strengths and hopes might be realised among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian women.



Culturally Diverse and First Nations women demolishing white colonial hierarchies and challenging discrimination in Australian sport by creating spaces of belonging

Hazel Maxwell is a Senior Lecturer in Sport Development, Leisure, and Recreation at Western Sydney University. She has extensive experience in not-for-profit and Government sectors in both Australian and UK. Her research and teaching focuses on equity, social inclusion, and diversity. She works with equity groups to tackle social exclusion and is a member of several editorial and management boards and writes and reviews for journals in the equity and inclusion space.

Contact: H.Maxwell@westernsydney.edu.au

Michelle O'Shea is a Senior Lecturer and Researcher in the faculty of Business at Western Sydney University. Her research interests are in the areas of sport, culture, and society. More recently her scholarship extends to understanding how gender inequities are constructed and reproduced in broader organisation and institutional contexts. The impacts of which can in part be seen through her policy advocacy in domains relevant to women's physical and socio-economic wellbeing.

Contact: m.oshea@westernsydney.edu.au

Nicole Peel is a lecturer in Recreation Therapy in the School of Health Sciences at Western Sydney University, Australia, where she also received her doctorate. Her research focuses on the use of leisure with disadvantaged groups to assist in progressing their lives within complex and complicated support systems.

Contact: N.Peel@westernsydney.edu.au

Jennifer Cheng is a Lecturer in Sociology in the School of Social Sciences at Western Sydney University. She is also a member of the Challenging Racism Project at Western Sydney University. Her research contributions lie in the areas of Islamophobia and anti-Islamophobia, migration multiculturalism, racism and anti-racism, integration and approaches using critical discourse analysis.

Contact: J.Cheng@westernsydney.edu.au

Performative nationalism in football stadiums and fans' views and attitudes. Evidence from quantitative research

Dr Mateusz Grodecki (The Maria Grzegorzewska University)

Football stadiums are one of the places where nationalistic views are presented. This is done by means of displays held by organised supporters – ultras. This study aims to examine (1) to what extent the postulates of performative national ideology presented by ultras in Polish stadiums are shared by fans of Polish football clubs; and (2) whether they translate into corresponding attitudes at the individual level. The study is based on a survey conducted on a sample representative for Polish citizens (N = 4030) from which football fans were extracted (N = 643). The results show that being a fan of a Polish football club accounts for significantly higher scores on postulates referring to ethnic and racial criteria of national identity, belief in permanent struggle of nations, small nation type of collective memory and glorification of past war heroes. They also indicate that, controlling for socio-demographic variables, being a fan of a Polish football club does not make one more prejudiced against minorities and other nations. However, being a fan of a Polish football club whose level of agreement with the postulates from the ultras' national ideology index is higher increases the level of such prejudice.

Mateusz Grodecki is an assistant professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, The Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw. His research interests focus on sociology of sport, football fandom and nationalism.

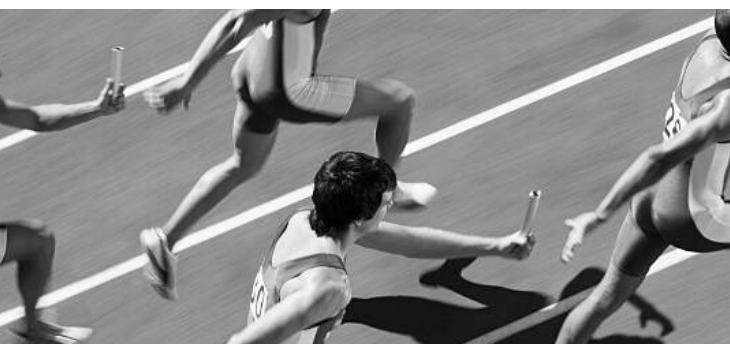
Contact: mgrodecki@aps.edu.pl



#Wales Away: Negotiating Gender & Nation in Away Fandom, from Euro 2016 & Beyond

Dr Penny Miles (University of Bath)

This paper explores the female fan experiences of away day fandom when following Wales' men's national team. Drawing on participant observation conducted at 8 away matches (2016-2018), and 17 semi-structured, in-depth interviews conducted with female fans, it examines the complexities and contradictions of negotiating gender, fan and national identities in the away context. In a space that has historically magnified the white male experience through visual depictions and oral testimonies, (white) women remain the numerical minority within this fan base (estimates 5-15%). Interviews revealed that women were almost universally 'othered' in their fan identities at some point in their fan career. However, said othering largely dissipated over time as female fans became more embedded in fan networks, and other 'authenticity' markers (Pope, 2017) came to bear, such as longevity of service, that aligned their fan identities irrespective of gender. However, the perceptions of and responses to sexist behaviour that ranged from physical touching and harassment, to sexual staring, banter and the content of chants, showed a greater propensity towards female fans internalising or minimising said behaviour. When thinking about 'doing diversity work' (Ahmed, 2012), the increased precarity as a member of a numerical minority emerges as a potential barrier to challenging sexism, as does the more intensive drinking and kinship culture, and a more masculinised infrastructure (stadia, FSACymru, stewards), vis a vis home fixtures. With limited intersectionality across the fan base, the most influential vector of inclusion reported almost universally by female fans centres on Welsh-English bilingualism, whereby gender identities became subsumed under national identity.



Dr Penny Miles is a Lecturer in Politics at the University of Bath. She has been conducting ethnographic research into gendered institutions in Welsh football since 2016, exploring their expressions across the fan bases of the men's and women's national teams, within Welsh footballing media, the Football Association of Wales, and the women's national team. Recent work on feminist politics and football fandom in Chilean women's national football has been submitted for review. Historically, her research was concerned with human rights and LGBTQIA+ rights in Latin America, with a focus on political and judicial institutions.

Contact: pm684@bath.ac.uk

The love that dare not speak its name.

Boxing, homophobia, and euphemistic discrimination.

Neil O'Boyle, Dublin City University (DCU)

Sport has long been recognised as a vehicle for both inclusion and exclusion, and sporting events often enable us to see these social processes at work. As Frandsen, Jerslev, and Mortensen (2022) suggest, such events often act as platforms for wider discussions of socio-political issues, including gender, race, and class. In this paper, I focus on the sport of boxing – the 'sweet science', the 'hurt business', and the sport that perhaps best exemplifies hardness, toughness, aggressiveness, and other characteristics of 'hegemonic masculinity' (Connell 2005: 77). Despite the growth of women's boxing and sizeable viewership figures for contests involving superstars such as Katie Taylor, Claressa Shields, and Nicola Adams, boxing remains a male dominated sport, in respect of both athletes and fans. Moreover, as Free (2015: 1148) suggests, a strong correlation between acceptability and 'compulsory heterosexuality' persists in this sport.

In this paper, I reflect on the sometimes implicit and coded ways in which compulsory heterosexuality is policed in male boxing. The paper examines the much publicised 'all British' fight between Chris Eubank Jr. and Liam Smith in the Manchester Arena in January 2023, however, it is not the 'main event' that I focus on but rather the events immediately preceding it. In particular, I analyse the now infamous exchange between the fighters at a press conference two days before the fight during which Smith raised questions about Eubank Jr.'s sexuality. At no point in the short verbal exchange did Smith use the words 'gay', 'queer', or 'homosexual', yet arguably, it was the spontaneous, unscripted and allusive nature of his discourse that was most injurious. The paper closely analyses this exchange, as well as Eubank Jr.'s decision to wear a rainbow-coloured captain's armband at the following day's weigh-in, and proposes the concept of euphemistic discrimination.

Neil O'Boyle is an Associate Professor at the School of Communications DCU and a Research Fellow at the university's Anti-Bullying Centre. His research examines the relationship between media, popular culture, and collective identities, with a particular focus on insider-outsider relations, representational practices, and group dynamics. His books include *New Vocabularies, Old Ideas: Culture, Irishness, and the Advertising Industry* (Peter Lang, 2011), *Sport, the Media and Ireland* (Cork University Press, 2020), and *Communication Theory for Humans: Communicators in a Mediated World* (Palgrave, 2022). Contact: neil.oboyle@dcu.ie



The Lies that Divide.

In- and Excluding women at the Olympic Games in the longue Durée 1896–2024.

Prof. Dr. Gijsbert Oonk


Erasmus University Rotterdam

Contact: Oonk@eshcc.eur.nl

The upcoming 2024 Olympic Games will mark a significant milestone in the history of the modern Olympics, as the number of male and female participants will be equal, with both genders making up 50 percent of the total participants. This is a first for the modern Olympic Games, which began in 1896 with no female representation. Over time, women's participation in the Games has developed through four sometimes overlapping stages. The first stage saw the inclusion of individual sports, such as tennis, sailing, croquet, equestrianism, and golf. Later, swimming and track and field were added to the list of accessible women's sports. Non-contact team sports like volleyball were introduced in the 1960s, while team sports with contact, such as hockey and football, were only allowed for women since the 1980s. The final stage saw the inclusion of strength sports like boxing, which was only opened to women in 2012. This paper traces the historical evolution of women's participation in the Olympics and highlights the journey from complete exclusion in 1896 to equal access in 2024, which has taken 128 years.

We aim to develop a global evidence based model to explain the process of inclusion and exclusion of women in the context of global sports. This interdisciplinary, empirical, and theory-driven approach is situated at the intersection of the humanities, social sciences, and political sciences. As a starting point of this goal, the following research questions will be explored:

1. What were the first countries to be represented by women at the Summer Olympics, and how did their participation evolve over time?
2. What factors explain the differences in the level and trajectory of women's participation in sports across different countries and race?
3. What factors account for the differences in the level and trajectory of women's participation in different sports?
4. To what extent do debates on gender-identification reflect debates on inclusion and exclusion of women at the Olympics.



Gijsbert Oonk is holds the chair in migration, citizenship and identity in a globalizing world. His interdisciplinary research program focuses on talented athletes with a migrant background within football and the Olympic Games in the context of changing citizenship, multiple citizenship and elite migration.

What Does it Mean to be a Woman in Powerlifting? Exploring Women's Experiences in UK Powerlifting.

Chloe Phillips (University of Warwick)

This research project is concerned with exploring the feminist politics and lived experience of women in powerlifting in the United Kingdom. Women's powerlifting in the UK is drastically under researched, despite its ever-growing popularity with women, and thus this research is a key foundational piece which outlines key aspects of experience for women. As this sport is so unique, heavily male dominated and relatively young in comparison to other sports, understanding women's experience is crucial to the development of this sport.

This research utilised an intersectional feminist epistemology and the qualitative methods of semi-structured interviews and an autoethnography. 16 interviews were conducted with 12 women and 4 male powerlifters. The data from the autoethnography was used to aid the exploration of themes identified throughout the interviews. Overall, it was apparent that women enjoyed transgressing traditional gender norms through their involvement with powerlifting and revelled in the opportunity to display physical strength. Few participants mentioned negative experiences but for those few, links were made between the experiences and persisting historical ideology on women's bodies and capabilities. Participants also offered crucial insight into how they believe we can make this sport safer and more inclusive for prospective women, such as greater education on how menstrual cycles impact training and greater representation.

It was concluded that although women's experience of powerlifting is wholly positive, there is still room for improvement, and the improvements were seen to be an excellent way to facilitate more involvement in women's powerlifting.



In 2017 I began my BSc in Sociology at the University of Plymouth. I graduated from Plymouth with first class honours in 2020. In September 2021 I started my MA in Sociology at the University of Warwick, finishing in September 2022. At Warwick I started powerlifting and completed my dissertation on the feminist politics of powerlifting and experience of female powerlifters in the United Kingdom. I now work in admissions in Higher Education, hoping to do a PhD.

Contact: chloephillips2899@gmail.com

“The spectators ask, is it a boy or a girl? What is it?”: Cultural cisgenderism and trans men’s sporting experiences in Iran

Dr Phippis

In this presentation, the concept of cultural cisgenderism is used to analyse the sporting experiences of trans men in Iran. Semi-structured interviews with twelve trans men in different stages of transition are utilised to consider the participants’ experiences of women’s sport environments, the extent to which cisnormativity is embedded into the culture, and whether diverse gender identities are accepted. Findings suggest that essentialist understandings of sex and gender are evident in sport environments, with gender presentation policed by others, and expectations this should align with biological sex. While some interviewees’ masculine expressions were valued, others were considered ‘too masculine’ to be eligible to participate in women’s sport spaces; this led to restrictions around appearance and clothing, alongside instances of compulsory hormone testing. Finally, for those who were ‘out’ about their gender identity, this often led to hostility and discrimination from others, including coaches, teammates, and spectators. Overall, this presentation provides a critical understanding of trans inclusion in sport spaces in Iran. However, the findings may be useful for anyone working to make sport more accessible, regardless of geographical location.



Dr Catherine Phipps

Department of Sport and Health, Solent University, Southampton, UK


Dr Catherine Phipps is a Senior Lecturer in Sport and PE at Solent University. She completed her PhD in 2019 at the University of Greenwich, exploring LGBT+ inclusion in the university sport context. Her research interests include gender and women’s experiences in sport, alongside transgender inclusion in the sport and PE contexts.

Contact: catherine.phipps@solent.ac.uk

Paralympians' social media use: Creating 'evental' sites of 'soft' activism through digital (disability) labour.

Social media has provided a preeminent site from which to map the changing relations, representations, and attachments of various marginalised public(s). This has often included a focus on elite athletes at the intersection of racial, ethnic, and gendered/sexual identity markers and the emerging online entanglement of sport, minority activism and self-commercialisation practices. Yet, to date few scholars have explored this in the context of Paralympic athletes and the mediated intersections of disability, gender and athleticism. This paper seeks to contribute to this dearth by presenting data from an intersectional qualitative content analysis of the social media activity of 32 of the most popular UK Paralympic bloggers. In doing so, attention is paid to the way visual performances of sporting disability intersect with gender/sexuality, neoliberal ableism, assistive technology, and consumption ('branding') capabilities through Paralympians' social media content. We discuss the different ways this content cultivates affective performances of disabled sporting celebrity and 'evental sites' (Badiou 2007) for diverse disability (re-)presentation that can challenge dominant disability stereotypes at the intersections of gender, sexuality and disablement. The paper discusses the implications of this on the role of social media in collective disability politics, configurations of power, and activism beyond the digital.

Dr Emma Pullen's research interests are broadly focused on social inclusion and diversity in sport with a particular interest in gender equities and feminist research (debates, methodologies, approaches), disability and Paralympic sport, and broadcast media. She has published work in peer reviewed journal such as *Media, Culture & Society*, *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise & Health*, and *Sociology of Sport*.



Dr. Emma Pullen
(Loughborough University)
Contact: e.l.pullen@lboro.ac.uk

RACISM IN GERMAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL – THE EXPERIENCE OF BLACK MALE PLAYERS

Following Critical Race Theory and Critical Whiteness Studies, sport is considered another area of society where racism keeps people in subordinate positions. Best example is the (re-)construction of The Black Athlete, with the sporting success of Black athletes being othered and reduced to their supposedly natural physical exception, while White athletes are viewed to be the norm and praised for their cognitive abilities, thereby reproducing the notion of Black inferiority. Considering these discourses, this qualitative study addresses the almost completely un-researched issue of anti-Black racism in German amateur football. As the voices of people from marginalized groups are the primary sources for understanding processes of racism, semi-structured interviews with eight Black players foreground their experiences in German amateur football. Exposed to a complex set of different forms of racism within the game, the interviewees most frequently addressed three issues, that is, the confrontation with overt racism, racialized team banter and stacking. While the footballers find it noticeably easier to name blatant insults as racism, which evoke distressing emotions and a feeling of inferiority, they struggle to identify racialized team banter or stacking as manifestations of racism. In contrast, discriminatory discourses, such as those around The Black Athlete, appear deeply embedded in the structures and practices of German amateur football so that the players interviewed have incorporated ideas about Black people's athleticism and intellectual inferiority, at least in part, into their belief systems. At the same time, they are pervasively confronted with corresponding narratives from the outside

Vincent Reinke will graduate from the German Sport University in Cologne with a Master of Arts in International Sport Development and Politics later this month. During his study programme, he has mainly focused on socio-political issues in football. The study is part of his thesis that will be submitted in March 2023. Afterwards, Vincent Reinke will switch from research assistant to research associate at the Department of Political Science at the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz in the [FANZinE project](#), which studies how fandom in professional men's football can contribute to cohesion in Europe.

Contact: E.L.Pullen@lboro.ac.uk



Racial stacking and pushing in relation to imperialism in Belgian junior and professional football

Scheerder, Jeroen & D'Hoore, Nathan

This research explores the presence of racial stacking and pushing in playing positions in Belgian junior and professional football. Scholars argue that these more 'subtle' forms of racial inequality – often intertwined with positive stereotypes – are institutionalised and embedded in football. Moreover, racist occurrences through racially encoded signifiers and stereotypes are often regarded as 'non-racial'. However, limited academic research has investigated racial stacking and pushing in football in relation to imperialism despite these power relations being constructed based on socio-historical norms. Therefore, the present study aims to increase insight into the role of ethnicity in determining one's playing position in Belgian junior and professional football. In addition, this research aims to contribute to the understanding how this racial stacking and pushing discourse is socially and culturally constructed, and what the performative implications are in relation to Belgian colonial endeavours. This research draws on data collected as part of a broader project on discrimination in junior football, including field observations, a survey, and in-depth interviews on the one hand, and online document analysis in professional football at the other. Preliminary results indicate that ethnicity is a significant predictor of all playing positions in both junior and professional football. Moreover, limited critical reflections and commemorations about Belgium's colonial past lead to racially encoded stereotypes, stacking and pushing. As a result, inclusion of certain ethnic groups takes place more easily in certain roles (e.g., executive attacking positions) compared to other roles (e.g., leadership roles in the team but also among coaches and board members).



Jeroen Scheerder is Professor in Sport Policy and Sport Sociology at KU Leuven, Belgium. He was President of the European Association for Sociology of Sport (EASS) and currently he is Promotor-coordinator of the Policy Research Centre on Sport on behalf of the Flemish Government. His primary research interests focus on political and sociological aspects of sport and physical activity.

Contact: nathan.dhoore@kuleuven.be

Nathan D'Hoore obtained his Master of Science at the Faculty of Movement & Rehabilitation Sciences of the KU Leuven in 2021. As a PhD student, he is currently preparing a thesis with a focus on social sport policy in Flanders.

Contact: jeroen.scheerder@kuleuven.be

Antisemitism in football: Feyenoord supporters reflecting on antisemitism in Dutch professional men's football

Jasmin Seijbel, Erasmus University

An increasing body of literature explores antisemitism in professional football in various national contexts (Brunssen, 2021; Poulton, 2020; Curtis, 2019). There has however, been less scholarly attention to how fans actively interpret and reflect on antisemitism in football, especially beyond the Anglosphere. When playing the Amsterdam based alleged 'Jewish club' Ajax, some fans of opposing Dutch football teams such as Feyenoord, ADO Den Haag and FC Utrecht are prone to make hissing noises, and chant antisemitic songs such as 'Hamas! Hamas! All Jews to the gas!' (Gans, 2013). This kind of football-related antisemitic behaviour is not only reproduced in stadiums but also in bars, public transport and on social media (Seijbel, van Sterkenburg, & Oonk, 2022). This study examines antisemitic discourse in Dutch football and pays specific attention to the way Feyenoord supporters interpret and reflect on football-related antisemitism.

Drawing on ongoing fieldwork including participant observations and semi-structured interviews with Feyenoord supporters this study explores the different uses and meanings of 'Jew' in the vernacular culture of Dutch football fans. Preliminary findings suggest that the use of 'Jew' in football is layered and complex. Feyenoord supporters have varied attitudes towards antisemitism in football, while some fans deny or minimize the existence of antisemitism in football and argue that it is just a harmless form of banter or rivalry, others acknowledge the problem and condemn it as unacceptable and damaging to the reputation of their club. The presentation highlights the implications and consequences of such attitudes and behaviours, including potential harm and the (symbolic) exclusion of Jews both in the context of football and wider society. The study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on antisemitism in football and underscores the need for greater awareness and education to address this complex issue.

Jasmin Seijbel is a PhD-researcher and lecturer at the Erasmus School of History, Culture, and Communication. Her research focusses on the content of football-related antisemitic discourse in on- and offline spaces. She also investigates educational initiatives aimed at combating discrimination and antisemitism in Dutch football. She works at the intersection of media, memory, and sport studies with a particular interest in exploring methodological issues that impact knowledge production, such as examining the role of gender in relationships with informants.

Contact: seijbel@eshcc.eur.nl



BLACKLISTED: THE YOUNG BLACK MALE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER AND EDUCATION IN ENGLAND

Nyall Simms (Leicester University)

This paper focuses on the experiences of black schoolboy footballers' parents whilst their sons are at professional academies within the UK. Findings within my research highlights their experiences regarding race, gender, and socio-economic implications, as well as mental wellbeing issues surrounding being released and offered professional contracts.

Nyall Simms is a third year PhD student at Leicester University. His teaching and research focuses on racialised experiences within English football. He recently worked on a Premier League funded research project as a research assistant exploring inclusive coaching pedagogy.



"Are there no more English men on the England national team? Sad": The value of adopting an intersectional lens to study discrimination in relation to media sport

Dr Joost Jansen is an Assistant Professor of Criminology at Erasmus University Rotterdam. His interests cover a broad range of methodological and substantial topics, such as text mining, data science, violence, and nationalism.

Dr Michael Skey is a Senior Lecturer in Communication & Media at Loughborough University. His research interests are in the areas of; media and identity, media rituals and events, communication and sport and discourse theory. Contact: M.Skey@lboro.ac.uk

This paper argues for the importance of developing an analytical framework that uses an intersectional lens to interrogate the manner in which participants in sport (competitors, organisers, audiences) may be dis/advantaged as a result of their position within intersecting hierarchies of recognition and belonging. After briefly outlining how that framework is developed, drawing on recent work on intersectionality (Kalman-Lamb & Abdel-Shehid, 2017) alongside insights from classic studies of insiders/outsideers (Elias, 1994, Hage, 1998), we showcase two empirical examples. The first concerns reporting of the 'Plastic Brits' debate during the London 2012 Olympics when intersections of ethnicity and nation were used to call into question the status of a number of athletes competing for Britain. The second involves online responses to the England football (or soccer) team's exploits in the 2022 Women's European Championships and 2021 Men's European Championships. Drawing on a corpus of over 30.000 tweets, we explore the manner in which different types of sporting representative are accepted, celebrated or, alternatively, repudiated and on what basis. We then ask participants to discuss a number of other recent examples from the sporting world that highlight the utility of a more intersectional approach to the study of sport and discrimination.

The Sport of Yoga: Cultural Appropriation or True Belonging?

Jennifer Van de Pol

Yoga is immensely popular in exercise and sports centres and programs across the world. As an instructor in the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education (EPHE) at the University of Victoria (UVic) in BC Canada, I explore questions of identity, belonging and social justice with students in my current course, *Yoga: In These Bodies, On These Lands*.

My students and I are exploring questions such as: How are certain people and identities excluded from participating in Yoga, and how might we change this? How might this ancient Indigenous subject be studied and taught by non-Indigenous practitioners utilizing anti-oppressive, intersectional and EDI lenses? As a white, cis-gender, daughter of Ukrainian and Dutch settlers in Canada, how might I share this subject in ways that co-create a true sense of belonging for *everybody*?

A scroll through Instagram could lead many to believe that Yoga is primarily for physically flexible, white, middle-class, thin, blonde cis-gender women. My presentation will highlight some of the ways that these kinds of media representations create barriers to participation, and how we might create more welcoming, inclusive, safe/brace spaces within which to learn this subject.

I am honoured to have been teaching Yoga in Indigenous (First Nations) communities for many years, and have experienced how the ethical and philosophical foundations of Yoga and certain nations' ways of being are fundamentally interconnected and rooted in belonging. I look forward to meeting other colleagues who deeply value working with EDI at the core of their academic work.



Jennifer is a certified Iyengar Yoga teacher, and teaches in the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education (EPHE) at the University of Victoria (UVic) in BC Canada. Her students are athletes, Physical Health Education, Kinesiology and Physiotherapy students. *Yoga: In These Bodies, On These Lands* is the title of her current course. Jennifer also holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts and has taught wellness and arts-based programs rooted in anti-oppression for 20 years. Jennifer is passionate about sharing body-based practices in ways where everybody feels invited in, and has equal opportunity to experience being truly well. Contact: jvandepol@uvic.ca

Arne Van Lienden

A large body of research has explored representations of race/ethnicity – and intersections with nationality and gender, among other social identity dimensions – in mediated sport content. Many of these works found that sport journalists and commentators often rely on reductionist and occasionally stereotypical discourses when giving meaning to the capabilities and qualities of minoritized athletes. Most of these previous studies have focused on sport media content, but much less remains known about the relation between racialized discourses in sport media content on the one hand, and on the other hand, the institutional processes, hegemonic work routines and professional self-understandings of sport media professionals involved in the production of televised sport. This goes especially for contexts beyond the Anglosphere, where the few earlier production studies have been conducted.

In this presentation we aim to contribute to address this knowledge gap by highlighting the main findings of a production study we conducted in the little researched context of Poland. By relying on data gathered in 16 in-depth interviews with journalists and commentators, together with field visits at various Polish sport media organizations, this presentation will highlight the dominant racialized and gendered discourses Polish sport media professionals speak through and how ideologies of Whiteness and masculinity permeate organizational processes.

Arne van Lienden is a PhD candidate at the Erasmus Research Centre for Media, Communication, and Culture. His research focuses on the content and production of discourses surrounding race/ethnicity in Polish televised football and the audience receptions of these discourses. Arne's research is part of the Dutch Research Council-funded research project *How racist is televised football and do audiences react?* and is conducted under the supervision of prof. dr. Jacco van Sterkenburg (promotor) and dr. Mélodine Sommier (co-promotor).

Contact: vanlienden@eshcc.eur.nl



My PhD research focuses on the relationship and interaction between females, and health and body related digital technologies. To be specific, the mutual interplay between mobile applications and social media in relation to health and body, and Chinese female students in the UK universities is investigated. Health and body in this research contain a wide range of topics, such as sports and fitness, body shape and weight management, psychological health. A transformative paradigm is taken to guide the research design. Deeply influenced by Foucauldian-biopower and biopedagogy theories, feminist philosophies and studies, this research investigates the discrimination and oppression towards a group of people who experience the intertwining gender and racial identities. Meanwhile, as Chinese female students have experienced both Chinese and British sociocultural contexts, the exchange and collision between cultures will also be a feature for this research. Based on transformative paradigms and critical theoretical perspectives, a critical digital ethnographic approach was conducted, including three main stages of data collection, online questionnaire, digital participant-observation, and online interviews. The data collection is planned to finish in this April. And data analysis is conducted alongside. Hopefully, on the conference in June, some findings and discussions will be presented.

Contact: C.Wang-93@sms.ed.ac.uk



Gender inequalities in sport – exploring the experiences of female coaches

Since the early 1980s, sports participation for women and girls continues to grow, which includes those sports traditionally seen as being a preserve of the male, such as cricket, football, and rugby (Lake, 2012). Increased participation is partly the result of equal rights legislation, but also an increase in the media coverage of women's sports, such as the 2015 Women's World Cup which received a significant amount of positive print media coverage, and therefore suggests, as discussed by Petty and Pope (2019, p486), that there is a 'new age of media coverage' on women's sports. Campaigns led by charities such as 'Women in Sport', first developed in 1984, and the WTCA (Women's Tennis Coaching Association), founded in 2015, are making an increasing impact globally, with an overall goal to provide equal opportunities for women in the sporting world. Yet, despite these developments, sports remain gendered and stereotypical.

The gendered division in sport is even more apparent when looking at coaching in sport, where coaching opportunities are limited in women's sports and mostly absent in men's sports (Walker and Bopp, 2011). Coaches are still vastly under-represented, and the coaching profession is a white male-dominated occupation in which women are marginalised, bullied, harassed, and excluded (Norman and Rankin-Wright, 2018).

Previous research carried out by Wolski (unpublished), which looked at the experiences of female tennis coaches found that coaches continue to experience sexism, and discrimination within their professions. Key themes identified were stereotyping, the lack of role models and feeling excluded from the Boys' Club.

Forthcoming research seeks to build on this research and explore the experiences of female coaches in other sports, such as those more specifically traditionally seen as male-dominated, for example, cricket and rugby. Findings to date will be presented at the conference.

Dr Urszula Wolski


Senior Lecturer in Research Methods --- Buckinghamshire New University

Research interests include new technologies for social research, qualitative research methods and software, the Sociology of Sport, the Sociology of Religion and Positive Psychology. Current research is looking at gender inequalities within sports coaching, and character strengths and participation in sport/physical activity to promote positive ageing. Previous research within the field of Positive Psychology looked at the integration of character strengths and mindfulness for achieving flow in tennis performance. Contact: urszula.wolski@bnu.ac.uk

Soccer, Racism, and Regional Discrimination: A Case Study of the Football Association Super League

Zesheng Yang (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

Soccer, Racism, and Regional Discrimination: A Case Study of the Chinese Race discrimination in sport is not common in China, but it often triggers wide public debate when it occurs. In the 2018 Chinese Football Association Super League 16 round, Changchun Yatai Football Club played against Shanghai Shenhua Football Club. Zhang Li, a Chinese player for Changchun Yatai, used suspected racially discriminatory words against Demba Ba, a foreign player for Shanghai Shenhua, causing a serious conflict between the two teams. Although Zhang Li explained that his words did not have any racist meaning, the event was widely reported and triggered furious debate on social media. The CCTV Sport Channel, the largest sport broadcaster in China, continually reported the event on Weibo (the most popular social media platform in China), receiving more than 30,000 retweets and comments. In this study, computer-assisted text analysis approach of framing analysis was employed to extract meaning from those retweets and comments. This study's findings revealed that social media users create racially discriminatory meanings both intraracially, in the form of regional discrimination, and against other races. Other topics regarding black people in China and fouls committed by foreign football players during matches were also frequently mentioned in relation to the studied event. These findings further suggested that racial discrimination on social media facilitates the descent into cyber violence.



Zesheng Yang is a Ph.D. student from Department of Audiovisual Communication and Advertising, and Sport Research Institute, Autonomous University of Barcelona. Prior to that, he worked at Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games Organizing Committee. He obtained a Master of Mass Communication from Singapore Nanyang Technological University and a Master of Sociology of Sport from Zheng Zhou University(China). His research interests include sport communication and Olympic Movement.

Email: Zesheng.yang@autonoma.cat

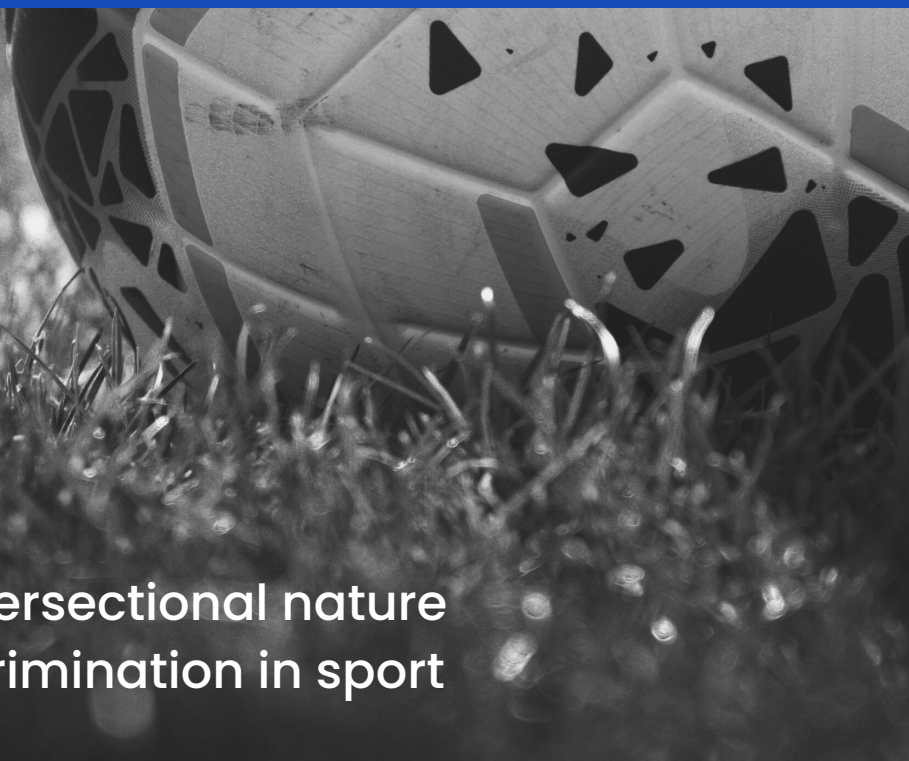
20
23



Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group



THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL SPORT & DISCRIMINATION CONFERENCE



The intersectional nature
of discrimination in sport

