



Research Network 28  
Society and Sport



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TERAMO

ESA Research Network 28  
**Society and Sport**  
Midterm Conference



## **SPORT AND CRISIS: BODIES, PRACTICES, REPRESENTATIONS**

University of Teramo – Teramo (Italy)  
March 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

[www.esasocietyandsports-midtermconference.com](http://www.esasocietyandsports-midtermconference.com)

### *Scientific Committee*

Alessandro Porrovecchio – Nico Bortoletto – Enrico Micheleni – Giovanna Russo  
Lucie Forté-Gallois – Stacey Pope – Loredana Tallarita – Kaja Róždzyńska

### *Organisational Committee*

Alessandro Porrovecchio – Nico Bortoletto – Giovanna Russo – Enrico Micheleni

*With the support of*



THURSDAY, MARCH 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

01:30-01.55 pm - **OPENING**

**Dino Mastrocola**

*Rector University of Teramo - Italy*

**Luigi Mastrangelo**

*Delegate for Sport - Coordinator Master in Sport and Communication Policies  
University of Teramo - Italy*

**Adolfo Noto**

*Editor Lancillotto&Nausica: Critica e Storia dello Sport Review - Italy*

**Tiziano Pesce**

*National President UISP - Italy*

Chairman **Nico Bortoletto** *Co-coordinator of the ESA RN 28 - University of Teramo - Italy*

02.00-02.55 pm **CONFERENCE OPENING**

**Body, Sport and Welfare: A Pandemic Globalization?**

Keynote speaker **Nicola Porro** *University of Cassino and Southern Lazio - Italy*

Discussant **Nico Bortoletto** *Co-coordinator of the ESA RN 28 - University of Teramo - Italy*

03.00-04.25 pm

**PANEL 1: FORCED MIGRATION AND SPORTS**

Chairman **Axel Maugendre** *Strasbourg University - France*

**Refugee Sites in Niger and the Role of Sport**

Alessandra Morelli - Marzia Vigliaroni - Enrico Michelini

**Organised Sport in Refugee Sites. An Ethnographic Research in Niamey**

Enrico Michelini - Alessandra Morelli - Michela Vignaroni

**Case-Specific Recommendations for Organised Sport in Refugee Sites.  
Between Sociology and Intervention**

Marzia Vigliaroni - Enrico Michelini - Alessandra Morelli

**PANEL 2: COVID-19, MEDIA AND SPORTS**

Chairman **Alessandra Palermo** *Université de Lille - France*

**Digital communication: athletes and social distancing in the time of the pandemic**

Alessandra Palermo

**The effects of COVID-19 on the press coverage of sports**

Rosarita Cuccoli

**Sport and sponsorship in the era of Covid-19: Olympic Games Tokyo 2020+1**

Alfredo de Martini

**The return of sporting events after the Covid-19 pandemic between innovation and sustainability**

Barbara Mazza - Giovanna Russo

04.30-05.40 pm

**PANEL 3: SPORTS, SPACES, SOCIALITY**

Chairman **Antonio Borgogni** *University of Bergamo – Italy*

**Sport and training in sociality and non-violence: for a history of fencing in Teramo and Abruzzo**  
Gabriele Di Francesco

**Sociological analysis of the relations between sports federations and local authorities in France**  
Clément Lopez - Matheu Djaballah - Dominique Charrier

**Street sports under the city lights.**

**The representation of bmx, parkour and skateboarding in Italian newspapers**  
Carlo Genova

**PANEL 4: COVID-19 AND SPORTS' PRACTICE**

Chairwoman **Ivana Matteucci** *University of Urbino - Italy*

**Continued sport and physical exercise during COVID-19: Strategies of staying fit in Sweden**  
Karin Andersson - Sara Karlén - Jens Radmann - Alexander Jansson

**Effects of the COVID-19 in a small town basketball club: Béjar and the silence of its baskets**  
Iván Parro Fernández

**Sport and crisis: bodies, practices, representations**  
Silvia Lolli

05.45-06.25 pm

**ESA RN28 SOCIETY & SPORTS MIDTERM MEETING**

Chairmen

**Alessandro Porrovecchio** *University of the Littoral Opal Coast - France*

**Nico Bortoletto** *University of Teramo - Italy*

06.30-07.15 pm

**AISS-SPORT MEETING (IN ITALIAN)**

**Institutional greetings and introduction**

**Maria Carmela Agodi** *AISS President*

Chairwoman

**Giovanna Russo** *University of Bologna – Italy Nico Bortoletto University of Teramo - Italy*

FRIDAY, MARCH 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

08.00-08.55 am

**SPECIAL PRACTICAL SESSION:  
DISCOVERING TRADITIONAL QI GONG IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES**

Master

**Marco Palermo**

*Qi Gong Master National Member of Traditional Kung Fu Italian Union  
Chinese Medicine Practitioner*

09.00-10.25 am

**PANEL 5: BODIES, SPORTS, DISABILITIES**

Chairman

**Alessandro Porrovecchio** *University of the Littoral Opal Coast - ULR 7369 URePSSS - France*

**The Covid-19 pandemic and unstructured physical activity  
in those with long-term health conditions**

Joanna Blackwell - Hannah Henderson - Adam B Evans - Jacquelyn Allen-Collinson

**Social representations of physical disability in a professional environment**

Denis Bernardeau-Moreau

**Body Mass Index, eating disorders and sport practice.**

**A sociological study among Italian high school students**

Valentina Savini - Gabriele Di Francesco

**The sign of the crisis: the body as semantic vector of youth discomfort**

Simone Digennaro

**PANEL 6: FOOTBALL AND ITS WORLDS (1)**

Chairman **Przemysław Nosal** *Adam Mickiewicz University – Poznan – Poland*

**Death, memory, and cult of Diego Armando Maradona in his fandom on Facebook**

Luca Bifulco, Mario Tirino, Simona Castellano

**Atalanta, a contemporary myth that challenges the big football clubs**

Paolo Corvo

**A tale of the crowd. The San Siro derby and its people**

Gianmarco Navarini - Simone Tosi

**Blacklisted': The young black male professional footballer and education in England**

Nyall Simms

10.30-12.00 am

**PANEL 7: SPORT AND ITS PROFESSIONS**

Chairwoman

**Barbara Mazza**

*Department of Social Communication and Social Research - Sapienza University of Rome - Italy*

**The body of job applicants: a confirmation of their sports practice?**

Duflos Julie

**Keep the link and rethink the job. EPGV's animators in the face of the Covid-19 crisis**

Oumaya Hidry Neys - Cindy Louchet

**Dual career athlete's destiny at a crossroads: the edmedia collaborative partnership**

Francesca Romana Lenzi, Laura Capranica, Antonio Tessitore

**Migration of African "football players" to Turkey: stay or continue to Europe?**

Clément Lopez

**PANEL 8: SPORTS, REFUGEES AND MIGRATION**

Chairman **Enrico Michelini** *Technical University of Dortmund – Germany*

**A soft solution for a hard problem?**

**Exploring the value of football for European refugee resettlement**

Alessio Norrito

**Analysis of sport's contribution for migrant's social inclusion in Italy:  
state of art, challenges and criticalities**

Lavinia Falese - Gianfranco Zucca - Simone Digennaro

**Young Muslims and Sport in Italy**

Fabrizio Ciocca

**Shall we speak football? "Scottish accent you know, it's not easy"**

Marianna Pavan

01.30-02.55 pm

**PANEL 9: COVID'S CHALLENGES TOWARDS SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

Chairwoman **Lucie Forté** *Paul Sabatier University - Toulouse 3 - France*

**A sociological approach using 'habitus' towards the impact of Covid-19 on Sport:**

**The case of Greece**

Nikos Lekakis, Alexandra Fountouki, Apostolia Ntovoli

**Sports deprived? Inmates' experiences of punishment during Covid-19**

Paolo Giuliani - Francesca Garbarino - Isotta Rossoni - Andrea Scotti

**The methodological implications in sports social research at the time of Covid-19**

Paolo Diana - Giovannipaolo Ferrari

**Physical activity and social health in the frail elderly:  
caring with technology in the covid-19 pandemic**

Ivana Matteucci

**PANEL 10: FOOTBALL AND ITS WORLDS (2)**

Chairman **Mario Tirino** *University of Salerno - Italy*

**Duties of the Heart: the Mass Mobilization of Polish Football Fan  
in the Face of the Coronavirus Outbreak**

Michał Mazurkiewicz - Jan Kochanowski

**The importance of social networks in male professional football**

Gary Souter

**The many faces of racism on football:**

**An analysis of the Facebook pages of Portuguese football clubs**

Sandra Miranda - Célia Gouveia - Alexandra David - Ana Cristina Antunes - Branco Di Fátima

**How COVID spurred Premier League clubs to support their local communities**

Rafał Wysoczański-Minkowicz

03.00- 04.00 pm **CONFERENCE CLOSING**

**Sport and physical activity in the face of the coronavirus crisis: new issues and new challenges**

Keynote speaker **William Gasparini** *Strasbourg University - France*

Discussant **Giovanna Russo** *Department of Educational Sciences – University of Bologna “Alma Mater” - Italy*

04.00- 04.15 pm

Closing remarks

**Alessandro Porrovecchio** *RN 28 Coordinator - University of the Littoral Opal Coast - France*



Research Network 28  
Society and Sport



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TERAMO

ESA Research Network 28  
**Society and Sport**  
Midterm Conference



# **SPORT AND CRISIS: BODIES, PRACTICES, REPRESENTATIONS**

University of Teramo - Teramo (Italy)

**DAY 1**  
**Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

02.00-02.55 pm

**CONFERENCE OPENING**

Link <https://meet.google.com/okr-yctb-zcj>



Keynote speaker

**Nicola Porro**

*University of Cassino and Southern Lazio - Italy*

Discussant

**Nico Bortoletto**

*Co-coordinator of the ESA RN 28 - University of Teramo - Italy*

Title

**Body, Sport and Welfare: a Pandemic Globalization?**

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak upsets the social representation of late modernity, forcing it to come to terms with removed scenarios: the great natural disasters, the irruption of unknown diseases, the danger of an out-of-control social disorder.

The body, sport and welfare represent three potential metaphors of the challenge in progress and globalisation as a threat and as an opportunity.

The body, rescued from the Faustian illusion of immortality, (re-)discovers itself vulnerable. The invisible enemy, exorcised as a residue of the past, is once again frightening and colonises the media universe, generating dynamics of anxiety and reasons for conflict on a planetary scale.

Sport has been struck at the heart, deprived of its ability to become the main metaphor of our social culture (competition, aesthetisation, technicalisation). Deprived of physical proximity, reduced to a spectacle at a distance, emasculated by the public and their passion, it shrinks into the artificial dimension of the video game.

Welfare systems are also under attack at their most socially weak front: the health system. Around a drastic and sudden redefinition of the traditional categories of health and wellbeing, inspired by the universalist philosophy of welfare, new social priorities are being outlined while an unprecedented regime of order-disorder is crumbling public ethics and cultural values.

The perimeter that includes the body, sport and welfare is therefore an area of uncertainty, dominated by both centrifugal and centripetal dynamics. Unprecedented scenarios are emerging, but there are no answers to the dilemmas of the immediate future. Is there a stronger demand for globalisation or a closure into new localisms? Or is the local-global relationship that is emerging in welfare systems and in international sport announcing a form of progressive de-globalisation? What new configuration of sport and its variegated subcultures awaits us? And, finally, can a reflection embracing the body, sport and welfare suggest an exit strategy for the post-Covid era?



03.00-04.25 pm

**PANEL 1: FORCED MIGRATION AND SPORTS**

Link <https://meet.google.com/mzp-ztgx-vcb>

Chairman **Axel Maugendre** *Strasbourg University, France*

**Title** **Refugee Sites in Niger and the Role of Sport**

**Authors** **Alessandra Morelli** *UNHCR's Representative in Niger*  
**Marzia Vigliaroni** *UNHCR's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Specialist in Niger*  
**Enrico Michelini** *Technical University of Dortmund - Germany*

**Abstract**

Niger is a country considered (amongst) the poorest and less developed of the world. Like other countries of the Sahel, it is affected by socioeconomic problems inherited from its past as a French colony (including the illogicality of its borders) and embedded in a problematic transition to democracy. Notwithstanding a relatively stable political situation, Niger deals with violence, extremism and instability at its border, and it is a mandatory junction of a massive forced migration movement. Despite its poverty, Niger started an extensive cooperation amongst others with UNHCR for assessing this migratory issue. In the context of a complex strategy for managing numerous displaced persons, different types of refugee sites were built.

This abstract examines how sport is used as a tool for social development in this setting. Thereby, the discrepancy between the goals of Sport for Development and Peace and the implementation of sport activities is sociologically reflected. Finally, case studies are used for illustrating the potentials of sport.

---

**Title** **Organised Sport in Refugee Sites. An Ethnographic Research in Niamey**

**Authors** **Enrico Michelini** *Technical University of Dortmund - Germany*  
**Alessandra Morelli** *UNHCR's Representative in Niger*  
**Marzia Vigliaroni** *UNHCR's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Specialist in Niger*

**Abstract**

For assessing the question ‘What role does organised sport play in refugee sites?’ formal sport activities at the refugee sites of Niamey were examined in 2019 for a period of four weeks. Data were collected through ethnography: Open observations (120 hours) and narrative interviews (n=10) were contextualised with reference to further information on the geopolitical situation and organisational logic of the sites. These data were reflected and interpreted through a systems theoretical framework.

The results indicate that sport in refugee sites is led by multiple meanings, which rely mainly on the logics of sport, health and education; is implemented despite significant barriers, established in the organisation processes and considered relevant for different reasons; reproduces unbalanced power relations, is used with disciplinary goals and is thoroughly promoted. While retaining its core, sport absorbs and reproduces inherent contradictions of this peculiar context.

**Title Case-Specific Recommendations for Organised Sport in Refugee Sites.  
Between Sociology and Intervention**

**Authors** **Marzia Vigliaroni** *UNHCR's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Specialist in Niger*  
**Enrico Michelini** *Technical University of Dortmund - Germany*  
**Alessandra Morelli** *UNHCR's Representative in Niger*

**Abstract**

The results of an ethnographic study on the formal sport activities at the refugee sites of Niamey as well as main concepts of sport for development and peace were used for formulating case-specific recommendations for organised sport in refugee sites.

After having presented these recommendations, this case is used for reflecting on the use of sociological knowledge for the purpose of planning, implementing and controlling interventions in the field of sport. By considering the stand of the discussion on the relationship between sociology, policy and education, the abstract outlines possible ways to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

The potentials of sociology are more likely to be fully exploited for descriptive, analytical or critical purposes. However, sociological explanations offer cognitive and epistemic gains, which differ from the perspectives of policymakers, educators and trainers and can therefore enrich them. Nevertheless, multidisciplinary cooperation, in this case with sport pedagogues and psychologists is crucial for avoiding intuitive recommendations and for maintaining a scientific depth.

03.00-04.25 pm

**PANEL 2: COVID-19, MEDIA AND SPORTS**

Link <https://meet.google.com/vpd-vriq-npf>

Chairwoman **Alessandra Palermo** *Université de Lille, ULR 7369 - URePSSS - France*

Title **Digital communication: athletes and social distancing in the time of the pandemic**

Author **Alessandra Palermo** *Université de Lille, ULR 7369 - URePSSS - France*

Abstract

The coronavirus epidemic has suddenly exposed society and its social processes that have been put to good use over the centuries in different geographical areas with its global reach (WHO, 2020), interfering with health institutions, economic and social of any size and by placing limits on rituals to traditions considered comforting for men, such as the practice of sport. At the same time, new practices and habits have emerged, as a direct consequence of the social distancing suggested by WHO (2020). Social distance, sociologically understood (Simmel, 1898), is a re-surfaced concept, made the subject of popularization between reality and mysticism, since the debut of the Covid-19 pandemic, becoming one of the key concepts in the 2020. The social distance is today in full correlation with the concept of technology. Thanks to technology, social distance has acquired a new value, offering itself as a vehicle to break down the space-time borders in times in which they require physical isolation. And here tools like social networks, already powerful media, have become the virtual place, the agora of today, in which to discuss, compare and meet, in full rule with the principles and theories of social networks, from the theory of six degrees of separation (Watts, Strogatz, 1998) to that of uses and gratifications (Katz, Blumler, Gurevitch, 1973). This article aims to present a brief analysis of the communication messages used by athletes during the quarantine through the use of official hashtags and conveyed through Facebook and Instagram. The goal is to demonstrate how universally recognized values of sport have a positive effect and are a perfect combination with social networks, in a period of doubts, uncertainties and anxieties.

---

Title **The effects of COVID-19 on the press coverage of sports**

Author **Rosarita Cuccoli**

*Laboratoire Arènes - UMR CNRS 605*

*Équipe “Engagement, vie politique et médias” - France*

Abstract

The state of lockdown in which many countries were put during the first months of the coronavirus pandemic, starting in March 2020, was accompanied by the cancellation or postponement of virtually all sports competitions worldwide. Sports journalism was destined to be severely affected by the absence of sports competitions. As far as the journalistic coverage of sports was concerned, general-interest newspapers could readjust their contents, but what about sports-only newspapers? How did this specialist press adapt to the unprecedented situation it was suddenly confronted with? More specifically, how did the coverage of sports in sports-only newspapers change in the “absence of sports”? Content analysis was conducted on the digital replicas of *La Gazzetta dello Sport*,

Italy's leading sports newspaper, in the midst of the first wave of the COVID-19 crisis, in order to explore what the newspaper was covering while the usual calendar of sporting events had been put to a halt. Founded in 1896, La Gazzetta dello Sport is the oldest specialised daily newspaper in the world still published, and not just among sports newspapers. With more than 3.2 million readers per day, which jump to over 4 million on Mondays (Source: Audipress – 2019/III), it is also the newspaper with the largest readership in Italy. It therefore provided an utterly representative corpus to investigate, if only preliminarily, what was happening in the sports newspapers segment in terms of contents and how the news selection process was being impacted by the crisis.

---

**Title**      **Sport and sponsorship in the era of Covid-19: Olympic Games Tokyo 2020+1**

**Author**    **Alfredo De Martini** *Sapienza University of Rome - Italy*

#### **Abstract**

Sport is one of the sectors that has suffered most from the current pandemic. Sporting events, such as the Olympics, have been suspended, cancelled or postponed, disrupting entire competitive seasons, disrupting calendars and wiping out profits.

This emergency does not only concern top-level sports but, above all, small clubs and youth sectors (whose activities have already been suspended by the federations to which they belong). They will have to figure out how survive and continue their activities on the territory.

It is a historic change that is also reshaping the relationship between sports and commercial partners, who have always been the mainstay of global sporting activity, no longer just from an economic point of view but with a concrete involvement of the sponsor in the growth cycle of the sports club.

In the year of the Olympic Games, a special focus will be on 2 of the Official Partners of the event, Nike and Toyota, and on what were the objectives and results of their campaigns.

Starting from an analysis of the current market, this paper attempts to understand the most current and effective strategies for re-launching growth opportunities in terms of fan engagement, brand awareness and brand loyalty of the companies under examination.

This paper aims to present the results of a qualitative & quantitative research characterised by two phases. The first, which is based on a series of interviews with experts from the corporate environments, aims to identify the social policies and marketing strategies defined by companies and sports organizations. The second focuses on a quantitative analysis, realized analyzing the communication channels of the companies, aimed at estimating the rates of engagement, sentiment, awareness and loyalty generated by initiatives carried out by sponsor companies and federations. The goal is to verify the potential impact of sponsorships on the future of sports entertainment.

**Title** **The return of sporting events after the Covid-19 pandemic  
between innovation and sustainability**

**Authors** **Barbara Mazza**

*Department of Social Communication and Social Research  
Sapienza University of Rome - Italy*

**Giovanna Russo**

*Department of Educational Sciences, University of Bologna “Alma Mater - Italy*

**Abstract**

The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in the world in 2020 has abolished most of the events: only in the sports world, it has been estimated that 53% of sporting events in the world have been cancelled. A huge damage consequently was caused to the sport sector and the IMF predicts an average contraction of 6.1% in 2020 for advanced economies. At the same time, the crisis and "forced suspension" has also imposed the search for new models and new formats of living, but above all, the need to be ready and able to recovery.

This paper tries to connect the effects of the pandemic crisis with the commitment of sports organizations towards the adoption of innovative management models which implies (according to the 2030 Agenda goals) the adoption of innovation and sustainability tools. How are these two assets applied in the Italian sports events sector? What changes are taking place?

The paper presents the results of an initial exploratory survey on some of the main sporting events, starting from the collection of information through questionnaires and in-depth interviews carried out with some event organizers. This background analysis is the first step of a research that aims to outline the development models of the management of sporting events in the future post-pandemic scenario. The monitoring of actions relating to the main Italian sporting events is useful for providing information to all minor events to identify virtuous systems to be applied in future sport event management.

04.30-05.40 pm

**PANEL 3: SPORTS, SPACES, SOCIALITY**

Link: <https://meet.google.com/qww-qeeu-ukp>

Chairman **Antonio Borgogni** *University of Bergamo*

Title **Sport and training in sociality and non-violence:  
for a history of fencing in Teramo and Abruzzo**

Author **Gabriele Di Francesco** “*G. d’Annunzio*” *University of Chieti-Pescara - Italy*

Abstract

*Introduction*

The intervention aims to present and analyze the reality of fencing, an ancient martial art, today mainly identified with the related Olympic sport. In competitions, the weapons that represent the categories are three: the saber, the sword and the foil. In the Olympics individual competitions and team competitions are held, both at the male and at the female level.

Once considered an elite sport, practiced by a narrow group of privileged people, it is actually a training sport that has seen a wide participation in the Teramo area also at the level of schools and a reduction of social discomfort and handicap.

*Method*

The analysis is carried out through the history and documentary analysis of fencing in Abruzzo and in the area of the province of Teramo. In methodological terms, in addition to documents (deeds, statutes, documents, diplomas, etc.), evidence was also used (memories and narratives) and material for visual analysis (photos, videos).

*Results and Discussion*

The results of the research lead to consider fencing as an individual sport with great potential in terms of psycho-motor control and training in adversity. Its social potential develops through the use and sharing of different weapon models, the strengthening of psychoemotional self-control through the mastery of one’s own aggressiveness, the perception of risk, but also in the different specialties that polarize the attention especially of young people. and very young people (it can be practiced since childhood with plastic foil).

In the Teramo area, fencing has a long history of training and sports education carried out by amateur clubs for many years in schools and with numerous tournaments.

Particular attention was paid to solving the motor-praxic discomfort of young people.

*Conclusion*

Fencing, like most martial arts, is a sport of concentration and reflexivity. It is apparently a violent and aggressive sport, made of impetuous attacks and lucky saves. In reality, fencing helps to master emotions and aggression, to evaluate violent and dangerous behaviors, giving those who practice it the opportunity to develop and orient themselves towards sociability, loyalty, individual discipline and non-violence.

**Title**        **Sociological analysis of the relations  
between sports federations and local authorities in France**

**Authors**   **Clément Lopez - Matheu Djaballah - Dominique Charrier**  
*Université Paris-Saclay - France*

#### Abstract

The French model of sport has been affected by some reforms of its territorial organization (2014 and 2016) and its governance with the implementation in 2019 of a sport agency – based on the English model (Houlihan and Green, 2008; King, 2013) – that included the national governing bodies, sports federations, local authorities and the private sector in the decision-making of French sport policy (Charrier and Lapeyronie, 2020). One of the most outstanding goals with this reform is to align the sports federations' strategies of development with the local authorities sport policies aiming to promote and develop their territory (at the scale of cities, departments and regions). This presentation aims to underscore the challenges of this goals through the use of political sociology of public action theory (Hassenteufel, 2011; Lascoumes and Le Galès, 2014) to analyze the sports federations and local authorities' relations. The semi-structured interviews of a panel of 25 sports federal and local leaders permitted to underscore the determinants of their collaborations and conflicts. The results based on the sports facilities show how the confrontation of the members of these organizations' resources, representations (vision of what sport should be, appetite for a specific sport) and interests (symbolic profits received) influence these partnerships' competition (Crozier and Friedberg, 1993). They also reflect the importance of the local contexts (Gerrard, 2015) to understand the leveraging effects of the host of mega sport events or the pre-existing interpersonal relationships on these collaborations.

---

**Title**        **Street sports under the city lights.  
The representation of bmx, parkour and skateboarding in Italian newspapers**

**Author**     **Carlo Genova** *University of Turin - Italy*

#### Abstract

Since the 1970s several sport practices which are characterised by the refusal of discipline and competition as guiding principle gradually emerged: it is the domain of the so-called “new sports” or “alternative sports” or “lifestyle sports”. Several of these practices conjointly refused the principle that sport needs dedicated places, but some of them found their places of reference in the natural environment, whereas for others the city became the context of action: the latter ones have often been labelled as “street sports”. Urban space, however, is strongly ruled, and since street sports are intrinsically connected with alternative uses of space, the presence and the progressive diffusion of these practices stimulated public debate about their legitimacy, as well as about potential strategies of containment, control and normalisation. In order to reflect about the evolution of this debate, the paper analyses the changes which are occurred in the media representation of three sport practices – BMX, parkour and skateboard – in two among the main newspapers of the Italian context – La Stampa and La Repubblica. Adopting a quantitative-text-analysis approach with diachronic perspective, and investigating the entire corpus of articles entitled to these practices which have been published on each newspaper through the time, the paper tries to identify phases and thematic changes characterising the evolution of their representation.

#### **PANEL 4: COVID-19 AND SPORTS' PRACTICE**

Link <https://meet.google.com/rjx-hhcr-gkw>

Chairwoman **Ivana Matteucci** *University of Urbino - Italy*

**Title** **Continued sport and physical exercise during COVID-19:  
Strategies of staying fit in Sweden**

**Authors** **Karin Andersson - Sara Karlén, - Jens Radmann, - Alexander Jansson**  
*Malmö University, Sweden*

##### **Abstract**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects both for the global sport community as well as for individual exercisers around the world. Due to a wide range of imposed measurements to prevent the disease, day-to-day physical activities for entire populations are restricted by physical distancing, cancelled tournaments, and closed gyms. Sweden has chosen to apply recommendations instead of restrictions, however, little is known about how individuals in Sweden reason around, and act out their personal sport participation. Accordingly, the aim of this study is to increase knowledge of how sport participation was motivated from a micro perspective during the first wave of COVID-19. The paper is based on a mixed-methods-study with data from a questionnaire (N = 1,141) and material from semi-structured interviews (N =90). The results indicate that respondents who were already active before the pandemic remained active or even increased their activity levels. To investigate this further, the interviews were analyzed with critical discourse analysis to uncover how respondents justified their continued/increased personal sport participation. These could be summarized as (discursive) strategies of perpetuation based on (i) specific contexts, (ii) scientific and (personal) experienced knowledge of covid-19, and (iii) trust in others' ability to follow recommendations to prevent the spread. Accordingly, this study contributes with new knowledge of how sport participation in Sweden was motivated, and, from a larger perspective, how a pandemic may influence attitudes toward health and exercise in an advanced Western capitalist society.

---

**Title** **Effects of the COVID-19 in a small town basketball club:  
Béjar and the silence of its baskets**

**Author** **Iván Parro Fernández** *Universidad Complutense de Madrid - Spain*

##### **Abstract**

COVID-19 has influenced all sectors and all social and economic fields. In the field of sports, the influence has been particularly virulent, causing the closure of facilities, the prohibition of group sports activities or the paralysis of many sports clubs and their teams.

This communication wants to explain how this pandemic situation has been experienced in a small club in the city of Béjar, in Salamanca, Spain. The basketball club, like so many others, has had to suspend all its activity in the hope of better times, with what it has meant for the children and young sportsmen and women (lack of or reduced physical exercise, feelings of disenchantment about the



situation, loss of acquired skills, lack of social interaction with their age peers, impossibility of advancing in sports knowledge and/or levels, etc.).

The situation has also had an effect on the club's volunteer coaches, including the author of the communication, who have kept in touch with the kids through telematic means with applications such as WhatsApp, have continued to expand their knowledge through training activities, and have shared news and moments related to the sport of basketball. They have also planned or proposed solutions and alternatives for the moment when the activity can be resumed or restarted. Communication, in short, is the vision of this pandemic from a basketball sports club and how the situation imposed by the COVID-19 has affected it at all levels.

---

**Title**      **Sport and crisis: bodies, practices, representations**

**Author**    **Silvia Lolli** *IIS Belluzzi Fioravanti Bologna - Ministry of Education - Italy*

#### Abstract

When you read the title of my lecture you could have many urges.

I have been teaching Physical Education in an Italian high school for more than 30 years; now the question is: what are representations my students have of sport and crisis?

Lots of words and several meanings will be analyzed in this lecture, taking into consideration the idea of sport and crisis in this specific moment of our history.

Maybe the concept of crisis could be easier to explain today. What does it mean? Surely it may be referred to a change, but it cannot be necessarily a negative one.

The idea of sport, instead, is much more complex to be analyzed. This word gathers in itself a lot of meanings and representations. We could organize sport contents according to one great classification:

- It can be referred to as Social meaning, that is to say the meaning related to institutions; it implies Sport Systems with many social representations, those of the various social groups.
- Individual meaning which is related to the representations of each person. But we know that people are simultaneously part of different institutions or social groups.

In this particular moment of Covid crisis Italian adolescents, that are students and also athletes taking part to many associations, sometimes can train or play different sports, while they cannot practice PE at school.

What are their representations of pandemic crisis? What are their representation of social rules?



Research Network 28  
Society and Sport



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TERAMO

ESA Research Network 28  
**Society and Sport**

**Midterm Conference**



**SPORT AND CRISIS:  
BODIES, PRACTICES, REPRESENTATIONS**

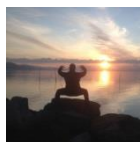
University of Teramo - Teramo (Italy)

**DAY 2**  
**Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

08.00-08.55 am

**SPECIAL PRACTICAL SESSION**  
**DISCOVERING TRADITIONAL QI GONG IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES**

Link <https://meet.google.com/fcw-dyiv-ouw>



Master

**Marco Palermo**

*Qi Gong Master, National Member of Traditional Kung Fu Italian Union  
Chinese Medicine Practitioner*

**Presentation**

Movement. Breathe. Mind. No, it's not a new version of George Herbert Mead's "Mind, Self and Society". These three words define the ancient health art of Qi Gong. Deep embedded in Chinese culture, Qi Gong is quickly spreading in Western society at all levels. It can be defined as "art of well-being" for mankind of XXI century. Its effects have been analyzed in many western official scientific studies. Its effects can be "lived" by everyone, practicing simple and short techniques. The "secret" is letting the Qi flow, as Chinese Medicine suggests. It's not Yoga. It's not Tai Ji Quan. It's not gymnastics. It's Qi (Energy) Gong (Hard Work).

09.00-10.25 am

**PANEL 5: BODIES, SPORTS, DISABILITIES**

Chairman

**Alessandro Porrovecchio** *University of the Littoral Opal Coast, ULR 7369 - URePSSS - France*

Link: <https://meet.google.com/zzy-pufw-vpf>

**Title**      **The Covid-19 pandemic and unstructured physical activity  
in those with long-term health conditions**

**Authors**   **Joanna Blackwell**

*School of Sport and Exercise Science, University of Lincoln, UK*

*Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sport, University of Copenhagen - Denmark*

**Hannah Henderson**

*Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sport, University of Copenhagen - Denmark*

**Adam B Evans - Jacquelyn Allen-Collinson**

*School of Sport and Exercise Science, University of Lincoln - UK*

**Abstract**

Whilst the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on structured Physical Activity (PA) has been relatively widely discussed, unstructured PA has not been as extensively explored; it is important to redress the imbalance. Unstructured PA relates to practices undertaken incidentally, for example occupationally, leisure activities, or as a means of commuting. Individuals with long-term health conditions, such as coronary heart disease, may find themselves clinically or experientially vulnerable during the pandemic. Structured PA is a recommended part of cardiac rehabilitation worldwide. This paper draws on data from a UK-based Bourdieusian ethnographic study of adults post cardiac event participants (10) and their significant others (7), comprising semi-structured interviews and detailed observations. Data revealed that those who did not display habitual dispositions towards purposeful structured PA prior to their cardiac event, felt the pandemic was stifling their ability to resume the incidental PA practices they previously engaged in. Participants expressed feeling limited due to either work furlough, requirements to shield and/or worries about vulnerability. Some shared their fears regarding how this ‘perceived enforced inactivity’ might deleteriously affect their recovery, whilst others indicated how they could feel their bodies becoming deconditioned. Participants identified opportunities to participate in purposeful PA, such as local walks, and exercises from their rehabilitation programme, however participation in these forms of PA appeared sporadic. These findings could have implications for the discussion on how recovering bodies may be affected by the pandemic, and the importance of incidental activity as a health-giving practice in those with long-term conditions.

**Title**      **Social representations of physical disability in a professional environment**

**Author**    **Denis Bernardeau-Moreau** *University of Lille - Atelier SHERPAS*  
*ULR 7369 - URePSSS - France*

#### Abstract

Our paper focuses on the social construction of disability (Abberley 1987; Conrad and Barker 2010). Exclusion is a person being unable to contribute to the common good (De Foucault and Piveteau, 1995: 33). It can be due to the disability itself or also and more importantly by the social aspect that disability carries. In this sense, social representations play a vital role in the social construction of disability. As Compte notes (2008: 117), they are at the heart of this construction as the translation of complex real and imagined relationships, objective and symbolic with regard to disability. Our intention is to analyze the development of representations of disability during social interaction situations, those that, in our opinion, form one of the key concerns stifling or facilitating professional integration of this particular audience. Through these interaction games susceptible to developing prejudices and preconceived ideas, we also wish to investigate the role that public authorities and business can have in facilitating professional integration for disabled people. To illustrate this phenomenon, we have selected several work situations at a branch of a large service company bringing together workers without disability and workers with a disability and in the same time high-level athletes.

---

**Title**      **Body Mass Index, eating disorders and sport practice.**  
**A sociological study among italian high school students**

**Authors**   **Valentina Savini - Gabriele Di Francesco**  
*“G. d’Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara - Italy*

#### Abstract

##### *Introduction*

Nutrition, physical activity and health are subject of a great attention from the European Union [European Parliament; 2007]. BMI, physical activity and eating disorders are strongly related items. Starting from this premise and considering the existing literature on the subject, we have conducted a study with the aim of offering new insights and materials for more and more focused discussion on this matter. We want to essentially focus on the variables already identified by joining these to new elements introduced with an ad hoc questionnaire.

##### *Method*

Students from a high school in Ascoli Piceno (Centre of Italy) answered to a standardized anonymous questionnaire covering several areas of analysis relating to their lifestyle. The eating habit has been studied according to SCOFF questionnaire [Morgan, Reid, Lacey; 1999] correlated with a battery of statements about the food and the act of eating (EDI2) [Garner et al.; 1995]. Another examined issue was the physical activity practiced by students, correlated with their mental well-being through the EDS [Hausenblas, Symons Downs; 2002] and IFIS [Moreno, 2008; Ortega, 2011] scales. Finally, both eating behavior and the degree of physical activity are studied having regard of the body mass index.

### *Results and Discussion*

The sample was made up of a total of 327 young people with a preponderance of females (116 males and 211 females), born between 1995 and 2001 and attending the last three classes of high school. A preliminary analysis shows that the majority of the sample is normal weight, only 12% showed some problems of overweight. The most worrying data concerns eating disorders because the SCOFF analysis shows that a third of the sample is at risk. The results will be clearer and interesting when all the data will be analyzed and correlated.

### *Conclusion*

Our first analysis shows clearly some interaction between BMI, eating habits and physical activity [Conseil de l'Union Européenne; 2013]. We know that physical activity and healthy eating habits protect against diseases, including those of a psychological nature, related to nutrition [WHO; 2013]. With this study, which involves a number of variables also related to leisure, we expect to be able to study more deeply some of the most critical health-related problems experienced by adolescents.

### *Relapses (of the research and of the whole study)*

Highlight some aspects of the eating problems of young people in the last three years of high school in a city in central Italy.

Enable prevention interventions about the eating behaviour and physical activity and sport.

Plan interventions and targeted campaigns for nutrition education, to propose models and healthy lifestyles to young adolescents.

---

**Title**     **The sign of the crisis: the body as semantic vector of youth discomfort**

**Author**   **Simone Digennaro**

*Department of Human Sciences, Society and Health*  
*University of Cassino and Southern Lazio - Italy*

### **Abstract**

The body is an extraordinary observation point of the world, especially in the modern societies, where it is a tangible sign of the individual, the personal place in which the differences, the social and cultural distinctions are shown. Being at the heart of the individual and collective action, it is the focal point of the existential dimension and the entry door through which the social world comes into the personal world. Today, we are witnessing at an ongoing and generalised state of crisis, an existential atmosphere in which the personal and the collective behaviours tend to occur in forms of general frailty. Above all, the youths seem to face the negative effects, with forms of discomfort that are more complex with a consequent need to take urgent action. In order to deal with a crisis, of whatever nature, it is necessary to identify the salient features along with the effects, with the view to develop specific interventions. By recognising the body as a semantic vector, it is possible to assign to it a double function: as privileged observation point, through which analysing the effect of the crisis and determining the causes that have generated it; as point of entrance for specific interventions that triggers the overcoming of the individual crisis, and that can be expanded to the collective sphere. By using a phenomenological approach and the categories of analysis and investigation developed by the sociology of the body, the two functions will be analysed in detail and a model of intervention will be proposed.

09.00-10.25 am

**PANEL 6: FOOTBALL AND ITS WORLDS (1)**

Link: <https://meet.google.com/dmd-wvjb-wmh>

Chairman **Przemysław Nosal** *Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland*

**Title** **Death, memory, and cult of Diego Armando Maradona in his fandom on Facebook**

**Author** **Luca Bifulco** *University of Napoli “Federico II” - Italy*

**Mario Tirino - Simona Castellano** *University of Salerno - Italy*

**Abstract**

This paper aims to analyze the ways through which the community of Diego Armando Maradona’s fans, in the days following the death of the Argentine champion, shared its grief, managing the malaise linked to the loss of their sports hero. This theme will be addressed considering the particular social features of death in the contemporary age and the potential changes brought by digital media. The analysis of the way in which the loss is collectively faced inevitably evokes reflections on the processes of memory transmission and on the cult mechanisms through which his fans have often built the identification with their champion and the sense of collegial belonging. Similar identity devices, focused on football heroism, are investigated primarily by examining in depth the system of prevalent values, symbols, and emotions in the communication of fans.

To study these phenomena, we focused the empirical investigation on the social, cultural, and media dynamics and practices of Maradona’s fans/devotees online, identifying Facebook as the main social network. Specifically, following a mixed-method approach, after we surveyed Facebook groups and pages created by fans and dedicated to Maradona, we decided to conduct a qualitative media content analysis (Krippendorff 1980; Altheide 1996; Prasad 2008) and an exploratory netnographic study (Kozinets 2010). We started from the contents of two Facebook pages and two Facebook groups in the Italian language and two pages and two groups in the Spanish language – to have a numerical relevance of the corpus to be analyzed, chosen by evaluating specific criteria (thematic relevance; the number of followers; the level of interaction; frequency of publication) and observed within two months of Maradona’s death (25th November 2020 – 25th January 2021).

---

**Title** **Atalanta, a contemporary myth that challenges the big football clubs**

**Author** **Paolo Corvo** *University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo (Cn) - Italy*

**Abstract**

Football is one of the most popular sports in the world and is an extraordinary source of collective feelings and emotions. In Italy football is the national sport and moves passion and interests at all levels of social and economic life, even political in certain circumstances. There are teams that represent large cities and others that play in smaller towns, where fans come largely from the province. We are interested in investigating the case of one of these so-called provincial teams, Atalanta, from Bergamo, in Lombardy, because it significantly highlights the link between the identity and history of a territory and its footballing declination. In recent years, Atalanta has achieved great results nationally and internationally, conquering unexpected goals. However, a part of the big European clubs seems willing to exclude provincial teams from the most prestigious international competitions, creating a Super League, which would aim at large television and advertising contracts.

Title **A tale of the crowd. The San Siro derby and its people**

Authors **Gianmarco Navarini - Simone Tosi**

*Department of Sociology and Social Research - Milano-Bicocca University - Italy*

#### Abstract

Over time, sports audiences have undergone important transformations related to various dynamics: the processes of internationalization and globalization of sport, the new forms of sports fruition driven by mass media transformations, the redefinition of the role, forms and meanings of cheering and sport passion. All of these processes are definitely connected to the broader trends and transformations taking place in contemporary society.

The paper focuses particularly on changes in the meaning and treatment of the "crowd" from the post-World War II period to the present, starting from an analysis of the narratives of soccer fans gathered at Milan's San Siro stadium to watch the "derby della madonnina". Soccer – and the Milan derby in a particularly vivid way – represents a social event of enormous popularity. Few other events seem to be as capable of catalysing the attention and interest of a city at large. The crowd of the "stracittadina" is the crowd of a city as a whole.

The main source of the analysis are the representations of the crowd at the San Siro derby produced by the Milanese press, relying on articles in *Corriere della Sera* and *Corriere d'Informazione* from 1947 to 2016, which are matched with accounts collected through in-depth interviews with a large number of privileged witnesses belonging to different generations of football fans.

---

Title **“Blacklisted”: The young black male professional footballer and education in England**

Author **Nyall Simms** *University of Leicester - UK*

#### Abstract

Although much sociological attention has been given to black athlete's experiences of oppression and subjugation in sport, little in depth investigation has centred on the restricting of educational opportunities encountered by young male athletes as they begin their careers. This is particularly important given that so few athletes make into professional sport. Accordingly, this research study was conducted to help gain a further understanding of the socio-cultural influences and standard of education received by young black male footballers within England.

Sport is a site where the black man heavily identifies and sees opportunities to develop alternative forms of social and economic capital. However, consequently many young black male athletes become pigeon-holed into believing their only viable future career path is in sport or in this study football. It is interesting to see how young black males are pigeon-holed into sport by the educational system once identified as having a talent within the sport. Taking an ethnographic approach, I analysed the experiences of 7 BME (Black Minority Ethnic) ex-youth players from professional football academies. Semi-structured interviews were undertaken investigating their playing and educational experiences and were analysed thematically. Findings revealed that the participants in question all incurred issues regarding to identity construction, career pathway restriction, racial humour, career transition and mental wellbeing.



10.30-12.00 am

**PANEL 7: SPORT AND ITS PROFESSIONS**

Link <https://meet.google.com/vnv-jjat-wfz>

Chairwoman **Barbara Mazza** *Sapienza University of Rome - Italy*

Title **The body of job applicants: a confirmation of their sports practice?**

Author **Duflos Julie** *Artois University - Atelier SHERPAS - ULR 7369 – URePSSS - France*

**Abstract**

Some sociologists have highlighted that being a practicing athlete is the main condition for employment in sports distribution (Gasparini and Pichot, 2007; Gasparini and Pierre, 2008; Hidri et Bohuon, 2008). But its problematic evaluation during a job interview, most used method (88% of recruitments) (Bergeat and Rémy, 2017), leads recruiters to assess the bodily capital of candidates instead of sports skills (Hidri Neys and Bohuon, 2011; Hidri Neys, 2014). While the job market is under strain, considering elements of the physical appearance of job applicants reduces recruiter uncertainties. This practice is standard in sports distribution. It is nevertheless indirectly discriminatory. Consider this criterion, in France, contravenes the law of November 16th, 2001: "No person can be excluded from a recruitment procedure (...) because of their physical appearance".

To understand this phenomenon, I studied the manufacture of these recruiters. In their professional socialization, what transforms them (Darmon, 2016) and "updates a professional habit" (Bouron and Souanef, 2012, 92) "inviting" them to discriminate? Three observations of training courses in recruitment, an interview with a training project manager, the analysis of the training book, were carried out. The materials collected reveal arguments deployed that can generate discriminatory behavior. The speeches revolve around four essential "values" (athletic, vital, helpful, concrete). Defined in relation to sport, they are declined in such a way that they invite recruiters to pay attention to the bodies of candidates. This is easily done since some strategies are used to silence legal content and to circumvent the legislative framework. If each employee is aware of having been recruited thanks to his sports capital, it is not surprising that the use of the lexical field of this environment echoes them and authorizes the maintenance of discrimination in hiring according to appearance physical.

---

Title **Keep the link and rethink the job. EPGV's animators in the face of the Covid-19 crisis**

Authors **Oumaya Hidry Neys - Cindy Louchet**

*Artois University, Atelier SHERPAS – ULR 7369 – URePSSS, France*

**Abstract**

Created under the impetus of Pierre Seurin in 1953, the French Federation of Physical Education and Voluntary Gymnastics (FFEPGV) has developed throughout the country by offering a multi-sport offer "for all". Nearly 70 years later, it has become the 1st non-competitive sports federation and the 7th federation for all sports combined and distinguishes itself from other associations in the

world of sports - giving pride of place to volunteer work - by devoting resources to the professionalization of its animateur.rice.s.

Covid-19 has created a new and constraining context, especially for professionals promoting physical activity and the fight against sedentariness among a varied and specific public. The dimensions that characterize their work situations qualified as a service relationship - namely cognitive-technical, social and physical - are particularly challenged by the "distance" imposed between supervisors and members. How can we maintain the link with more or less accessible practitioners and meet the objectives of "sport for all"? How to "coach" behind the computer screen? How to prevent the digital divide from further increasing inequalities in health and access to physical activity? How can we continue our professional activity at home? Finally, how to be prepared for the unexpected?

Based on a questionnaire survey conducted among 457 animators from 285 clubs in the Hauts-de-France region, this paper analyzes the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis on the exercise and evolution of the "core" profession of EPGV's animators.

---

**Title** **Dual career athlete's destiny at a crossroads: the edmedia collaborative partnership**

**Authors** **Francesca Romana Lenzi - Laura Capranica - Antonio Tessitore**  
*"Foro Italico" University, Rome*

#### **Abstract**

The White Paper on Sport published in 2007 is the seminal European study that introduced the term "dual career" (DC) to indicate the athletes' rights to combine their sport and academic/working careers (Guidotti et al. 2015, Lupo et al. 2015, Li, Sum 2017). In recognizing the different DC arrangements in the Member States, which the European Parliament and the European Commission contributed to raise the lacking awareness of the athlete's right to a holistic development, today underrecognized, by publishing 36 EU Guidelines on Dual Career of Athletes. Furthermore, the European Commission nurtured the interest in this issue through European-funded studies, calls for tender, and ERASMUS+ Sport Collaborative Partnerships for fruitful dialogue between international stakeholders at the individual (e.g., the athlete), meso (e.g., interpersonal), macro (e.g., social, organizational), and global (e.g., policy) DC dimensions. In considering media and social media particularly relevant for their tremendous pervasiveness and power of shaping society's perceptions, the ERASMUS+ Sport Collaborative Partnership Media as a channel of Athletes' DC promotion and education (EdMedia) aimed to proactively change the attitude towards an athletes' DC by deliberately shaping a positive image of student-athletes and encouraging sports organizations to pursue the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Dual Careers of Athletes. To create preconditions for behavioural change and to encourage all relevant stakeholders to openly share information and to establish structures for a social dialogue in DC, EdMedia analysed the implementation of 7 Guidelines on DC related to communication in six Member States (<https://www.dualcareer.eu/>). This work will present the scientific gap analysis results, as well as athletes interviews related to the Italian DC. The methodological approach included a desk research of official Italian dual careers documents at sport educational level. Moreover, semi structured interviews were administered to dual career former and actual athletes.

**Title**      **Migration of African “football players” to Turkey: stay or continue to Europe?**

**Author**    **Clément Lopez** *Paris-Saclay University - France*

**Abstract**

The globalization of football resulted in the explosion of football players’ migrations from Africa to Europe, led by the desire to make a living from sport whether on professional or amateur level (Poli, 2010). While this system is framed by organizations (FIFA, professional clubs, academies in Africa) in the case of professional football players, many “classic migrants” perceive football as a way to justify their migration project to Europe (Darby, 2010; Gasparini and Heidmann, 2012). Since the migration crisis, Turkey occupies a strategic position at the border of the European Union that explains the presence of many populations from developing countries in the Mediterranean coast of this country. The meantime, sport has become an instrumentalised strategic issue for the national and local Turkish governments (Polo, 2012). The aim of this communication is to analyse African amateur football players migrations to Europe through an ethnographic survey conducted in Istanbul. It highlighted the factors explaining the presence of a large community of African amateur football players in this city (Budel, 2013), pointing out why they leave their country and why they establish themselves in Istanbul while they affirm their desire to join Europe. The study focuses on a football tournament – The African Istanbul Cup – specifically designed for them to emphasize the implication of various actors (clubs, player agents, crooked intermediaries, local authorities...) who, pursuing their interest, both contribute to the implementation of a system which promotes these migrations and encourages such population establishment in Turkey at the same time.

10.30-12.00 am

**PANEL 8: SPORTS, REFUGEES AND MIGRATION**

Link: <https://meet.google.com/gqt-qmqg-pda>

Chairman

*Enrico Michelini, Technical University of Dortmund, Germany*

**Title** **A soft solution for a hard problem?  
Exploring the value of football for European refugee resettlement**

**Author** **Alessio Norrito, Loughborough University - UK**

**Abstract**

Since 2014, almost 700,000 migrants have crossed the Mediterranean to Italy on makeshift boats, hoping for a better life. The dangerous sea journey has already claimed 15,518 lives, with an unknown number of deaths and traumatic experiences happening before departure. Once in Italy, refugees are not certain to be granted asylum, and this only comes after long periods of waiting in dispersed relocation camps.

As diverse NGOs and sports clubs are using football for different social benefits, my PhD research seeks to critically explore the role that football, as a characterizing sport for European culture, has towards the improvement of refugee lives in host countries. The objective of the thesis is to critically assess the ability of football in breaking down communicative and cultural barriers, other than building skills that are functional towards acculturation and integration.

The research seeks to explore transnational similarities, to find common patterns in the refugee resettlement experiences across Europe and the role of football. Refugees are therefore sampled based on their common experience of travel in the Mediterranean, from diverse nationalities and resettlement locations. To pursue this objective, the research will be methodologically conducted through retrospective interviews and focus groups.

The thesis seeks to critically explore the cultural and integrative value of football in the lives of refugees, possibly suggesting elements of such sport that would add to the existing knowledge and practice of the Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) sector. The presentation will explain the rationale and current undertaking of the research.

---

**Title** **Analysis of sport's contribution for migrant's social inclusion in Italy:  
state of art, challenges and criticalities**

**Authors** **Lavinia Falese - Simone Digennaro**

*Dept. of Human Sciences, Society and Health, University of Cassino and Southern Lazio - Italy*

**Gianfranco Zucca IREF – Institute of Training and Research in Education - Italy**

**Abstract**

Immigration represents today one of the most central and complex issues within Europe that requires the implementation of concrete measures and interventions in order to address the humanitarian emergency, social integration and public perception of the migrants.

European immigration policies in the past have been mainly focused on the action of control (e.g. borders, surveillance) rather than inclusion of migrants in the society.

In recent years, Italy, the fourth European country by immigrant population at the beginning of 2020, has witnessed an increased mobilization and organisation of sport-based projects aiming to the social inclusion of migrants. It is interesting to note that most of the projects are proposed by the so-call sport for all organisations, rather than by national sport Associations or Federations.

Even though it seems that there is an overall agreement on the benefits of these types of initiatives such as the capacity of the sport to foster integration and socialisation through a direct and intense participation in well-oriented activities, the specific outcomes related to the different type of programs and the practical implications have been poorly investigated.

The massive involvement of the Italian sport organisations in delivering various social and humanitarian services to migrants along with the peculiarity of the Italian case, offered the ground for the conceptualisation of this research and motivated the authors to investigate the state of art of the role of sport and sport organisations in migrants 'inclusion through a literature review, to categorize and analyse the existing projects in Italy and to open a debate that can bring to further research.

---

**Title**      **Young Muslims and Sport in Italy**

**Author**    **Fabrizio Ciocca**

*Department of History Anthropology Religions, Performing Arts  
Sapienza University of Rome - Italy*

#### **Abstract**

This paper aims to illustrate some crucial points concerning the attitudes and opinions of Young Muslims towards sport. In particular, some interesting indications will be presented, coming from three focuses carried out between October and December 2020 with 40 young men and women from Milan, Brescia and Florence; they were all part of GMI, the oldest Islamic young association in Italy, part of a doctoral research broader on the topic.

During the meetings, the participants expressed their opinions on three issues:

- a) if it is possible for Muslims in Italy to practice sports while respecting their religious prescriptions
- b) if structural changes should be made to sport centers, gyms and swimming pools
- c) the type of attitude their families have towards children who play sports.

The emerging picture is that young Muslims have to face various difficulties in practicing sports in Italy, especially women. Several girls stated that, due to different situations creating discomfort (e.g. sometimes wearing the burkini in the swimming pool is banned, other times sport regulations that prohibit wearing a veil or leggings during competitions), they prefer to give up playing sports. To a lesser extent, the male component also encounters various problems.

However, what emerges is the awareness that giving up sport cannot be the answer to the difficulties they encounter in practicing it while trying to respect Islamic prescriptions, and the need to find possible options and solutions, since for these boys and girls, the theme "goes beyond" the sporting dimension and becomes a question of rights and respect for their religious principles.

**Title** **Shall we speak football? ‘Scottish accent you know, it’s not easy’**

**Author** **Marianna Pavan** *Moray House School of Education and Sport - University of Edinburgh - UK*

**Abstract**

Migration – both economic and forced – has significantly contributed to the change of European ethnic population composition over the past three decades. As a result, how to manage such a phenomenon has attracted the interest of academics, policy makers and civil society. One of the major objectives pursued has been fostering socially cohesive societies.

Sport has been considered one of the potential mediums to be used to avoid a ‘clash of civilisations’ (Huntington, 1996). Football, in particular, has often been claimed to be a universal language and a catalyst of friendships. Yet, such assumptions require evidence and analysis rather than mere beliefs. This paper seeks to analyse as a case study, Street Soccer Scotland in Glasgow – a recreational football team made of local and international players including refugees. Indeed, the paper critically assesses the potential of football as a communication tool and a platform for the creation of friendly relationships. The qualitative research was carried out through semi-structured interviews. It endeavours to give voice to the refugees playing in the team and allow them to express their experiences and senses of belonging. Finally, the paper outlines some of the determinants that render this football project a positive agent of social change in refugees’ lives.

01.30-02.55 pm

**PANEL 9: COVID'S CHALLENGES TOWARDS SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

Link: <https://meet.google.com/pxe-edtc-feq>

Chairwoman **Lucie Forté** *Paul Sabatier University - Toulouse 3 - France*

**Title** **A sociological approach using 'habitus' towards the impact of Covid-19 on Sport: The case of Greece**

**Authors** **Nikos Lekakis** *University of Crete - Department of Political Science - Greece*  
**Alexandra Fountouki - Apostolia Ntoli**  
*Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*  
*School of Physical Education & Sport Science at Serres - Greece*

**Abstract**

The pandemic of Covid-19 has a strong influence on all the sectors of the international sport industry, including professional, amateur sport leagues and sport clubs. Specifically, along with other sectors of the society, the Greek sporting community has been greatly affected by the lockdowns during the past year. Bourdieu's concept of 'habitus' has proven to be a very useful tool when it comes to explaining sociological phenomena in many societies. However, 'habitus' has not yet been used from the lens of pandemic and sport related crises such as Covid-19, in countering the sociological effects and in providing a basis for understanding the possible outcomes on a society's sporting structure and participation. This paper shows how Bourdieu's 'habitus' can be used in order to shed light and provide a better insight of how the pandemic of Covid-19 may affect the sport community in Greece. The paper relies heavily on existing literature (e.g. through rapid reviews) and any high-quality information sources during the Covid-19 pandemic. This is due to the lack of sufficient scientific empirical data from the field of sports and in conjunction with the fact that primary data collection is greatly limited, as the Covid-19 pandemic is ongoing. More specifically, it will offer a systematic review and discussion of the existing literature in relation to the concept of 'habitus'.

---

**Title** **Sports deprived? Inmates' experiences of punishment during Covid-19**

**Authors** **Paolo Giulini - Francesca Garbarino - Isotta Rossoni - Andrea Scotti**  
*CIPM (Centro Italiano per la Promozione della Mediazione)*  
*Italian Centre for the Promotion of Mediation - Italy*

**Abstract**

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, reports on riots and unrest in Italian prisons flourished on national and international media. Yet as the pandemic grew in magnitude and severity, life behind bars appeared to fall off the media's radar. The Intensive Treatment Unit for Sex Offenders (UTI) at Milan Bollate Prison, run by CIPM (Italian Centre for the Promotion of Mediation) has welcomed an average of 30 inmates each year, since 2005. Inmates commit to engaging in a host of activities aimed at their rehabilitation and resettlement in society. Among them, are yoga and sports, deemed pivotal to the development of inmates' social skills and general wellbeing, suspended due to Covid-19,

alongside all other outdoors activities (e.g. gym, games, independent training) available to inmates outside of CIPM's weekly treatment schedule. Departing from the sociological and criminological literature on sports behind bars, this paper investigates the experience of "sports deprivation" among the prison population. More specifically, it explores the importance and value of sports in the rehabilitation process of sex offenders. Some of the key questions addressed include: did inmates experience being deprived of sports and outdoor activities as a double/additional punishment? What effects did this emergency measure have on them and on their rehabilitation process? How could a similar situation be handled in the future? The paper gives voice to inmates' testimonies, drawing on the findings of a dedicated focus group held at the UTI in 2020.

---

**Title**      **The methodological implications in sports social research at the time of Covid-19.**

**Authors**   **Paolo Diana - Giovannipaolo Ferrari** *University of Salerno - Italy*

#### **Abstract**

Sport is a complex social phenomenon that occupies a fundamental place in our societies. The Covid-19 outbreak shook all human activities and also the world of sport, which had to stop all events and competitions and follow a strict regulation. During the pandemic, professional athletes and amateurs were forced to respect the rules or stay home. The specific and original role that sport plays in our lives in terms of social, linguistic, emotional, political, economic and cultural worldview has been the subject of numerous studies in different scientific fields, but the global pandemic crisis brings us to develop a different and new sociological and methodological approach. Moreover, the impact of this pandemic is experienced in real time and we had a year to observe and analyse the sports phenomenon. However, in this short period of time, the social sciences have produced a considerable amount of empirical research within which we can explore different and diverse methodological implications: from research design to the choice of data collection and analysis techniques; from the choice of unit of analysis to the presentation and dissemination of research findings.

Based on this scenario, our work is concerned with understanding the methodological implications and problems of sociological research in studying the social phenomena of sport during Covid-19. In order to find empirical evidence, we have analysed the methodological choices of fifteen empirical studies on the social phenomena of sport conducted in different social contexts in recent months using different research approaches and techniques. Finally, we created an interpretive grid that shows how researchers answered their main cognitive questions by using one approach, technique, or research tool instead of another.



**Title**      **Physical activity and social health in the frail elderly:  
caring with technology in the covid-19 pandemic**

**Author**    **Ivana Matteucci** *University of Urbino - Italy*

#### **Abstract**

This work aims to assess the effects of the changes in the Care for Social Health related to Physical Activity in the Elderly that occurred during the crisis generated by the spread of the Covid-19 virus by examining a population sample over the age of 75 in Italy.

We examined how reduction of mobility, social distancing and isolation imposed by government measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19, changed the living conditions of the elderly. Moreover, we analyzed the impact of technological devices for communication and interactions, that were employed to help the elderly maintain relationships with the outside world and to preserve their active life and social health.

We observed changes in physical activities and social habits, collecting data through online interviews with the elderly assessing physical activity practices and the perceived social support of their family members and caregivers. The interview questions were formulated based on the Physical Activity Scale for the Elderly (PASE), the Lubben Social Network Scale Revised (LSNS-R) and the short version of the Social Support List (SSL12-I) for the elderly.

The results show a decreased mobility and a deterioration in the quality of the social health of the elderly during the crisis, while confirming the recognized positive role played by communications technologies in mitigating the negative impact of the crisis by allowing the elderly to keep physically and socially active.

01.30-02.55 pm

**PANEL 10: FOOTBALL AND ITS WORLDS (2)**

Link <https://meet.google.com/skv-ddmw-ygj>

Chairman **Mario Tirino** *University of Salerno - Italy*

Title **Duties of the Heart: the Mass Mobilization of Polish Football Fans in the Face of the Coronavirus Outbreak**

Authors **Michał Mazurkiewicz - Jan Kochanowski** *Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce - Poland*

Abstract

The global coronavirus pandemic has had an enormous influence on sport. One of its consequences is the increasing emergence of academic research focusing on various aspects of the phenomenon (see Pedersen et al., 2020). With lots of events being postponed or cancelled, sports fans are currently experiencing a depressing situation; yet many of them do not sit on their hands. The aim of the paper was to analyze the real mass mobilization of Polish football fans who bravely stepped in to help stop the spread of the disease in their communities. It became a point of honour to the fan groups to encourage and organize people to aid hospitals and individuals by supplying the health system with food and hygiene products. Numerous volunteers joined such actions, including members of fans' associations from different cities. Selected initiatives (also fundraisers), such as "Without you there won't be us", are discussed. As for the methodology, the presence of the football fandom in broadly understood media has been analyzed. The research is largely based on the exploration of the social media activity of the fans (mostly Facebook). Interviews and sports press reports have also been used.

---

Title **The importance of social networks in male professional football**

Author **Gary Souter** *University of Leicester - UK*

Abstract

Professional footballers are increasingly vulnerable to developing common mental health disorders. The demands within the professional game are huge and there is an increasing pressure to perform. Footballers are constantly at risk of losing their place in the team or playing for a new contract, which can create doubt and uncertainty and they can also be at significant risk of being injured. Injury is found to be the major risk factor for developing psychological distress in footballers. On top of this footballers are also at risk of life events in line with the general population. Consequently, the prevalence of common mental disorders symptoms may be higher among professional football players compared to both the general population and elite athletes from other sports. As part of my doctoral study I have interviewed 18 current first team professional footballers from across the English Football League (EFL) and a key theme of my preliminary findings is the importance of social networks. I will examine the importance of social networks within professional football and explore how current footballers rely on these networks to help maintain their mental wellbeing, cope with the challenges of professional football and access help and support when it is most needed. These important social networks help understand how identify issues that can impact upon a footballer's mental health, understand how men are socialised within football and identify the issues that affect men's help seeking behaviour. All of which are the main objectives of my doctoral study.

**Title**      **The many faces of racism on football:  
An analysis of the Facebook pages of Portuguese football clubs**

**Authors**   **Sandra Miranda - Alexandra David** *School of Communication and Media Studies  
Lisbon Polytechnic Institute, CIES, ISCTE-IUL - Portugal*  
**Ana Cristina Antunes** *School of Communication and Media Studies  
Lisbon Polytechnic Institute - Portugal*  
**Célia Gouveia - Branco Di Fátima** *CIES, ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon, Portugal*

#### Abstract

Racism has emerged in the 1970s as a major problem for the world of sports and remained until today. In the football realm, the racist behaviour of fans directed towards players and/or fans of the opposing team constitutes the most common manifestations of racism usually held in the stadium. However, in the last years, racism has gone beyond these physical temples of football and has found a fertile ground on the internet. With social media, racism has gained a new nature and length, which has brought more visibility on these matters.

The purpose of this article is to examine how Facebook is shaping the nature of racism, by specifically addressing and examining the racist features and manifestations present in the official Facebook pages of the Portuguese football clubs of the premier league.

Through the methodological approach of Network Social Analysis, this paper extracted public data via Facebook Graph API from the official fan pages of all 18 teams. The dataset has 5,064 posts by teams and more than 275,000 comments by fans, in the first three months of the competition in 2020. The analysis uses a set of Macros commands, programmed in Visual Basic code, which identifies semantic terms (words, expressions, phrases, emojis) associated with racism in the comment's dataset. The categories analysis combines quantitative (frequency) and qualitative (semantic sense) approaches. The results highlight a hate speech which is associated with specific events of the competition (e.g., team performance, match refereeing, player behaviours).

---

**Title**      **How COVID spurred Premier League clubs to support their local communities**

**Author**    **Rafał Wysoczański-Minkowicz** *Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan - Poland*

#### Abstract

The outburst of coronavirus pandemic caused multiple hardships for societies all over the globe. The objective of this presentation is to describe actions taken by clubs playing in English Premier League from pandemic beginning until the end of 2019/2020 season developed in order to support and ease the lockdown consequences in local communities. Description and evaluation of those activities has been done in light of the Corporate Social Responsibility business model which spurs companies (these days football clubs have to be perceived in this way) to conduct activities towards their shareholders. Football clubs attract so much attention and recognition that they are in the privileged position when talking about bringing add-value to local communities. Engaging CSR programmes is a good way to raise morale and have positive influence not only within the company but also in company social environment. Attempts of minimizing coronavirus pandemic resonance could definitely be considered as the implementation of CSR policy. Both quality and quantity analysis have been made using the desk research method. The analysis results show that English Premier League clubs made their grade and offered variety of aid programs dedicated to local communities and so they proved themselves as socially responsible.

03.00- 04.00 pm

## **CONFERENCE CLOSING**

Link: <https://meet.google.com/okr-yctb-zcj>



Keynote speaker

**William Gasparini**

*Université de Strasbourg*

Discussant

**Giovanna Russo**

*University of Bologna - Italy*

Title

**Sport and physical activity in the face of the coronavirus crisis: new issues and new challenges**

Abstract

What we call a "crisis" corresponds to an unpredictable and spectacular moment of rupture that leads to a testing of the existing order, a loss of meaning and changes. The coronavirus-related health crisis has affected the whole world and is disrupting social relations. There are no studies to enable decision-makers, when making the decision to confine, to anticipate its consequences on the health (physical and mental) of populations, relationships within families, the economy, work, education, leisure.

Lockdown and the pandemic have had an impact on many sectors of sport. Since the beginning of the crisis, two phenomena have been observed: a drop in physical activity due to the closure of sports facilities and an adaptation of the way in which sports are practised. These new ways of practising sport (at home, in front of screens, close to home...) confirm the trends observed in Europe in recent years. Moreover, sports sociologists are faced with the difficulty of no longer being able to physically meet the actors and organisations they investigate (direct and participant observations, informal interviews and discussions, questionnaires). In this new context, how can information be gathered to validate or invalidate research hypotheses?

What can the social sciences, in particular the sociology of sport, say about these developments? Are the consequences of the crisis on sports and physical activity sustainable, or will the gap close once the populations have been vaccinated?

Based on the example of France, the communication proposes to answer these questions and to open up new research perspectives.