Greetings! Hope you are all enjoying the summer. This newsletter contains information on the Division sponsored sessions and meetings for the 2012 Society for the Study of Social Problems conference. We also have several essay submissions from myself and SLB Division members, Beth Cavalier and Elise Paradis.

I would like to draw your attention to the business meeting and encourage you all to attend. The business meeting is the time and place for conceptualizing next year’s paper sessions. Please come to the business meeting and share your thoughts and ideas for next year’s conference. There’s much flexibility in how sessions are designed and the focus of topics. The Division can thrive and survive only based on your efforts, thoughts, and ideas so please attend the business meeting and/ or contact me if you are interested in becoming more involved in the Division.

If you would like to be involved in the broader organization, the organization is soliciting nominations for the General Election, including President-Elect, Vice-President Elect, Board of Directors, Budget, Finance and Audit, Editorial and Publications, Committee on Committees, and Membership and Outreach. The SSSP website contains information on the duties associated with various elected positions, as well as that related to appointed committees (such as the C. Wright Mills Award).

The next publication date for the newsletter will be in Fall 2012. Please send any relevant announcements (member publications, awards, call for papers, job announcements, graduate assistantships, media appearances, etc.) to either myself at ccooky@purdue.edu or our newsletter editor, Giovanna Follo at gfollo@emporia.edu. We are also interested in publishing articles, observations, commentary, opinion articles related to sport, leisure and the body. There are a number of important topics related to sport, leisure and the body that are currently in the news. Sharing your expertise with the Division will foster dialogue and engagement with colleagues and potential collaborators. So if you are interested, please consider submitting a 300-500 word essay.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Welcome Reception on Wednesday August 15 from 6-7pm.
SPORT, LEISURE & THE BODY
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

This year’s theme is “The Art of Activism.” The preliminary conference program is available online. I recommend referring to the program for all Conference sessions, receptions, award ceremonies and extracurricular activities. While I hope you attend our sponsored and co-sponsored sessions, there is much to do and explore in Denver! The program contains recommendations and suggestions for things to do (of course, after sessions have ended!).

Sport, Leisure, and the Body Division Business Meeting: Friday August 17 12:30-2:10 pm. Mt. Columbia Do you have ideas or suggestions for sessions or the newsletter? Would you like to meet other SSSP members who share your interest in bodies, leisure, and sport? The division business meeting is the place to be! At the business meeting you can find out more about the division, meet folks, get involved in division activities, shape sessions for the 2013 meetings, nominate people for assorted SSSP committees, and/or volunteer for service (in the division and the society).
ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. 😊

Division Reception: Thursday August, 16, 6:30-7:30pm. Mount Evans A & B (AT) This is another terrific opportunity to meet and catch up with other members of the division, network and engage in scholarly debates (and of course eat and drink!)

Session 75: Sexual Minorities, Homophobia and Sporting Communities
2:30- 4:15PM, Friday, August 17 in Mount Evans A (AT)

Papers:

“The Sociology of Sport in American Society,” Samantha L. Shepard-Guerinoni, Tulane University

“Peripheral Student Identities in a Heteronormative and Athlete-Centered Culture,” Rachael Neal and Miriam Taour, Coe College

“Critical Social Capital and LGBTQ Sporting Communities,” Sara J. Mertel, Arizona State University

“Female Athletes as Pinups & Fashionistas: Interrogating Sex-Positive Feminism,” Erin Maurer, Graduate Center, CUNY

“Women boxers’ bodies in a time of hysteresis,” Elise Paradis and Simon Kitto, University of Toronto

Session 86: Leisure, Creativity, Friendship and the Life Course
4:30-6:15PM Friday August 17 in Mount Evans A (AT)

Papers:

“Friendship and Sex: Can Friendship Help Explain Contraceptive Use among Female Gang Members?” Jenny Piquette, University of Massachusetts

“Modern Man Children: Adults and Children’s Leisure,” Angelo J. Sepulveda, University of Chicago

“Raised on the Virtual: The Creative and Cultural Stakes in Online Video Gaming,” Luther C. Elliott, National Development and Research Institutes

“The notion of elderly sexuality: Views of older people in two Yoruba communities,” Ayotunde Titilayo, Obafemi Awolowo
Session 91: Inequalities in Sport and Leisure

8:30-10:15AM, Saturday August 18, in Room Mt. Columbia (GH)

Papers

“Adolescent Boys, Football, and the Path to College,” Kellie J. Hagewen, College of Southern Nevada

“Against All Odds: A Survival Analysis of The Biggest Loser,” Jenny Folsom and Alma Y. Castro, University of Massachusetts

“Rethinking the Gender Gap In Youth Sports,” Michela Musto, University of Southern California, Winner of the Sport, Leisure, and the Body Division’s Student Paper Competition

“Breaking Barriers’ in the Backcountry: Exploring Outdoor Educators’ Understandings of the (In)Accessibility of Nature and Outdoor Space,” Bridget Harr and Greta Mills, UC Santa Barbara

“Long guns, hand guns and hot loads: American shooters and the collective production of exemplary masculinities,” Kirk Miller, Northern Illinois University

SL&B SUMMER ANNOUNCEMENTS

I. MEMBER PUBLICATIONS


*This paper won the best student paper award from the Sport, Leisure and the Body Division in 2010.


II. MEMBER NEWS

Kylie Parrotta is an assistant professor in sociology and criminal justice at Delaware State University.

David J. Hutson is a Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow at Ripon College in Wisconsin (2012-2014).
Elise Paradis accepted a lead ethnographer position with the University of California San Francisco Center for Innovation in Interprofessional Education. Starting September 1 and for two years, she will study how ICU culture impacts team dynamics and relate to patient experiences.

III. MEMBER ESSAYS

Olympic Themes for Critical Sport Scholars

Elizabeth S. Cavalier, Ph.D.

Georgia Gwinnett College

We are less than two weeks away from the start of the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London. As a spectator, fan, and researcher of sport, I am in anticipation of the games and competitions. As a sport sociologist, I always struggle with balancing critical analysis of major world sporting events with being caught up in the emotion and spectacle of fandom. For two weeks, like millions of others around the globe, I will be glued to the television watching the trials and tribulations of the athletes in the Olympics. This year’s Olympic and Paralympic Games feature multiple storylines of interest to critical sport scholars. There are, of course, the rivalries between individual athletes, whether they are teammates or representing competing nations. Ostensibly, the winners of these events are the “best in the world,” yet many factors dictate Olympic success. Although we live in a global village, the Olympics are also a chance to continue geopolitical rivalries between nations, demonstrating disparate situations politically and transnationally. The events transcend sport and become representations of political and philosophical differences between nation-states. These rivalries often also illustrate disparities in terms of world resources—Olympians in the United States, for example, are rewarded with $25,000 from the United States Olympic Committee for winning a gold medal, and are provided access to year-round training facilities, whereas Olympians from third-world nations are not awarded anywhere near the same luxuries. As with other sporting events, the Olympics demonstrate how much access and opportunity play a role in athlete success. For example, during the year of the 40th anniversary of Title IX, the United States will, for the first time in its history, send more female than male Olympians to represent the country.

For those interested in gender or sexuality issues, one needs to look no further than the story of Caster Semenya, the South African runner who was made to undergo invasive “gender testing” after her domination at the World Championships in 2009. Although the International Amateur Athletics Federation ruled that she had
higher levels of testosterone than the average woman, she was deemed eligible to compete as female after an 11-month ban from competition. This story is a strong example of how sport powerfully constructs notions of what it means to be a girl, particularly when competing in public spaces. For those interested in disability studies, the case of Oscar Pistorius is an important storyline to focus on. Pistorius is a double amputee who runs on carbon fiber artificial limbs, and will be competing in both the Olympics and Paralympics. He is the first double amputee runner to compete in the Olympic games. Being able to examine the role of technology in sport, as well as how shifts in the body impact participation in professional sport, is essential to our evolving field. There are also many storylines regarding Olympic uniforms that intersect with race, sexuality, and religion. Beach volleyball no longer requires a bikini for competition, and certain sports, such as weightlifting, have allowed female athletes to compete in a hijab if their cultural or religious beliefs require it. However, FIFA, the international body that governs soccer, has ruled that hijabs are not allowed in soccer competition, thereby eliminating the Iranian women’s soccer team from the Olympics. How do uniforms or clothing shift the meaning of the athlete or the sport? On the anniversary of Title IX, these are important, critical questions to be asking.

The overarching story to pay attention to for critical sport scholars during the Olympics is media coverage of the Games. How will these rivalries and storylines be reported? Whose voices will we hear, and under what circumstances? How will the storylines, the narratives, and the athletes be packaged in between commercials from Olympic sponsors? What will the story be? All eyes will be on London for four weeks during the Olympics and Paralympics. How will London handle the global stage? There have already been complaints about the equity of ticket distribution and heavy handed policing under the guise of safety. What will the legacy of the 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics be?

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Skirting the Issue: The sage of what to wear in women’s boxing.

Elise Paradis, Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco

Women have been boxing for over a century, but 2012 is the year of their first participation in amateur sport’s greatest event: the Olympics. As early as 1904, the Olympic Games featured women’s boxing as a demonstration sport; in 2008, boxing was the only summer Olympic sport not to feature competitions for both men and women. On August 13, 2009, International
Boxing Association (AIBA) celebrated the inclusion of three weight classes for women on the Olympic card (51kg, 60kg and 75kg) which will replace one of the previous 11 weight classes for men. AIBA had worked toward this goal for several years, organizing Women’s World Championships to showcase the skill and commitment of women athletes. Grassroots mobilization included lobbying, websites, movies and petitions.

Yet merely a year after the epochal announcement, a rumour to the effect that AIBA would require women boxers to wear skirts during competitions emerged. The infamous skirts were first introduced at the semi-finals of the 2010 World Championships in Barbados and worn on a voluntary basis by athletes. Poland and Romania were the only countries that embraced the skirts; of the 40 competing athletes, only 14 wore them in Barbados, of which 11 stated fear of retaliatory action if they didn’t comply. Four days after the AIBA announcement, the president of AIBA argued in an interview with a sport reporter that the push to have women wear skirts was driven by the need help viewers distinguish women boxers from men and to make women boxers more elegant.

The issue received little press coverage until Elizabeth Plank – a Canadian-born amateur boxer studying in London – brought to life a petition on Change.org asking AIBA to ‘play fair’ and not ‘ask female boxers to wear skirts’. By January 22, 2011, the petition had 53,706 signatories and had attracted a flurry of media attention, turning Plank into a minor celebrity. On February 20, 2012, she declared on the Change.org website that petitioners had ‘won,’ reaching more than 55,000 signatures and making it clear to AIBA that the public did not approve of skirts as a mandatory uniform.

As Messner (1988) wrote in his famous essay, female athletes are contested ideological terrain, their bodies a site where social anxieties about the gender order are projected. In the case of boxing, our cultural view/myth of women as fragile, passive beings in need of protection does not sit comfortably with images of muscular women hitting one another in the head, shedding blood and getting knocked out.

The “skirt issue” has exposed the discomfort of powerful individuals with women’s boxing. The range of responses to the AIBA skirt initiative was large. Those who saw no real problem with the initiative argued along several lines: that women should not box in the first place; that skirts are gender-appropriate apparel that makes women elegant and womanly; that they do not matter much as long as they are comfortable and do not get in the way of movement; and that in contrast to other issues, the skirts are comparatively insignificant. Those who opposed the skirt initiative also proposed several arguments: borrowing from sport psychology, they argued that the skirt would undermine the performance of some athletes; they argued that the skirt stands in the way of athletes’ legitimacy and may have nefarious consequences in gyms; they asked for a redefinition of traditional standards of beauty and expectations of women; and they noted that skirts may be a
way to sex the sport to a male viewership, as they sexualize (and degrade) women.

The skirt issue is not merely about a piece of fabric. They skirt a broader issue: that women boxers threaten the gender order. It is the clear indication that boxing is in a crisis triggered by the inclusion of women into this historical male preserve. AIBA has fought for the inclusion of women at the Olympics for years. The International Olympic Committee has at last accepted women boxers as legitimate athletes. Yet some agents in the field – be they coaches, athletes, AIBA officials, the public – have not yet internalized the new rules of the game, where women boxers are full participants and threaten their position as the weaker sex: submissive, passive, nurturing and in need of protection.

On February 20, 2012, Plank declared victory over AIBA on the Change.org website: women boxers would be allowed to choose whether or not to wear a skirt in the ring; the threat of coercion of women boxers into a specific type of skirt-wearing femininity was gone. Although a fight was won, the war is far from over.

Title IX at 40: Reflections on the Future of Gender Equality in Sport

Cheryl Cooky, Ph.D.

Purdue University

This June marked the anniversary of Title IX, the landmark legislation that changed the landscape of sports in the United States. Over the past 40 years, Title IX has played an important role, both directly and indirectly on girls and women’s sport participation. According to the Women’s Sport Foundation, in 1970 before the inception of Title IX, 1 out of every 27 girls played varsity high school sports and according to the National Federation of State High School Associations in 1971 a total of 294,105 girls played high school sports. Based on 2009-2010 data, today those figures are 1 out of every 2.5 girls, and 3,172,637 respectively. In addition to high

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1 Excerpts and conceptual ideas from this piece in part are conceptually driven from Cooky, C. & LaVo, N.M. (2012). Playing but Losing: Women’s Sports after Title IX. Contexts, 11, 42-45.
school sports, Title IX has also impacted intercollegiate athletics. R. Vivian Acosta and Linda Jean Carpenter, authors of a longitudinal report that tracks collegiate athletics participation rates from 1977 to 2010, found that female college participation has dramatically increased from 30,000 to over 180,000 in 2010.

I grew up among the first wave of girls after Title IX, and while the numbers of young women participating in sports grew, there was still a stigma. That continues to change, and today’s top female athletes are acknowledged with their own sponsorships, national media coverage and a solid fan base. Many college-sport fans, including me, find the female athletes on campus inspiring. Within four decades, the cultural expectations of our society have evolved. Despite these tremendous gains, there is still much to be accomplished.

Unfortunately, not all girls have benefited from Title IX. Girls from low-income backgrounds and urban and immigrant communities have lower participation rates than their counterparts in affluent, suburban or non-immigrant communities. These girls face barriers to their participation including a lack of transportation, lack of funds, cultural beliefs and family constraints. In my research I found that even when girls’ sports programs are offered, those programs often struggle to overcome those barriers.

While many girls and women experienced increased opportunities, women are still absent in positions of power and authority in sports organizations and institutions. In the most visible and arguably most important positions of power in sport—head coaches, athletic administrators, and sport editors—women remain marginalized and in many cases are statistical tokens (i.e., a member of a demographic category who occupies less than 15% of the workforce population). Research indicates that in the United States only 20.6% of all college teams have a female head coach and the number of female head coaches of women’s teams (42.8%), is at a near all-time low.

Title IX pertains only to educational institutions; as such its impact is limited to those contexts. However, women’s sports advocates hoped that increased participation of girls and women would lead to positive changes in other areas of sport. Yet persisting gender inequalities exist, especially in news media coverage and representations of female athletes in the media. When female athletes are represented in the media, it is often in ways that reinforce traditional gender roles and expectations. Female athletes are frequently depicted as mothers, girlfriends and sex objects rather than athletically competent individuals. That’s when they’re depicted at all. Female athletes of Color are rarely covered by the mainstream news media in ways that do not rely on racist and sexist stereotyping. Lesbian and transgender athletes are often not acknowledged or are erased in media coverage.

And while many assume that this year’s 40th anniversary of Title IX is about celebrating girls and women, it’s just as much about boys and men. The current generation of girls and boys are coming of age in a world in which females are participating in sport at all competitive levels. These children will be the coaches, administrators, media producers and sport journalists of tomorrow. They also will be the community and business leaders who support local sport programs through sponsorships and facility resources. The anniversary of Title IX provides the opportunity for sports fans, women’s sports advocates and sport studies scholars to
celebrate the tremendous achievements made possible by the legislation. It also provides the opportunity to reflect upon what still needs to be accomplished in order to achieve gender parity in sport.

IV. CALL FOR PAPERS AND CONFERENCES

Call for Papers
“Economic Inequality Within the NCAA”
The Sixth Annual Scholarly Colloquium on Intercollegiate Athletics In Conjunction with the NCAA Annual Convention January 14-16, 2013
Grapevine, TX

The sixth annual Scholarly Colloquium on Intercollegiate Athletics will be held January 14-16, 2013, in conjunction with the NCAA Annual Convention in Grapevine, Texas. The theme for this year’s colloquium is “Economic Inequality Within the NCAA.” The conference will feature keynote speakers, formal reactions to each keynote, and concurrent sessions of oral presentations and poster presentations.

Paper proposals should deal closely with issues related to the conference theme of “Economic Inequality Within the NCAA.” Papers may highlight scholarship from the sciences, social sciences, economics, humanities, or any number of professional fields that are either directly or indirectly related to this theme within intercollegiate athletics.

Abstract Format & Submission Guidelines
To be considered for the refereed paper and poster sessions, authors must submit a 500-600 word abstract (in Microsoft Word) which conforms to the following format:

- Line 1: author(s) and institution(s) name(s) (centered on page)
- Line 2: type of session (20-minute oral or poster presentation)
- Line 3 three to four keywords
- Line 4: presentation title (centered on page)
- Line 5: blank
- Line 6 to end: text of abstract

Review Process: Papers will be subject to a blind multi-person peer review process. Submissions will be reviewed using the following criteria: relevance or significance of topic to conference theme, appropriate methodology, reliance on relevant literature, clarity of analysis, summary of results, conclusions, and/or implications.

Abstract Submission Deadline: October 1, 2012
Notification: Individuals will be notified of the results of the review process in early November 2012.
Submissions should be sent to: Janet Fink, jsfink@isenberg.umass.edu

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Communication and Sport, a new international research quarterly to be published starting in 2013 by SAGE Publications in alliance with the International Association for Communication and Sport would like to announce its inaugural Call for Papers. Information about the title, including its aims and scope, manuscript submission guidelines, and Editorial Board may be found at: http://www.sagepub.com/journals/Journal202136. Please submit manuscripts via SAGE Track, powered by ScholarOne, at the Communication and Sport Manuscript Central website at: http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/commsport.
Communication and Sport is edited by Lawrence Wenner of Loyola Marymount University. Associate Editors are Andrew Billings of the University of Alabama, Marie Hardin of Pennsylvania State University, and David Rowe of the University of Western Sydney. The new journal features a distinguished international Editorial Board and will publish 400 pages annually in hard copy and via SAGE OnlineFirst. Questions concerning submissions may be directed to commsporteditor@gmail.com.

Communication and Sport engages a broad intellectual community through its Aims and Scope statement: Communication and Sport is a peer-reviewed quarterly that publishes research to foster international scholarly understanding of the nexus of communication and sport. C&S publishes research and critical analysis from diverse disciplinary and theoretical perspectives to advance understanding of communication phenomena in the varied contexts through which sport touches individuals, society, and culture. C&S examines both communication in sport and the communication of sport by considering sport in light of communication processes, strategies, industries, texts, and reception. C&S welcomes studies of sport and media in mass and new media settings, research on sport in interpersonal, group, organizational, and other communication contexts, and analyses of sport rhetoric, discourse, and narratives. C&S encourages studies of sport communication and media from broad disciplinary vistas including sport studies/sociology, management, marketing, politics, economics, philosophy, history, education, kinesiology, health, as well as cultural, policy, urban, gender, sexuality, race, and ability studies. C&S is theoretically diverse, and articles featuring qualitative, quantitative, critical, historical, and other methods are equally welcome.

CALL FOR PAPERS – NASSS Student Members

2012 Barbara Brown Student Paper Award

HISTORY

Barbara A. Brown was a professor of sport sociology at the University of Western Ontario from 1983 until 1990, when she died of cancer at the age of forty. Dr. Brown, who was President-Elect of NASSS at the time of her death, was widely recognized for her expertise on women in sport and leisure, her political commitment to extending girls' and women's opportunities for participation in sport, and her contributions to the development of a professional community of sport sociologists. She was also a dedicated mentor and teacher whose invaluable work with students is appropriately memorialized in the naming of this award for her.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Papers may not exceed 30 double-spaced pages, including notes, tables, and references (which also need to be double-spaced).
- Papers should be free of any reference to the author(s) in order to ensure blind review.
- Authors should follow a consistent style (e.g., APA)
throughout the paper, and should include line numbers to facilitate reviewer comments.

- Authors should include a cover page with the title of the paper, their full contact information, institutional affiliation, degree program, advisor’s name and contact information, and award category for submission (master’s or doctoral).

ELIGIBILITY

- Authors MUST be members of NASSS at time of submission. Please be sure that your membership status is updated and current.

- Papers do not need to be submitted for presentation at the NASSS conference (though most are).

- Authors must be enrolled in a graduate program at the time their paper is submitted.

- Papers that have undergone formal, peer review for publication are not eligible for the contest.

- Papers must represent student-produced inquiry only. Limited input from supervisors (e.g., general feedback on structure and content, recommendations for editing) is acceptable, but papers on which supervisors have had substantial input (e.g., analysis of data, writing or rewriting of sections of the paper) are not eligible.

- The committee will accept one (1) submission per author.

- Papers that were previously submitted for consideration and not awarded may be resubmitted for consideration, provided the author and paper meet all other criteria.

- In the event that a co-authored paper is selected as winner, the authors will share the prize.

- When warranted, the committee will offer up to two (2) awards, one (1) for a Master’s Student and one (1) for a PhD student.

- Only papers deemed by the committee to be truly outstanding will be considered for the award, and thus there is a possibility that no awards will be given for either or both award categories (i.e. Master’s and PhD).

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Papers will be evaluated on the following criteria: Explanation of Conceptual Framework, Analytic Clarity and Currency, Organization and Clarity of Expression, Discussion or Interpretation, Contribution to Knowledge-Impact, Relevance to NASSS/field, Adherence to Consistent Referencing Style (e.g., APA)
PRIZES

The award recipient(s) will receive up to $1000 towards their NASSS conference expenses, plus a waiver of the conference registration fee. The Student Paper Award Committee may also give up to two honorable mentions in each category. Students receiving an honorable mention will have their conference registration fees waived. In addition, all authors will receive feedback on their papers, which will hopefully benefit the authors.

SUBMISSIONS

The DEADLINE for submissions is August 15, 2012. Papers and any questions should be sent via email to: Dr. Jason Laurendeau, Student Paper Award Committee Chair

E-mail: jason.laurendeau@uleth.ca

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: TBA

2012 North American Society for the Sociology of Sport Conference

“SPORT IN PLACE”
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, USA • November 7-10 2012
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V. OF INTEREST


Geneva/New York (UNOSDP) – The United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) released today their Annual Report 2011. The report presents the main activities conducted by the UN Special Adviser and Office on Sport for Development and Peace in 2011 in the areas of policy work (Chapter One), partnership building and coordination (Chapter Two) and project support and implementation (Chapter Three).

2011 was actually an anniversary year, with the mandate of the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace having been created in 2001.

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IOC World Conference on Sport, Education and Culture

We are pleased to inform you that you will find here new information concerning the 8th edition of the IOC World Conference on Sport, Education and Culture to be held in Amsterdam from 25 to 27 November 2012.


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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION REQUEST

A quality newsletter is a collective endeavor. Please send CFPs, information about recent publications, reviews of films, books and articles and other information of interest to Section Chair Cheryl Cooky, ccooky@purdue.edu or Newsletter editor, Giovanna Follo, gfollo@emporia.edu. Deadline for Fall Newsletter is September 15, 2012.