

ISSA BULLETIN 2022 No 2



2022 Issue 2

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Welcome

[Emmanuelle Tulle, VP Communications](#)

Hello all,

We have another great bulletin to welcome many of you back from summer and winter breaks. As always we endeavour to make the bulletins a good read, promote the work of the membership as well as provide you with important information about the key activities that make our association vibrant and relevant. To this end I would like to draw your attention to the following announcements:

- ISA 2023 and ISSA 2023 - sport sociologists will have two in-person conferences to attend or choose from next year, depending on your time availability and/or financial support at your

disposal. If you fancy a trip to Melbourne to share your work with other colleagues in RC27, do submit an abstract before 30th September. If you fancy a trip to Ottawa, Canada, abstract submission will open very soon, so do get your pencils sharpened for joining us in Canada. You will find links to respective websites and key dates in this bulletin. Take a look!

- ISSA Executive Board 2024-2027 - Yes, it is time to elect a new Executive Board to follow the current Board whose term ends in December 2023. Please read the documentation relating to how to be nominated and put yourself forward for election to the Board. The process is summarised in the bulletin and full details are available on our website. We are keen to encourage diversity on the Board so as long as you fulfill the criteria for nomination (according to our bylaws), do give this your greatest consideration, wherever you are in the world.
- Submissions to the 2023 Graduate Paper Award are now open. If you are a graduate student, do consider sharing your work by submitting a paper. If you are a supervisor, please help your students gain experience of publishing by encouraging them to submit. All details below and on the website. We look forward to your submissions.

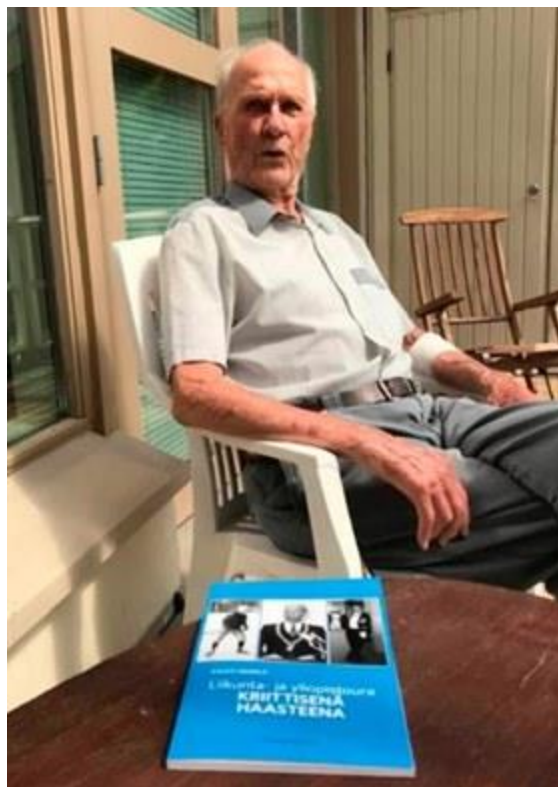
We were sad to learn of the recent passing of Kalevi Hanilä recently. To celebrate his life and achievements, and to remind ourselves of how important he has been in the very existence of this association, we have asked a few friends and colleagues to come out of retirement to share with us their memories of Kale the man and the scholar. I hope you will enjoy their wonderful and witty recollections.

Lastly, we have some lovely reflexions on ISSA 2022 by Brent McDonald and Sean Chen, some fantastic Members' News and a call for papers. So read on!

Emmanuelle

Please note: all members of the Executive Board are allocated an ISSA email address which should redirect to their institutional mailboxes. These redirections are no longer taking place so, unless indicated otherwise, we will provide our institutional addresses. Thank you!

Celebrating a life: Kalevi Heinilä



In memoriam

One of the forefathers of sport sociology

Valued Finnish sport sociologist, intellectual and academic, professor Kalevi Heinilä passed away July 30th 2022. He was 98 years old. When the first signal of his leaving came, a sudden fall, he was organizing his beloved books. A brain infarction ended his journey a week later.

Kalevi Heinilä (Kale) lived a long, distinguished and eventful life. He was born in a small southwestern Finnish town, Salo, in 1924, the youngest of three children. The industrious and active young man showed early on that he was hard-working and active in a wide range of hobbies, including sport.

The war that broke out in his late teens defined the lives of Kalevi and that of many of his peers. In the grey uniform of the army, some of the best years of manhood were spent. Before being awarded the oak-leaf badge of a front-line soldier, he was involved, for example, in extinguishing the fire caused by the bombing of his own school in Salo.

Heinilä also made it to the front and became an officer. He himself has written that "Compared to the war experiences of many, I escaped with a mere fright. Of course, I did experience the tumult of war, but not once did I find myself in a situation where a young man's stamina would have been put to the real test."

After the war, Heinilä first studied to become a PE teacher. Although it was an exciting field, he was interested in a broader education. So, he continued his studies at the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Helsinki, majoring in sociology. A scholarship year in the United States paved the way for a career in academia. He studied in the United States at the University of California, Berkeley, under Herbert Blumer, returning to Finland with the impulses of symbolic interactionism. In 1959,

Heinilä obtained his doctorate at the University of Helsinki on the subject of "Vapaa-aika ja urheilu", 'Leisure and Sport'.

In 1965, the young doctor moved to Jyväskylä, where he became the country's first professor of physical education. He took the main responsibility for launching and guiding the activities of the Faculty of Physical Education. At the same time, he renewed the debate on physical education in the country. He subsequently became the country's first professor of sport sociology. Heinilä also served as Dean of the Faculty and Rector of the University of Jyväskylä. He was active in a number of organizations, including the founding of the International Committee of Sociology of Sport (now ISSA) with a few international colleagues. Heinilä was one of the central members of the first generation of sport sociology. He served for about 15 years as a member of the board and executive committee of the ICSS and was the vice-president of the committee for several years.

Kalevi Heinilä is one of the most internationally renowned Finnish sports scientists. It is not easy to summarize his wide-ranging research work. His scientific interests focused on issues related to sport and physical activity and their role in society, both at the national and international level. His analysis of the totalization of international sport is probably the most widely known of his individual contributions. He focused on many other unexplored major questions in the field, such as sport and international understanding, women and sport as well as the sport club as a social organization. In many senses, he was ahead of his time. Kalevi continued to write until his last years.

In his work, Heinilä was precise and steady. He has described how he was often forced to go against the grain in his work. He did so with admirable candour, determination and steadfastness. He was also a courageous and active social debater. In retrospect, it has been repeatedly noted how well he was able to foresee many social developments.

Kalevi was an exemplary keep-fit enthusiast all his life. Cycling, tennis, gymnastics, rowing and skiing were his sports to the end. In his spare time, he was a good companion with whom adults and children alike enjoyed themselves. The Asikkala cottage on the shores of Lake Päijänne was an important base for fishing, gardening and spending time with friends and family.

Many of Kale's contemporaries have now passed away, but he will be missed by his former colleagues and many friends, as well as by his four children, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Heinilä was an important pioneer in Finnish sport research and teaching, and also a profound reformer of Finnish sport culture. In 2019, Kalevi Heinilä was inducted into the Finnish Sports Hall of Fame for his achievements. Heinilä is also an internationally important pioneer in establishing and developing the discipline of sport sociology. His remarkable contribution will live on.

Pasi Koski

Kalevi Heinilä's student, friend and colleague

A Scholar and a Fighter

"Never pass the tennis ball to his forehand, the response will be a Big Bang," My advice to John Loy on how to win against Kalevi Heinilä.

Professor Kalevi Heinilä was a scholar and a fighter but also a tennis player and in his earlier years a Finnish baseball player, too. He acquired his sociological knowledge at the University of Helsinki. He

credited Professors Heikki Waris, Eric Allardt and Paavo Seppänen for his initiation. He developed his Critical thinking at the University of Berkeley California while attending the lectures of professor Herbert Blumer in 1950s as an ASLA Fullbright Stipendiary.

Heinilä will be remembered as a scholar, a department head, a dean and a rector of the University of Jyväskylä.

As a person he was pretty tall, warm and polite, generous with help and advice for students and faculty. He was an inspiring lecturer and an effective university administrator, always thinking about how to develop the study of sport and protect university autonomy. By nature he was a charismatic figure who had a sharp tongue and a sharp pencil. Having said that, he avoided hurting anyone in a tough debate.

Politically professor Heinilä was strongly independent. However he had effective connections with two presidents of the country, namely Dr. Urho Kekkonen and his successor Dr. Mauno Koivisto, not only via the Ministry of Education and Science but on personal level, too. During his Helsinki years he played volleyball in the same team as Dr. Mauno Koivisto who was a hacker. However, Heinilä regarded tennis as his number one sport, aside from cycling. He cycled back and forth from home to university in -25 Celsius winter days, a 20km round trip.

Kalevi Heinilä was so fond of his old bike from the 1950s that he finally donated it to the Museum of the University of Jyväskylä as "The Bike of a Rector".

Heinilä's hospitality was overwhelming. When scholars of ISSA like Gunther Luschen, Paavo Seppänen, John Loy and Gyöngyi S. Földesi visited the University of Jyväskylä he used to invite them to his fantastic beautiful home on the beach of a lake.

Classical symphonies were played, active discussions were conducted, toasts to friends and science were proposed and then Kalevi's lovely wife Dr. Liisa Heinilä invited the guests to a delicious dinner she had prepared. Dr. Liisa Heinilä is remembered as a past FIEP-Executive Board Member who worked as a lecturer in the Department of Physical Education at the University of Jyväskylä.

Dr. Kalevi Olin

Past Professor of Sports Planning and Docent of Sport Politics

Past Vice President of ISSA and Editor of Sport Sociology Bulletin

Former Member of Parliament of Finland

Kalevi Heinilä was a good friend and by all accounts a Nordic mentor for me. We first met at the first international symposium on the sociology of sport in Koln, Germany in 1966. We next spent time together at the 9th World Congress of Sociology at the University of Uppsala in Sweden in 1978, where he kindly invited me to return to Finland with him. We had a wonderful boat cruise from Stockholm to Helsinki; but I barely coped with joining him in the sauna and going out and back five times for a swim in the pool. From Helsinki we took a train ride to Jyväskylä where I stayed with him and his wife in their home for a week.

In my home stay with Kalevi I admired his support of the academic and athletic activities of both his wife (Liisa) and his son; and I discovered that he had a wicked sense of humor. For example, returning to his home after midnight on one occasion he took me to his glass enclosed sauna with an outside view of his indoor swimming pool. He informed me that a guest from Nigeria held the record for spending the longest time in the sauna before going into the pool. In order to break the record. I

held myself in the sauna until he went out into the pool. I planned to go out two minutes later but discovered that he had locked me in and was waving to me from the pool. He, of course, released me from the sauna. I last visited him a few years ago at his summer cottage where once again I joined him in a sauna and he told me a few jokes.

I have little doubt that Kalevi was the world's first professor of the sociology of sport; having had formal education and training in sociology before becoming a professor in the faculty of physical education and health sciences at the University of Jyväskylä (and later the Rector of the University). His books were substantial and his articles were significant.

I am truly thankful that he was largely responsible for the wonderful academic honors that I received from the University of Jyväskylä: (1) being the first foreign recipient of the Centenary Medallion of the university in December 1982; (2) being appointed a Docent in the Social Sciences of Sport, in the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences in June 1995; and (3) receiving an Honorary Doctorate from the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences in June 2000.

Somewhat regretfully, the only contribution that I made in his honor, was an article in a Festschrift in his honor edited by Kalevi Olin and published at the University of Jyväskylä in 1984.

Last but not least, I am most thankful for him introducing me to fellow Finnish sport sociologists that became very good friends; namely, Kalevi Olin and the late Pauli Vuolle; and to his fellow sociologist from the University of Helsinki, the late Paavo Seppänen.

John Loy

Honorary Member of ISSA (2001)

Shortly before I heard the sad news about Kalevi Heinilä, I had been going through some old files and came across a letter from him. It was sent in 1995, at a time when my second term as General Secretary of ICSS/ISSA was ending and I was handing over to Bart Vanreusel.

Professor Heinilä had recently heard that he had been awarded Honorary Membership of ICSS/ISSA, but had not been formally notified. He was writing to ask if he had to pay his annual membership because he had not yet received official notice of his award.

I read his letter twice, and it reminded me of everything I knew about Professor Heinilä. The letter, written in English – which must have been at least his third language – was gracious, kind, self-effacing and humorous. His friend, Paavo Seppänen captured this sense of the man in his Introduction, titled *A Scholar and a Fighter*, to the 1984 Festschrift honouring Professor Heinilä: "His sincerity, his frankness, his friendliness, his playfulness are qualities which everybody connected with him highly respect." However, "Although tolerated and rewarded he always faces an ambivalent response from those who take their business too seriously, for his wit and playfulness barely mask his critical thrust."

As one of the unofficial historians of ICSS/ISSA, it became evident during my research that Kalevi Heinilä was the first sociologist of sport to exemplify the aims of UNESCO when, after World War II, the agency began to facilitate the founding and development of international scholarly associations with the specific intent to encourage internationalism, humanism, human rights and peace building. The International Council of Sport and Physical Education, founded in 1960, was one those associations, an umbrella organization tasked with establishing and consolidating scholarly organizations in the sport sciences and physical education. The International Committee for the

Sociology of Sport (now ISSA) was one of those organizations, founded by Kalevi Heinilä and several other scholars in 1964.

Heinilä published 'Notes on the inter-group conflicts in international sports' in the very first issue of the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, using this preliminary examination of conflict in sport to consider how such conflicts may be resolved in the pursuit of more friendly international relations. He continued to pursue the theme of international relations in sport throughout his career, including bringing many Soviet bloc and Western bloc scholars to Helsinki in 1982 for a major Congress on *Sport and International Understanding*. This at a point in the Cold War when it is now acknowledged that the risk of nuclear war was higher even than during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

Heinilä brought academic, ideological and real life experience to his focus on peace building. He joined Finland's Civil Guard at the age of 16 during the Winter War against the Soviet Union; served as a signalman at the Soviet Front and in 'no-man's land' during the Continuation War from 1941-44; and was sent for officer training when Finland joined the Allies for the Lapland War (1944-45). It is interesting to speculate how those experiences may relate to his part in founding and building an international organization that included from the beginning scholars from the Soviet bloc and the Western bloc.

Kalevi Heinilä, at 98 years of age, was the last remaining founding member of ICSS, and a very important figure in the development of Finnish and international sociology of sport. He will be missed.

Peter Donnelly, Emeritus Professor

Reflexions on ISSA/EASS 2022 Congress, Tübingen, Germany

Brent McDonald, VP Conferences



When the community of Sociologists of Sport departed the 2019 conference in Dunedin none could have imagined that it would be 1137 days before another face-to-face ISSA conference. Sure enough the pandemic put an end to 2020 plans for Chile, and 2021 was a very successful virtual conference. As academics, and as people, we had to adapt to new ways of doing things. 'Remote learning', 'social distancing', and 'working from home' (or living from work) became norms, and whilst many embraced platforms such as zoom to stay connected, there was an increasing realisation that the

digital is a poor substitution for the physical. I am confident that the 300 plus delegates who attended the joint ISSA/EASS conference in Tübingen, Germany, would whole-heartedly agree.

From the 7th to 10th of June Eberhard Karls University Tübingen hosted ISSA/EASS 2022. The theme of the conference was: Why does sociology matter? The role of sport sociology in interdisciplinary research (A sub theme could easily have been: Why do conferences matter? If you're interested take a look at Tzuhsuan (Sean) Chen's article, also included in this bulletin.

The conference featured the following:

- Two keynotes: Jeremy Freese – The Skeleton key: Sport as exemplary domain for integrative explanation of personal attainments and Cassie Phoenix – Researching embodiment in multi/interdisciplinary spaces: Possibilities, problems and practices.
- One panel: Why does sociology matter? The role of sport sociology in interdisciplinary research (Parissa Safai, Richard Giulianotti, Stephan Zipfel, and Tricia McGuire-Adams)
- An Early Career Researcher breakfast and workshop
- Parallel sessions including almost 250 presentations

On top of the outstanding academic program the LOC put together an amazing social program including the opening reception at the University and the traditional 'Gala' event at Freistil Microbrewery and beer garden (dancing until the wee hours). Tübingen is a beautiful university city on the banks of the Neckar River and conducive to beer gardens, walking, punting, and taking in all that Swabian culture has to offer. The LOC headed by Prof. Ansgar Thiel, and brilliantly assisted by a team of colleagues and graduate students made sure that everything worked smoothly.

In many ways the conference went too quickly, but after such a long absence I reflected on how lucky I am to be able to attend these events, reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and enjoy the community of practice that is the sociology of sport. Returning to Australia, to the classroom, I can honestly say that I was buzzing, reinvigorated, and my teaching immediately updated based on the paper presentations and research that I had the privilege of hearing about at ISSA/EASS 2022.

In 2023 the ISSA conference will be in Ottawa, Canada and is sure to be another memorable and stimulating event (Christine Dallaire is hosting after all!). Hope to see you all there.

Call for EOI for hosting the ISSA conference: If you and your university are interested in hosting the ISSA conference please contact me: brent.mcdonald@vu.edu.au

2023 CONFERENCES

ISA 2023, Melbourne, Australia: Last call to submit an abstract to RC27



Submit your abstract and register [here](#)

ISSA 2023, Ottawa, Canada

**2023 WORLD CONGRESS
OF SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT**
August 14-17, 2023 | Ottawa, Canada



1 - Save the Date and bookmark our conference website: issa2023.com

The Call for papers along with the Program at a Glance are now available on our [conference website](#) and the abstract submission platform will open in the next two weeks. We look forward to receiving your abstracts in English *ou vous pouvez aussi soumettre une proposition de communication en français*.

Please note: We'll accept a maximum of 330 abstracts up until January 31, 2023, whichever comes first. In other words, we'll close the submission platform as soon as we reach the maximum of 330 abstracts, even if it occurs in November or December. Get your abstract in sooner rather than later!

A special invitation for graduate students: ISSA is sponsoring a free-of-cost graduate student workshop that will include a meet-and-greet dinner on August 13, breakfast and lunch on August 14 with different seminars prior to the Welcome Ceremony. Accommodations will also be offered in student residence to workshop participants.

Stay tuned for more details about the Graduate Student Workshop, Registration, Accommodations and more.

Important dates, latest information and relevant updates [here](#)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE ISSA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2024-2027

Mike Sam, President

Dear ISSA member,

In accordance with the ISSA Bylaws, the International Sociology of Sport Association elections will take place in 2023 to select a new Executive Board for the period 2024-2027.

ISSA Executive Board elections are held every 4 years. There are 6 elected Executive Board positions (President, General Secretary, and 4 Vice Presidents). The 6 people with the most votes in the election become the Executive Board and they decide among themselves who will hold which position.

The ISSA Constitution and Bylaws are available on the ISSA [website](#)

Note: the Executive Board members can be from any country but there can only be 1 representative from any particular country (i.e., there cannot be two Executive Board members from the same country).

The election is managed by an independent Elections Officer, who will collate and verify all nominations, votes, and results: David Blackwell david.blackwell@waikato.ac.nz

[How to put yourself forward for election and how to vote for candidates](#)

STEP 1:

Any member in good standing in 2023 is free to nominate a maximum of two (2) individuals to stand for election. Those nominated must also be members in good standing and they must confirm that: (a) they have been members of ISSA for at least 4 years; and (b) they have read, understood and are willing to accept the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Board portfolios (portfolio descriptions are available on the ISSA website: <http://issa1965.org/about-issa/future-issa/>). In order to be eligible for the ballot, nominees must receive at least two (2) nominations from at least two (2) different countries.

All nominations are to be received by the Elections Officer David Blackwell david.blackwell@waikato.ac.nz by March 30th 2023.

Please include your name, country (of residence) and date in the space provided. Nominations should be sent by email.

After nominations are received, the eligibility of all nominees will be verified. A ballot of eligible nominees will then be prepared.

The following Executive Board members are eligible to run for a second term (in alphabetical order):

Hélène Joncheray, Parissa Safai, Emmanuelle Tulle

The following Executive Board members have served two consecutive terms, and, according to the statutes, are not eligible to stand for further election:

Christine Dallaire, John Horne, Brent McDonald, Mike Sam

STEP 2:

Eligible voters will be invited by email to vote online starting May 1st 2023, with a closing date of June 30th 2023. Members may vote for six (6) nominees only and not more than one from the same country. Elections Officer David Blackwell will count the votes and report the election results to the Executive Board.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at mike.sam@otago.ac.nz

Call for Graduate Paper Award 2023

Parissa Safai, General Secretary

The 2023 ISSA Graduate Paper Award is co-sponsored by ISSA and SAGE

Deadline: January 27, 2023, 4:30 PM EST

The aim of the International Sociology of Sport Association's (ISSA) Graduate Paper Award is to recognize the scholarship of outstanding graduate students in the international community of sociology of sport. The award will be granted to a scholarly paper, authored by a graduate student, which is deemed by a panel of judges to demonstrate considerable originality, critical and analytical ability, and to be of the highest quality from among those submitted.

Eligibility

- The student must be registered for masters or doctoral level graduate work at the time their paper is submitted.
- It must be a single-authored paper.
- The student must be a member of ISSA at the time their paper is submitted.
- The committee will accept only one submission per author.
- Previous winners are not eligible.
- A paper cannot be considered for the ISSA GPA award at the same time that it is submitted for another award.

Award

- While congress registration fees for the winner are included in the prize, in-person participation at the 2023 Congress in Ottawa is not mandatory.
- The winning author will receive an ISSA sponsored prize of membership of ISSA for 24 months.
- The winning author will receive a SAGE Publisher sponsored prize of £150 worth of books.
- The panel of judges may also give up to two honourable mentions. Graduate students receiving honourable mentions will have their papers accepted for presentation or distribution at the 2023 Congress. Free registration to the Congress is included in the prize.
- The name of all winning authors will be posted on the ISSA website (<http://www.issa1965.org/awards>). They will be featured in the ISSA bulletin.

Requirements

- Candidates are to submit a 3,000-6,000 word (excluding references) scholarly paper on a topic that is of interest to the international sociology of sport academic community.
- Papers with a text of over 6,000 words will not be considered.
- Authors are to submit a cover page that contains the title of the paper and the full contact information of the author.
- The author's identity must not be recognizable in the text.
- Authors must be graduate students at the time the paper is submitted.
- Authors must be members of ISSA at the time the paper is submitted.
- Authors are to submit a letter, signed by her or his academic advisor, verifying graduate student status.
- Authors are to follow a style consistent with the publication guidelines for the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*.
- Papers should be submitted electronically (in Microsoft Word format attachment) to the Graduate Paper Awards Committee Chair, Parissa Safai).
- All papers should be emailed to Parissa Safai at psafai@yorku.ca directly.
- **The winner will be notified no later than 1st May, 2023.**

* The ISSA reserves the right not to grant an award in the event that none of the submitted papers meets the award criteria

Social Distancing for Sport Sociologists – Embracing the Role of Sport Critics

Tzuhsuan (Sean) Chen

Dusted suitcase. Check! Renewed passport. Check! Euros. Check! EU-certified masks. Check! All sorts of precautionary pills. Check!

Like most Taiwanese, I have not stepped out of the country for two years. After boarding the plane, I saw more people than I expected. It further increased social anxiety disorder amid Covid. What welcomed me in Istanbul airport, where I transferred, was a more shocking scene. **NOBODY WAS WEARING MASKS!** After arriving in Germany, I saw only people on mass transportation wearing masks. Their unwillingness was so obvious that they desperately ripped them off when getting off the bus. Despite hearing that Europeans had been living normal lives for months, the shockwave still rocked me after witnessing it personally.

Speed and distance are concepts of relativity. Over the past two years, everyone has been besieged by the epidemic. Everything is seemingly static, but there are more unexpected sudden changes hidden beneath.

For the past two years, passport is probably the least useful stuff for us. As for my old friends, Ali Bowes became a mum and originally planned to bring her little Noa to Tübingen. However, a two-

month waiting period for a new passport scared her away. On seeing Alan Bairner for the first time since Brexit, I could not resist mocking him, 'Now you know how long the queue for ALL Passports is.'

After all the hassles, all the ISSAers still managed to come to Tübingen, sans some familiar faces (Hi! Steve! I missed you!). Maybe the three-year vacuum of physical academic conferences made us strangers to the scene a little bit. Some arrangements were somewhat surprising. With the sites for registration and for the opening panel so far apart from each other, it took 50 minutes to walk down hilly footpaths to go from one to the other. If you did not want to walk there, you had to take buses to transfer at some stop downtown to get there. Asgar Theil, chair of the local organizing committee, grabbed a mic and told us, 'Let's go to the Institute of Sports Science. I know it's a bit far. You are all well-trained academics and intellectuals. I know you will find the way.'

That brought me to a trip down memory lane when we were the host for the ISSA World Congress in Taoyuan in 2017. What would we have done in that scenario? It goes without saying that air-conditioned shuttle buses would have been waiting and all the staff would have been helping our honored guests from all over the world to show them the way with care. That's the Taiwanese hospitality we are proud of. Germans would never do that. Would they? Don't read this the wrong way. Their way of being the host was neither haughty nor humble. Friendly but not obsequious. They treated us as mature and independent individuals. Maybe that's the way it should be. Moving between places on your own is not only a more authentic way to know a city but a more honest way to know yourself.

In the past 3 years, the world has been changing at such a pace that we can barely keep up with. The sport world has been the same, if not swifter. Social engagement has been a new-found mission for sport sociologists. Pandemic, race, (trans)gender, globalization, war, and nationalism have been throwing curveballs after curveballs at us. As if they are not tough enough, we, as academics, are also feeling the change in (post)Covid higher education institutions.

At the Advisory Board meeting, Mike Sam raised the prospect of a potential decrease in the frequency of future physical conferences. That threw me off-guard. I thought that the accumulated academic energy and tiredness of Zoom meetings would actually motivate us to go and cherish our annual ritual even more. However, what I did not realise is that higher education in the world has been through a tough time for the past few years under the pandemic. Being in New Zealand, Mike certainly knows firsthand the difficulty of making the trip. Even Lucie Schoch, who is working conveniently in the middle of Europe, said that the Swiss institutes cut the budget for international travel in the name of environmental protection.

In Taiwan certainly we have our fair share of problems to worry about in higher education. However, engaging with the world is definitely not one of them. Under the current policy of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), participating in international conferences has been the priority for years. It is the vision we heavily emphasize. As an island country with controversial international status, it is through these civilian international exchanges that we can mark ourselves vis-à-vis the world.

The unusually few East Asian faces at this year's conference is evidence of East Asian countries still recovering or adjusting their philosophy in coping with Covid. I was among the lucky few to be able to get to Tübingen. I was especially honored to be a part of the UK-Taiwan Critical Social Sciences of Sport Network and shared our experience in the panel at the conference. With the support of MOST and ESRC of the UK, we matchmade a few young scholars who share similar research interest and sponsored them for the trip to Tübingen. Although, unfortunately, some of them pulled out at the

last minute due to personal reasons or bureaucratic matters, it was still a fantastic collaboration between the UK and Taiwan.

The network is seemingly an 18-month long project. However, it started way back. The connection between us is the accumulation of millions of unexpected moments. During our chats with Alan Bairner, he once mentioned that his Scottish mother's maiden name was Barclay. After that, we always associated him with Thomas Barclay, who was arguably the most renowned Western missionary in Taiwanese history for introducing the first printed newspaper in Taiwan in any language. The way Alan enlightened sport sociology society in Taiwan is also comparable to his (mythical) great ancestor. Who could have imagined that this 'godfather' figure in sport sociology is a guy who enjoys eating Taiwanese street vendor food on the sidewalks and having Taiwanese peanuts along with his pints of beer? Even Alan probably don't know for sure whether he is related with Thomas Barclay, however, with his speeches and publications, we are all blessed to have him as our ally. Being a Taiwanese, each one of us always has this kind of hidden anxiety and inherited burden to be an ambassador for our repressed nation. With all the international allies we have in ISSA, we know that we are not alone in this fight.

Going to ISSA conferences is important not only because of all the great sessions and presentations. The social activities were also what we sorely missed in the physical conferences. Watching England drawing Germany in the Euro Nations League on a controversial penalty won by Harry Kane at a bar with sport sociologists from all over the world was definitely a special experience. The delicacy of sport nationalism was at full display.

Have I mentioned the gala? Yes, that gala where you can see all the drunk sport sociologists dancing and doing some crazy stuff. Whether your names are on the cover of a textbook or you are the novices in this field, we can all hang out and mingle. It is our Bakhtinian carnival in which no class, age, language or seniority could come between us. For everyone who was supposed to see each other in Viña del Mar, Chile, it's 700 days overdue. A Japanese saying *Ichigo Ichie* is one among my favorites. It literally means "one time, one meeting" and reminds us to treasure the unrepeatable nature of a moment. When Alan laments not seeing a bunch of his old friends, it made us cherish these moments even more.

Toward the end of the gala, some sport sociologists started dancing to the music. Christine Dallaire said to me, 'The DJ must have remixed the songs from '92 and '93 together.' I asked, 'how can you remember it so specifically?' 'Those were the songs I listened to during my graduate school days. They must be.' She said. Memory and feelings are so mysterious. A song or a moment could bring you back to the moment branded in you. To me, the annual gathering is a way to bookmark my academic career, whether it be the glittering cruise on the River Seine in '15, the magnificent Hungarian Science Academy by the Danube in '16, the sausage stand next to the NTSU in the pouring rain in Taoyüan in '17, the cheesiest fondue, literally, ever in Lausanne in '18. And who can forget the powerful Haka in Dunedin in '19?

With the conference in full swing, fewer masks were seen the delegates' faces. Social distancing became shorter and shorter. After the mandatory PCR test before going back home came back negative, I further let my guard down. However, just a day after my arrival in Taiwan, I got a notice from the CDC informing me of my positive COVID test. It's only human nature to trace back every possible moment that got me infected. Which hug, which handshake, which delightful conversation, which pint? Maybe all of them. In fact, it does not matter anymore. Embracing the world amid the residual fear of Covid is the warmth I missed. If that's the price I have to pay, maybe it is worth it.

Sport sociology has been challenged by natural science, mainstream sociology and even within our own sport sociology for years. We are all aware of our position and critical role. We don't mind being far away from the power central in the sport world. Otherwise, we would all get PhDs in sport marketing. Wouldn't we? Ironically, that maverick spirit makes us cherish each other more. This year's topic 'Why does sociology matter' more or less reflects our collective anxiety in the current higher education scenes. We sport sociologists won't win any country any medal in the Olympics. We are the proud kids yelling the 'Emperor has no clothes!' That's the critical distance between us and the sport world. Although we, sport sociologists, are socially (and spatially) distanced, we can still support each other, help each other fill the void.

Author's note: This is the condensed version of the article appeared on my monthly column 'Long Game' on Taiwanese in-depth news website Reporter. I translated it into English and want to share with you to show how grateful I am to meet you all in Tübingen.

To read the original article, please click [here](#)

Members' News: Promotions and Esteem

Have you been promoted recently? Have you received a prize or other recognition for your achievements as a sociologist of sport? Have you had success in an application for research funding in a sport-related area? Let us know and send your news to Emmanuelle Tulle at e.tulle@gcu.ac.uk. Your news will be featured in bulletins on a rolling basis.

We have some great news from members.

Promotions

Prof Ansgar Thiel has been promoted to Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Tübingen from October 1, 2022.

Parissa Safai was promoted to full Professor at York University, Ontario, Canada on 1st January, 2022 (she kept it quiet).

Esteem

Prof Louise Mansfield (Brunel University, London) has been conferred as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. More [here](#)

Call for Papers

Communication & Sport Special Issue

Title of the special issue:

Mediating the East Asian Era of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (2018-2022): Regional Power, Solidarity and Rivalry

Manuscript submission deadline:

December 1st, 2022

Special issue editors:

Koji Kobayashi, Otaru University of Commerce, Japan / Lincoln University, New Zealand

John Horne, Independent Scholar, Edinburgh, United Kingdom / Waseda University, Japan

Younghan Cho, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea

Jung Woo Lee, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Contact email address:

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About the special issue:

In the span of four years from 2018 to 2022, three consecutive Olympic and Paralympic Games were held in East Asia – namely PyeongChang 2018 in South Korea, Tokyo 2020 in Japan and Beijing 2022 in China. Given this geographic concentration of global multi-sports mega-events in the Far East, Horne and Whannel (2016) referred to this period as the ‘East Asian era’ of the Olympic Games. The ‘East Asian era’ alludes to an important question about whether it epitomizes a shift in geopolitical and economic power from the West to the East or the further incorporation of the Far East into the global order characterised by Western cultural hegemony (Lee, 2016). Incidentally, it emerged against the backdrop of dissenting voices of protest and critics in Western society that opposed the hosting of the Games and, in turn, resulted in withdrawals of candidacies as seen in the cases of Sweden, Germany and Norway for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games (Gruneau & Horne, 2016). In an attempt to overcome the crisis of its legitimacy, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) initiated a set of reform policies called Olympic Agenda 2020 in 2014. The initiative aimed at increasing the IOC’s level of sustainability and social responsibility by, for instance, reducing the costs of bidding, promoting the use of existing and demountable venues and allowing events to be held outside the host city or even host country (MacAloon, 2016). In early 2021 ahead of the opening of the postponed Tokyo 2020, additional reform policies called Olympic Agenda 2020+5 were adopted to further extend the reform effort in line with the original aspirations. As such, the 2018-2022 Olympic and Paralympic Games in East Asia coincided – and perhaps not so coincidentally – with this transformative process of Agenda 2020 (and +5) and therefore served as its testing ground. Consequently, theoretical and empirical inquiries into the ‘East Asian era’ are expected to offer much needed insight into the contested terrains and future shaping of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, including the subsequent Games ‘going back to the West’ in 2024 (Paris), 2026 (Milano Cortina) and 2028 (Los Angeles).

In reflecting on ‘Together’ as the fourth word added to the modernist imagination of the Olympic motto ‘Faster, Higher, Stronger’, it is timely to investigate how the emerging narratives of the 2018-2022 Games and their legacies have been framed, contested and articulated. One of the most frequently debated aspects of the event revolves around both positive and negative impacts of the Games on the host cities and nations. During the ‘East Asian era’, the global pandemic of COVID-19 has altered the public perception of costs and benefits for hosting the Games with the benefits – such as inbound tourism, nation branding and celebration of medal-winning performances of their own national athletes in public – being largely undermined. While Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022 have often been upheld as models of successful delivery of the Games in the midst of the pandemic due

to relatively low numbers of event-related cases of infection and fatality, we have yet to gain a clear and complete picture of how the televised images and sounds of empty facilities under the governments' strict control and restrictions have temporarily or permanently changed the ways in which the Games were hosted, produced, communicated, represented and consumed. This demands us as scholars in the fields of communication and sport to closely attend to the emerging discourses of the difference in representation of cultural identities with respect to gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnicity, religion and (dis)ability. Also, there is a need to understand how the values of the Games may have been re-evaluated by organisers, athletes, sponsors, journalists, volunteers and consumers during the 'East Asian era'.

Another important aspect for this special issue, which has rarely been discussed previously in the field, is the changing dynamics of relations among the nations within East Asia intra-regionally as well as between East Asia and the rest of the world. As regional economic powerhouses, China, Japan and South Korea have developed complex relationships through centuries of trade, conflict and cooperation, and it is imperative to explore how the regional tensions, rivalries and solidarities were played out through, for instance, inter-Korean cooperation during PyeongChang 2018 and the Western-led diplomatic boycott over human rights and Russia-Ukraine war during Beijing 2022. The mutual influences and contestations in cultural exchanges between East Asia and the rest of the world have been perhaps most vividly manifested in the controversies surrounding ethnically diverse athletes such as Naomi Osaka and Eileen Gu. By collecting contributions focusing on the 2018-2022 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the special issue therefore aims to critically analyse the current state of play in the formation of regional power, solidarity and rivalry within East Asia and offer its implications for a broader understanding of the continuity and changes to the economic, political, social, cultural and ecological dimensions of the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

In this special issue of *Communication & Sport*, we welcome theoretical and empirical contributions that broadly address the overarching theme of "Mediating the East Asian Era of the Olympic and Paralympic Games" or specially focus on *one or more* of the events from the 2018, 2020 and/or 2022 Games. Possible areas and topics for this special issue include, but are not limited to:

- Media narratives and counter-narratives about the Olympic and Paralympic legacies
- Critiques of the process, representation or politics in bidding or hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Sustainability, ecological impacts and social responsibilities
- The impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic on the politics, mediation and communication
- Narratives of globalism, transnationalism, cosmopolitanism, glocalism, regionalism or nationalism
- Narratives of gender, sexuality, citizenship, race/ethnicity and (dis)ability
- The rhetoric and reality of the Olympic Agenda 2020 (and +5)
- Networks and knowledge production of event professionals
- Media production and consumption
- Commercialism, promotion, sponsorship and advertising
- The alternative, digital and social media

- East Asian ‘colonial modernity’ (Lee & Cho, 2012) and postcolonialism
- East Asian solidarity and rivalry
- Comparative analysis of events held across different times in the same nation (e.g., Tokyo 1964 vs. Tokyo 2020) or different nations (e.g., PyeongChang 2018 vs. Beijing 2022), using at least one event from the 2018-2022 Games
- Representations of sport celebrities and fandom

Manuscript submissions:

Manuscripts for this special issue should be submitted beginning June 1st, 2022, and no later than December 1st, 2022, at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/commsport> to facilitate full consideration. In the submission process, authors should mention in their cover letter that the submission is for the “Mediating the East Asian Era” special issue of *Communication & Sport* and choose “Mediating the East Asian Era Special Issue” as the “Manuscript Type”. Manuscripts should follow the Manuscript Submission Guidelines at <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/com>. All manuscripts will be subject to peer review under the supervision of the Special Issue Editors and Editor-in-Chief. Expressions of interest, abstracts for consideration, and questions may be directed to the Special Issue Editors: Koji Kobayashi, John Horne, Younghan Cho, and Jung Woo Lee via the email (csspecialissues@gmail.com).

Keywords:

Sports mega-events; Olympic and Paralympic Games; East Asian era; PyeongChang 2018; Tokyo 2020; Beijing 2022; Media production, representation and consumption

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Regular ISSA Calls

International Sociology of Sport Association Honorary Member Award 2022

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Executive Board invites nominations for an Honorary Member award in the International Sociology of Sport Association. This award honours outstanding contributions to the International Sociology of Sport Association and to the sociological study of sport. The recipient of this award must meet both of the following criteria:

- a long career of service to the International Sociology of Sport Association, and

- a distinguished international academic career as a sociologist of sport.

Individuals who are retired from formal academic positions are eligible for Honorary Member awards. In addition, the International Sociology of Sport Association will consider retrospectively honouring an individual's service and scholarship with a ceremonial posthumous Honorary Member award. Honorary Members in the International Sociology of Sport Association receive:

- Full, lifetime membership in the International Sociology of Sport Association, including subscription to the International Review for the Sociology of Sport;

- Free, lifetime registration to the International Sociology of Sport Association's annual conference.

The list of current Honorary Members can be found at

<https://issa1965.org/awards/#Honorary%20Member%20Award>

Nominations

Nominators should submit a 1 to 2-page document (letter) that describes in as much detail as possible how the nominee meets the International Sociology of Sport's Honorary Member criteria. Submit nominations by email to Mike Sam mike.sam@otago.ac.nz

There is no deadline for nominations. We will be considering them on their own merit, as they come in. So get nominating!

Contributing to IRSS



Our journal's general editor, Dominic Malcolm, encourages the submission of diverse research articles seated in the sociology of sport, broadly defined, that shed light on social and cultural understandings of sport.

Book/Media Reviews

Authors wishing to review books or media (films, videos, interactive media) or contribute to a comparative review, please contact the book and media reviews editor directly: Dr. Kass Gibson, Plymouth Marjon University, kgibson@marjon.ac.uk

Manuscripts for both research articles and book/media reviews may be submitted [here](#)

Becoming a Reviewer

Being a reviewer gives you an insight into the publication process and a better understanding of how to develop your own research and publications. The easiest way to become a reviewer is to create an account through [this link](#)

Managing your Account

If you already have an account for the IRSS do remember to keep it updated.

Please visit the journal website for more information about its Aims & Scope, the Editorial Board, manuscript submission guidelines, and sample issues [here](#)

Call for ISSA Archives

The ISSA Executive Board is calling on all past and current members to submit photos, documents and other materials that document the history of the association, congresses and journal. We will gladly accept any items either in digital or hard copy format. We will be happy to copy and return these to you, or to add relevant items to the ISSA Archive as part of our ongoing efforts to record the history of the ISSA and IRSS. We are particularly hoping to obtain copies of ISSA Congress programs and Books of Abstract prior to 2011. For further information about the Archive and/or to donate items, please contact Mike Sam mike.sam@otago.ac.uk

Share Your Reading Recommendations

Have you read a good sports related book lately? Send us your favourite titles (not your own books, see earlier announcement!) that you think ISSA colleagues might also be interested in reading, with a short blurb to entice us.

Contact Emmanuelle Tulle at e.tulle@gcu.ac.uk



ISSA's Affiliate Organisations:

Sub-Committee of ICSSPE

Research Committee 27 of ISA

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