



BULLETIN

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Parissa Safai



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Introducing more Advisory Board members

Lucie Schoch, Eivind Skille and Pinar Yaprak

[Lucie Schoch](#)

I am an Advisory Board member based in Switzerland. I work as a senior lecturer at the Department of sport sciences of the University of Lausanne since 2016. I have a PhD in sports sciences from the University of Lausanne (Switzerland) and a Masters degree in sports sciences from the University of Strasbourg (France).



As a sociologist, my research interests lie in two main areas, "sport and media" and "sport and gender", which often intersect in my research projects. For the past few years, I have researched, first, sports journalism, with a particular focus on female sports journalists' experiences, career paths and work in the Swiss media. Second, sports organizations, how they manage their communication when facing with a credibility deficit, and the participation of women in their governing bodies. I am currently leading a project, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, focusing on gender diversity in the governance of international sports federations (2020-2023).

I have published works in English in renowned journals such as *Media Culture & Society*, *Journalism practice*, *International Review for the Sociology of sport*, *Sociology of sport journal* and *Communication & Sport*, as well as in French journals. I serve on the editorial boards of *Communication & Sport* and *International Journal of Sport & Communication*. As an ISSA member of several years, I co-organized the 2018 ISSA World Congress in Lausanne and I enthusiastically joined the Advisory Board in 2020!

[Eivind Skille](#)

I am an Advisory Board member based in Norway. I have a PhD from the Norwegian School of Sports Sciences. I am professor of sport sociology at the Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences. I am also visiting professor in Sport Sociology at the University of Tromsø (Norway) and annually I teach Sport Policy Analysis at the Russian International Olympic University in Sochi. My most exiting academic experience, however, was to be a visiting scholar at Otago University in Dunedin, New Zealand.



I serve on the editorial boards of the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* and the *International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics*. My research interests are sport policy and politics, sport organizing and sport organization, and sport participation especially among youth and adolescents. I am currently working on a project about Indigenous sports and nation building, where I focus on the Sámi people of the North Calotte.

I have served on the advisory board of ISSA for several years. I always feel joy that the time is spent in a meaningful way when meeting my peers there and can contribute to the international sport sociology milieu.

Pinar Yaprak

Watch this space

A Third Meeting with other Sport Associations

Emmanuelle Tulle

Readers will remember that I've been attending meetings with other associations, an initiative kickstarted by Brett Smith of QRSEH (Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise and Health). The impetus for these meetings was the need to show mutual support during Covid-19 lockdowns and subsequent palettes of restrictions as the predicted second wave inevitably gathered pace and volume. We were initially concerned with sharing tips to manage the shift to online teaching and conferences. At the front of our minds were also the Black Lives Matter movement, increasingly urgent calls to decolonise the curriculum and the wish to make our events and activities open to a more diverse audience. So our conversation turned to the opportunities presented by enforced confinements to pay heed to issues around Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI).

It became clear that we needed to move beyond well-meaning statements and concentrate on practical, actionable initiatives to ensure professional associations were at the vanguard of social change e.g. monitor nominations to their boards, mentorship that addressed under-representation, embed an EDI portfolio in the work of Executive Boards, work with non-English speaking associations, monitor diversity in our own memberships, for associations which provide training make sure it is inclusive, etc... So our tasks for the next meeting is to start working on suggested targets and recommendations and perhaps think of funding opportunities to set up projects.

At time of writing the fourth meeting has taken place but pressure of work meant that I wasn't able to attend. However a report of discussions that took place at this recent meeting will be available in due course. 📌

A Book Review

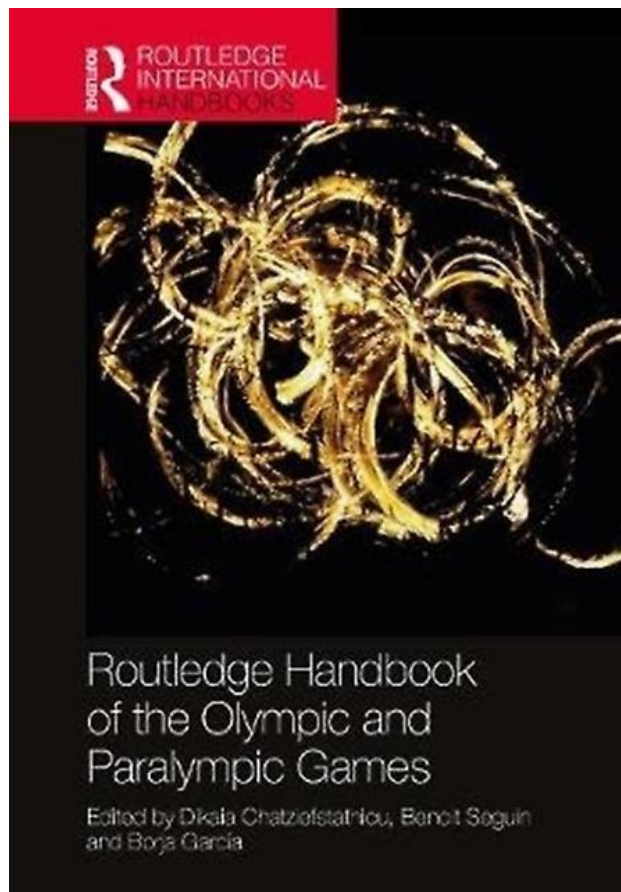
John Horne

September 2020

[Routledge Handbook of the Olympic and Paralympic Games](#)

Dikaia Chatziefstathiou, Borja Garcia & Benoit Seguin Eds. 2021 (available from July 2020)

London: Routledge, 447 pp + xxi Hardcover 190.00 GBP



Whilst the world waits to see if there will be a Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games 2020 in 2021 (perhaps to be recast in the future as “The COVID Olympics”) publishers continue to produce books on the topic of the Olympics and Paralympics. The editors of this collection of 37 chapters were also caught out by COVID-19 but managed, like authors of some other texts on the same topic, to insert a brief Preface about it, and how it may or may not change everything. The Summer Olympic and Paralympic

Games scheduled for Tokyo in July to September 2020, may have both been postponed for the first time ever, but the publishing show must go on.

This collection leans heavily on management, including only a few authors familiar to students of the sociology, political science, history or geography of sport. This lack of a coherent disciplinary focus could give the book a fairly undisciplined appearance, although there are four discrete parts dealing with athletes` and socio-cultural and political issues, edited by Chatziefstathiou (Parts I and IV), business edited by Seguin (Part II), and governance edited by Garcia (Part III).

Critical assessments of the Olympic and Paralympic Games are therefore largely absent or tucked away in a few isolated pages or chapters – for example on gender identity, LGBTI+ athletes, the Paralympics, human rights, and sport for development and peace (SDP). There are no indexed references to critical scholarship or writing by authors and researchers such as Boykoff, Goldblatt, Jennings, Tomlinson or Whannel.

Readers of research more critical of the Olympics and the Olympic Movement would most probably not share this aspiration.

By postponing the 2020 Games until 2021 some commentators have suggested the possibility exists for the event to act as a boost to the reputation of each of the main stakeholders involved. It will be at a considerable financial cost but the decision to delay and stage the event a year or so later could provide an upturn in the attraction of the global spectacle. The editors set the tone for this approach to the Olympics and Paralympics in the Preface asserting that “It is certainly wished by billions around the world that Tokyo 2020 Games will actually take place in 2021 and bring the world together in a post-pandemic world” (p. xix). Readers of research more critical of the Olympics and the Olympic Movement would most probably not share this aspiration. Rather provocatively in this light at least one chapter (by Holger Preuss et al) explores how best to shape the outcomes of public referenda (or referendums) about hosting the Olympics. When it comes to holding referenda they write: “The power of the population when a city wants to bid for the Olympic Games should not be underestimated ...For this reason, it is of great importance to deal decisively with this group of stakeholders” (p. 184). The chapter then goes on to explore how “the chances of a positive outcome to such a referendum can be increased” (p. 186).

Arguably more than this is required if Olympic Studies, let alone the Olympic Movement itself, is going to develop and prosper in a sustainable way post-pandemic.

The four sections into which the book is divided largely reflects this upbeat, uncritical, focus. Chapters 1-6 (Part I) deal with athletes but not those protesting or calling for the right to do so but rather the somewhat familiar topics of athletes` gender and sexual identity and disability classification. The second part (chapters 7-17) focuses on business, especially branding, marketing and dealing with referenda, as previously mentioned. The next part (III) examines governance matters, especially the relations between

the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other sports stakeholders – international sports federations (IFs), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Finally chapters 28-37 deal with a range of issues including human rights, SDP, the Paralympics, Olympic and Paralympic legacy.

Whilst this volume has been overtaken by events it is always useful to read some of the latest contributions by most of the contributors. For teaching purposes the book adopts a very narrow management orientation, so not much is to be gained from it in social science courses or programmes. Finally what is marked is the unbalanced view of the games. There is much more to be said about the dark side of the Olympics than referred to in this volume. Vitally important issues such as corruption in the influencing of hosting decisions, the Games` negative environmental consequences, and debates about cost overruns are simply not considered in any great detail. Cheerleading rather than critical investigation appears to be the main aspiration of the editors. Arguably more than this is required if Olympic Studies, let alone the Olympic Movement itself, is going to develop and prosper in a sustainable way post-pandemic. ©

Regular ISSA Calls



Members' News

ISSA is happy to share information about conferences, seminars, awards, jobs and recently published books. We will gladly include your news in our eBulletin and the ISSA website. ISSA is always looking for ways to improve communication and serve our members. We encourage you to submit comments and suggestions.

Please send any feedback and information to Emmanuelle Tulle at:

communications@issa1965.org and remember that ISSA also has its own Facebook page, and you are welcome to share information via this group.

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 at president@issa1965.org.

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: communications@issa1965.org

Submissions to Our Journal

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, Email: kgibson@marjon.ac.uk

Manuscripts for both research articles and book/media reviews may be submitted at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/irss>

Becoming a Reviewer

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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 at <http://journals.sagepub.com/home/irs>



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Xth International Congress 'Sport, People and Health' is to be held in St Petersburg (Russia) on April 27-29, 2021 and dedicated to mark the 125th anniversary of Lesgaft National State University of Physical Education, Sport and Health, St Petersburg

THEME '*Prospects for strengthening and developing the Olympic Movement. Challenges of modern sports*'

GOALS OF THE CONGRESS

- identify the key areas of activity in the international scientific community, non-governmental organizations and various countries' official bodies dealing with the crisis in the international Olympic, Paralympic and Deaflympic movements, maintaining the Olympic ideals and principles, moral values of global sport, developing physical, spiritual and moral health of the society;
- pool together efforts of international and national organizations on promotion of innovative projects and best practices aimed at harmonious development of people within the systems of physical culture, sports, healthcare and education.

KEY DATES OF THE CONGRESS

- Congress entry **applications** are submitted from **01.09.2020 to 15.04.2021**
- **Articles to be presented are submitted** for publication in the Congress Collection of materials from **01.09.2020 to 01.02.2021**
- **Publication fee** must be paid **before 15.02.2021**
- **Registration fee** must be paid **before 15.04.2021**

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CONGRESS

- **For virtual participation** in the Congress one must *register at the official website* of the Congress and pay the **publication fee** (*the publication fee is to be paid only after the scientific committee has approved the material to be published*).
- **For face-to-face participation** in the Congress one must *register at the official website* of the Congress, pay the **publication fee** (*the publication fee is to be paid only after the scientific committee has approved the material to be published*), and pay the **forum registration fee**.

- **Publication fee and registration fee** are paid via wireless bank transfer of money to the bank account of the international non-profit organization 'Sport, People and Health' (**see the company's banking details** in Congress website).

REGISTRATION FEE

- if paid before **01.03.2021**, the registration fee is **120 €**
- if paid later than **01.03.2021**, the registration fee is **150 €**
- publication of one article for **face-to-face/virtual** participants is **25 €** and **50 €** for **two** articles
- Publication of one article for full-time / part-time participants in the Collection of Congress Materials to be indexed in WoS / Scopus –**135 €**
- The publication fee for members of staff – organizers and co-organizers of the Congress - will be **10 €**
- The cost of text translation: **20 €** per page (1800 characters with spaces).

For Full details:

E-mail for contacting the Organizing the Scientific Committees of the Congress:
sporthealth.spb@gmail.com

Official website: <http://www.sport-health.ru>