



ISSA BULLETIN

2026 Issue 1

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Introduction

Welcome to our first bulletin issue of 2026.

This is a fairly slim bulletin but it contains some important information about this year's congress run jointly with EASS. So do familiarise yourself with an important deadline and updates to the Congress website.

In this bulletin we also continue to look back at ISSA 2025 in Seoul in images. This time we are featuring photos and video clips from the spectacular closing ceremony.

Looking to the future we have some new information about our 2027 Congress. Start planning your trip to Melbourne!

We are still keen to hear your views about the running of the Association so the link to the survey is available in Section 2 of this bulletin.

It is always sad to hear of the passing of pioneers of the sociology of sport and the news of M. Ann Hall's death in December 2025 has shocked all who knew her, as a colleague and friend, and through her innovative approach to the study of sports using feminist theory. Thanks go to Pirkko Makula for writing with eloquence about her colleague.

We have started a new section designed to feature journals that promote the work of sports scholars. In this first outing, we present STAPS, a multi-disciplinary journal under the aegis of the Association francophone pour la recherche en activités physiques et sportives (AFRAPS).

We are starting our Bulletin with some tips on how to take up or renew your ISSA membership.

Joining ISSA

Recently there have been problems accessing the ISSA membership subscription page hosted by our journal's publishers, Sage Publications. We have been communicating with Sage and we are happy to report that the link is working again. You can access the subscription page directly [here](#). The page is also accessible via our own website. If you need to renew or purchase your ISSA membership before the deadline for the Early Bird registration for ISSA-EASS 2026, please do it now!

ISSA 2026 (jointly with EASS)

A reminder that our 2026 Congress, jointly with EASS, will be held at the Seminaarinmäki Campus, University of Jyväskylä, Finland. The theme is Responsibilities and Responses of Sport in Contemporary Society.

We have received 420 (yes, 420) abstracts and decisions have now been communicated to all who submitted. Thank you to all of you for your abstracts and to the Scientific Committee for such prompt decision-making!



Preparations for the Congress are continuing, and we have a few new deadlines that we'd like to draw your attention to:



- Early Bird registration has been extended to 7th April. So don't delay, register now!
- Do remember to renew your ISSA membership or to join ISSA to benefit from the member's registration rate. Please do so by 7th April too. Guidance on how to join below.

- Thereafter, full rate registration will apply and will continue till 17th May 2026.

All details about the conference can be found on our [website](#) or directly [here](#)

We would like to draw your attention to the more comprehensive section about travel to Jyväskylä recently included on the website.

How to navigate the ISSA membership subscription page?

Please follow this [link](#) to get to the Sage subscription page. If you look to the right of the page, you will find a range of membership options. Scroll down to find the option that suits your circumstances best and click on Buy Now. Then scroll back to the top of the page to find the cart. Click to open the cart, check that you've chosen the correct option for you and then you can proceed with payment.

If you encounter any problems, you can contact the Sage Membership Team directly at societymember@sagepub.com. They are very responsive so will get you sorted out in case of difficulties.

We look forward to connecting with you in Jyväskylä for what we are certain will be a fantastic Congress!

ISSA Survey - Reminder

As part of the ISSA's 60th-anniversary celebration, the ISSA Executive Board invited members to share their feedback on their experiences with the association. Thank you to those who have already responded!

In efforts to gain further feedback from our global sociology of sport, we continue to invite participation in this brief survey. So, if you haven't already done so, please complete our survey which is available [here](#)

Members and non-members are welcomed to participate. Your valuable insights will help the ISSA continue to serve the needs of its vibrant scholarly community.

ISSA2027 Save the Date!



1 - Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia

The 2027 ISSA Congress will take place at Victoria University, hosted at the Footscray and City Tower Campuses, Melbourne, Australia.

The dates are: 30th November - 3rd December 2027.

We will be posting more details on our website [here](#) as preparations begin to take shape in earnest. But first, let's concentrate on ISSA/EASS 2026!

ISSA 2025: Photo Gallery part 3

As promised here is the third and final batch of photos taken during the closing ceremony in July 2025 in Seoul. It was a truly spectacular display of physical prowess, sound and colour. Wonderful!

Photo Gallery





[Traditional dance](#)

[Tae kwondo performance](#)

[More Tae Kwondo](#)

Obituary

M. Ann Hall, 9th March 1942-2nd December 2025

M. Ann Hall is one of the founding feminists in sport sociology. I use the present tense here because, despite her sudden passing on December 2, 2025, Ann's work continues to support the generations of feminists who want to find sport a place that they can share, love, and cherish.

Ann originally worked as a physical education teacher after graduating from Queen's University in Canada with a Bachelor of Physical and Health Education in 1964. At the time, physical education in North America began to transform itself into an academic discipline that we now identify as the field of kinesiology, with such sub-disciplines as sport sociology, sport history, sport management, or sport and exercise psychology, in addition to several science sub-disciplines. Ann returned to university and, in 1968, graduated with an MA from the University of Alberta. Possibly quite unusually at the time, Ann then enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the University of Birmingham, UK, studying in the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies established by Stuart Hall and Richard Hoggart in 1964. With Stuart Hall as a central figure in cultural studies worldwide, Ann would be one of the few sport sociology scholars to have the opportunity to study closely under his tutelage. After graduating in 1974, Ann returned to the University of Alberta.

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During her tenure in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta, Ann created a solid foundation for discourses on gender, femininity, and feminism in the social theory of sport. Ann accounts for her own path to feminism in her book *Feminism and Sporting Bodies: Essays on Theory and Practice* (Human Kinetics, 1996), as she journeyed from a strictly objective, quantitative researcher to cultural studies-inspired feminist research. Such a broad background gave Ann's feminist work additional credibility as a viable and meaningful way of understanding gender in sport. Having travelled through a similar scholarly path myself, her book served as an important encouragement to me as a feminist scholar. I still remember how proud I was to be included in such a seminal book in sport sociology!

This text, as well as Ann's work on detailing the development of studying gender—from early social psychological research on 'role conflict' and functionalist notions of 'sex roles' to feminist approaches critical of the ideological construction of femininity and women athletes' resistance toward emancipatory politics in sport—has since laid the foundation for my own work on the construction of the ideal feminine body in the fitness industry. I still cherish the opportunity that I had to learn from Ann through her writing.

With so much to give, Ann left us too soon.

Ann accepted early retirement in 1997 from the University of Alberta, only to embark on a very productive research career with a focus on the history of women's sport in Canada. With meticulous attention to detail and a deep dive into various historical sources, Ann published a series of books mapping women's sporting achievements:

- Hall, M. A. (2012). *The Grads Are Playing Tonight! The Story of the Edmonton Commercial Graduates Basketball Club*. University of Alberta Press.
- Hall, M. A. (2016). *The girl and the game: A history of women's sport in Canada*. University of Toronto Press.
- Hall, M. A. (2018). *Muscle on wheels: Louise Armaindo and the high-wheel racers of nineteenth-century America*. McGill-Queen's Press-MQUP. (Translated into French, 2025).
- Hall, M. A., Kidd, B., & Vertinsky, P. (2023). *Educating the body: A history of physical education in Canada*. University of Toronto Press.

At the University of Alberta, we had the opportunity to hear Ann speak about her work on several occasions. These talks were both accessible and deeply scholarly, appealing to a variety of audiences fascinated by Ann's obvious enthusiasm for sportswomen's accomplishments. Ann also remained a sought-after teacher of undergraduate courses in sociocultural studies at the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation (currently Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation).

Ann herself was an avid sportswoman. She was a high school athlete in basketball, volleyball, and track and field, and later took on outdoor pursuits such as canoeing. She then moved to racquetball and squash at the University of Birmingham and the University of Alberta, and later turned to pickleball. Ann was also a devoted dressage athlete. Having never practiced dressage, I remember talking to Ann—who was able to make the sport accessible to people unfamiliar with it—about the intricacies of the sport at significant length.

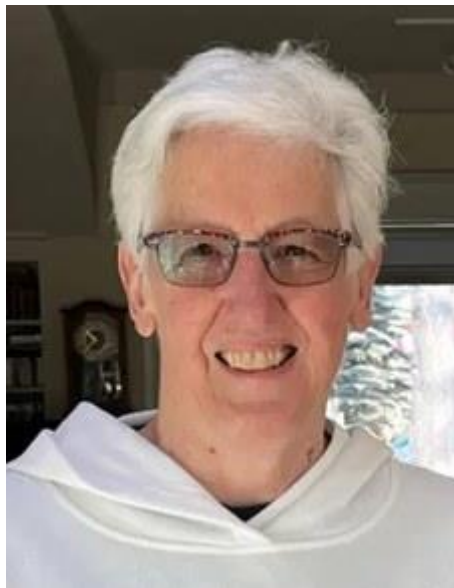
As a scholar, Ann was well-read and, as a result, had developed an intellectual rigour that may have seemed, at times, intimidating. However, the strength of her argumentation has

also served to solidify the place of feminism(s) in sport sociology. I remember Ann here at the University of Alberta as a person willing to generously share her theoretical and historical insights into women's sport. With a ready smile, Ann was very approachable and an inspiration to anyone interested in women and sport.

With so much to give, Ann left us too soon. As a feminist sport sociologist, I miss Ann's support, strength, and academic rigour. However, may her continuous joy of discovery inspire us to move forward with her feminist work on gender and sport.

Pirkko Markula, University of Alberta

29/03/2026



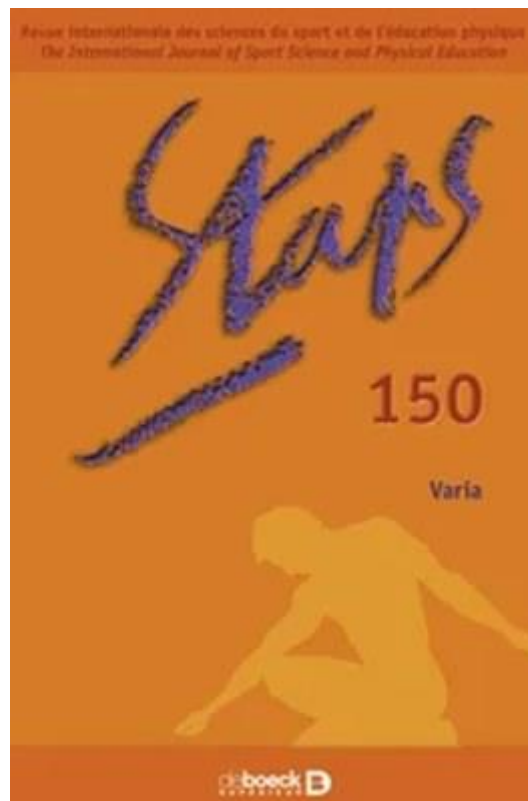
Featuring a Journal

STAPS

[STAPS](#) is a multidisciplinary journal published since 1980 under the guidance of the Association francophone pour la recherche en activités physiques et sportives (AFRAPS). The journal publishes research in the social sciences and humanities related to sport and physical education, particularly in history, sociology, psychology, cultural studies, education sciences, didactics and intervention sciences, ethnology, anthropology, epistemology, management, etc. STAPS encourages scientific analysis of sport and/or physical education in the context of their actual practices, institutions and actors. It is primarily an international peer-reviewed journal in French, but it also publishes a growing number of articles in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) written by researchers from around the world <https://shs.cairn.info/revue-staps?lang=fr>

[STAPS](#) est une revue multidisciplinaire publiée depuis 1980 sous l'égide de l'Association francophone pour la recherche en activités physiques et sportives (AFRAPS). La revue publie

des travaux de recherche en sciences sociales et humaines liés au sport et à l'éducation physique, notamment en histoire, sociologie, psychologie, études culturelles, sciences de l'éducation, didactique et sciences de l'intervention, ethnologie, anthropologie, épistémologie, gestion, etc. STAPS encourage l'analyse scientifique du sport et/ou de l'éducation physique dans le contexte de leurs pratiques, institutions et acteurs réels. Il s'agit principalement d'une revue internationale en langue française évaluée par des pairs, mais elle publie également un nombre croissant d'articles en [anglais](#) et en [espagnol](#) rédigés par des chercheurs du monde entier <https://shs.cairn.info/revue-staps?lang=fr>



IRSS News



Our journal's general editor, Brent McDonald, 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.

[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](#)

[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 via our contact page on our [website](#). 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 on our [website](#)

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 via our [website](#)



ISSA's Affiliate Organisations:

Research Committee 27 of ISA

Sub-Committee of ICSSPE

Affiliated with UNESCO

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