

Abstracts

Sport & Diaspora

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Abstracts

Keynote Speeches

Joseph Maguire, Loughborough University, UK

Imagined, Invented and 'Real' Migrant Experiences of Lions Fans in New Zealand: the cultural politics of being 'British'?

Over the past decade the nationalism of the 'Celtic fringe' and the English received greater consideration. Attention focused on both their contested identities and what divides them. Here, the focus is on what they have in common and unites them. The paper draws on a range of process sociological concepts (established-outsider relations, personal pronouns, national habitués and, in the context of globalisation, processes of prestige, emulation and resistance). The British and Irish Lions tour to New Zealand in 2005 is used as a critical case study to consider aspects of identity, migration and post colonial diaspora relations. Interviews conducted with fans provide the empirical base of this paper and highlight how the identities of the people of the 'British Isles' are context and contest specific within and beyond the boundaries of sport, contain centrifugal and centripetal elements: such data provides different lines of enquiry for research into sport, migration and identities.

Detlev Claussen, University of Hannover, Germany

Proletarian sport, gentrified science and euro-centrist blindness? On the unsettled relation between Social Sciences and Soccer

The long 19th century has created professional sports and academic social sciences as well as the euro-centric perspective. Sport organizers and social scientists have competed for gentrified reputation and ignored each other at the same time. Writing on sports has become the domain of journalism which, in turn, is disdained by sportsmen and academics alike.

Panel I: The Role of Sports among Diaspora Communities

Paul Darby, University of Ulster (Jordanstown), N. Ireland

Gaelic Sport and the Irish Diaspora in the United States

Over the last 10 years, the significance of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) in the lives of Irish immigrants around the world has been publicly acknowledged in the highest echelons of Irish society. For example, in December 2008 whilst opening dedicated playing fields for Gaelic games in San Francisco, President Mary McAleese spoke in glowing terms about the contribution of the Association to Irish migrant communities across America. In recent years the GAA administration in Dublin invested considerable time, effort and finances catering for the aspirations of overseas Gaels. In addition, the Irish Government, through its Department of Foreign Affairs, has also recently acknowledged the import of preserving Gaelic games amongst the diaspora and in June 2008, it announced a partnership with the GAA aimed at promoting Gaelic games abroad. In announcing this partnership, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin suggested that, 'The GAA plays a key role in the social and cultural life of Irish communities abroad...it underpins and promotes Irish heritage and identity across the globe'. This paper aims to flesh out Martin's contentions with specific reference to the GAA in the US. It draws on detailed archival and ethnographic field work on the history and social significance of the GAA in Boston, New York, Chicago and San Francisco. More specifically, it addresses the contribution that the GAA has made to the social and cultural life of Irish communities in the US and examines the role of Gaelic games in helping Irish immigrants to construct and articulate varying senses of Irish identity.

John Kelly, University of Edinburgh, UK

Irish Diaspora Identities and Celtic FC. The Case for New Typologies

The paper seeks to investigate the role of football in the everyday culture of diasporic individuals and communities. It seeks to do this by focusing on fandom and the identification and consumption practices of diasporic fans (section II). The paper deals specifically with sections of the Irish-Catholic diasporic communities who find Celtic FC the main sporting focal point around which to experience their diasporic identity/ies. In this regard, Glasgow based Celtic FC and the numerous practices surrounding people's attachment to Celtic FC reinforce both an imagined (we/group) community and a constructed self (individual) in a double bind. In other words, a central focal point (Celtic FC) is infused by a number of supporting practices (social events, pub screenings of matches, club dances, etc.) which serve to reaffirm and at times challenge aspects of both individual and group elements of Irish diasporic identities. I propose distinguishing between the Irish Diaspora (born and living in Scotland) and the Scots-Irish Diaspora (previous 'Irish Diaspora' now living outside of Scotland). In turn, two further typologies are proposed; Irish-Glasgow Diaspora ('Irish Diaspora' with links to Glasgow but now living outside of Glasgow but in Scotland) and Scots-Irish-Glasgow Diaspora ('Irish Diaspora' with links to Glasgow but now living outside of Scotland). By combining Goffman's *institutional front* and Bourdieu's *status distinction*, these multiple identities are negotiated in fostering preferred identities whilst maintaining distinction – credentialising themselves to selves and others in standard maintaining rituals.

Nina Clara Tiesler, ICS, University of Lisbon, Portugal

‘We didn’t lose it on our way’, says the old man. ‘It helps to imagine a modern Portugal’, says the girl. Why football matters in social scientific research on Portuguese Emigration

This paper provides insight into the advanced work-in-progress of the research project *Diasbola* which examines the role of football among Portuguese emigrants and luso-descendants in six diasporic settings, namely in London, Hanover, Massachusetts, Paris, Rio de Janeiro and Maputo. The project aimed to qualify football in comparison to other cultural elements which appear crucial in the invention of Portuguese-ness and community building processes in post-migratory contexts. The research idea had derived from the ethnographic experience of the researchers involved in their local fields and started with the hypothesis that football, which is a major cultural and social phenomenon in Portuguese society, represents an especially strong element in the emigrant’s culture of everyday life and is a crucial point of reference to the country and/or city of origin. Results clearly confirm this hypothesis, but counter its somewhat encapsulating connotation: While football in its social formation and its possible functions are shaped by each particular diasporic context, it also provides dynamics which shape such contexts and conditions.

Victor Pereira, New University of Lisbon, Portugal

Self-perception and soccer among Portuguese in France

Nowadays, there are at least 205 “Portuguese soccer teams” in France. This number is much more than all the other migrants’ soccer teams put together. It demonstrates that soccer has been a “deep play” among Portuguese in France. Soccer helped the migrants coming from rural areas to adapt themselves to an urban environment and to French modern society where they discovered leisure. It was also a valued “cultural good”. Portuguese migrants invented a “savoir-faire”. This “savoir-faire” permitted them to reach a kind of social recognition, to reverse the social hierarchies - even if was just during the short period of a game-, and to overpass discriminations. Soccer has also been very important regarding the relation between fathers and sons, a very particular link in the migration context. Portuguese fathers transmitted their passion for soccer to their sons and their fervent interest for Portuguese soccer teams. Many times this passion was synonymous with transmission of Portuguese identity. In this paper, using administrative data and personal observation, I will focus on the main roles that soccer played among Portuguese migrants in France.

Nélia Bergano, University of Hannover, Germany

Portuguese immigrants and the role of Portuguese football in two different settings: A comparison of Portuguese communities in Northern Germany and Switzerland

The self – representation and self – perception of immigrant groups always depends on the group’s numerical size, visibility and the conditions they find in new locales. In this context, this paper intends to analyze and compare Portuguese communities in Switzerland and Northern Germany, regarding their cultural attachment such as associative organizations, cuisine and language as well as their self-representation in these two receiving countries. As Portuguese immigrants have settled in these areas for over more than thirty years, this paper also focuses the attitude and role of the luso – descendants. For over fifty years, Portuguese football has crossed the national barriers and emerged internationally. Thus, subject of analysis is also football and its importance within the Portuguese community abroad, in particular in its role as a

linkage to “the modern” Portugal, and under different event settings: The interest in the Portuguese national team during international tournaments, and Portuguese club football in everyday life. It follows a brief overview of the Portuguese immigrant’s active, participating role in regional football tournaments. The paper is based on continuous research in Northern Germany, as well as on specific qualitative and quantitative data material which was gathered during the EURO 2008 in Switzerland and in Northern Germany.

Stephen Wagg, Leeds Metropolitan University, UK

Cristiano Ronaldo: Comparative and Extraordinary Renditions

There will be other contenders – the powerful and charismatic Mozambican goal scorer Eusebio, for instance – but the majority of students of Portuguese football are likely to judge that the most talented player ever to play for their country is Cristiano Ronaldo, born on the island of Madeira in 1985. There is comparably little doubt that, through his globally publicised sojourn at Manchester United (2003-09) and his equally scrutinised life as a celebrity, Ronaldo is also the most widely known individual to become part of the Portuguese diaspora. This paper notes contrasting renditions of Ronaldo among English football supporters and commentators and compares them to constructions of the same player among football supporters of the Portuguese community in South West London. It assumes that some responses to Ronaldo are at least in part based upon considerations of class – the implication being that the player is ‘stuck up’, ‘bigheaded’, vain, rich, remote from ordinary fans or some such. The research will then be directed to compare the judgments on Ronaldo of the Manchester United supporter network with those of British-based Portuguese observers. The result will be a comparative analysis of the rendering and reception of football celebrity in different communities, and the respective weight accorded therein to class, ethnicity and other factors.

Nuno Domingos, ICS, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Portuguese Football and Portuguese People in metropolitan and post-colonial contexts: the cases of London and Maputo

This presentation deals with the specific role of football among Portuguese emigrants in two different contexts. In the first place it will be crucial to acknowledge the particular faculties that turned football into an important mechanism of social bonding, namely within this migrant population. However, this characteristic has to be confronted with the logic of concrete social and historical processes. Therefore the comparison between the cases of Maputo and London aims to interpret the diverse social uses of Portuguese football by populations that had different historical itineraries, different class belongings and different levels of cultural capital. The examination of the “uses of football” in the daily lives of these migrant populations has to be measured considering the social framework which involve them. The material used here derived from research of archival sources and ethnographic fieldwork.

Miguel Moniz, CRIA-ISCTE/ IUL, Portugal

Football and technological links to the homeland: how the experience of futebol through the television, radio, print media and the internet mediates social-adaptation among North American Lusophone migrant communities.

Television, radio, print media and the internet can be thought of as a technological network of connection, a connection that over the past fifty years has increased since the advent and dispersal of recording technologies in the evolution from analog to digital photography, sound recording and videography. The use of these technological

advancements increasingly are an integral feature defining interactive links to pre-migration points of origin among Lusophone populations in North America.

Using the social field provided in the futebol example, the paper will explore how technological networks--as a key feature of 21st century migrant life--operate around the game within the North American Lusophone communities, both in how they facilitate a particular type of connection to the homeland, even as they also serve decidedly adaptive ends in the local post-migration community.

Marcos Alvito, Federal University Fluminense, Brazil

Negotiating Identities with Football: Portuguese immigrants in Brazil

At the basis of 41 interviews conducted in the city and periphery of Rio de Janeiro among Portuguese immigrants, the paper tackles the question in which ways football provides a space for double identity constructions: on one hand, the re-affirmation of Portuguese belonging through the identification with the Clube de Regatas Vasco da Gama, the most important club founded by Portuguese in Brazil. On the other, the identification with Brazil, their actual home, by supporting the Brazilian national squad during the FIFA World Cup Finals of 2006, very often to the "disadvantage" of the Portuguese national team.

Panel II: The International Migration of Athletes

Richard Elliott, Southampton Solent University, UK

The athlete as highly skilled migrant: Examining the significance of a conceptual synthesis in athletic migration research

The global migrations of athletic workers have increased dramatically in magnitude, composition and direction in recent years. Increasingly, sociologists of sport have examined various dimensions of these migrations. They have done so, however, largely within the confines of the athletic sphere, restricting their vision to those workers employed in the athletic sector. Few studies have sought to make sense of the migrations of athletic workers by drawing on concepts derived from research tracing the migrations of workers in other areas, the highly skilled for example. Using two critical case studies; the migrations of Canadian players to British professional ice hockey (Elliott & Maguire, 2008, 2010), and elite foreign youth footballers to Premier League Academies (Elliott, 2009), this paper shows how an understanding of various dimensions of athletic labour migration can be extended by drawing on concepts derived from research located in the area of highly skilled migration.

Gavin Weedon, Southampton Solent University, UK

Uncertainty, Dislocation and Elite Youth Football: Some experiential dimensions of migrant youth footballers in English Premier League academies.

This paper seeks to outline some of the experiential dimensions of elite migrant youth footballers in English Premier League academies. Migrant players' reflections on the pressures of consistent elite performance and issues of acculturation during adolescence are of principal interest to this study. Interviews with players from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds provide a player-centred perspective of migration in English youth football, and are supported by interviews with academy Directors, Managers and Education and Welfare Officers to add dimension and context to the players' accounts. A central thematic permeating players' experiences was the turbulent affects of career uncertainty. Players expressed this uncertainty in various

ways, with emphasis often linked to their contractual status at the time of the interviews. The degree to which they were affected by issues of cultural dislocation also related to the stability of their contractual agreements within their respective academies. The potential significance of strong athletic identities offers a conceptual interpretation of how this uncertainty was produced and reaffirmed by significant others through the academy environment. Conclusions concern the role of support networks within and out of the academy in aiding the broader settlement and development of migrant youth footballers in England.

Barbara Liegl, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM), Vienna
& Georg Spitaler, University of Vienna

Between Trans-Nationality and Identity Politics – Austrian Migration Regimes and Professional Football (1945–2008)

Research on Austrian football has often focused on the inter-war era when the central European 'calcio danubiano' flourished. This paper focuses instead on the years after 1945 and the Second Austrian Republic when Austria lost its status as a major football nation, and asks what was left of the transnational football networks after Nazism and World War II. The paper frames Austrian professional football in a broader context by comparing migration in football with general patterns and regulations of migration. We collected data on about 1,200 non-Austrian football players and coaches who were involved in Austrian professional football between 1945 and 2008. When comparing these data to general migration trends, then parallels of Austrian and European political migration regimes with the football labour market as well as the specific characteristics of football become visible. In addition we traced historic and current discussions about foreign players as they are reflected in the media. A discourse analysis of selected media debates on foreign players explores the role of football in relation to the general political arguments on migration to Austria. The analysis shows that football represents an important field for identity politics.

Francisco Pinheiro, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Portugal and Africa: football connections in history

Football had been one of the most important issues in the relation between Portugal and its African Colonies (especially Angola and Mozambique) during the XX century. It was a love-hate relation, with lots of heroes and many different "stories" reported by the press and in the narratives of people involved. Understanding this complex relation is fundamental to comprehend better the history of sport in Africa and Europe. From the end of the XIX century to the mid of the 1970's, Portuguese football was largely influenced by African football (as, in a different logic, football and sport in the Portuguese colonies had been influenced by the metropolitan clubs). The paper will present several examples of the connections and relations between football in Portugal (Metropolis) and its colonies (and between them), examples that can shed light on related issues in this historical context, namely on questions of nationalism, identity, race, trans-national influences and relations, and of course the history of football (and also sport) in Portugal and Africa.

Carlos Nolasco, CES, University of Coimbra

Foreign footballers in Portuguese football: Where they come, where they go?

In a context of intense globalization and wild capitalism, sport practice, in particular the football has changed. Just like other domains, natural competition became an ideology, in which winning is more important than playing, and the final result is now the

ultimate element, the tangible product of competition. Facing the imperatives of competitiveness, buying virtuous players, capable of assuring wins has become essential. In a market logic, most popular players, those with more skill or the more talented become a scarce asset and are intensely sought out by teams, rise an intense migration process of footballers. In recent years, Portugal became a crossroad of migratory fluxes concerning football players, and is now overwhelmed with foreign players at the same time that, somewhat paradoxically, a large amount of Portuguese players go to foreign teams. At the end of the last season, 2008/09, there were 410 players in the Portuguese teams' rosters, 195 were Portuguese whereas 215 came from other countries, which meant a percentage of 47.6% of national players and 52.4% of foreign players. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to outline and explain who are the migrant players in Portuguese football, what are their nationalities, where do they come from, how long do they stay in Portugal, where do they go, and which are the consequences of this migration into Portuguese football. The analysis will take the most recent football seasons into consideration.

Carmen Rial, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil

Rotation: The circulation of Brazilian Football Players abroad

Among the millions of Brazilians who currently live abroad, nearly 5 thousand play football at the world's top clubs. This article uses an anthropological perspective to analyze the migration of these Brazilian players with successful careers, seeking to understand the characteristics of this particular global circulation of people and money, which has enormous impact on the *mediascape* (Appadurai, 1990): of all "exports". Of all Brazilian emigrations now underway, that of football players has the greatest symbolic impact, both in Brazil and abroad. I look at the plans, consumption and lifestyle of these players based on ethnographic data gathered in Seville, Spain and Eindhoven, Holland, and from discussions with more than 40 Brazilian players living or trying to live in foreign countries. The contacts were conducted in Toronto, Canada; Almelo, Groningen, Alkmaar, Rotterdam, and Amsterdam Holland, Tokyo, Japan; Lyon, Le Mans, Nancy and Lille France, Monaco; Charleroi, Belgium and in Fortaleza, Salvador and Belem, Brazil. I explore the intersections of age, social origin and religion and conclude that they cross geographic borders without entering the countries, because their borders are the clubs and not the countries.

Sine Agergaard and Vera Botelho, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Moving for the Love of the Game? Motivational factors for early processes of female football migration

This presentation introduces female football migration as a new and potentially rich research topic within the field of sports labor migration. A study of female football migration can give insight into the early stages of migratory processes and help us to understand what drives sports clubs to start recruiting foreign players and sports migrants to leave their home country even if the prospects of financial gain are modest. The first part of the presentation contains a brief historical review of the development of the phenomenon and the present extent of the migratory flows. The second part of the paper presents a case study of immigration into Danish women's football that attempts to inquire into what drives these early migratory processes? For that, we analyse the motivating and de-motivating factors with respect to the clubs' recruitment of foreign players. And, secondly, we analyse the players' motives for migrating and their experiences of the processes. Our approach is mainly qualitative and data are drawn from a survey and from 15 interviews we conducted with foreign players, their coaches and managers in three Danish premier league clubs.

Nina Clara Tiesler, ICS, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Two types of Female Portuguese Football Migrants: Diaspora players and emigrants

During the last decade, a phenomenon has emerged which is entirely new in the study of migration, women, young people and sport, namely the international migration of female football talent and labor. This development is due to the boom which women's football is currently enjoying, being already the fastest growing women's sport worldwide. The pioneers in this emerging field, Agergaard and Botelho (2010) examine the immigrant perspective of the Danish case. This paper presents a first account on the emigrant perspective by introducing the case of Portuguese players of the Women's national team who went to clubs in China, England, Spain and Iceland, as well as on so-called diaspora players, who are luso-descendants from the USA, Brazil, France and Switzerland and were naturalized in order to play for Portugal. The paper provides insights into fluxes, the process of recruitment and migration decision making. Central in the analysis of mainly qualitative data material is the migration experience of these young women, in comparison to other Portuguese migrants and to male football migrants. How far are they perceived as emigrants and understand themselves as such?