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sport and body cultures research  
group

## “Exploring Embodied Research in Sport and Movement Cultures”

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (8.30am-5.00pm)

The Priory, Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent, United Kingdom

### Keynote speakers:

*Professor Kath Woodward (The Open University)*

*Professor Andrew Sparkes (Leeds Beckett University)*

*Professor Jacquelyn Allen-Collinson (University of Lincoln)*



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## **About SBC**

The Sport and Body Cultures research group (SBC) at Canterbury Christ Church University is a forum for researchers with a shared interest in the socio-cultural aspects of movement and body cultures in sport, physical activity and dance. We will be hosting our first one day symposium to explore the theoretical, applied and methodological possibilities for embodied research in sport and movement cultures. Please see the following link for more information about us:

<http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/social-and-applied-sciences/human-and-life-sciences/sport-and-exercise-sciences/sport-and-body-cultures/sport-and-body-cultures.aspx>

## **Background**

We are now well into what some have termed the 'somatic turn' in the social sciences (Frank, 1991; Shilling, 1993; Turner, 1994) in which the 'body' has become more readily acknowledged in academic analyses and understandings of ourselves. As part of this turn, an 'embodied sociology' that Shilling (1993) initially described has also developed, a perspective that attends to the living, breathing, sentient 'enfleshed' nature of our realities. These attempts at 'bringing the body back in' to sociology have taken multiple theoretical (e.g. phenomenological, narrative, aesthetic) and methodological (e.g. ethnographic, sensual, visual, artistic) approaches and are being innovatively and evocatively applied in research into sport and movement cultures in ways that further illuminate how we may experience senses of embodiment. However, recognition of the body in sociological thinking has not necessarily been a smooth transition and discussions about what a 'Sociology of the Body' or an 'Embodied Sociology' should look like remain contested (Wellard 2015). Indeed, the recent emergence of a 'Physical Cultural Studies' has raised further questions about the application of feminism and cultural studies to sociological studies of the body (Adams et al 2016).

## Aims of Symposium

While we acknowledge the body remains a contested site, rather than seek to establish borders, this symposium aims provide a forum to explore (and celebrate) research in sport and movement cultures that furthers our appreciation and understandings of 'being' embodied and 'doing' embodied research. We call for contributions, including, but not limited to, the following areas for discussion:

### *Theorising embodied research:*

- Embodied narratives and explorations into the relationships between 'body' and 'self'
- Phenomenology and 'being' in the world
- Aesthetic analyses of bodies/embodiment
- Poststructuralism and embodiment
- Multi/Inter-disciplinary theorisations of embodiment
- Historical analyses of embodied ideologies

### *Applied embodied research:*

- Embodied Research 'in the field' from multiple sports and movement cultures (e.g. exercise, dance, gym practices, extreme/lifestyle sports)
- Explorations of diverse forms of embodiment (e.g. gendered bodies, LGBTQ+ bodies, ill/disabled bodies, non-white bodies, 'fat' bodies)
- Reflections on the tyrannies of bodily 'perfectionism' and the emergence of so called 'body dysmorphia' and 'bigorexia'
- Experiences of aging and embodiment
- Embodiment and consumerism
- Embodiment and the 'everyday' in sport and movement cultures
- Embodiment and risk cultures in sport
- Embodiment, cyborg ontology's and posthumanism
- Embodiment and health

### *'Doing' embodied research:*

- Self-reflexive and embodied methodologies
- Embodied ethnographic research (e.g. sensual ethnographic investigation)

- Methodologies that question and challenge the embodied position of the 'researcher in the field'
- Innovative methodologies (including artistic and video methods)
- Novel representations of embodied research (e.g. ethnographic fiction/non-fiction, poetic, ethnodrama)
- Embodiment and autoethnographic reflection
- Embodiment and life history methodologies

### **Submission Guidance:**

We welcome submissions for break-out sessions on applied, theoretical or methodological reflections relating to embodiment in sport and movement cultures. Presentations will consist of 15 minute oral presentation with 5 minutes for questions. Due to time and scheduling constraints, we ask that authors submit *only* one abstract as first author.

**Timeline:** Deadline for submission of abstracts is **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016**. The SBC team will notify authors of abstract acceptance by **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016**.

**Format:** Abstracts should be a maximum of 200 words and include the name, institutional affiliation, and email address of the author(s) and a short title. Abstracts will be made available to delegates in the form of a conference handbook.

**Submission:** Abstracts should be submitted to James Brighton ([James.Brighton@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:James.Brighton@canterbury.ac.uk))

**Conference Registration:** Please register via our online booking system which can be found by following the link below:

<http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/event-booking/book.aspx?event=68201>

Although this is non-profit making symposium, we will be asking delegates for a small charge of £25 (£15 for postgraduate students) to help cover costs for facilities and refreshments.

### **Keynote Speakers:**

We are pleased to confirm that established scholars on embodiment and movement cultures will be presenting keynote sessions throughout the day:

#### **Professor Kath Woodward:**

Kath Woodward is Emeritus Professor in Sociology at the Open University. Her interests lie in the area of gender theories, diversity and assemblages of embodied selves, most recently applying feminist materialist critiques to the field of sport. She works on cultural change and diversity in the [ESRC Centre for Research into Socio-cultural Change](#) (CRESC) exploring the transformation of identities in sport. She belongs to the Open University's Centre for Citizenship, Identities and Governance research group, developing psychosocial approaches and exploring affect in sport's embodied practices and representations. She has reflected on the research process and gendered methodologies in her book, *Boxing Masculinity and identity*, and in the article, 'Hanging Out and Hanging About'. She is the author of the book *Embodied Sporting Practices. Regulating and Regulatory Bodies* (Palgrave Macmillan).

#### **Professor Andrew C. Sparkes:**

Andrew C. Sparkes PhD is Professor of Sport, Physical Activity & Leisure at Leeds Beckett University, England. His research interests are grounded in, and inspired by, a continuing fascination with the ways that people experience different forms of embodiment over time in a variety of contexts. To explore these experiences and represent them using a range of genres, Andrew is drawn towards ethnography, life history, autoethnography, and narrative approaches. Andrew is author of *Telling tales in sport and physical activity: A qualitative journey* (2002: Human Kinetics), and co-author (with Brett Smith) of *Qualitative research methods in sport, exercise and health: From process to product* (2014: Routledge). He is co-editor (with Brett Smith) of the *Routledge Handbook of Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise* (in-press: Routledge), and co-editor (with Maggie O'Neill & Brian Roberts) of *Advances in biographical methods: Creative applications*, (2015: Routledge). Andrew is currently working on an edited book to be published early in 2017 by Routledge entitled *Seeking the senses in physical culture: Sensual scholarship in action*.

**Professor Jacquelyn Allen-Collinson:**

Professor Jacquelyn Allen-Collinson is currently the Chair of Sociology and Physical Culture University of Lincoln and director of the Director of the Health Advancement Research Team (HART) (<http://www.hartresearch.org.uk/>). Her principal research interests cohere around the sociology of the body; embodiment and the senses; health and wellbeing; identity and identity work; sociological & feminist phenomenology; autoethnographic & autophenomenographic approaches. She enjoys (mostly!) grappling with the sometimes uneasy nexus of sociology and phenomenology. Her current research projects include studies of sporting embodiment and the senses (particularly the haptic and auditory dimensions), identity and 'identity work', and the lived experience of chronic illness in sporting contexts, including Motor Neurone Disease and asthma.