

6th Meeting of the Transnational Working Group for the Study of Gender and Sport
Meeting Theme: Education, Sport, and Physical Culture
University of Bath
26-27 November 2010

FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2010

Time	Activity	Location	Presenters
9:00-9:25	Registration/Coffee View UG posters	1 WN, Level 3 foyer <i>Department of Education</i>	Stephen Gough, Head of Department
9:30-10:45	Session 1: Historical perspectives on Gender and Sport	8W 2.3	1. Jean Williams 2. Patricia Vertinsky 3. Leena Laine
10:45-12:00	Session 2: Girls at Play	8W 2.3	1. Stacey Pope 2. Sheryl Clark 3. Jess Francombe
12:00-1:25	Lunch/coffee	Claverton Rooms Library, level 5*	*Optional visit to library to view England women's hockey archives
1:30-2:45	Session 3: Gendered Sexualities and Sport	8 W 2.3	1. Eric Anderson 2. Leanne Norman 3. Adrian Adams
2:45-3:45	Keynote address:	8 W 2.3	Jennifer Hargreaves
3:45-4:15	Coffee Break	Café 4 West	
4:15-5:30	Session 4: Sports Girls and Women: Missing in Action?	8 W 2.3	1. Ainhoa Azurmendi Echegaray 2. Callum Cleary & Charles Little 3. Gerd von der Lippe
5:30-7:30	Dinner/Free time		
7:30-?	Bath Christmas market	Meet in front of Abbey	

SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2010

Time	Activity	Location	Presenters
9:00-9:25	Coffee	8W 2.3	
9:30-10:30	Session 5: <i>'New' and 'Modern' Women in Sport</i>	8W 2.3	1. Fiona Skillen 2. Natalie Barker-Ruchti, Claes Annerstedt & Karin Grahn
	Session 6: Transnational Perspectives on Women as Runners	8W 2.1	1. Michelle Sikes 2. Meridith Griffin
10:45-12:00	Session 7: Narratives of Self and Others	8W 2.3	1. Helen Owten 2. Chia-Ju Yen 3. Craig Owen
	Session 8: A Woman's Place is...in Sport?	8W 2.1	1. Jenny Lind 2. Christina Gipson 3. Ali Bowes
12:00-1:30 PM	Lunch, Tour Sports Training Village (STV)	STV	
1:30-2:45	Session 9: The (in-) Significance of Gender Difference	8W 2.3	1. Alex Channon 2. Thomas D'Arcy 3. Robert Lake
	Session 10: Gendering Sport research: Some theoretical and methodological considerations	8W 2.1	1. Christine Mennesson 2. Susan Bandy 3. Maddie Breeze
2:45-3:15	Group meeting	8W 2.3	
3:15	Meeting Ends		

Abstracts for Sessions

Session 1: Historical perspectives on Gender and Sport

1. Jean Williams, DeMontfort University

'Speed: towards a collective biography of Brooklands' women 1907-1939'

In 1906 Hugh and Ethel Locke-King founded Brooklands in Surrey spending around £100,000 of their own money on the track which was to be the first purpose-built motor racing circuit in the world. The Brooklands Automobile Racing Club (BARC) was formed in December 1906 and Ethel inaugurated the circuit at a lunch on 17 June 1907 with an air race and six car events. This voluntaristic association of like-minded women racers at Brooklands seemed to lend itself to a collective biography. However, in the attempt to explore social backgrounds and so on, it has become clear that there were many more drivers and of a more diverse range of stories than had first appeared. This paper then is an attempt to evaluate the practice of prosopography in grouping together women who raced at Brooklands and some provisional attempt to chart the lives of a few of the leading personalities: Kay Petre; Gwenda Janson/ Stewart/ Hawkes; Fay Tylour and the Honourable Mrs Victor Bruce.

2. Patricia Vertinsky, University of British Columbia

Physical Culture and the Gendered Genealogy of 'Building the Body Beautiful'

On the frontispiece of Mary (Mollie) Bagot Stack's *Building the Body Beautiful: The Bagot Stack Stretch and Swing System* is a picture of the sun setting over the Himalayas. It was a scene, wrote Stack, where, as a newly widowed British war bride in India, she had contemplated the transformative power of beauty and nature upon the well being of the body. It sparked her determination, on her return to England to establish an extremely popular 'keep fit' movement, *The Women's League of Health and Beauty* in 1930 dedicated to safe motherhood, peace and embodied spiritual growth. The history of the League has been told many times over by members of its founding dynasty, especially Mollie's daughter, Prunella, but my interest here lies in an examination of its gendered genealogy, the complex east-west origins of this physical culture movement, its theosophist leanings and Asian yoga roots as well as the medically oriented disciplines of European styled gymnastics. Mollie Stack's incorporation of postures (āsanas) into a combined program of dynamic and spiritual stretching, rhythmic breathing and relaxation within a 'harmonial' context built upon a smorgasbord of body techniques and remedial exercises that endure in many respects today as modern hatha yoga.

3. Leena Laine, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

The meaning of "grace" – and other cultural and political analyses in Elli Björkstén's gymnastics

The Finnish *Elli Björkstén* (1870-1947) is a central name in the history of women's physical education in Scandinavia, also well known in England. After examination at the Central Gymnastics Institute in Stockholm, Sweden (1895) she worked as gymnastics teacher and led the performance group of the *Gymnastics Club for Women* in Helsinki. When demonstrated at the Olympic Games in Stockholm, 1912, her "feminine" gymnastics on the Lingian base made an international break through. Between 1913 -1939 she worked at the Gymnastics Institute of Helsinki University. She published a method book for women's gymnastics in 1918/1923, later translated in several languages. In 1922 the *Nordic Women's Gymnastics Association* was established to develop and promote her method in the Nordic countries. Her gymnastics was taught in the so called "English Scandinavian Summer schools" in England. In my paper I will illustrate Björkstén's ideas on women's gymnastics and their connection with the contemporary evolutionary aesthetics. Further I will analyse Björkstén's views on women and femininity in the political context of nationalism and ethnicity.

Session 2: Girls at Play

1. Stacey Pope, University of Bedfordshire

'I didn't want to break a nail!': Gendered Barriers to Young Girls' Participation in Sport

This paper offers a comparative study of early experiences of playing sport from three generations of women. Drawing on 85 semi-structured interviews with female fans of football and rugby union in the British East Midlands city of Leicester (Pope, 2010), I consider some of the gendered barriers which have restricted opportunities for girls to participate in traditionally male defined sports. I begin by exploring how many respondents were channelled into playing sports which 'idealise popular images of femininity' (Hargreaves 1988: 140). I also consider how the *type* of school 'middle aged' and 'older' respondents attended played an important role in their access to playing 'male' team sports. But whilst opportunities to play rugby union were bleak, some female football fans adopted a 'tomboy' identity, which seemed to allow them to achieve better access to sport, especially in the form of street football. Williams (2003) bemoans how hardly anything is known about street football involving females in the early part of the twentieth century, but here my research makes a small contribution.

I move on to examine some of the increasing opportunities for young girls to play football. Many of my 'younger' female fans of both sports had some experience of playing football. However, my research also reveals continuities in women's sporting experiences. Young girls' still faced some familiar barriers at school - such as opposition from PE teachers to playing sports which were not deemed 'feminine-appropriate' (Hargreaves 1994: 155). The 'culture of femininity' (Scraton, 1996) and conflict between dominant cultural messages of femininity and sports tasks (O'Donovan, 2003, O'Donovan and Kirk, 2008), led to many 'younger' respondents also 'dropping off' their sporting interest during teenage years.

2. Sheryl Clark, Goldsmiths

'Being Good at Sport': Exclusion, Ability and Girls' Sporting Identities

This paper explores the shifting ways in which girls' participation in sport and physical activity came to be understood in the transition to secondary school. It is particularly concerned with the ways in which discourses of 'ability' acted to include or exclude would-be participants in sport through selective team processes and overriding models of engagement. The paper draws on data from qualitative, longitudinal PhD research that focuses on six formerly physically active girls who attended a range of schools within London, England.

An emphasis on ability and the development of young 'talent' can be seen to operate alongside renewed governmental emphases on performance and output (Green et al., 2007). Accordingly, constructions of 'ability' have come to operate as dominant frameworks of understanding, thereby holding specific implications both for girls' involvement in sport and physical activity and their sense of themselves as competent participants.

For the girls in my study, who all previously enjoyed sport in primary school, formerly sufficient participatory discourses of 'fun' were supplanted by more dominant discourses around performance and ability. This paper looks at the often contradictory ways in which girls were positioned within these overriding discourses and some of the implications this had for their sporting participation.

3. Jess Francombe, University of Bath

Sculpting Girls' Subjectivities: (Physical) Cultural Technologies and the 'Normalised' Body

Located within an economy of visibility (Azzarito, 2009) and predicated upon Hook's (2004, p. 247) contention that there "is no question of the body . . . that is not also a political issue" the female corpus is continuously (re)constructed and sculpted. Whilst this focus on the body may not be a new phenomenon McRobbie (2008, p. 531) points us towards the need to focus on how the heightened visibility of the young female body within the commercial domain is connected to the logic of current neoliberal "economic rationalities . . . Which has as its ideal subject the category of 'girl'". Girls have become the target of neoliberal market ethics, augmenting the gaze of the consumer, media and advertising landscape (Gill, 2008; 2009; Kim & Lowry, 2005) towards a new female figure (Gill, 2009; Tyler, 2008): one that is the epitome of the *feminised corproeconomicus* (Silk, Batchelor & Francombe, forthcoming). My doctoral work then, is concerned with the discursive (re)constitution of young female subjectivity—with exploring how girls employ, negotiate and rework (physical) cultural technologies (Ouellette & Hay, 2008), (diverse and multiple) technologies of femininity and class and race ideologies in giving meaning to their day to day experiences.

Session 3: Gendered Sexualities and Sport

1. Eric Anderson, University of Bath

Betrayed by a Kiss: Contesting the Boundaries of Heteromascularity

Although there are various purposes and outcomes of organized sporting participation for men in British culture, a consistent finding is that they serve as a resilient social institution principally organized around the political project of defining ideal forms of masculinity (Hargreaves 1986, Messner 2002). Of relevance to this research, many of the achieved and ascribed attributes of the current form of hegemonic masculinity are

found within the teamsport athlete, including hyper-heterosexuality. However, heterosexuals cannot definitively prove their heterosexuality. Instead, heterosexuality must be proved and reproved. This has contributed to homophobia in sport. Yet, matters are rapidly changing. In addition to showing much greater acceptance of homosexuality among male teamsport athletes (Anderson 2005), I have recently lead a research team that shows that sport has been pivotal in breaking down barriers in order to promote homosocial tactility—namely, heterosexual men kissing. In this qualitative research, I use a total of 145 interviews of heterosexual British men from multiple educational settings to show that 83 per cent of our participants have at least once kissed another man on the lips. I use inclusive masculinity theory to interpret this data, hypothesising that both these types of kissing behaviours are permissible due to rapidly decreasing cultural homophobia.

2. Dr. Leanne Norman, Leeds Metropolitan University

Everyday Homophobia in Sport and Coaching: The Experiences of Lesbian Coaches

The purpose of this paper is to discuss my critical feminist project which attempts to qualitatively deconstruct women's experiences of professional coaching, examining how their lives are individually organised along multiple power lines, including sexual identity, gender and race (Birrell & McDonald, 2000). This is also for the purpose of shifting the theoretical focus of women's underrepresentation within and experiences of coaching to an alternative perspective, in order to understand how the structure of sport connects to the micro 'everyday injustices' within the participants' lives. Assuming that coaching is a male-centric and heteronormative culture, the study endeavours to champion counter-narratives of the profession and so for this, I utilised one-to-one in-depth semi-structured interviews with 10 professional, full-time women coaches, based in the UK, who identified themselves as gay or lesbian, from both individual and team sports. In this paper, I will present the findings from the study, framed within Essed's (1991) strands of everyday injustices under the titles of problematisation, marginalisation and repression. Within these, issues discussed will include child protection issues; relations with other coaches and governing bodies; and how the varying degrees of being 'out' (Griffin, 1992) are a continual management process.

3. Adrian Adams, University of Bath

Developing Masculinities: Football, Boyhood, and the Development of Inclusive Masculinities

In this ethnographic research I will use naturalistic observations and interviews (informal and formal) to examine the construction of masculinities among youth football players (aged 11-14) involved in a pre-professional sporting context. I do this in the context of a UK culture where homophobia is decreasing rapidly to see if these changes have also occurred in youth sport. I specifically seek to examine boys' attitudes in relation to a number of themes which have previously been associated with youth masculinities; for example, their attitudes about fighting, their expressions of masculinity and the language that is used to map out soccer as a masculinized terrain. I will examine for the mechanisms that generate inclusivity of gay boys and heterosexual girls, and/or homophobia and sexism. I will look to see how boys develop masculine capital, and whether this is important to them. I will examine for homosocial physical and emotional bonding, and the relationship this has with homosexuality/femininity. These facets of masculinity will be observed in multiple interactional arenas and sites, both inside and outside of their football lives, in order to facilitate a thorough understanding of the current state of masculinities and the processes of masculinity-making at play in these boyhood years.

Session 4: Sporting Girls and Women: Missing in Action?

1. Ainhoa Azurmendi Echegaray, Avento Consultoría, Spain

Psychosocial Factors Concerning Females' Sport Dropout

Young girl's sports dropout is an increasing concern for agents involved in physical activity and sports. Nowadays in our society, there are still social roles that determine the behaviour of each gender among different aspects in their lives, and this also has an effect on the relationship men and women will have with sports since early childhood, but especially in adolescence, a time when life priorities change, relationships with the family and peers change, and many important decisions about future have to be made.

Usually sports organizations are wrong thinking that women's dropout is a natural phenomenon that can't be avoided, as women and men different sport participation rates in all levels and ages depend on many psycho-social and political factors that converge in sport's offer and demand configuration.

I have run out a dissertation about the psycho-social factors mentioned above and how these have influenced handball participation in the province of Gipuzkoa (700.000 inhabitants) in the last fifteen years.

2. Callum Cleary and Charles Little, London Metropolitan University

Media Coverage of Female Athletes in the UK Regional Press

The issue of media coverage of female athletes is a widely investigated subject. Numerous studies have analysed the quantity, and more recently the quality, of coverage devoted to women within the sports media. To date, almost all of this research has focused on national level media, usually television or the national press. In the United Kingdom, however, there is a vibrant regional and local press that has thus far not been subjected to similar analysis. This paper aims to begin to fill this gap by undertaking an analysis of the sports pages of one such local newspaper, the Hackney Gazette (a suburban weekly based in inner-city London). The paper undertakes a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the coverage devoted to male and female athletes over a twelve-month period. In addition, the paper extends the boundaries of the existing literature on the topic by also analysing gendered media coverage on a sport-by-sport basis, and also investigates whether similar patterns of coverage apply to adult and youth athletes.

3. Gerd von der Lippe, Telemark University College, Norway

"Female Football Players don't have Balls"

The focus in this paper is on what stereotypes Norwegian sports journalists mediate in NRKTV, TV2, VG and Dagbladet on victories and losses of male and female football players the last ten years. The attention is on how metaphors are used to produce male losers and female victors. I will also analyse why female football players are clearly the second sex in mediasport in contrast to track and field, handball and skiing.

Football is the biggest sport for both sexes in the Norwegian Confederation of Sports (NIF), in which females consist of 30 % of the total. The Norwegian female national team is still one of the best in the world, in contrast to the men's. Productions on female football consisted of 4 % of the total in the Norwegian Broadcasting Company (NRK), 7 % in the biggest commercial channel (TV2) in 2006 and between 5 to 10 % in the biggest national newspapers (Lippe, vd, 2010).

I have categorised mediasport as a dominating masculine exposure industry (Lippe, vd, 2005), inspired by Pierre Bourdies term, field. This industry consists of a network of agents in three subfields: mediasport, central leaders and coaches in NIF and sponsors. When the logics of the agents in these subfields are seen as homologous, the masculine orders of strength becomes visible through its appearance as neutral.

Session 5: 'New' and 'Modern' Women in Sport

1. Natalie Barker-Ruchti¹, Claes Annerstedt², Karin Grahn²

1 Institute of Exercise and Health Sciences, University of Basel, Birsstrasse 320B, 4052 Basel, Switzerland

2 The Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Department for Physical Education, Sognsveien 220, N-0863 Oslo, Norway

3 Department of food and nutrition, and sport science, PO Box 300, SE 405 30 Gothenburg, Sweden

The new woman in the 1920s: Athleticism as a signifier of modernity

During the 1920s, the female body ideal changed from Victorian femininity to functionalism and athleticism. Youthfulness, narrow hips, and a flat chest and short haircut, 'liberated' women. Sports competitions, such as the 1926 Women's Games in Gothenburg (organised by the *Fédération Sportive Féminine Internationale*), made the new female body visible. Sports photography played a significant part in disseminating and popularising this ideal.

The purpose of this research is to analyse the medial representations of the Gothenburg athletes. A collection of 55 photographs, as well as images printed in various Swedish newspapers, serve as data. We ask: How did the images visualise the new body ideal? How did the representations constitute/challenge contemporary gender discourses? How did the visualisation of the female body relate to social, political and institutional reactions? Michel Foucault's genealogical methodology and serial-iconographic photography analysis serve as interpretative tools. Feminist theory provides the theoretical framework.

The photographs illustrate women's progress in 1926. They express efficiency and the joy and collective experience of competitiveness. Further, the athletes' bodies are represented authentically and without accentuating feminine qualities. Women's approximation to maleness, in combination with their politically laden emancipation, caused social and political ambivalences and insecurities and restricted women's advances into sport.

2. Fiona Skillen, University of Central Lancashire

'Women and the sports fetish': Identity and sports participation in interwar Britain

The emergence of the 'modern woman' in interwar Britain was the result of a process which had begun at the end of the previous century. The new modern woman was symbolic of youth and freedom; she embraced life and spent her time in the pursuit of fun and enjoyment. My research indicates that participation in sport was a central part of modernity for many women during the interwar period in Britain. This paper will

explore the place of sport within these women's lives. It will explore the centrality of sport to the lives of these modern women, and its relation to fashion and consumerism. Ultimately, this paper seeks to explain the rapid growth of women's sports participation during the interwar period within the context of the newly emerging ideals of modernity for women.

This paper draws on advertising, cartoons, newspaper and medical discussions of sportswomen during these years in order to explore the ways in which this group were represented within the public arena. This paper intends to compare these media representations to the realities of their participation, drawing on oral history interviews and personal records, in order to discover the different ways in which multiple and often contradictory female identities existed in relation to sports participation in this period.

Session 6: Transnational Perspectives on Women as Runners

1. Michelle Sikes, Oxford University

An Analysis of Absence and Emergence: Women's Running in Kenya

Kenya's global dominance in long distance running has engendered scholarship about what the men have accomplished and how they have achieved it. However, there is a paucity of research on the experiences of female Kenyan distance runners. By conducting interviews with some of the finest runners in Kenya and analysing text from Kenya's oldest newspaper, the objective of this research is to investigate key aspects of both the initial absence as well as the later emergence of female cross-country runners in Kenya.

This is significant because distance running presents an excellent lens through which to investigate how gender operates in non-Western parts of the world. The training is possible almost everywhere, and it is one of few sports in which men and women compete side-by-side in the same venue. In this paper, the episode of the 1989 World Cross-Country Championships is taken as a starting point as well as a prism for understanding the way that gender affected sports opportunities in an African context. With this in mind, the extraordinary accomplishments of Kenya's female runners can be fully appreciated.

2. Meridith Griffin, University of Exeter

Emotional narrativity: Women, running, and embodiment

Traditional research, even in a non-positivist sociological realm, has tended to separate reason from emotion, searching for 'rational' explanations or theories of human action and behaviour. However, within some strands of thought, emotional experience and responses are considered to be essential and insightful conduits to knowledge, important sources of human values and ethics, and as the basis for action (Lupton, 1998). Drawing on data generated from an ethnography of a women's-only running group in the United Kingdom, I consider women's narratives of emotion within several levels of narrativity: metanarratives (or grand narratives), public narratives, and ontological narratives (Phibbs, 2008; Somers, 1994; Zilber et al., 2008). I propose that examining emotion on these different levels can account for the impact of society and culture on embodied actions, while also acknowledging the embodied constitution of human action (Holstein & Gubrium, 2004; Shilling, 2008). This issue is discussed in relation to the women's participation in physical activity across the life course, their perceptions,

experiences and emotions with respect to embodied ageing, and their current (and potential) identification with the identity/role of ‘runner.’ The extent to which being analytically attentive to emotional narrativity might help to untangle threads of meaning expressed by women involved in physical activity settings is also addressed.

Session 7: Narratives of Self and Others

1. Helen Owten, University of Exeter

Granny’s story: Trauma, dance, (smoking & drinking) and chronic illness

A life history approach was employed to interview my grandmother about her life experiences involving a life of dance and a late onset of chronic illness. At 3 years old, after being involved in an accident resulting in a full body plaster cast, she was told that she “would never walk again”. Through ‘physical jerk’ classes, she was walking within 6 months. These classes were the grounding for her involvement in dance. The research explored how dance was central to her life and dealing with the ‘late diagnosis’ of asthma. Despite being labelled a ‘panter’ throughout her life, she was not diagnosed with asthma until the age of 76 years. Many dancers are not very verbal people because they are trained to express themselves through their body and are assumed to have extreme body consciousness. Indeed they communicate through their bodies when they are not even dancing (Wulff, 1998; 2007). This research attempts to add insight into females’ embodied experiences of dance together with a dancer’s experience of the ‘late-onset of asthma’ through exploration of a life history. The experience of researching a family relative will also be discussed. This is part of a larger project exploring sportspeople’s experiences of ‘late onset’ asthma diagnosis.

2. Chia-Ju Yen, National Taiwan Sport University

One More Look, You Will Discover the True Beauty of Me — A case study of a facial trauma patient’s experience of body image and the performance of belly dance

Somebody has suffered from an accident, losing her beauty forever; therefore her life has changed course. The face is the most obvious part of the body and is very difficult to camouflage. It is the core of one’s body image; it serves to express personal feelings. Patients who are recovering from facial surgery must cope with their injury, with visible deformity, loss of function and a peculiar attitude on the part of others. Because of society’s emphasis on physical attractiveness in general, body image alteration for these patients carries the additional burden of obvious facial disfigurement. The purpose of this study is to explore how these patients cope with disfigurement and others’ unfriendly attitude. Besides, how the alteration of body image of her by inspiration of the performance of belly-dance is second purpose of this study. Merleau-Ponty stated that, the body is a mediator to the world and our anchor in the world. So, the study based on the theory of Merleau-Ponty’s phenomenology of perception and in a perspective of anthropological thick-description with the research method, case study was adopted, using in-depth interviews with narratives by the woman who suffered facial injuries. The results of the research showed that through family support, working hard and a decisive and studious personality, the patient was able to cope with the discriminatory attitude of others and even get married again. Belly-dance performing not only made her emphasize her body, but also enriched her life. She used the words, “the bravest belly dancers on the stage” to describe her partners and herself.

3. Craig Owen, University of Bath

'Craig you look camp': Writing reflexively through telling short stories

I heard a male dancer – Jerry – call to me from the sidelines in a loud and what I interpreted as 'piss-taking' voice, "*Craig you look camp*"

The call to write reflexively encourages researchers to "consciously and actively identify the lenses through which they are seeing" (Kennedy, 2009:72). For Coffey (1999) this means the ethnographer, as fieldworker and author, needs to be written in to the text. This approach crucially challenges the view of the ethnographer as a disembodied and neutral voice. In my ethnographic research into the performance of masculine identities in dance classes, a reflexive approach has helped me identify the interconnections between the writing of my own and other dancers' gendered performances. Whilst accepting that this reflexive approach has merit, this in turn raises a number of questions: how do I actually represent these interconnections through the ethnographic text and performances? What forms, styles, genres and practices do I use to write myself into the fieldwork accounts and demonstrate the interconnections between self and other? And how much reflexive writing is necessary or desirable? In this presentation I will demonstrate how I have tackled these issues by re-telling a short story from my ethnographic fieldwork.

Session 8: A Woman's Place is...in Sport?

1. Dr. Jenny Lind Withycombe, Withycombe Consulting

African American Female Athletes' Experiences of Gender, Race, and Identity

In the last 35 years, women's sports and the girls and women who participate in them have experienced unprecedented change (Carpenter & Acosta, 2007). The addition of thousands of sporting opportunities for women of every race and social background has been dramatic (Carpenter & Acosta, 2007). Despite the quantitative progress of women's sporting opportunities, numerous stereotypes continue to impact the identities of female athletes and particularly African American female athletes.

Ignorance and a lack of understanding of the pervasive nature of white privilege on the part of sport practitioners has caused African American female sporting experiences to be largely ignored leaving the "theoretical understanding of the human condition in these contexts biased and distorted at best" (Ryba & Wright, 2009, p.4). Thus, interview data was gathered from eight Division I African American female athletes regarding their experiences of gender and race within athletics.

Findings suggested that gender and athletic identities were far more salient for African American female athletes than race. It was also found that the various ways coaches and institutions constructed identities *for* their athletes were important in determining whether African American female athletes drew empowerment or disempowerment from their athletic experiences.

2. Christina Gipson, Brunel University

Sportswomen as Advocates in International Women-led Sport Organizations

Historically women's sport organizations have been identified as change agents. Hall (1995) examined the significance of national sport advocacy organizations challenging the notion that women should assimilate to the male-dominant sport culture. There is, however, little known about the women who volunteer their time and energy within these organizations. The goal of this research is to fill the gap of why women volunteer in international women-led sport organizations. Through life history interviews, fifteen participants identified personal and social experiences and identities which influenced their involvement within international women-led sport organizations. Results suggested that the women who became active leaders moved through elements of acceptance, questioning, connectedness, and identity. These elements are represented through the Sportswomen's Gender-Focused Identity Development Model (SGFIDM) which was adapted from feminist and womanist models (Downing and Roush 1985; Helms 1990). The SGFIDM was used to examine and illustrate how the research participants developed their interest and social identities in gender and sport issues.

3. Ali Bowes, Loughborough University

Sport, Gender and National Identity in England

Women have a pivotal role in the nation which is by no means confined to biological reproduction. Yet, the relationship between women, the construction of nations, and the reproduction of national identities remains under researched. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the sociology of sport. My research will investigate the relationship between sport, gender and national identity. More specifically, it will focus on links between women's sport and Englishness. Central to the research is the notion that women and men experience nations and sport differently. Both sport and the nation are commonly identified as male domains. In most societies, women are socialised into specific, pre-defined gender roles and, as a consequence, in both the nation and in sport, they are expected to display particular gender appropriate forms of behaviour, where possible emphasizing femininity. By representing the nation in sport, women may be seen to be trespassing on not one, but two, male realms, first, by threatening male domination of the national sporting arena and, second, by challenging the gender order in general. Thus, the immediate theoretical challenge is to bring gender and sexuality into debates on sport, national identity and possible connections between the two of them.

Session 9: The (in-) significance of gender difference

1. Dr. Robert J. Lake – St. Mary's University College

Gender and Etiquette in British Lawn Tennis 'Mixed Doubles': 1870-1939

'Mixed doubles' was regarded as the most popular type of lawn tennis game for those preferring the 'social' aspects to competition. An analysis of behavioural etiquette in mixed doubles from 1870 to 1939 reveals a considerable amount about shifting gender relations in wider British society. Findings are presented from over fifty text books and instructional guides on mixed doubles play published throughout this period, in order to answer the following questions: What differences are evident in the ways that men and women were instructed to play mixed doubles? How was the often uneasy balance between male competitiveness and expected deference towards females dealt with in the context of play?

What can an analysis of changing fashions of female tennis players and associated behavioural etiquette in mixed doubles tell us about shifting gender relations in wider British society, and what role did these developments play within broader feminist movements?

2. Alex Channon, Loughborough University

'Hit Me!': Mixed-Sex Martial Arts and Subversion of Gender

This paper considers the phenomenon of mixed-sex martial arts training from a poststructuralist-feminist perspective. Such training is thought to hold the potential to offer individuals a particular embodied experience of gender relations which encourages them to actively challenge traditional binary and hierarchical conceptions of gender. Key to this experience within martial arts training is the act of sparring, where two martial artists practice fighting and must apply measured force against one another in order to test their skills or, in the context of competitive sparring, earn a victory. And when men and women spar against each other, several particularly telling moments in the 'doing' of gender come to light. Of particular relevance in the experience of many martial artists is the matter of hitting, and being hit by, a person of the opposite sex. This paper will explore the controversies surrounding the matter of hitting, showing how discourses of masculinity, femininity, martial arts and feminism intersect within a highly problematic moment of the living out of gender.

3. Thomas D'Arcy, Manchester Metropolitan University

Gender Differential in Sport Spectator Motivation Determinants

This paper explores the motivational determinants of the 'sport spectator' in contemporary society. It examines childhood influences associated with 'play' as a free space, where autocracy and agency interact formulating an orientation towards 'sport' as a lifestyle engagement pursuit. The condition of sport spectator audience expectation and the situation of identity and emotionality associated with 'sport spectator' participation are investigated.

In establishing sport spectator gender differential motivation determinants two specific population groups were investigated highlighting variability's in gender audience expectation and appreciation.

The condition of 'vicarious transposition' relative to self-efficacy as a consequence of sport spectator participation is discussed.

Session 10: Gendering Sport Research: Some theoretical and methodological considerations

1. Christine Mennesson, University of Toulouse

Gender Regimes and Habitus: An Avenue for Analyzing Gender Building in Sports Contexts

The link between individual and collective behavior has been a subject of considerable reflection in the feminist research. Connell's (1987) concept of gender regime accurately grasps the state of gendered social relations in a particular context, but it is not very useful for understanding how behavior varies within a given context, nor how a given individual changes (or does not change) his/her practices and

opinions. In this perspective, we attempt to connect Connell's proposals to Bourdieu's (1979) theory of habitus and field. The behaviors of the athletes interviewed can be explained in terms of the interplay between gender regimes and dispositional systems. We illustrate these ideas with some examples of variations in gendered dispositions between and within two specific gender regimes, female soccer and French boxing.

2. Susan Bandy, The Ohio State University

Beyond Gender: The Deconstruction and Reconstruction of Vulnerability in Sport Literature

In relatively recent feminist research, scholars have begun to question the use of gender as a useful category of analysis. Noting that categories such as race, gender, and class are too simplistic to capture the complexity of lived experience, some scholars have advocated what seems to be a paradigmatic shift toward intersectionality that discards the binary sex/gender system. Previous ideas and theories of sport as a male domain/arena and sport as “contested terrain”—based on a binary sex/gender system—now seem obsolete in furthering the study of sport. How then can we fruitfully study the nature, significance, and meaning of sport in such a way as to further our understandings of sport as something other than an arena for men and a place where women challenge hegemonic masculinity? Scholars in sports studies have begun to approach the study of sport in new ways including the use of concepts or themes (as opposed to theories) and an admixture of methodologies and sources of knowledge, including the use of literature (fiction, poetry, and drama), personal narratives, prose memoirs, and autobiographies. In an attempt to move beyond gender, I argue that themes and concepts that appear in this literature are relevant in deconstructing and reconstructing ideas pertaining to sport. Of particular interest is the concept of vulnerability and perhaps the way in which the socially constructed notions of femininity of the late 19th and early 20th century that rendered the female too physically and emotionally fragile for sport—and therefore vulnerable—were deconstructed in the sporting literature of the 20th century. Further, using recent autobiographies of male athletes, social critiques, and literature of popular culture, I suggest that perhaps participation in sport has somehow made the elite level male athlete vulnerable in another way, dependent on sport for an identity as a celebrity, hampered by an aging and/or injured body, and often troubled by disengagement from sport. Moreover, a cursory examination of recent fictional accounts of the female athlete indicates a similar vulnerability—dependence upon an identity fashioned by sport with troubling consequences of a deteriorating body and disengagement from sport.

3. Maddie Breeze, University of Edinburgh

Researching Roller Derby: Capturing Physicality and Operationalising ‘Gender’

Roller Derby is a full contact team sport, played on roller skates almost exclusively by women, and is situated on the periphery – somewhat in opposition to – mainstream, professional and commercialised sporting practices and organisations. Roller Derby presents a unique research context in which to investigate sportswomen’s negotiation of the notoriously gendered terrain of sport.

In this paper I reflect on some of the issues of researching gender in the particular physical culture of Roller Derby. These reflections are drawn from the experience of conducting, and the data produced in, a preliminary ethnographic pilot study. The specific focus of the paper encompasses firstly, producing ethnographic data through participation in an intensely physical, kinetic, aggressive and collective bodily practice. This entails reflecting on, as Wacquant (2004) would have it, how to capture ‘the taste and the ache’ of Roller Derby action.

Concurrently and most significantly this paper considers how to best use ‘gender’ as a concept in empirical sports research, or how to tell when

Roller Derby skaters are 'doing gender'(West and Zimmerman 1987). This endeavour requires substantial theoretical reflection and has the potential to develop both gender theory and sports sociology.