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1. President’s news

Dear ISHPES members,

The year 2009 will be of importance for ISHPES, with the renewal of its council and its executive board during the next congress in Stirling, in July. The year 2010 will also be a very exciting one for our institution, with our participation in the World Congress of History hosted by the International Committee for Historical Science in Amsterdam (22-28 August, 2010) and the organisation of our annual international seminar. Two applications have been presented: the Wingate Institute in Israel and the Chinese Taipei. The decision will be made in the next couple of weeks and presented during the ISHPES elective General Assembly which will be held in Stirling on 17 July 2009. Please do not forget to submit your abstract to this promising congress.

Looking forward for seeing you in Scotland,

Thierry Terret
President of ISHPES

Chers membres de l’ISHPES,

L’année 2009 marquera un temps important pour l’ISHPES, avec le renouvellement de son conseil et de son bureau à l’occasion du prochain congrès de Sterling, en juillet. L’année 2010 s’annonce, elle-aussi, riche d’événements pour notre société, avec notre participation au congrès mondial d’histoire du Comité International des Sciences Historiques à Amsterdam (22-28 Août 2010) et l’organisation de notre séminaire international annuel. Deux candidatures se sont fait connaître à ce jour: le Wingate Institute en Israël et Taipei. La décision sera prise dans les prochaines semaines et présentée lors de l’Assemblée générale élective de l’ISHPES qui se tiendra à Sterling le 17 juillet 2009. N’oubliez pas de soumettre vos résumés pour ce congrès qui s’annonce riche de promesses.

A bientôt en Ecosse

Thierry Terret
Président de l’ISHPES

Liebe ISHPES-Mitglieder,


Ich freue mich auf ein Wiedersehen in Schottland!

Thierry Terret
ISHPES-Präsident
The general claim presented by politicians, national sports organisations and individual sports bodies across the globe has been that sport has been a positive force in society, benefitting not just children and young people of both sexes, but those of all ages. Its benefits supposedly include comradeship, excitement and good health as well as other intrinsic and extrinsic gains. On occasions sport has even been perceived as a solution to, or a distraction from, society’s social and economic ills, and much effort has been put into increasing participation.

The 11th ISHPES Conference at Stirling, Scotland will therefore focus on the ways in which sport has tried to deliver on such promises, and their unintended consequences, both beneficial and harmful. The Scientific Committee invites contributions (presentations or posters) that will explore the interactions between sport, its legitimating ideologies and culture, politics and society. We hope to highlight the promises that sport has made or has had made in its name; the obstacles that have been faced in attempting to deliver on the promises; and the extent to which the promises have been fulfilled. Presenters are invited to analyse the political and ideological background to the promises and the consequences of the actions that have been taken, including such matters as gender and racial discrimination; the development of peculiar lifestyles among athletes, and the legitimisation of aggression and violence. By examining the past, sports historians can help analyse claims that sport can be a form of humanitarian aid, that it can assist economic development, and that it can produce social change. In brief, has sport the capacity to make a difference to people’s lives and on what terms?

Our invitation is extended not only to colleagues from the fields of history, sports history and physical education but those from other disciplines such as cultural research, anthropology, sociology, and the social sciences generally, where new research, new paradigms and fields of interest are relevant.

Areas that could be explored include ecological and environmental issues, health and injury, gender and ethnicity, sporting conduct and ethical problems, social mobility and life chances of sportspersons, sporting opportunities for children and older persons, and the political use of sport. These suggestions are not intended to be exclusive and innovative interpretations of the conference theme are welcomed.

Abstracts: We welcome the submission of abstracts for either poster or oral presentation. The word limit is 250 words.
Note: the official language of this conference is English. All abstracts and posters must be in English but oral presentations can be made in English, French or German.

Closing date for abstracts (after which no changes can be made): Friday 6 March 2009.

3. ISHPES Junior Scholar Award - 2009

The ISHPES junior scholar award will be presented at the 11th International ISHPES Congress to be held at the University of Stirling, Scotland on 14-18 July, 2009. It is awarded for an unpublished essay of outstanding quality in the field of sport history. Eligible scholars must be a member of ISHPES and a registered student (undergraduate or graduate) at the time of the Seminar or a young scholar under the age of 35. The essay must be submitted in one of the official ISHPES languages (German, English or French) and the text itself (including notes and bibliography) must not exceed 10,000 words. The main criteria for selection will be based on originality, the scientific quality of the research and the value of the study from the perspective of international sport history. The theme of the Congress is *Sport in History: Promises and Problems* though the paper need not be directly related to the theme.

The Award Winner will receive free registration at the Congress and a year’s subscription to ISHPES. His/her paper will be published in *Stadion* and the winner, together with any other entrant whose work is recognized by the committee for its quality, will receive a diploma that will be presented at an award ceremony during the Congress. The essays must be submitted to the Chair of the Awards Committee, Patricia Vertinsky, School of Human Kinetics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, V6T 1Z1, Canada, or preferably by email attachment, patricia.vertinsky@ubc.ca before February 28, 2009.

Reports and Announcements

1. 4th Meeting of Transnational Scholars for the Study of Gender and Sport at the University of Education in Ludwigsburg, from November 27-30, 2008.

At the end of November 2008 sports scientists of various scientific fields of research gathered at the University of Education in Ludwigsburg, Germany, to discuss their projects and workings about the topic of “Sport und Gender” in an international setting. Nearly 40 attendees of sixteen different nations followed the invitation of Heike Tiemann and Annette Hofmann to take part at the congress.

The impressive keynote address “Women in Oman: Islam, Physical Education and Sport, a Research Challenge” by Prof. Tansin Benn (University of Birmingham) opened the meeting. Benn discussed her own experiences which had been gathered during her scientific three month stay in Oman. In her speech she pointed out how difficult it is for foreigners to analyse life.
experiences in sports of women in Oman. It is not only cultural barriers which have to be overcome, but as a researcher one is additionally dependent on a translator. The importance of considering the socio-cultural and eco-political context and being sensitive and open to a broadening of one's own attitudes were consequently referred to. The focus of Benn’s study lay with female students of the Sultan Qaboos University of the omanian capital Muscat. Insights were given into her experiences in sports education at the school, sports study and the general participation of the pupils at sports. The following talk by Ilknur Hacisofaoglu from Turkey was similarly concerned with Muslim women and thematised women in Turkey who had been active in the field of sports in the Early Republican Period (1923-1946). An analysis of sports journals revealed that women sports were presented in a way that embodied the new ideal of the modern western woman.

With the topic of “Gender on the Edge - The Intersections of Sport and Gender Research” a comprehensive overview of the historical development of the gender theory in sports which incorporated the views of important scientists of North America, who, with their theories and approaches, had laid foundations for research in that area (e.g. Ann Hall, Nancy Struna, Patricia Vertinsky etc.) was given by Susan Bandy (Ohio State University). An outlook on the meaning of gender in sports research for the future was also explained. According to Bandy, a “degendering process“ is currently observable.

An introduction of practical experiences about the topic was given by Megan Chawansky (Ohio State University) as she reported on “PeacePlayers International in Cyprus“. By playing basketball together girls and boys from the two parts of Cyprus were supposed to learn about peace, tolerance and security as a social asset. Chawansky pointed out the possibilities of Sport for Development and Peace programmes under gender aspects.

Gertrud Pfister (University of Copenhagen) presented the design of her research project “Doping - an Issue of Gender and (Sport) Culture” in Denmark. The aim of the project lies in acquiring knowledge about various legal and illegal drugs in high-performance sports and fitness. The study is supposed to especially research the differences between the genders and acquire whether gender-specific strategies for increased performance exist and whether an increase in performance can be reasoned gender-specifically.

Ilse Hartmann-Tews (Sporthochschule Cologne) was concerned with the question to what extent older people take part at the “Sportification-Trend”, what opinions they have on the topic of sports, and whether differences between the genders exist. According to a representative survey which queried people age 55 and older in the area of Cologne it could be seen that older people - especially women - take part at that trend. Sport is also seen as a means against aging by this age group.

The coverage of ancient history similarly covered many topics. A general talk about women sports in ancient history was given by Francesca D’Elia (University of Naples) whereas Bettina Kratzmüller (University of Vienna) gave a presentation about the female pharaoh Hatshepsut who had lived in the 15th century B.C. and had reigned together with her half-brother in Egypt. Kratzmüller considered the customs and views of that time and explained, based on the examples of Hatshepsut/Maatkare, the tradition of “Kultlaufszenen“.

A number of presentations were concerned with biographies of female sports athletes of various centuries. One example is Gigliola Gori’s (Università degli Studi di Urbino) talk on the Italian motorcyclist Vittorina Sambri (1891-1965). On the basis of the life of Vittorina
Sambri, Gori gave insights into the value understandings and opinions during her lifetime. Sambri was a very successful motorcyclist, who, as the only woman, established herself in the male domain of motor sports.

Angela Giallongo (Università degli Studi di Urbino) devoted herself to “Treasure of the City of Ladies”, written by the French author Christine de Pizan in 1405. The book describes a medieval utopia in which the dominance of the men is removed. Further is the awareness of the female body form a female perspective described. This work is, according to Giallongo, one of a small number of sources about woman’s sports activities of the medieval age.

Jean Williams of Britain (De Montfort University) offered in her talk “What can the history of football in Germany tell us about researching women’s sport?” an overview of the history of female football in Germany, but also commented on the history of this sport in Great Britain around 1920. Striking contemporary film clips were used as sources. In the long term she is interested in a comparison of the history of women football in the UK and in Germany.

By analysing the most important feministically coined journals before and after the Cultural Revolution in France in 1968, Thierry Terret (University of Lyon) researched what significance the leading promoters of feminism granted sporting activity as an instrument of emancipation. In the different forms of these publications hardly any connection to sport was to be noticed. Terret also pointed out Corinne Morbier alias Catherine Louveau who, as an example of a feminist contrary to this trend, contemplated sports as a means for emancipation and was critical towards the common feminist movement.

Charles Little (London Metropolitan University) analysed the possibilities for women of the working class in the south of Sydney to do sports. He pointed out the small amount of possibilities for women between 1900 and 1940 and noticed that the economic status additionally matters. Women of the working class neither had the time nor money to afford the luxury of doing sports.

The emancipation of women in sports at the Laurentian University in Canada was thematised by Amanda Schweinbenz. Her focus lay especially on the time after 1960 in which the sports at universities was able to record an increase. Especially in the discipline of basketball the “Lady Vees” were successful.

The broad spectrum of sociological and historical topics was extended by contributions of the pedagogic field which especially thematised coeducation. Sandra Winheller introduced a new theoretical model to explain attitudes of girls and boys to sport. Joca Zurc of Slovenia (University of Primorska) evaluated the Slovenian sports curriculum under the gender aspect. The result showed that no discrimination, but rather differentiations between boys and girls are to be noticed. The girls receive more education in gymnastics and dance whereas the boys receive more in ball sports.

In her speech a scholar from Japan, Miho Koishihara, described the notion and images of female athletes in the Japanese Culture in the 1920s and 1930s. This was done by scrutinising the portrayed female athletes from “Shoukokaarabu” (Girls’ Club), one of the most popular magazines of that time. It could be seen that although females doing sports were frowned upon at first in Japan the magazine contributed an important part to the sports emancipation of women and notion of obtaining joy by doing sports.

Gerd von der Lippe (Telemark College) concluded the convention. At the centre of her talk was the influence of the three-time Olympic winner of freestyle mogul skiing, Kari Traa, on sports journalism. Analyses of journal articles and pictures were made under the light of rhetorical and feministic views and it was discussed whether those provocative and
sexually enhanced portrayals serve as an asset for femininity or whether other forms of depiction would also be possible.

Corinna Seidler


The graduate students in the department of Exercise Sciences at the University of Toronto are pleased to announce a two-day conference aimed at the study of the human body. Please Join us in Toronto on May 8 and 9, 2009.

Now in its sixth year, the Graduate Research Conference is designed to bring together graduate students to share their research in a positive environment and to engage with other students and ideas from across the many disciplines that comprise studies in sport, health and physical activity. We welcome students from cultural studies, history, education, sociology, kinesiology, physiology, nutrition, sexual diversity studies and many others!

Students can present research 'in progress', test out ideas for a thesis or dissertation proposal, make a dry run of a future conference paper or present original research.

For more information or email conference.exs@utoronto.ca or visit www.acfpeh.com/academic/grad/GRC/GR C.php


In 1999, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) embarked upon a major series of reforms to governance, the bidding process to host Olympics, the reporting of information, and to important programmes such as Olympic Solidarity. The reforms came in response to revelations of bribes paid to ensure that Salt Lake City won the right to host the 2002 Winter Olympics. As major sponsors threatened to withdraw their support, the IOC responded by establishing the ‘2000 Commission’. The 2000 Commission’s 50 recommendations for reform were quickly approved.

This conference will conduct a critical review of the implementation of the reform package – successes, failures and unintended consequences. The review is timely because the reforms were introduced with no independent review mechanism; and the conference takes place mid-way between the Beijing and Vancouver Olympics. Academics, activists, policy makers and sport leaders will gather to examine the context of reform, evaluate the implementation of the 1999 reform package, and identify issues and concerns that warrant further analysis and action.

Abstracts and proposals for sessions are invited in the following areas :

The Context of Reform -- topics related to the growing climate of reform that preceded the Salt Lake City scandal, including (but not limited to): the struggle for gender equity at the Olympics; the growth of critical scholarship and investigative journalism; the Olympic Truce and peace building initiatives; doping scandals and reform initiatives; and the politics of Olympic site selection.

Critical Analysis of the Reform Package – topics related to the IOC 2000 Commission reforms, including (but not limited to): Olympic Solidarity – Sport development and development through sport; WADA and doping; bidding for the Olympic Games before and after Salt Lake City;
Olympic legacies; equity, representation, and the structure of the IOC; transparency and communication; and Olympism, education and culture.

**Athletes’ Rights** – topics related to the influence of IOC reforms on athletes’ rights, including (but not limited to): health, injury, and doping; media rights and the right to speak out; child athletes; sponsorship; labour rights; and other issues concerning the similarities and differences between athletes’ rights and the rights guaranteed to all humans under various international Charters.

**Olympic Reform: Monitoring and Advocacy** – topics related to monitoring the implementation of reforms and advocating for future reforms, including (but not limited to): Olympics and corporate social responsibility; sport and ‘good governance’; environment and sustainable development; Sport for All; sport for development and peace; legacies; ensuring rights; and conflict resolution.

The conference will feature keynote addresses by international and Canadian sport leaders and scholars, plenary panel discussions, as well as open paper sessions. Conference organizers are encouraging submissions for both individual presentations and session topics. Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words (and include the paper/session title, and presenter’s name and affiliation). Deadline for the submission of abstracts is **January 31, 2009**.

Submit abstracts and any questions to the Conference Organizer, Russell Field, at: [russell.field@utoronto.ca](mailto:russell.field@utoronto.ca)

**Dr. Bruce Kidd**
Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Health
University of Toronto

**Dr. Peter Donnelly**
Director, Centre for Sport Policy Studies
University of Toronto

**Dr. Russell Field**
Faculty of Physical Education and Health
University of Toronto


The German Gymnastics Federation (DTB) is responsible for high performance sports, leisure sports and health activities for women and men, old and young, as well as people of diverse social and ethnic backgrounds. The broadness of the target groups and tasks is mirrored in the diverse sport offers of the DTB clubs and sections. This broadness is also expressed in the thematic orientation of the international sport scientific congress of the DTB during the International German Gymnastics Festival in June 2009 where international speakers will discuss the following topics:

- Education – Children’s Gymnastics and Youth Sports
- Health – Health Sports
- Integration and Migration – Gymnastics and Sports with and for Immigrants

Target audience of the Congress are scientists from various fields and officers of different international sport organizations. To guarantee the quality of the event, a keynote speaker is scheduled for each of the three topics.

If you are interested in attending the Congress, please register online via the
Turnfest-website www.turnfest.de. The deadline for abstracts is March 1, 2009

**Congress fee**
Regular: 200 Euro
Reduced for Members of DTB, TAFISA, ISCA, ICCSPE, FIG, UEG 160 Euro
Reduced early birds 160 Euro

The Congress fee include participation in the Turnfest with the Turnfestkarte (Gymnastic Festival Card) and Public Transport as well as a Congress-meal for Lunch, Coffee

For information contact Dr. Annette R. Hofmann: nettehof@web.de


**The Cultural Paradigm: Reinvigorating Sport History ?**

The 2009 conference of the Australian Society for Sports History will be held at the Copthorne Hotel, Oriental Bay, Wellington, New Zealand, from 30 June to 3 July 2009.

**Theme**
The overarching theme of Sporting Traditions XVII is “The Cultural Paradigm: Reinvigorating Sport History?” In 1999, delegates at Sporting Traditions XII debated the state of sport history. At that time, social history had dominated sport history for a quarter of a century and the field appeared tired and stale. A decade on and the cultural paradigm has arrived: sport history is awash with new theories and new approaches; some sport historians are even playing with new forms of representation. At Sporting Traditions XVII leading historians of sport from North America, Britain, Australia and New Zealand will discuss and debate the influence of the cultural paradigm on sport history and its reinvigoration of the field.

**Programme**
The Programme Committee invites delegates to submit abstracts for individual papers or complete sessions. Abstracts / Session should address either “The Cultural Paradigm” or subjects with an historical bent within the field of sports studies, broadly defined.

Each session will run for 1 hour and 45 minutes and allow for three 20 minute papers, a 15 minute commentary and discussion. Presentation facilities available to speakers include data projector, DVD player and overhead projector.

**Call for papers**
Abstracts of between 150 and 200 words should be submitted by electronic mail to Douglas Booth, School of Physical Education University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand: doug.booth@otago.ac.nz

Abstracts will be accepted until 2 February 2009.

Delegates will be notified of their acceptance on 1 March 2009.

The first draft of the programme will be posted on the ASSH website and the sporthist list on 15 March 2009.

For more information, please visit the ASSH website : www.sporthistory.org

We are delighted to announce the next annual conference of the BSSH will take place at the University of Stirling from 17-19 July 2009. Full details can be found on the website www.BSSH2009.info

This annual conference will be held in conjunction with the ISHPES congress which takes place from 14-18 July 2009.

You are welcome to attend both meetings and for those of you who attend the ISHPES congress, you can stay on for the BSSH meeting free of charge.

Details of the ISHPES Congress can be found on the website www.ishpes.info

Please note: If you wish to submit an abstract for both meetings then you must submit each (different) abstract to the appropriate site:
For abstracts for the BSSH meeting: www.bssh2009.info/abstract
For abstracts for the ISHPES congress: http://www.ishpes.info/abstract.php

Key dates
ISHPES abstract submission deadline 6 March 2009
Early bird registration closing date 31 March 2009
BSSH abstract submission deadline 15 May 2009

BSSH Registration fees
For as little as £160:
- Conference registration, including abstract book and lunches and refreshments during the conference from 17-19 July
- Invitation to the Lord Provost’s Reception on Friday 17 July
- conference dinner and Ceilidh on Saturday 18th July
- 2 nights accommodation

ISHPES Congress Registration
You have the opportunity (if you are not a member already) to benefit by joining the BSSH for £30, save £50 on registration fees for the ISHPES congress and receive 4 BSSH journals.
Register for ISHPES: http://www.ishpes.info/registration.php

BSSH Conference Registration
If you are not a member, 1 years membership will be included in the non-member registration fee.
Register for BSSH only: www.bssh2009.info

Going to both?
If you would like to attend both meetings please register for ISHPES:
http://www.ishpes.info/registration.php and check the box marked ‘do you wish to attend the BSSH meeting also’

If you have any queries please contact the organisers via email: contact@BSSH2009.info

We hope to see you in July 2009
Best wishes

Conference administration
Email: contact@bssh2009.info
Tel: +44 (0) 1786 820 254

7. International Summer School for Young Researchers – Course for PhD Students in Copenhagen, August 2009.

Topic: Sport and movement cultures - developments and practices in a globalised world. Historical, Sociological,
With the assistance of Martin Frei, Hans Bonde takes up in his new book an era of his expertise: German-Danish relations in sport and gymnastics. Only in 2006 was his English edition of Gymnastics and Politics. Niels Bukh and Male Aesthetics published. Here Bonde provided non-Danish speakers with an insight into the spread of Danish Gymnastics, not only in Denmark but also worldwide. Moreover he used a biographical approach to introduce Nils Bukh and his gymnastic system to readers as a national symbol, both in a positive and negative sense, and especially showed Bukh’s relationship with the German nationalistic government. This is also the time period on which Bonde mainly concentrates in his latest research, but now with a focus on a different sport: football, during the time of the German occupation. Besides football, Bonde takes up other sports, such as boxing, athletics and swimming. He tells of individual athletes and their relations with Nazi Germany; examples are the female swimming stars Ragnhild Hveger and Jenny Kammerssaad. One chapter is devoted to “Jewish Persecution”.

Bonde emphasizes in his introduction that so far historians researching this time period have neglected sport. After his theoretical remarks and a discussion of concepts, Bonde starts out with German-Danish sport relations in the 1930s and then continues with Danish sport under siege in the year 1940/41. His book is a “showcase on sport and politics that demonstrates the politicisation of Danish sport at its peak”. It shows that the first years of the German occupation can be called a “golden age” of Danish-German collaborative sports that was far more intense than any period before or since. Banners with the Nazi swastika flew side by side with the Danish flag. But the book also shows the resistance to German occupation and how after the war, sport was again used for political purposes to demonstrate Denmark’s “emotional integration” and participation in sports competitions against the British. At the end Bonde tries to explain why there was not more resistance from Danish sport, such as sport federations, sport clubs or individual athletes, earlier on. He tries to find explanations without accusing anyone for what happened. For all those readers lacking time to read the entire book, the last chapter, “Revolt from Below – Conclusion”, gives a wonderful summary and relates the most important facts again.

I am really glad that this book was written in English. Only this way can one introduce an international readership to the sport endeavors and historical events which took place in various countries. It gives insight into the importance of sport and physical activities and how national
influences are interrelated. For German readers it is also a way to get to know more about their own history, and how the national socialist government even influenced such areas as sports in occupied countries. The scientific community needs bi- or trialingual scholars like Hans Bonde, fluent in Danish and German as well, to overcome language barriers and be able to read original documents and draw connections. This is a necessity for interculturally related work. Finally, it should be added that Bonde has included many photos which bring the context even closer to the reader.

Annette Hofmann


One might ask, who needs another book on American sport history? Isn’t the market already saturated? Well-known examples are: B. /Swanson, R.: *History of Sport and Physical Education in the United States*; Riess, S. A.: *Sport in Industrial America. 1850-1920*; or Rader, B.: *American Sports. From the Age of Folk Games to the Age of Televised Sports*.

But this publication by Gems, Borish, & Pfister is different from the above mentioned, not only in size and weight. It starts with the authors: An international team, two Americans and one German, take on the task of writing about American sports. All of them are well-known sport historians who can contribute their own research topics to the overall content.

Unlike other books on American sport history, this one takes up quite a few new topics. Ethnicity has always been part of American sports, but Gems, Borish, & Pfister not only mention the participation in sport by African-Americans; they also take a at the contribution to American sports by Jewish people and many European groups. Health issues and the increasingly important role of doping have their own chapters. It is obvious that the authors are very much involved in gender studies. “Women and sport” is an aspect that is considered for all time periods dealt with, as well as the relation to male sporting culture and the challenge of gender boundaries.

This publication not only relates historical facts, but also tries to find, through its sociological approach, answers and to certains explanations for certain developments within American society. Having Gertrud Pfister, a European scholar, do this from an outsider perspective contributes to the quality of the book. This perspective can also be seen in the choice of sports that are discussed. Unlike other publications, it not only concentrates on the “Big Three” (football, baseball and basketball), but includes sports such as soccer, which has found its place as one of the most popular sports for American children and women.

The dynamic of the contents is also mirrored in the pictures and photos. Most of them show active sports people, instead of athletes posing for the camera.

The book is intended to be used for history classes. At the end of each of the nine chapters, questions for discussion can be found. A number of sidebars relate to important athletes and sporting events.

For practical reasons, this is not a book to be read in bed: It is simply too big and heavy.

Annette Hofmann

Recent Dissertations


Co-dirigée par Jean-Marc Regnault et Thierry Terret, cette thèse aborde la construction identitaire ma’ohi dans l’ancienne colonie de la Polynésie française en développant une remarquable analyse sur les usages politiques de la course de pirogue. Yves Leloup démontre que, loin d’être une pratique « traditionnelle », la pirogue est en réalité importée par la Marine française au milieu du XIXème siècle, pour être utilisée afin de contrôler et séduire les populations locales, avant que celles-ci ne se les réapproprient jusqu’à en faire un symbole identitaire majeur à la fin du XXème siècle. Magnifique exemple de réinvention de la tradition telle qu’Eric Hobsbawn l’a développée, cette histoire des courses de pirogues inscrit pleinement l’histoire du sport dans un débat historique actuel et important. Au passage, elle comble une double lacune historiographique, l’une sur la place du sport dans l’historiographie relative à la Polynésie, l’autre sur la place de la Polynésie dans l’historiographie du sport colonial. En outre, la démonstration de l’acculturation sportive est portée par un corpus aussi vaste que pertinent. Certaines sources n’avaient quasiment jamais été déflorées sur ces questions, par exemple les journaux de bord des premiers explorateurs ou les archives des services historiques de la Marine. Yves Leloup a su aussi ajouter à son arsenal de matériaux de nombreux ouvrages et récits ayant valeur de sources, de même qu’une riche iconographie, complétée pour la dernière période, par des entretiens.

Thierry Terret


Dirigée par Georges Vigarello, cette thèse vise à resituer la conception de
la gymnastique développée par un célèbre gymnasiarque du début du XIXe siècle, Francisco Amoros, dans le cadre de l’histoire des idées. Il est organisé autour de cinq parties inégales et de douze chapitres. La première positionne la trajectoire socio-politique d’Amoros en relevant avec pertinence les ambiguïtés du personnage. La seconde s’attache à articuler ses conceptions et les grands mouvements philosophiques post-révolutionnaires, en dégageant de manière convaincante les proximités entretenues avec les Idéologues. La troisième met en évidence l’originalité de la gymnastique amorosienne, qui se veut en définitive davantage un moyen de réforme sociale et d’éducation politique qu’une éducation corporelle proprement dite. La quatrième développe cette même idée en montrant que le projet d’Amoros répond à une ambition libérale qui n’échappe pas à la reproduction des hiérarchies sociales. On relève ici un chapitre 11 sur l’ordre social particulièrement stimulant. Enfin, la dernière partie, réduite à un seul chapitre, conduit à interpréter l’échec de la gymnastique d’Amoros comme le reflet de la montée du spiritualisme et le déclin du sensualisme.


Thierry Terret


Après une excellente introduction générale, la première partie s’attache à saisir le rôle de la Grande Guerre dans l’apparition d’une pratique féminine du football en Angleterre, pratique qui se diffuse en Europe occidentale à la faveur de l’action de quelques structures associatives et du militantisme d’une Française, Alice Milliat. La seconde partie étudie les résistances des années 1950 et 1960 pour une relance du football féminin, en questionnant plus particulièrement ses relations avec les mouvements féministes.

La troisième partie explore la reconnaissance du football féminin depuis les années 1970, en comparant avec bonheur la spécificité des nations européennes tant du point de vue de la pratique elle-même que de l’attitude des dirigeants fédéraux. L’idée générale, plutôt convaincante, est de mettre en évidence « un rapport étroit entre la place occupée par les femmes dans la vie publique et celle qu’elles occupent dans leur fédération de football » (p. 308). A cette occasion, la réflexion ne se cantonne plus à l’Angleterre, la France et la Belgique, mais elle dresse un bilan plus large touchant notamment à l’Allemagne et aux pays scandinaves, sans s’interdire de poser les bornes d’une étude mondiale intégrant l’Amérique du Nord et l’Asie. Les passages sur la création des compétitions internationales sont particulièrement réussis.
Mais l’intérêt de la thèse ne tient pas seulement à la nouvelle interprétation proposée. Il faut en effet reconnaître à l’auteur une remarquable envergure dans la collecte des matériaux, démarche qui l’a amené dans plusieurs pays européens et dans des fonds d’archives aussi différents que, par exemple, l’Imperial War Museum de Londres, l’UNESCO à Paris et la FIFA à Zurich.

Thierry Terret


L’analyse de contenu à laquelle se livre monsieur Loew est un modèle du genre. Croisant les démarches quantitatives et qualitatives, comparant notamment les discours tenu dans chaque nation sur les autres nations impliquées, puis ceux relatifs à l’amateurisme et à la position d’Avery Brundage, elle donne à lire un tableau complet, distancié et brillamment éclairé. La thèse s’appuie très utilement sur les archives du CEO de Lausanne – en particulier l’*Avery Brundage Collection* - et l’ensemble est encadré par une très bonne connaissance de la littérature internationale.

Thierry Terret


Co-dirigée par André Rauch et Otto Schantz, la thèse porte sur une question apparemment simple – quels sont les soubassements institutionnels et idéologiques des loisirs organisés pour les...
personnes déficientes ? – mais dont la réalité est extrêmement complexe et éclatée. Frédéric Reichhart met alors en évidence deux dynamiques. La première prend ses racines dans les initiatives prises par les structures mises en place pour la déficience en direction du loisir, la seconde dans une extension des organisations touristiques en direction des personnes déficientes. Cette double logique institutionnelle est elle-même recoupée par deux manières de concevoir le séjour de la personne déficiente : dans un temps et un espace qui lui sont dévolus spécifiquement, ou dans un cadre intégré. En outre, il apparaît que la nature même du handicap devient un facteur de différenciation de l’offre touristique. Finalement, l’impétrant montre que le loisir de la personne déficiente se développe entre les deux processus contraires que sont l’assimilation et la différenciation.

La démonstration procède par une succession de monographies où l’on observe un souci de raisonner à plusieurs niveaux - pratiques, institutions et discours – avec de très belles pages sur l’après Première Guerre mondiale ou sur le tourisme d’extension, par exemple. Des matériaux extrêmement variés sont mobilisés, allant des bulletins d’associations à la législation, des sites Internet aux entretiens avec des responsables des structures concernées. Ce travail de collecte force l’admiration, mais il appelle deux remarques, l’une sur le risque de se laisser entraîner parfois par les sources en déséquilibrant les approches proposées d’un chapitre à un autre, l’autre de faire la part belle aux analyses « par le haut » en négligeant peut-être les premiers acteurs concernés : les personnes déficientes.

Thierry Terret


Dirigée par Alfred Wahl, la thèse se situe entre histoire du sport, histoire des professions et histoire économique. Riche de 4 volumes, les trois derniers constituent en réalité un dictionnaire biographique très conséquent de près de 4000 fiches !, la première étant une reconstruction historique appuyée sur les éléments biographiques en question. La collecte des trajectoires de vie est impressionnante par son ampleur et la multiplicité des sources auxquelles il a dû être nécessaire de recourir (archives, questionnaires, entretiens), bien que les interprétations qui en sont proposées ne poussent pas assez loin les analyses qu’on aurait pu en attendre. Si le corpus constitué par l’impétrant est le point fort de la thèse, celle-ci pêche en effet par un certain nombre de faiblesses ou d’insuffisances de développement et une contextualisation sans doute trop peu mobilisée dans les analyses.

Thierry Terret

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