



*Established 1965*

**International Sociology of Sport Association  
Association Internationale de Sociologie du Sport**

Sub-Committee of ICSSPE  
Research Committee 27 of ISA  
Affiliated with UNESCO

## **ISSA eBulletin (2020-2) – A Covid-19 Special**

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## An Important Message from the ISSA President

Dear ISSA members,

I sincerely hope that this message finds you well and safe. It will be no surprise to you that ISSA's 2020 World Congress in Viña del Mar, Chile, will not take place this year, due to the pandemic and its associated disruptions. Importantly, the Local Organising Committee (LOC) has expressed its desire to postpone the event until October 2021.

After careful consideration, the ISSA Executive Board has decided to uphold its commitment to the LOC and its partners (**ALESDE** - the *Latin American Socio-cultural Studies of Sport Association* and **CLACSO** - the *Latin American Council of Social Sciences*) towards hosting a joint Congress in Viña del Mar in October 2021.

Of course, the decision to postpone the Viña del Mar Congress has implications for ISSA's plans in the coming years. The LOC in Ottawa has agreed in principle to postpone its Congress there until 2023. This in turn, enables ISSA to go ahead as planned with co-hosting our World Congress with the European Association for the Sociology of Sport (EASS) in Tübingen, Germany in 2022.

It is now trite (but necessary) to say that these are turbulent times. As such, all of our plans hinge on the current uncertainties around international travel availability, economic conditions, domestic quarantine regulations and WHO guidelines. We are hopeful that a 'holding pattern' of more than a year (20 months between now and October 2021) will provide sufficient time for members to consider what is best in terms of their own plans for Congress attendance. We will provide an update later this year.

In the meantime, we remain committed to fulfilling ISSA's objectives and we are currently exploring ways in which we can connect members during this Congress hiatus. We thank you for your unfailing support of ISSA, and encourage you to continue your engagement with us via our newsletter, programmes (e.g., Graduate Student Paper Award) and journal (the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*).

All the best,

Mike Sam



## The IRSS General Editor reflects on the impact of the pandemic on submissions to IRSS

The social response to Covid-19 makes this the first pandemic to be fundamentally shaped by our internet connectivity. Covid-19 will be remembered (amongst other things) for the experience of working from home, the dissemination of ‘fake’ and ‘real’ news via social media, and the tracing and tracking apps that may yet define the new normal. And it is remarkable to think that just 8 years ago, before the IRSS moved to electronic submission, lockdown would have led the journal to grind to a halt, with packages gathering dust in a university mail box.

But life not only goes on, journal through-put has been increased. Last year IRSS welcomed a bumper 220 new submissions (a 10% increase on previous years) which equates to a new submission every 1.66 days. 2020 started in similar vein, with manuscript 40 arriving on 3 March, 63 days into the year (one every 1.58 days). There are always seasonal peaks and troughs as people resolve to complete a manuscript before they go on vacation, break for a religious holiday and so on. But April (and Easter) saw an explosion, with more than one submission per day. Manuscript 60 arrived on 2 April. Number 90 (and 91) arrived on 28 April (a new submission every 0.85 days). 26 April saw the journals’ first COVID-related submission. Fortunately, I’m sharing lockdown with the Editorial Operations Manager. But before we conclude that lockdown represents some kind of extended writing retreat for sociologists of sport, it’s important to recognise that the impact affects members of our community in very different ways. I see this most clearly in the response to invitations to review. Even some of the journal’s normally more dependable reviewers are declining invitations due to pressure of work, domestic situation (thankfully so far not health!). Others are turning round reviews in just a few days. Lockdown makes some people time rich, others time poor. That probably has a lot to do with teaching peaks and troughs (with the demands of switching teaching delivery to on-line very demanding) and broader family commitments (caring for older family members, or sharing living space with small children). I wish you all well during this difficult period, keep the submissions coming, and do bear with us if it takes longer than usual to get a decision on manuscript. While we will not be compiling a COVID special issue, we do welcome papers on this most pressing of social concerns.

Dominic Malcolm



## Lockdown diaries in Scotland

Apparently in lockdown we were going to have more time for new hobbies, perhaps cooking slap up meals from scratch, re-reading the classics or discovering new authors, perhaps even writing a novel ourselves (chance would be a fine thing), film or quiz nights, catching up with the National Theatre's back catalogue of Shakespeare plays, etc... Really? No. Sure I've saved time on commuting and food shopping, but I still feel I am chasing my tail. Even though I live on my own, I just do more cleaning, washing up and tidying up because I'm around more. I was no stranger to home working – Fridays have been my WAH days for a few years. What's changed is the shrinking of horizons, the emotional labour of supporting students during this crisis, no prospect of meaningful physical contact with anyone. What day is it today? Is it too early to have a beer? Hang on, I don't normally drink mid-week, at 3pm. What day is this? Was I sleeping just there and is it all just one big dream? Ah what am I going to do this weekend? I'm definitely not working, no siree. It's Friday? Oh.

On my Research Methods course we have awarded over 50 extensions (for a class of 200 students) and the narratives supporting these requests have been a tough read. Sure, one or two students were perhaps 'at it', but the majority of emails were a litany of genuine distress – difficulties concentrating, anxiety, inability to control workshifts for students deemed key workers, home-schooling, bereavements. For a while the emails came at a rate of three an hour. But I thought, never mind, I'll take a full month off this summer to recover from all these upheavals and recharge before the new academic year starts.

Then the news came that we would teach the first semester online. There goes the summer I thought. My mood dipped instantly. Thankfully there is an understanding at my institution that we cannot improvise ourselves as genuine distance educators so we will be given some resources and some guidance. Watch this space. But I still have to try and imagine how to adapt my Honours option on the Sociology of the body which relies on student negotiating their learning based on group work and some pretty challenging theory to an online environment. Any fun pics of the civilizing process anyone?

I did manage to draft a full paper, on hillwalking women, for a special issue of the Annals of Leisure Research on the outdoors. I've been carrying this wee burden on my right shoulder for a while now and here was my chance to put pen to paper unhindered by distractions. I did have a deadline. One of my colleagues set up a zoom writing retreat for our undergraduate students and I thought I would join them. It was a revelation. I'd never attended writing retreats before. There is a place in the Trossachs that hosts them. It's a large Victorian house on the banks of Loch Venachar. When I first heard about it, there was no mobile phone signal and I think wifi was switched on only in the evenings. I'd always been tempted but the dates never suited me or I'd forget. The prospect of doing this virtually did not immediately appeal but it actually worked. That week, between teaching online and responding to numerous student queries, I managed to write several thousand words! There was no stopping me afterwards. Whilst finding the motivation to write an academic article about a topic which is

also one of my main hobbies proved surprisingly tough – it seemed easier to pack a rucksack and go hillwalking to be honest. Delving back into my data when stuck at home with no immediate prospect of going into the hills proved a welcome salve. But now back to marking...

The weather has on the whole been absolutely gorgeous since the start of lockdown. This is Scotland so our expectations are both high – we confuse British Summer Time with the advent of a mediterranean summer – and realistic – it's not going to happen. A gloriously sunny morning will turn cloudy by lunchtime so best to nip out for that run now. It was cold at first but temperatures rose a bit despite a persistent nippy easterly, straight off the North Sea, and on the whole the weather has been settled for the last 6 weeks! It was time to catch up with my running – I resumed my thrice weekly runs, going on long walks on the intervening days (I even borrowed a dog!). Of course I upped the mileage a bit too quickly and the lifelong niggles I keep at bay by a fairly tough strengthening programme reared up again. So I'm on the bike now. Either way, I can catch a glimpse of our nearest mountains on my outings. In the limpid unpolluted light we've enjoyed of late, I've monitored the progress of a patch of snow on the eastern flank of Ben Vorlich. The hills do look inviting. They won't go anywhere, they'll still be there when we come out of this.

Emmanuelle Tulle



## A meeting with other sports associations

Brett Smith, President of International Society of Qualitative Research in Sport & Exercise, got in touch with us and other sport and exercise professional associations to discuss the implications of lockdown on the delivery of teaching next academic year and on our conference planning. We met by zoom last week. Represented that evening were NASSS, EASS, BASES, NASPSPA, ISSP and ISSA.

Different approaches to our 2020 conferences were in evidence: some postponed to the following 2021, others decided to go ahead with a remote conference, albeit modified. Those who postponed were still reflecting on the feasibility of offering online events this year. One important consequence of postponements is that there will be conference congestion in 2021, possibly 2022 as well. Do we need some level of orchestration or to organise joint events? ISSA is already ahead of the game with our links with ALESDE and EASS. But other risks to consider concerned conference attendance funding and the cost of travelling to conferences. Universities have started freezing conference attendance budgets and it is likely that the cost of air travel will go up quite substantially. Those hosting virtual conferences have offered to give tips and share good practice, experiences, pitfalls etc...

Many of us have been asked to prepare for some measure of online teaching next academic year. This is bound to generate great anxieties. How will we transfer our syllabus which is predicated on face to face interactions to a different and effective mode of delivery suitable for effective remote teaching? We cannot improvise ourselves as expert in distance teaching in just a few short months. We certainly need guidance and resources from our own universities but also that is not what students sign up for, unless they have to, in which case they would go to the specialists like the Open University in the UK. We discussed the possibility of curating and sharing teaching resources, a worthy goal but we weren't sure how we could operationalise this. Indeed we must be able to protect intellectual ownership. We also must be wary of not giving our university sector false hopes that we will all move to online teaching thus increasing the risk that they will dispense with many of the scholars they currently employ.

Lastly we discussed the suggestion to create a 'Journal Club' addressed at students, consisting of experts talking online about a recent publication and answering questions in real time.

Overall there was very cautious enthusiasm for sharing and collaborating around the virtual table. Nobody was jumping with excitement. It was certainly refreshing to see real people although we didn't have time to chat idly. If you readers have views or suggestions about any of the above, feel free to feed them to me at [communications@issa1965.org](mailto:communications@issa1965.org) or on our Facebook page (sorry, still not back on Twitter so you won't get me there).

Emmanuelle Tulle

## The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games may be postponed but the books keep coming...

There is an old saying in Britain about waiting a long time for a bus and then two come along in quick succession. This year the same applies to two sports mega-events, the UEFA EURO 2020 and the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games 2020, which, due to the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, have both been postponed for the first time ever. Whilst the organizers, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), and Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games (TOCOG) with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), have stated that they expect to put the events on in 2021, and both will retain the names EURO 2020 and Tokyo 2020 respectively, to save on rebranding costs as much as anything else, much uncertainty still surrounds whether they will actually go ahead.

More certainty exists about the existence of books on the Olympics this year. As one of the authors of *Understanding the Olympics*, which features a chapter about Tokyo and the Olympics specifically, I watched with growing professional interest and then alarm as the COVID-19 virus took global hold with devastating consequences. With respect to Tokyo 2020 it became clear that of the three possible options – carry on, cancel or postpone - only the latter would be seriously entertained by the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee and the IOC, at least for now. Although some have argued for it, few expected the 2020 Games to be cancelled outright. The economic, political and reputational fall out from that would have simply been too great, not just for the organizers and the Olympic movement, but also for Japan as a whole.

In the opening chapter of the third edition of *Understanding the Olympics* Garry Whannel and I offer a broadly historical account of the Olympics in Japan, and Tokyo specifically. At the time of submitting the manuscript late last year and when the proof pages were submitted in February we still expected the Games would take place in 2020 as planned. Fortunately there are no significant inaccuracies in what we discuss. The same applies to another recent publication in this (non-) Olympic year, *Japan through the lens of the Tokyo Olympics* (Holthus et al eds., 2020). Featuring over 30 short, bite-size, articles about the Olympics and Japanese society, the authors offer a valuable overview of the society which has been a regular host of sports biggest events.

By postponing the 2020 Games until 2021 some commentators have suggested the possibility exists for the event to act as a boost to the reputation of each of the main stakeholders involved. It will be at a considerable financial cost – especially to the host nation and city - but the decision to delay and stage the event a year or so later could provide an upturn in the attraction of the global spectacle. This is certainly the hope of the ‘Olympophiles’ (Cohen 2013) such as the IOC President Thomas Bach, who recently wrote to Olympic athletes, International sports federations and, through the Olympic Studies Centre, academics, seeking advice on ways forward (<https://www.olympic.org/news/ioc-president-bach-writes-to-olympic-movement-olympism-and-corona> ).

At the same time others – who Phil Cohen calls ‘Olympophobes’ - continue to call for a halt to the Olympic spectacle. In her latest book Helen Lenskyj sustains the critical approach that she has developed towards the ‘Olympic industry’ over the past two decades. She looks at Olympic resistance, the Games links to business and its impacts on athletes’ human rights amongst many other topics in a broad-ranging critique (Lenskyj 2020). Jules Boykoff’s newest book offers more focused insights into the anti-Olympic “NOlympians”, partly

researched when he visited Japan in 2019 (Boykoff 2020). Alongside the ‘1 year to go’ celebrations planned by the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee a coalition of activists from Japan, Korea, L.A., Rio, Paris and other Olympic host cities met in Tokyo last July. One of the Japanese organizers of this gathering, ‘Hangorin no Kai’ (‘Anti Olympics Group’), provided 18 reasons for saying ‘No!’ to the 2020 Games, including displacement, increasing costs to the public, and damage to local and national environments identified in connection with the construction of the new National Stadium. Together the activists produced a joint statement calling for ‘NOlympics Anywhere’ (<https://olympicswatch.org/tokyo-2020/>).

Whether the postponement of Tokyo 2020 to 2021 will lead to fundamental changes to the IOC, the Olympics, or world sport remains as one of many unknowns about the current state of the world. The 2020 Olympics were heralded as a “recovery” or “reconstruction” Games by some in the organizing committee but no one was expecting the phrase to have this additional significance.

### References

Jules Boykoff (2020). *NOlympians. Inside the Fight Against Capitalist Mega-Sports in Los Angeles, Tokyo and Beyond*. Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing.

Phil Cohen (2013) *On the Wrong Side of the Track? East London and the Post Olympics*. London: Lawrence and Wishart.

N.B. For a summary of the book see:

<https://philcohenworks.com/on-the-wrong-side-of-the-track-east-london-and-the-post-olympics/>

Barbara Holthus et al. (eds) (2020). *Japan through the lens of the Tokyo Olympics*. London: Routledge/CRC.

N.B. This book is available Open Access (free) from:

<https://www.routledge.com/Japan-Through-the-Lens-of-the-Tokyo-Olympics-Open-Access/Holthus-Gagne-Manzenreiter-Waldenberger/p/book/9780367471682>

John Horne & Garry Whannel (2020). *Understanding the Olympics*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. London: Routledge.

Helen Jefferson Lenskyj (2020). *The Olympic Games. A Critical Approach*. Bingley: Emerald.

John Horne, Tokyo





## **The 2020 Graduate Paper Award**

**Thank you to all who sent in their manuscripts. The review process is underway and we feel confident that we will be able to announce the results by 31<sup>st</sup> July.**

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**Has your ISSA membership expired at the end of December 2019? Please consider renewing your membership now.**



**RENEW YOUR ISSA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2020!**

All members receive:

- IRSS (8 issues per year) Print and Online
- Information and discounts on ISSA conferences and publications
- Access to members' only area of websites
- The ISSA eBulletin

ISSA membership is for the full calendar year. This means that your ISSA membership expires on December 31st regardless of when you joined ISSA. In order to continue to receive the benefits of ISSA membership, including receipt of our journal and reduced conference registration, you will need to renew your membership from January 1st. Membership details are available on the SAGE – International Review of Sociology of Sport website. We highly encourage you to use the online payment subscription process on the SAGE IRSS web page. It is efficient, secure and ensures that membership

applications are processed in a timely fashion and provides you with an automated reply that confirms your membership application.

To renew your membership visit: <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/journal/international-review-sociology-sport>

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**  
**International Sociology of Sport Association**  
**Honorary Member Award 2020**

The Executive Board invites nominations for an Honorary Member award in the International Sociology of Sport Association. This award honors outstanding contributions to the International Sociology of Sport Association and to the sociological study of sport.

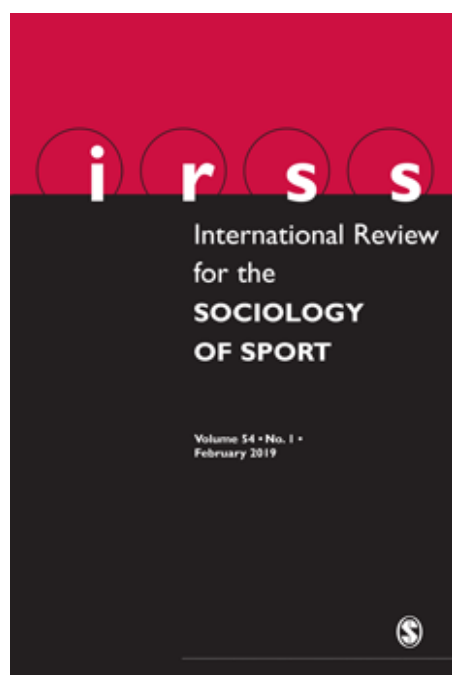
The recipient of this award must meet both of the following criteria:

- a long career of service to the International Sociology of Sport Association, and a distinguished international academic career as a sociologist of sport. Individuals who are retired from formal academic positions are eligible for Honorary Member awards. In addition, the International Sociology of Sport Association will consider

## International Review for the Sociology of Sport Editor Dominic Malcolm

### Call for Research Articles

International Review for the Sociology of Sport  
Editor-in-Chief Dominic Malcolm



### Call for Research Articles

The *IRSS* encourages the submission of diverse research articles seated in the sociology of sport, broadly defined, that shed light on social and cultural understandings of sport. Interdisciplinary, inclusive, and global, the *IRSS* is the journal of the International Sociology of Sport Association and is published in partnership with SAGE Publications. Please visit the journal website for more information about its Aims & Scope, the Editorial Board, manuscript submission guidelines, and sample issues at <http://journals.sagepub.com/home/irs>

The *IRSS* publishes eight issues each year. To help expedite the review and publication process, the *IRSS* uses the SAGE Track online manuscript submission site powered by ScholarOne Manuscripts. Scholars submitting manuscripts for consideration can expect a prompt double-blind review process that draws on the expertise of a diverse editorial board and a worldwide network over 3000 expert area scholars. While we expect in the region of 300 submissions per year (including revised manuscripts) we operate a highly efficient process such that the majority of decisions are on manuscripts are issued within 40 days of submission. The journal's use of the SAGE OnlineFirst publication program means that accepted manuscripts are usually made available to the scholarly community within weeks of acceptance. New Content alerts and exposure on the Sage Sociology Twitter channel (with around 34,000 followers) means that publication in the *IRSS* provides authors with an excellent opportunity to get scholarly work promptly disseminated to international audiences.

### Book/Media Reviews

Authors wishing to review books or media (films, videos, interactive media) for the *IRSS* should review the guidelines for book and media reviews at

<http://journals.sagepub.com/home/irs> and refer to previous issues of IRSS for format guidance.

To discuss potential media and/or comparative reviews, or to volunteer to contribute to a comparative review, please contact the book and media reviews editor directly: Dr. Kass Gibson, Plymouth Marjon University, Email: [kgibson@marjon.ac.uk](mailto:kgibson@marjon.ac.uk)

Manuscripts for both research articles and book/media reviews may be submitted at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/irss> The *IRSS* editorial team looks forward to having the opportunity to consider your work.

### **Becoming a Reviewer**

Being a reviewer gives you an insight into the publication process and a better understanding of how to develop your own research and publications. The easiest way to become a reviewer is to create an account through <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/irss>

Here you will be asked to provide some keywords that describe your expertise and interests. Think carefully about how these might be used, as often reviewers are sourced through a keyword search of this database. Feel free to update these keywords as often as you like.

### **Managing your Account**

If you already registered an account for the IRSS do remember to keep it updated. For instance, please remember to change your contact details when you move between institutions. Also consider updating your expertise keywords as your research profile develops. This will ensure that the journal gets reviewers who are active in their respective fields, and that you don't get review requests that are no longer appropriate to your interests.



## Members' News

ISSA is happy to share information about conferences, seminars, awards, jobs etc. We will gladly include your news in our eBulletin and the ISSA website. ISSA is always looking for ways to improve communication and serve our members. We encourage you to submit comments and suggestions.

Please send any feedback and information to Emmanuelle Tulle at: **communications@issa1965.org** and remember that ISSA also has its own Facebook page, and you are welcome to share information via this group.

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- retrospectively honoring an individual's service and scholarship with a ceremonial posthumous Honorary Member award.

Honorary Members in the International Sociology of Sport Association receive:

- Full, lifetime membership in the International Sociology of Sport Association, including subscription to the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*;
- Free, lifetime registration to the International Sociology of Sport Association's annual conference.

The list of current Honorary Members can be found at <http://issa1965.org/board/#Honorary%20Members>

### Nominations

Nominators should submit a 1 to 2-page document (letter) by March 1, 2020 that describes in as much detail as possible how the nominee meets the International Sociology of Sport's Honorary Member criteria. Submit nominations by email to Mike Sam at [president@issa1965.org](mailto:president@issa1965.org)

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## Call For ISSA Archives

The ISSA Executive Board is calling on all past and current members to submit photos, documents and other materials that document the history of the association, congresses and journal. We will gladly accept any items either in digital or hard copy format. We will be happy to copy and return these to you, or to add relevant items to the ISSA Archive as part of our ongoing efforts to record the history of the ISSA and IRSS. We are particularly hoping to obtain copies of ISSA Congress programs and Books of Abstract prior to 2011. For further

information about the Archive and/or to donate items, please contact Mike Sam at [president@issa1965.org](mailto:president@issa1965.org).

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### **Call for Recently Published Books**

Have you read a good sports related book lately? Send us your favourite titles that you think ISSA colleagues might also be interested in reading with a short review.

Contact Emmanuelle Tulle at: [communications@issa1965.org](mailto:communications@issa1965.org)

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Routledge book series: *Women, Sport and Physical Activity*

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Proposals are invited for contributions to the Routledge Book Series on 'Women, Sport and Physical Activity'. Contributions can either be traditional hard copy monographs, or part of the Routledge Focus series which are published online with a maximum word limit of 50,000. The monographs are likely to focus on substantive issues affecting women's involvement in sport and physical activity, including applied issues such as management and leadership, and/or contemporary topics such as physical activity and health; digital/technology/social media; the city and urbanisation. The Routledge Focus series includes books which focus on women's experiences of participation in one sport, each of which would consider issues such as the global history of women's involvement in the sport, training/physiological issues, analysis of competition performances, gender perspectives, coach-relationship issues, women's leadership within the sport, and case studies on notable individuals.

Interested contributors are encouraged to contact the Series Editor, Professor Elizabeth Pike, at [e.pike@herts.ac.uk](mailto:e.pike@herts.ac.uk), with a brief outline of the proposed topic area. Proposal forms and information about publishing with Routledge can be found here:

<https://www.routledge.com/resources/authors/how-to-publish-with-us>.

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**edited by Emmanuelle Tulle, ISSA Vice-President Communications**  
**14th May 2020**