

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING SPORT PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN AND GIRLS

Authors Eime, R, Charity, M, Harvey, J, & Westerbeek, H

Abstract Background: The rate of participation in community-based sport by boys and men has been double that of girls and women. Contributing to this is the fact that some sports have been traditionally male-only or at least very male-dominated. **Aim:** The aim of this study was to investigate changes in participation in sport by sex and age across 10 major sports in Australia over a four-year period. In conjunction with the analysis of participation trends, the gender strategies that were developed and implemented during this time are reviewed. **Methods:** This study encompassed all sport participants registered with one of 10 State Sporting Associations in Victoria, Australia in 2015 and in 2019. Participation rates by region, age and sex were calculated. State sport and health policies relating to female participation in sport were reviewed. **Results:** There were 749,037 registrations in 2015 and 868,266 in 2019. A comparison between 2015 and 2019 shows increases in participation for women and girls across all age groups (4–84 years), and highest increases for those aged 4 (6.6%) and 5–9 (4.7%). For boys there was a considerable decrease in participation for those aged 5–9 years (-3.8%). **Discussion:** This study provides evidence that while participation in sport is still dominated by males, the gap might be gradually closing and this is in line with recent strategies and investments into sport and wider cultural developments in society. The implications of these findings are discussed. **Published** *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*, in Press. **Download** frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fspor.2021.710666/abstract **Cost** FREE

TOWARD MORE-THAN-HUMAN UNDERSTANDINGS OF SPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT: A NEW MATERIALIST ANALYSIS OF EVERYDAY FITNESS PRACTICES

Authors Brice, JE & Thorpe, H

Abstract Sport and fitness have long been linked with healthy lifestyles, yet most sporting events and consumption practices are highly detrimental to the environment. While academics have

examined the harmful effects of sporting mega-events and the production and consumption of sport equipment and clothing, there has been less engagement with the “mundane,” everyday activities of consuming, laundering, and recycling of fitness objects. In this paper, we explore the potential in feminist new materialisms for rethinking the complex relationships between sport, fitness, and the environment. In particular, we explain how our engagement with Karen Barad’s theory of agential realism led us to rethink women’s habitual fitness practices as connected to environmental degradation. Working with Barad’s concept of entanglement, we came to notice new human-clothing-environment relationships, focusing on how athleisure clothing itself is an active, vital force that intra-acts with other non-human (and human) matter within the environment. Adopting a diffractive methodology that included reading interviews with women about their activewear practices, our own experiences, new materialist theory, and environmental literature through each other, we focus on two examples that emerged through this process: laundering and disposal practices. Through these examples, we demonstrate the ways in which new materialisms encouraged us to move toward non-anthropocentric understandings of the sport-environment relationship and toward new ethical practices in our everyday fitness lifestyles. **Published** *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*, 1 June 2021

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INTERNATIONAL

EMBEDDING CHILD RIGHTS PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES IN MEGA SPORT EVENT PLANNING

Authors Aina, O, McGillivray, D, Carnicelli, S & McPherson, G

Abstract Recently, there has been growing concern about the lack of intentionality of mega sport event (MSE) organisers in ensuring that child rights are adequately respected, protected and promoted before, during, and after the events take place. In the context of the summer Olympic Games, reported child rights infringements have been on the rise. In response to reports of child rights infringements, a coalition of actors, including non-governmental and civil society organisations have sought to

pressure event owners and organisers to strengthen protections in the planning and delivery of their events. To date, however, child rights commitments have not been fully embedded in policies and principles guiding the planning and delivery of the Olympic Games. In this article, we explore the field of child rights in the context of the Olympic Games, focusing on a case study of the Tokyo 2020 edition. Drawing on documentary analysis and semi-structured interviews with Tokyo 2020 stakeholders and affiliates, detailed appraisal of the planning process was undertaken. Findings show that while the Japanese authorities have signed up to international child rights conventions and embedded some child participation strategies in Games-related activity, there was little evidence that Tokyo 2020 organisers had developed or implemented robust policies, principles or practises to respect, protect and promote child rights in Games planning. This absence, we argue, is because there was no requirement to embed child rights commitments during the bidding or planning phases, as the IOC had yet to enshrine human rights in its host city contract when the Games were first awarded to Tokyo. In conclusion, we argue that it is imperative the IOC embeds child rights principles and protocols in the bidding and planning processes to ensure that the risks to children are foregrounded and acted upon by host cities and their partners, elevating human rights to a position equal to other Games requirements. This study is of international significance as the evidence will aid future host city bidders to ensure children’s rights are embedded in MSE policies for each nation. **Published** *Frontiers in Sport and Active Living*, 10 September 2021

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REUSING STADIUMS FOR A GREENER FUTURE: THE CIRCULAR DESIGN POTENTIAL OF FOOTBALL ARCHITECTURE

Authors Wergeland, ES & Hognestad, HK

Abstract Since the turn of the new Millennium, there has been an increase in efforts to build environmental-friendly sports arenas around the world. Fuelled by large sporting events like the 2000 Sydney Olympics, the ‘Green Games,’ and the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany, stadium architecture has

become a vehicle for this trend. So far, the emphasis has primarily been on new arenas, in line with the widespread belief in international architecture of the 2000s that older buildings are less energy-efficient by default. In addition to that comes a conviction that newness is needed to attract sponsors, investors, and larger audiences—a position powered by commercial interest and the idea of the stadium as an ‘urban generator.’ While new stadiums may have a significant potential when it comes to green performability, it does not necessarily mean that older stadiums are surplus to requirements, even from a climate perspective. In this paper, we look critically at the well-established strategy of replacing old stadiums with new ones by questioning the climate impact of new arenas and investigating the reuse potential of existing ones. We carry out in-depth analysis of two existing stadiums, Tynecastle Park in Edinburgh and Stadio Flaminio in Rome. We bring in fresh perspectives from sports science, preservation, architecture, and circular design theory to explain why older stadiums become obsolete and to challenge the premise of that destiny. The aim is not only to scrutinise the general lack of reuse but also to highlight green strategies.

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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DANCE THERAPY AS AN ADJUNCT TO REHABILITATION OF ADULTS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Authors Swaine, B, Poncet, F, Lachance, B, Prouix-Goulet, C, Bergeron, V, Brousse, E, Lamoureux, J & McKinley, P

Abstract Objective: To determine the added benefit on participants’ mobility and participation of a 12-week dance therapy (DT) intervention combined with usual physical rehabilitation for adults with varied physical disabilities. Their appreciation of DT was also explored. **Methods:** We conducted a quasi-experimental study pre–post test with a nonequivalent control group and repeated measurements pre, post, and at a 3-month follow-up. **Results:** Although participants in both groups significantly improved over time (at 12 weeks and at follow-up) compared to baseline on mobility (timed up and go, TUG) and participation (eg. Life-H scores and number of leisure activities), treatment effect analysis using propensity score matching showed no significant

treatment effect of DT. The TUG scores showed the best promise of a treatment effect. DT participants’ Flow State Scale scores significantly improved ($p < 0.01$) for 5/9 dimensions of flow (being in control, loss of self-consciousness), and they all recommended DT. **Conclusion:** This study failed to demonstrate an added benefit of the DT intervention in improving participants’ mobility and participation. Overwhelmingly, favorable participants’ opinions about the intervention support its potential impact. **Published** *Frontiers in Psychology*, 26 August 2020

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PARENTS, PEERS, AND MUSICAL PLAY: INTEGRATED PARENT-CHILD MUSIC CLASS PROGRAM SUPPORTS COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND WELL-BEING FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH AND WITHOUT AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Authors Lense, M, Beck, S, Liu, C, Pfeiffer, R, Diaz, N, Lynch, M, Goodman, N, Summers, A & Fisher, M

Abstract Opportunities for meaningful community participation may influence the development and well-being of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families as well as impact how community members perceive and understand ASD. In the current study, we aimed to understand how a parent-child integrated music class program could be used to promote community participation and family well-being. Caregivers of preschoolers (2–5 years of age) with ASD and those of peer children with typical development (TD) were interviewed about their participation in a parent-child integrated music class program. Thematic analysis of interviews revealed that all caregivers viewed program participation as positive. Many caregivers perceived the class as supporting their parenting and impacting their children’s behaviour in meaningful ways. Findings suggest that integrated community experiences such as parent-child music classes may impact whole family well-being, highlighting the value of integrated community participation experiences at the level of the family system. Parent-child music classes may provide a productive and accessible context for supporting integrated community experiences. **Published** *Frontiers in Psychology*, 30 October 2020

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EXPLORATION OF SOCIAL BENEFITS FOR TOURISM PERFORMING ARTS INDUSTRIALISATION IN CULTURE-TOURISM INTEGRATION BASED ON DEEP LEARNING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY

Author Zhang, R

Abstract As a product of the tourism performing arts industry in culture–tourism integration development, to develop a featured culture–tourism town is a new trend for tourism development in the new era. To analyse the social benefit of the culture–tourism industry, in this study, an artificial intelligence model for social benefit evaluation is constructed based on backpropagation (BP) neural network and fuzzy comprehensive analysis, with Yiyang Town taken as an example. The criterion layer in the model includes three indexes (life benefit G1, environmental benefit G2, and economic benefit G3), and the index layer contains 11 indexes (H1–H11). The weight values of cultural inheritance and protection, ecological environment improvement, and commercial economy development to the social benefit of the town are 0.522, 0.570, and 0.424, respectively. For G1, 41.20% is excellent; for G2, 39.5% is excellent; and for G3, 40.5% is good. In general, 30.76% of the total social benefit is excellent, with 37.69% being good, 21.48% being qualified, and 10.07% being unqualified. It is inferred that the total social benefit level of Yiyang Town is good according to the constructed model. Therefore, the culture inheritance and protection, the ecological environment improvement, and the commercial economy development are the key evaluation factors of social benefit.

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Research Connections is compiled by PLA’s Research Working Group. Abstracts of research projects of interest to PLA members are always welcome.

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