

# ASSH SPECIAL STUDIES #12

## Sporting Tales: Ethnographic Fieldwork Experiences

Edited By  
Chris Hallinan, Victoria University  
&  
John Hughson, University of Wolverhampton

Contents: The Ethnographic Turn in Sports Studies, **John Hughson & Chris Hallinan** • Doing Ethnography, **Louise Bricknell** • In favour of Participant Observation—A 'Person'al Sporting Tale, **Nikki Wedgewood** • Second Sight: Experiencing Life through the Eyes of Women Sports Writers, **Toni Bruce** • Reflections on Postmodern Ethnography: Textuality, Representation, and the Subject, **Detlev Zwick** • Audience Ethnography, Sport in the Mass Media, and Men's Talk, **Cynthia Strathmann**

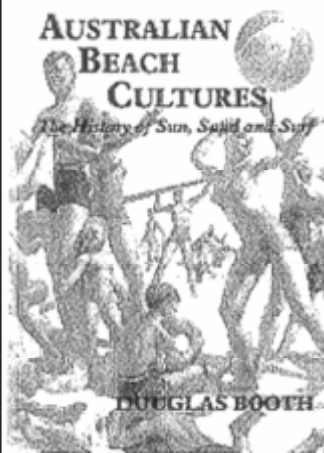
*'Sporting Tales* introduces us to the complex world of ethnographic research. It is a book as much about process as experience: how do cultural anthropologists go about studying modern sport? And for the historian of sport, how might self-reflection of this kind enrich our understanding of the processes involved in the narration, analysis, and production of history? Both ethnographers and historians face constraints and limitations—whether in fieldwork or archival research. We have, it seems, much to learn from each other'.

Daryl Adair, Series Editor

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## Australian Beach Cultures: The History of Sun, Sand and Surf

Douglas Booth

Australians are surrounded by beaches. But this enclosure is more than a geographical fact for the inhabitants of an island continent; the beach is an integral part of the cultural envelope. During the course of the twentieth century, millions of harried Australians flocked to the beach to escape the stresses, strains and complexities of industrial and post-industrial life. The beach became a sanctuary at which to abandon cares - a place to let down one's hair, remove one's clothes - and of uninhibited social interaction; a paradise where one could laze in peace, free from guilt, drifting between the hot sand and warm sea, and seek romance. The beach was life at its most joyful and simplest. In this sense, the beach has a specific social context. However, that context, typically the domain of social historians, does not necessarily explain what occurs at the beach. Only by delving into the culture can one understand what happens at the beach and comprehend the behaviour of beachgoers: culture makes us what we are, it is the essence of behaviour. *Beach Cultures* analyses the history of the beach as an integral aspect of Australian culture from Victorian times to the present day.

In Douglas Booth's *Australian Beach Cultures*, scholarship meets hedonism in a rare pas de deux that satisfies the mind and pleases the senses. A scrupulously researched history of surfing in Australia, *Australian Beach Cultures* draws on global cultural trends and on minute local developments to explore and explain the controversial appeal of the "sport of kings," illuminating, in the process, its deeply symbolic and psychological significance. Shuttling between accounts of rival beach sub-cultures and excursions into fashion, film, and finance, Booth writes with a rare grace and scholarly authority that will engross everyone from beach bum and surfer, to cultural historian and resort entrepreneur'. Lena Lencek, co-author of *The Beach: The History of Paradise on Earth* (1998).

Contents: Beaches, Bathers and Bodies; Mrs Grundy and Daylight Bathers; Undressed Bathers; Valorous Surf Lifesavers?; Hedonistic Surfers; Subversive Soul-Surfers; Managing Surfers: The Professional Era; Managing Ironmen and Ironwomen: The Professional Era; The End of the Beach?

Douglas Booth is Senior Lecturer at the University of Otago, New Zealand. he teaches sports history and sports policy in the School of Physical Education, and South African history in the Department of History. His books include *The Race Game: Sport and Politics in South Africa* (which won the North American Society for Sport History's 1998 Book Award) and *One-eyed: A Social History of Australian Sport*, co-authored with Cotin Tatz.

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## **Amateurism in Sport. An Analysis and a Defence**

**Lincoln Allison  
University of Warwick**

We often decry 'amateurism' and assume it to be second-rate or outmoded. Yet one can argue that doing things 'for the love of it' rather than for money represents the higher and more meaningful form of human life. It can also be the case that an economic system which has more voluntary, unpaid activity is thereby a more efficient system. The amateur ethos which shaped modern sport is under threat and in decline. There has been very little in the way of intellectual defence. One of the main reasons is that amateurism is rarely seen as itself, but as a screen for something else, normally elitism, imperialism or fear of commercialism. Amateurism needs to be taken seriously as an ethical and political theory. It must also be treated seriously as a system of ethics, economics and decision-making institutions. This book examines amateurism's rationale, its history, its ethics and economics and the future of amateur values.

CONTENTS: PART I ASPECTS OF AMATEURISM: The idea of Amateurism  
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◆ Amateur Hegemony and Decline ◆ Some Preliminary Arguments  
for Amateurism ◆ PART II 'THE LIVED EXPERIENCE': Introduction ◆ His  
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