
Dissertation Abstracts

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ALEGI, PETER C. "Keep Your Eye on the Ball: A Social History of Soccer in South Africa, 1910-1976" (Ph.D. dissertation, Boston University, 2000).

There are some who still argue that sport is not important, or serious enough to merit academic attention. Alegi's work should counteract this notion. Alegi explores the importance of football in the lives of the South African people during their struggles for freedom throughout the middle decades of the twentieth century. Using both oral and archival sources, he examines the ways in which football was altered from a British export to a vital part of black popular culture. Football also helped the transition from a largely agrarian society to a "new industrial society" and was part of a variety of political struggles among workers, businessmen and politicians at the local, national and international levels.

BASS, AMY B. "Flag on the Field: The Popular Construction of the Black Athlete" (Ph.D. dissertation, State University of New York at Stony Brook, 1999).

An increasing number of scholars are beginning to examine the creation of the notion that the black athlete was distinct biologically from the white athlete. Bass examines the social construction of this scientific argument focusing on the discourse on racial differences that emerges in 1930s America; the attempts by black athletes to define themselves—in the late 1960s this is illustrated via the Olympic Project for Human Rights; and finally, through an analysis of the post-civil rights era media constructed image of the black athlete. This study not only adds to the literature on the experience of the black athlete, it also provides an examination of the juncture of sport, politics, race and gender.

BENNETT, DAVID R. "The Football Coaching Career of Paul 'Spike' Kelly: An Indiana Legend" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of South Carolina, 1995).

The history of high school athletics in America remains virtually uncharted territory. Bennett begins to correct this flaw with his case study of the life of Indiana football coach Paul 'Spike' Kelly. In a state where basketball rules the high school scene, Kelly inspired hundreds of young men to state championships in football. In addition, he encouraged many of these same young men to continue their education, and competitive careers, in intercollegiate football. Bennett's work begins to examine the impact of high school sport on ethnic and class struggles in the first half of the twentieth century through the voices of Kelly's former players and friends.

BURDICK, DAKIN R. "The American Way of Fighting: Unarmed Defense in the United States, 1845-1945" (Ph.D. dissertation, Indiana University, 1999).

The history of boxing in the United States is given a fresh perspective in Burdick's examination of combatives in America. Specifically, he compares the rise of boxing to the emergence of the Japanese martial arts as a preferred fighting method, particularly within the U.S. Armed Forces. Despite a steady streak of racism, by the beginning of the Second World War, judo had replaced boxing in the military self-defense arsenal. According to Burdick, this contrast between boxing-inspired in many ways by the ethic of muscular Christianity-and the martial arts, is illustrative of the ever-increasing multiculturalism within America.

BYRNE, JULIE E. "O God of Players': Immaculata College Basketball and American Catholic Women's Pleasure, 1939-1975" (Ph.D. dissertation, Duke University, 2000).

Byrne's dissertation examines a group of athletic pioneers who have largely been ignored in the history of women's sports. The Immaculata College "Mighty Macs" were the champions of the first three AIAW basketball championships from 1972 to 1974. As impressive as that accomplishment was, the fact that these were women competing as athletes under the auspices of the conservative Catholic church makes it even more remarkable. Byrne interviewed and surveyed over 100 former players who told her that they played because they loved the physicality of the game and appreciated the opportunity to forge a community among the other players. She argues that this "liminal" group of women are important to study not only because they tell us about women as athletes at the dawn of the Title IX era, but because they also can help us explore the history and role of religion in America.

CHARLSTON, JEFFERY A. "From Indifference to Obsession: Origins of Athletic Programs in the United States Military, 1865-1935" (Ph.D. dissertation, The George Washington University, 2000).

It is a frequently stated fact that young American men failed their draft physicals in alarming numbers during the First and Second World Wars. What has only recently begun to be investigated, however, is the American military's response to these failures. Charlston addresses this question by examining the role of sport in the military and the ways in which it was used to "reform" American soldiers. Sport was used not only to improve fitness, but for a variety of other purposes, including hygiene and entertainment. Like the other institution that fully emerges and embraces competitive sport in the 1920s and 1930s—the American High School—the military is left struggling even today with the incongruence between sport for all and sport for elite athletics.

COLE, BARBARA C. "The East German Sports System: Image and Reality" (Ph.D. dissertation, Texas Tech University, 2000).

The German Democratic Republic sport system, which crumbled along with the Berlin Wall, produced an inordinate number of successful elite athletes for such a small nation. Most work on the GDR describes the athletes as automatons who were systematically provided with performance-enhancing drugs. Recent reports even suggest that the athletes, on the whole, were very unhappy in East Germany. Cole argues, however, that the athletes who actually competed for the GDR were quite sanguine about their experiences in the past. Utilizing interviews with former athletes and sport officials, and newly released primary source documents from *Stiftung Archiv Partei und Massenorganisationen der DDR*, Cole provides a more complete history of the nature of one of the most successful sporting countries of the twentieth century.

COOPER, PAMELA L. "26.2 Miles in America: The History of the Marathon Footrace in the United States" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Maine, 1995).

Applying Guttmann's model of modernization and sport, Cooper examines the American marathon. According to the author, New York City running clubs provided a window into issues of ethnic, class and racial conflict. Marathon participants not only ran to honor the event that the race commemorated, they also used the race to celebrate ethnic pride and racial diversity. Working class runners were the bulk of the marathon participants until the "running boom" of the 1970s brought middle and upper class runners to the race. These new runners were sought after as consumers, thus providing the marathon race with the financial backing to expand.

DOYLE, LEO ANDREW. "Causes Won, Not Lost: Football and Southern Culture, 1892-1983" (Ph.D. dissertation, Emory University, 1998).

The cultural significance of college football in Southern culture, according to Doyle, is that its history illustrates the essence of regional character. The Northern export was quickly given a regional flair as each succeeding generation of Southerners entwined football into the core of their existence. Football provided an outlet for the development of masculinity among middle and upper class white men. It gave the South the opportunity, Doyle argues, to avenge their defeat in the Civil War. Finally, an analysis of the life and career of Alabama's Paul "Bear" Bryant provides a glimpse of race relations in the South in the era of desegregation.

FORBES, SUSAN L. "The Influence of the Social Reform Movement and T. Eaton Company's Business Practices on the Leisure of Eaton's Female Employees During the Early Twentieth Century" (Ph.D. dissertation, The University of Western Ontario, 1998).

Leisure time was a difficult commodity for the working class to come by in the early twentieth century. However, research tells us that the working class did indeed squeeze in leisure whenever they had the time or the funds. Forbes presents a picture of women's inclusion in the leisure world of the working class with her case study of Toronto's T. Eaton Company. Although most of the activities were developed to reflect and reinforce social norms of the early twentieth century, the company did provide a variety of leisure time opportunities for its workers. This work provides an important contribution to sport and leisure history by providing an analysis of the recreational pursuits of the ordinary, not extraordinary, athlete/sportswoman.

GILDEA, DENNIS P. "The Language of 'The Fancy' in Print: Frank Queen's 'Clipper' and Prize-Fight Coverage, 1853-1860" (Ph.D. dissertation, The Pennsylvania State University, 1998).

A deeper understanding of the language of sport, Gildea argues, provides us with amplified knowledge about the sporting experience of people in the past. "Flash" was the language of the street among antebellum supporters of bare-knuckle prize fighting in America. Nowhere was this idiom more evident than in Frank Queen's *New York Clipper*. Queen presented information about prize fighting for his readers in a way that was vastly different from the rest of the "respectable press." The *Clipper*, according to Gildea, helped shield and celebrate, as well as create a sense of community among a liminal group—the "Fancy" who enthusiastically supported their sport.

GREEN, BARBARA S. "Shaping a Civilized Sporting Culture: The Marginalization of Blood Sport in New Orleans, Louisiana from 1870 to 1900" (Ph.D. dissertation, The University of Tennessee, 1998).

Modernization, Green argues, provides a framework through which we can better understand the removal of blood sports from the dominant culture. Traditional practices are often pushed aside when cities and their prominent citizens attempt to "improve" the image of the city. History demonstrates, however, that these traditional activities are never fully removed from society—they are simply pressed to the edges. Blood sport enthusiasts were defined as detrimental to progress in New Orleans, and thus there was a drive to change their behavior through public condemnation, education and finally legislation.

HORGER, MARC THOMAS. "Play By the Rules: The Creation of Basketball and the Progressive Era, 1891-1917" (Ph.D. dissertation, The Ohio State University, 2001).

Horger presents the argument that although reform typically comes from the "top down," it is critical to examine the experience of the people who are supposedly the target of reform. The notion of "social cohesion" was expounded by the newly emerging Progressive era "experts" who were attempting to "control" the enormous influx of immigrants in turn-of-the-century American cities. Basketball was created by James Naismith, at the instigation of Luther Halsey Gulick, with the intent of creating a game for the masses that would help "teach" certain Progressive era values—such as teamwork. What is often overlooked, however, is Horger's point that this team-oriented game quickly developed into a highly competitive form of sport where individual excellence was admired and encouraged.

JOYCE, CHARLES A. "From Left Field: Sport and Class in Toronto, 1845-1886" (Ph.D. dissertation, Queen's University at Kingston, 1997).

Joyce provides another piece of the puzzle for sport historians attempting to understand the role of sport in the city as well as the place of sport in the struggles of class. During a period of time when a greater number of working class men were entering the sports world in Toronto, sporting life in that city, according to Joyce, was increasingly characterized by a rigid class structure. Despite the shift from a commercial to an industrial economy, and the end of colonial influence when most British-born officials returned home, class attitudes remained and were played out in associational sporting life in the choice of sporting leagues and games.

LIBERTI, RITA M. "We Were Ladies, We Just Played Basketball Like Boys': A Study of Women's Basketball at Historically Black Colleges and Universities in North Carolina, 1925-1945" (Ph.D. dissertation, The University of Iowa, 1998).

African American women in the first half of the twentieth century had the dual predicament of trying to compete in a sports world that was not accepting of women or people of color. However, this did not stop African American women from competing in basketball within historically black colleges and universities. Liberti argues that African American women enthusiastically entered competitive basketball in the 1920s, but like their white counterparts, by the 1930s and 1940s they had accepted the less competitive "playday/sportsday" model of competition. African American women not only had to prove they were feminine—despite their athletic leanings—they also had to combat racist notions that African Americans were "morally deviant."

MCDEVITT, PATRICK F. "May the Best Man Win: Sport, Masculinity and Nationalism in Great Britain and the Empire, 1884-1933" (Ph.D. dissertation, Rutgers The State University of New Jersey, 1999).

The historical association among gender, nationalism and sport is a complex phenomenon. McDevitt presents the argument that the British not only exported sport—and its sometimes clandestinely transmitted components of nationalism and masculinity—but that changes wrought in the colonies frequently adapted the sport and eventually led to changes back in the mother country. British sport allowed men to understand and give meaning to the world around them. However, the hegemony of the Empire was destabilized in the early twentieth century when the subjects in the colonies challenged the dominant discourse through both team sports and the individual sport of boxing.

MILLER, MICHAEL B. "The Rational and Irrational Foundations of a Modern Sport: The Case of Football" (Ph.D. dissertation, New School for Social Research, 1996).

Miller argues that Max Weber's theory of rationalization is the proper framework for understanding the emergence of American football. A wide variety of the components of a modern sport are examined, including the creation of leagues, coaching strategies, athlete training and the introduction of television. The use of television to create the widest possible fan base is viewed as part of the inevitable rationalization of the sport. Miller concludes by stating that despite its best efforts at the creation of a reasoned, rational game, chance—in the form of weather, injuries or human nature—still plays a part in the outcome of the contest.

RODRIGUEZ, GREGORY S. "Palaces of Pain': Arenas of Mexican-American Dreams. Boxing and the Formation of Ethnic Mexican Identities in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, San Diego, 1999).

Rodriguez' study is a welcome addition to the expanding literature on the experience of non-European immigrants in American sport. Boxing in Southern California, he argues, provided a venue for the Mexican-American community to confront stereotypes, both inside and outside their own community. Utilizing a wide variety of sources, Rodriguez analyzes the experience of Mexican Americans in boxing as a complex interplay of race, gender, nationalism and identity in twentieth-century America. He concludes that traditional explanations of "Americanization" as a form of "cultural imperialism" do not elucidate the experience of Mexican-American boxers. The boxing arena was a site of resistance and reinterpretation for many newly arrived immigrants.

SANCHO, JUAN A. MESTRE. "Physical Education in Spanish Medicine (1850-1936): Its Utility in Illness Prevention and Health Promotion. Historical Approach" (Ph.D. dissertation, Universitat de Valencia [Spain], 1996).

Sancho analyzes the ways in which the Spanish medical community entered the discourse about physical education in the second half of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth. This study of books, booklets, articles, doctoral theses and other treatises is among the first to demonstrate the Spanish interest in the hygienic aspects of physical education. Sancho's timeline closely parallels the development of the American medical community's interest in physical education. Indeed, many similar topics are debated in the Spanish literature that were also of concern to Americans including gymnastics, sports, games and exercise.

SMITH, MAUREEN M. "Identity and Citizenship: African American Athletes, Sport, and the Freedom Struggles of the 1960s" (Ph.D. dissertation, The Ohio State University, 1999).

Sport in the 1960s, Smith contends, provides a window into the experience of African Americans in a nation that was resisting the burgeoning civil rights movement. African American athletes began to refuse to accept attempts by the white sporting culture to define them. The "Athletic Civil Rights Movement" is explored in detail through the lens of Muhammad Ali and the experiences of Tommy Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Olympic Games. In addition, Smith delves into the experiences of black female athletes, who have thus far received little attention as advocates for civil rights; and Curt Flood, who changed the economic face of Major League Baseball when he contested the reserve rule.

WRYNN, ALISON M. "The Contributions of Women Researchers to the Development of a Science of Physical Education in the United States" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Berkeley, 1996).

This study examines the professional careers of three women who pursued satisfying and highly useful careers at a time when opportunities for females in both medicine and higher education were severely limited. Eliza Mosher, Frances Hellebrandt and Margaret Bell each made significant contributions to medicine and to physical education, and all engaged—to varying degrees—in scientific and/or medical research. Wrynn argues that the three women who are the focus of this study, and others like them, have been absent from historical studies of the field of physical education and, more broadly, from historical studies dealing with the lives of women in the scientific and medical professions.