

Dissertation Abstracts

ANDERSSON, TORBJORN. "King Football: The Cultural History of Swedish Football, c. 1890-1950" (Ph.D. dissertation, Lunds Universitet [Sweden], 2002).

Andersson explores the cultural meanings Swedes attach to the world's most popular sport, football. The major question analyzed in this work is how was the sport changed ideologically and culturally over the course of these years? In addition, the question of the ways in which "manly" ideals of "respectability and diligence" as critical parts of this ideology was examined. Finally, the author sought to understand the way in which football became such an important part of the Swedish cultural landscape, while simultaneously being viewed as "class-neutral" in character. Utilizing a variety of perspectives, the players, management, journalists, spectators as well as the gambling community, Andersson presents a detailed analysis of the complex meanings of football in Sweden.

COLLINS, SANDRA S. "Orienting the Olympics: Japan and the Games of 1940" (Ph.D. dissertation, The University of Chicago, 2003).

Although Olympism is a recurrent research topic among sport historians, the abandoned Games of 1940, scheduled for Tokyo, have only occasionally been analyzed. Collins begins to right this omission with her examination of the Tokyo Olympics that never were. Not merely a description of the years leading up to the games, this is rather an analysis of meaning of Olympism in a place and time when fascism, communism and capitalism were colliding as never before. Collins argues that Japanese organizers and politicians hoped that the games would force the world community to recognize the "New Japan." On the domestic front, the organizers believed that the games would provide the Japanese citizenry with tangible evidence of the ever-expanding Japanese empire.

DUKE, JEFFREY. "Exploration of Historical Administrative Operations of the British Olympic Association" (Ed.D. dissertation, The Florida State University, 2003).

Utilizing the Situational Leadership II model, Duke presents a description of the relationship between the British Olympic Association (BOA) and the twenty-two National Governing Bodies (NGB) responsible for Olympic sport within Britain. The goal of this study is to not only examine the historical context for these relationships (from 1950 to 2000) but also to provide a leadership model that could perhaps be utilized in the contemporary context of relations between the BOA and NGBs. Of particular note to the author is the fact that British athletes have been winning fewer and fewer medals over the years covered in the study. An analysis of this situation within the context of world changes is presented, but Duke believes that a shift in leadership style is necessary by the BOA in their relations with the NGBs.

EDWARDS, AMANDA ANN ROSS. "Policy Dialogues: Gender Equity in Sport" (Ph.D. dissertation, The University of Connecticut, 2002).

Edwards has expanded the theoretical framework of John Kingdon that "argues for the importance of political timing and the concurrence of problem recognition, policy alternative generation and political events." Kingdon's framework is focused on the legislative branch of the federal government. In her work, the author proposes including the additional lenses of the judicial and executive branches and utilizes a case study of *Title IX* as the foundation for her study. One of her primary findings was that it was vital to include the role of the judiciary in an understanding of public policy. By means of a variety of primary and secondary sources, as well as interviews, the study makes use of a qualitative approach that reveals support for her hypothesized new framework.

HUGHES-FULLER, HELEN PATRICIA. "The Good Old Game: Hockey, Nostalgia, Identity" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Alberta, 2002).

Hughes work is not so much a description of ice hockey in the past as it is an analysis of the ways in which Canadians remember, or want to remember, the past. The author argues that despite the fact that ice hockey is becoming a much more popular sport on an international level, Canadians still believe it to be intimately tied to their national identity. Hughes believes that this creation of an "imagined community" around ice hockey allows Canadians to "link their collective identity and social memory" in very powerful ways.

LAEGREID, RENEE M. "Riding Pretty: Rodeo Royalty in the American West, 1910-1956" (Ph.D. dissertation, The University of Nebraska, 2002).

The themes of civic boosterism and changing gender relations are examined through the lens of the "Rodeo Queen" in Laegreid's work. The "Rodeo Queen" was transformed in the inaugural Pendleton (Oregon) Round-up in 1910 from a traveling performer to a hometown girl selected by the community itself. This new mode of selecting the "queen" gradually spread to other rodeos throughout the West. Through a case study of the Pendleton Round-up from 1910 to 1956, Laegreid presents the argument that the selection of the "Rodeo Queen" allowed a community to present its own vision of the community while concurrently presenting a traditional symbol of the contemporary "Western Woman."

LERNER, DANIEL J. "Visions of a Sporting City: 'Shadowball' and Black Chicago, 1887-1952" (Ph.D. dissertation, Michigan State University, 2002).

Lerner provides a unique perspective on the well-researched topic of African-American baseball by analyzing a number of interrelated urban issues that previous research has traditionally examined as separate topics. By analyzing racial, economic, social and political factors together, the author contends that "Chicago's race men carefully and deliberately developed professional baseball as a sport, as a business opportunity, and as a vehicle for racial progress." They did this despite severe racial discrimination, economic hardships and the eventual integration of Major League Baseball. The example of black baseball in Chicago provides an excellent illustration of the ways in which "cities at large, used specific institutions (baseball teams), events (games), and urban spaces (ballparks) to build an internal community as well as insert themselves into the larger city environment."

PLEC, EMILY JANICE. "The Presence of the Past: Rhetorical History and Cultural Memory of the 1968 Summer Olympic Games" (Ph.D. dissertation, The University of Utah, 2002).

The image that most Americans have of the 1968 Mexico City Games is the "Black Power" salute of John Carlos and Tommy Smith. Less well known, but equally significant, are the protests by Mexican students in the days leading up to the games, leading to the violent response by the Mexican government that killed more than two dozen bystanders and protestors and injured hundreds more. Plec has utilized rhetorical analysis to gain an understanding of the meaning of these two events in the primary source popular literature from 1968. The most significant themes that arise from her analysis include: "Black athletic superiority, progressive individualism, White alienation, alleged racism, and Mexican cultural trauma associated with the Tlatelolco massacre." Finally the author examines the 1999 documentary about the protests surrounding the games, "Fists of Freedom: The Story of the '68 Summer Games," in order to analyze contemporary stereotypes about African-American athletes.

YEP, KATHLEEN SUSAN. "They Got Game: The Racial and Gender Politics of Basketball in San Francisco's Chinatown, 1932-1949" (Ph.D. dissertation, The University of California, Berkeley, 2002).

Yep's research is not simply a description of basketball within the Chinese community in San Francisco rather it is an analysis of the cultural practices of the community. The author indicates that previous research in ethnic studies has failed to recognize the multi-faceted nature of political resistance, particularly through the use of sport and sporting bodies. Through case studies of three teams and one individual, Yep presents the argument that "working-class Chinese Americans deployed sport to challenge racial and gender oppression. Through success on the court and an aggressive style of play, they asserted race, gender, and class pride with their athleticism to both the mainstream and Chinese communities."

YORK, CHRISTOPHER AARON. "Splendid Splinters: Memory and Myth in Contemporary Baseball Fiction" (Ph.D. dissertation, Michigan State University, 2002).

York presents an examination of a series of works of baseball fiction in order to explore the construction of nostalgia in contemporary American society. As the author notes, recently there has been a great deal of interest in the connection between history and memory. According to York, the past is increasingly becoming a social construction based on ever more simplistic nostalgic musings. The author believes that the fictional narrative surrounding baseball provides a site for exploring the construction of these nostalgic reflections. In his words, the authors of the fiction that he analyzed "look beyond figures, places, and events in the popular imagination and reconceive them as part of a more complex framing of the past, which, in turn, helps to redefine contemporary America."