

Methodological and Intellectual Issues in Lesser-Researched Sport and Exercise History Topics

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This session dealt with some of the methodological and intellectual issues that confront investigators when they embark upon research topics that are “distant” in time and in possibly strikingly different cultural constructions and assumptions. These involve what anthropologists have sometimes described as “understanding from the perspective of ‘the other’”—or the *emic* and *etic* approaches to observation and understanding. Alison Wrynn discussed these matters in relation to her work on “Reading Texts: Deciphering Messages of Another Culture, Issei and Nisei Leisure in World War II Internment Camps.” Gwendolyn Captain focused on how African-Americans have looked both inward to their own communities and outward to the larger communities in which they have struggled to make a life for themselves and their children in “Writing Scripts: The Challenge of the 19th Century Afro-American Perspective.”