

Continuities and Long Residuals

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Sport historians have primarily focused on sport transformations. Transformations are, however, not merely evolutionary processes as commonly portrayed, but ones that take place over contested terrain. Throughout the past, one can discern "long residuals"--continuities in forms and meanings that have crossed time and contest. Prominent "long residuals" include: tensions among and between competition, creativity, physicality, and achievement; sport as craft and community; the persistence of gambling practices; the framing of games within festival, carnival, and spectacle; and the erotic appeals in athletic performance. These and other basic themes need to be taken more seriously by sport historians so as to move the field toward a new, more dynamic paradigm.