Sport and Politics

Alan Bairner, Loughborough University, UK

Series: Frontiers of Sport

Sport and politics have become inseparably entwined. From the volatile nationalism of international soccer to human rights controversies surrounding the Beijing Olympics, sport is both an important factor in political discourse and shaped by the wider political environment. In this ground-breaking and thought provoking book, Alan Bairner offers a comprehensive and critical survey of the relationship between sport and politics and argues that by understanding this relationship we can develop a much more nuanced understanding of both sport and politics as aspects of culture.

The book begins with three main propositions – that politicians use sport, that sport reflects political conditions and that sport itself contributes to political culture for good or for ill. Against this background the book explores the key points of interaction between the two, including national and international sport policy, the political economy of sport, nationalism in sport, sport in political thought, globalisation, the politics of sporting celebrity, and the neighbouring academic communities of sport and political science. With fascinating case studies woven throughout, this book is the perfect introduction to an important contemporary topic for all students of sport, politics and society.


April 2011: 234 x 156: 208pp
Hb: 978-0-415-57026-8: £75.00

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Sport and Sociology

Dominic Malcolm, Loughborough University, UK

Series: Frontiers of Sport

• How has our understanding of sport been shaped by sociological ideas?
• How can the study of sport help sociologists to understand wider society?

The sociology of sport is a sub-discipline approaching maturity. This is the first book to stand back and reflect upon the subject's growth, to trace its developmental phases and to take stock of the current fund of knowledge. It offers a 'state of the art' review of the sociology of sport and investigates those areas where sport has come to influence the sociological mainstream. The book also examines how sociology has impacted upon the consciousness of sports fans, administrators and politicians; in other words, the degree of lay engagement with the ideas of sociologists of sport.

Focusing on touchstone issues and concepts within sociological discourse, such as race, gender, celebrity, social activism and social theory, the book assesses the successes and failures of the sociology of sport in influencing the parent discipline, related sub-disciplines, the wider public and sporting organizations. It also asks to what extent the sociology of sport can be said to be distinctive, autonomous and influential, and challenges students of sport to extend their work across disciplinary divides.

As the first book to provide a history of the sociology of sport and to clearly locate the contemporary discipline in the wider currents of sociological discourse, this is important reading for all students and scholars interested in the relationship between sport and society, whether they are working in sport studies or in the sociological mainstream.


June 2011: 234 x 156: 230pp
Hb: 978-0-415-57121-0: £80.00

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FORTHCOMING IN 2011

Sport, Violence and Society
Kevin Young, University of Calgary, Canada

• Is violence an intrinsic component of contemporary sport?
• How does violence within sport reflect upon the attitudes of wider society?

In this landmark study of violence in and around contemporary sport, Kevin Young offers the first comprehensive sociological analysis of an issue of central importance within sport studies. The book explores organized and spontaneous violence, both on the field and off, and calls for a much broader definition of ‘sport-related violence’, to include issues as diverse as criminal behaviour by players, abuse within sport and exploitative labour practices.

Offering a sophisticated new theoretical framework for understanding sport-related violence, and including a wide range of case-studies and empirical data, from professional soccer in Europe to ice hockey in North America, the book establishes a benchmark for the study of violence within sport and wider society. Through close examination of often contradictory trends, from anti-violence initiatives in professional sports leagues to the role of the media in encouraging hyper-aggressivity, the book throws new light on our understanding of the socially-embedded character of sport and its fundamental ties to history, culture, politics, social class, gender and the law.


December 2011: 234 x 156: 248pp
Hb: 978-0-415-54994-3: £80.00
Pb: 978-0-415-54995-0: £24.99
For more information, visit: www.routledge.com/9780415549950

The Olympics
A Critical Reader

Edited by Vassil Girginov, University of Windsor, Canada

The Olympics: A Critical Reader represents a unique, critical guide to the definitive sporting mega-event and the wider phenomenon it represents – Olympism. Combining classic texts and thoughtful editorial discussion with challenging new pieces, including previously unseen material, the book systematically addresses the key questions in modern Olympism, including:

• What does studying Olympism entail?
• How do historical accounts create and challenge Olympic myths?
• How do different theoretical perspectives inform our understanding of Olympism?
• Which socio-political processes influence personal, collective and imagined Olympic identities?
• How do we experience and make sense of Olympism?
• Who owns Olympism and why does it matter?
• How do cities compete for and celebrate the Olympics?
• How are the Olympic values promoted?
• Why is it important to protect the ethical principles and properties of Olympism?
• What are the grounds for contesting Olympism?
• How can Olympism be taught?
• How can the principles and practices of Olympism be sustained in the future?

Each thematic part has been designed to include a range of views, including background treatment of an issue as well as critical scholarship, to ensure that students develop a well-rounded understanding of the Olympic phenomenon. The Olympics: A Critical Reader is essential reading for students of the Olympics and Olympism, the sociology of sport, sport management and cultural studies.


March 2010: 246 x 174: 464pp
Hb: 978-0-415-44535-1: £95.00
Pb: 978-0-415-44536-8: £29.99
For more information, visit: www.routledge.com/9780415445368
The Gay Games
A History

Caroline Symons, Victoria University, Australia

Series: Routledge Critical Studies in Sport

The Gay Games is an important piece of new social history, examining one of the largest sporting, cultural and human rights events in the world. Since their inception in 1980, the Gay Games have developed into a multi-million dollar mega-event, engaging people from all continents, while the international Gay Games movement has become one of the largest and most significant international institutions for gay and lesbian people. Drawing on detailed archival research, oral history and participant observation techniques, and informed by critical feminist theory and queer theory, this book offers the first comprehensive history of the Gay Games from 1980 through to the Chicago Games of 2006. It explores the significance of the Games in the context of broader currents of gay and lesbian history, and addresses a wide range of key contemporary themes within sports studies, including the cultural politics of sport, the politics of difference and identity, and the rise of sporting mega-events. This book is important reading for any serious student of international sport or gender and sexuality studies.


April 2010: 234 x 156: 312pp
Hb: 978-0-415-47296-8: £80.00
Pb: 978-0-415-47296-8: £30.00
For more information, visit: www.routledge.com/9780415472968

The Ethics of Sports
A Reader

Edited by Mike McNamee, Swansea University, UK

There are few – if any – issues in, or aspects of, contemporary sport that do not raise ethical questions. From on-field relationships between athletes, coaches and officials, to the corporate responsibility of international sports organizations and businesses, ethical considerations permeate sport at every level.

This important new collection of articles showcases the very best international scholarship in the field of sports ethics, and offers a comprehensive, one-stop resource for any student, scholar or sportsperson with an interest in this important area. It addresses cutting-edge contemporary themes within sports ethics, such as gene doping, as well as introducing classic ethical debates that define our understanding of sport, sporting conduct and sport in practice. The Ethics of Sports is arranged into seven thematic sections, each of which includes an introduction by the editor that highlights the key themes and places each article in context, and offers suggestions for further reading.

Mike J. McNamee sheds new light on a wide range of issues within contemporary sports studies including doping, disability, gender and ethnicity; the practice of physical education and sports coaching; sports media; sports business and sports medicine. It is essential reading for all students with an interest in sport or applied ethics.


June 2010: 246 x 174: 520pp
Hb: 978-0-415-47860-1: £100.00
Pb: 978-0-415-47861-8: £35.00
For more information, visit: www.routledge.com/9780415478618
Sport, Theory and Social Problems
A Critical Introduction

Eric Anderson, University of Bath, UK

‘This is a long overdue book. Anderson uses his astute analytical skills to tell us about the sports we play as everyday, amateur athletes. In well written chapters, he explains why we value those sports and how they influence our identities, ideas, and actions.’ – Jay Coakley, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Colorado

• What impact does sport have on the lives of ordinary people?
• How does sport help to perpetuate inequalities in society?
• What can social theory tell us about the role of sport in society??

At their origin competitive sports were institutionalized in Western cultures for the privilege of white, heterosexual men. Over time sport has become more open to categories of people traditionally marginalized in society: women; those from lower social classes; gay men; people of colour; and those differently abled. However, focusing solely on increased social inclusion in sport masks significant problems with both the culture and structure of sport. This critical textbook examines social exclusion in sport and analyzes the socio-negative attributes associated with competitive, institutionalized sport, for all who play. Focusing on sport at non-elite levels, this book explores the lives of everyday citizens who play and examines how inequality and social deviance are structured into the social and sporting system. Each chapter uses a key social theory to address a particular social problem in sport, such as learned obedience to authority; the acceptance of pain and injury; the adoption of hyper-masculine, homophobic and sexist attitudes; the teaching of in-group/out-group; and the use of sport as a false mechanism for social mobility. By concentrating on real sport, and through the use of startling vignettes illustrating the experiences of real people, this textbook develops the critical senses, social conscience and theoretical understanding of all students of sport and anybody for whom sport is part of their everyday life.

June 2010: 234 x 156: 192pp
Hb: 978-0-415-57125-8: £75.00
For more information, visit: www.routledge.com/9780415571265

NEW

Muslim Women and Sport

Edited by Tansin Benn, University of Birmingham, UK, Gertrud Pfister, University of Copenhagen, Denmark and Haifaa Jawad, University of Birmingham, UK

Series: Routledge Studies in Physical Education and Youth Sport

Examining the global experiences, challenges and achievements of Muslim women participating in physical activities and sport, this important new study makes a profound contribution to our understanding of both contemporary Islam and the complexity and diversity of women’s lives in the modern world.

The book presents an overview of current research into constructs of gender, the role of religion and the importance of situation, and looks closely at what Islam has to say about women’s participation in sport and what Muslim women have to say about their participation in sport. It highlights the challenges and opportunities for women in sport in both Muslim and non-Muslim countries, utilising a series of extensive case-studies in various countries which invite the readers to conduct cross-cultural comparisons. Material on Iraq, Palestine and Bosnia and Herzegovina provides rare insights into the impact of war on sporting activities for women. The book also seeks to make important recommendations for improving access to sport for girls and women from Muslim communities.

Muslim Women and Sport confronts many deeply held stereotypes and crosses those commonly quoted boundaries between 'Islam and the West' and between 'East and West'. It makes fascinating reading for anyone with an interest in the interrelationships between sport, religion, gender, culture and policy.

Selected Contents: Introduction – Muslim Women and Sport
Part 1: Underlying Contexts
Part 2: National Perspectives
Part Three: Case Studies
Part Four: Narratives

July 2010: 234 x 156: 296pp
Hb: 978-0-415-49076-4: £80.00
For more information, visit: www.routledge.com/9780415490764

sport@routledge.com
NEW

Sport and Migration
Borders, Boundaries and Crossings

Edited by Joseph Maguire, Loughborough University, UK and Mark Falcous, University of Otago, New Zealand

From Major League Baseball to English soccer’s Premier League, all successful contemporary professional sports leagues include a wide diversity of nationalities and ethnicities within their playing and coaching rosters. The international migration of sporting talent and labour, encouraged and facilitated by the social and economic undercurrents of globalization, mean that world sport is now an important case study for any student or researcher with an interest in international labour flows, economic migration, global demography or the interdependent world economy.

In this dazzling collection of papers, leading international sport studies scholars chart the patterns, policies and personal experiences of labour migration within and around sport, and in doing so cast important new light both on the forces shaping modern sport and on the role that sport plays in shaping the world economy and global society. Presenting original case studies of sports from European and African soccer to Japanese baseball to rugby union in New Zealand, the book makes an important contribution to our understanding of a wide range of issues within contemporary social science, such as national identity politics, economic structure and organization, north-south relations, imperial legacies and gender relations. This book is invaluable reading for students and researchers working in sport studies, human geography, economics or international business.

Selected Contents: Section One: Patterns of Migration and Sport Section Two: Bridgeheads in Migration and Sport Section Three: Experiences of Migration and Sport Section Four: Identities in Migration and Sport Section Five: Impacts of Migration on Sports and Societies Future Directions: Sporting Mobilities, Immobilities and Moorings

NEW

The End of the Obesity Epidemic

Michael Gard, Charles Sturt University, Australia

Despite apocalyptic predictions from a vocal alliance of health professionals, politicians and social commentators that rising obesity levels would lead to a global health crisis, the crisis has not materialised. In this provocative follow up to his classic work of obesity scepticism, The Obesity Epidemic, Michael Gard argues that we have entered into a new, and perhaps terminal, phase of the obesity debate.

Evidence suggests that obesity rates are levelling off in Western societies, life expectancies continue to rise in line with rising obesity rates, and across the world policymakers have remained largely indifferent and inactive in the face of this apparently deadly threat to our health and well-being. Dissecting and dismissing much of the over-blown rhetoric and ideological bias found on both sides of the obesity debate, Gard demonstrates that the science of obesity remains radically uncertain and that it is impossible to establish an objective ‘truth’ on which to base policy. His powerful and inescapable conclusion is that we should now mark the end of the obesity epidemic.

Offering a road map through the maze of claims and counter-claims, while still holding to a sceptical standpoint, this book provides an unparalleled anatomy of obesity as a scientific, political and cultural issue. It is essential reading for anybody with an interest in the science or sociology of health and lifestyle.


November 2010: 234 x 156: 240pp
Hb: 978-0-415-48987-4: £85.00
Pb: 978-0-415-48988-1: £24.99
For more information, visit: www.routledge.com/9780415489881
Although everyone loves to watch a fair, evenly matched sports contest, there is no such thing as ‘pure sport’. The Sport and Society Reader is a collection of key scholarly and journalistic articles that demonstrate the ways that the sports we love to watch and the teams we love to root for are embedded in important social structures and processes that undermine sports’ ‘purity’. The volume presents articles on:

- sports with – more or less – class
- race matters in sports
- gender myths and privileges in sports
- sports and deviance
- sexuality and sport
- globalizing sport.

The articles selected are both entertaining and highly illustrative of the links between sport and other areas of social study, resulting in a book that is as compelling as it is useful. In addition, the introductory approach used throughout orients the reader to specific key issues, making The Sport and Society Reader an ideal standalone text for students of all levels.

Davide Karen and Robert E. Washington’s fascinating collection of scholarly and journalistic articles challenges the prevailing perception of sports, and will stimulate discussion in the classroom and beyond. This is essential reading for all students of sports studies, the sociology of sport, and the sociology of culture.

Selected Contents:
- Introduction: Sport: the game and the Field
- 1. The Big Picture: theorizing Sports from Sociological Perspectives
- 2. High Brow and Low Brow contests: Sports with More or Less class
- 3. Colouring the Game: Race matters in Sports
- 4. Manning the Field: Gender Myths and Privileges in Sports – constructing masculinity; Socialization
- 5. Nice Guys Finish Last: Athletes Out of Bounds and the Problem of Sports and Deviance
- 6. Certain Kinds of People: Sexuality and Sport
- 7. Growth of Global Community or Neo-Imperialism? National Cultures and the Internationalization of Sports

To avoid repetition, the authors offer cross-references and provide references to other resources on some topics. Throughout, boxes give readers snippets of information about significant figures, events, and ideas along with some primary sources.” – Choice, L. A. Heaphy, Kent State University

Since the nineteenth century the USA has served as an international model for business, lifestyle and sporting success. Yet whilst the language of sport seems to be universal, American sports culture remains highly distinctive. Why is this so? How should we understand American sport? What can we learn about America by analyzing its sports culture?

Understanding American Sports offers discussion and critical analysis of the everyday sporting and leisure activities of ‘ordinary’ Americans as well as the ‘big three’ (football, baseball, basketball), and elite sports heroes. Throughout the book, the development of American sport is linked to political, social, gender and economic issues, as well as the orientations and cultures of the multilayered American society with its manifold regional, ethnic, social, and gendered diversities.

With co-authors from either side of the Atlantic, Understanding American Sports uses both the outsider’s perspective and that of the insider to explain American sports culture. With its extensive use of examples and illustrations, this is an engrossing and informative resource for all students of sports studies and American culture.

Selected Contents:
- Introduction: Sport
- 1. An Introduction to the United States
- 2. The Evolution of American Sports
- 3. A Nation of Immigrants
- 4. The Relevance of Baseball
- 5. Football Games
- 6. Sport organisations and Institutions – Colleges, Schools and Professional Leagues
- 7. Physical Education and Sports in American Schools
- 9. Fitness and Recreational Sport
- 10. Sport and Race
- 11. Women and Sport: The Long Road to Liberation
- 12. The Cultural Importance of Sports Heroes
- 13. Sport, Media, Consumption
- 14. Sport as Big Business

For more information, visit: www.routledge.com/9780415443654
This exciting, accessible introduction to the field of Sports Studies is the most comprehensive guide yet to the relationships between sport, culture and society. Taking an international perspective, Sport, Culture and Society provides students with the insight they need to think critically about the nature of sport, and includes:

- a clear and comprehensive structure
- unrivalled coverage of the history, culture, media, sociology, politics and anthropology of sport
- coverage of core topics and emerging areas
- extensive original research and new case study material.

The book offers a full range of features to help guide students and lecturers, including essay topics, seminar questions, key definitions, extracts from primary sources, extensive case studies, and guides to further reading. Sport, Culture and Society represents both an important course resource for students of sport and also sets a new agenda for the social scientific study of sport.


2006: 246 x 174: 432pp
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