# Sports and Culture ANTH2390/UGEC2664 Spring Term 2020

\*\* Updated Syllabus due to COVID-19 Outbreak's Term Rearrangements - 13Feb2020\*\*

Lecture: Thursday 10:30 – 12:15 (NAH114) Tutorial: Thursday 12:30 – 13:15 (NAH114) Lecturer: Marco Montagner montagner.hk\_at\_gmail.com Office hours: Thursday and Monday, by previous appointment (NAH411) Zoom Meeting ID: 896 228 2226

# **Course Description:**

Why millions of people all over the world play sports? Why different countries have different popular sports? What is it about sports that attract so many people and money? Has it always been this way? Sport captures the minds and bodies of billions of people around the world and has an immense significance in our everyday lives. This course engages different cross-cultural examples of sport and introduces students to the relationship between sport and its sociocultural setting.

Sports inform and create certain lifestyles and values: they are about cooperation, inclusion and fair play. But they are also about competition, inequality, and violence. Sports are highly structured, and yet at the same time totally unpredictable. Sports transmit moral principles and shapes attitudes to life, but might also undermine authority and contribute to social instability. Sport can both unite and divide teams, groups of people, and even entire nations.

Sports are not only shaped by society, but sports themselves shape society. This is because sports are dynamically intertwined with various sociocultural aspects (like morality, class, gender, ethnicity, nationalism, globalization, political economy and so on).

Students will explore different cross-cultural examples of sports from all over the world, introducing the role and importance of sports in the present and the past, in "modern" and "traditional" societies, seeing the relationship between sports and their sociocultural setting, and how sports are never played in a cultural vacuum.

This course draws on a variety of disciplines including sociology, gender studies, history, and cultural studies, but it will use the anthropological approach, focusing on the experience of those participants (whether practitioners, spectators or consumers).

By the end of the course, students will be able to critically question sports, reflecting on how sports are much more than an activity merely for health and leisure, and understanding the roles that sports play in modern societies.

# Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- 1. see and understand sports in an anthropological way, analyzing and appreciating different kinds of sports.
- 2. understand the roles that sports play in "modern" and "traditional" societies.
- 3. understand the complexity and interrelatedness of sport and sociocultural life.
- 4. learn to critically reflect on their own engagement with sport, as practitioners or spectators.

# **Course Assessment:**

a) Class and Tutorial participation: 20%

b) Two Reflection Papers (min 3, max 5 pages each): 15% + 15% = 30%

c) Final Ethnographic Paper, including mini presentation (min 8, max 10 pages): 50%

# a) Class and tutorial participation:

Although I am not strict with attendance, every student is expected to regularly attend and participate in class discussions, even if conducted through zoom.us software. An high participation score comes with good attendance and active, thoughtful, consistent participation, showing interest as well as preparation and engagement with class materials. Class participation is a fundamental part of the class, and some of the discussion and guest visits cannot be replaced otherwise. Attendance sheets won't be used, but I will track participation bonuses at every lecture/tutorial starting from week 2. Participation, not simple attendance, it's the key for courses like this; Remember that when you care/show care, the teacher also will care. Students might be also asked to prepare questions or videos to engage with others during tutorials.

# **b)** Two Reflection Papers:

1) Pick a recent news report (from whatever media) about a <u>sport event or sport phenomenon</u>. Describe what it is and then reflect and comment on it with reference to one or several of the course topics. Raise questions and points of discussion (don't just summarize the event). **DUE by Week 8 (March 19th, Thursday 10am)** 

2) Choose a current/former professional athlete/personality and gather some information about the person (i.e. consult news reports, biographies, autobiographies, documentaries etc.). Describe who she/he is, what sport she/he is or was practicing and provide a short and critical analysis with reference to one or several of the course topics. Don't be too general. You can pick one specific aspect of the athlete and relate it to the course material. DUE by Week 11 (April 16th, Thursday 10am).

- Students should submit the reflection papers at my email, choosing anytime they like within the maximum due dates indicated. Each paper should be minimum 3 and maximum 5 pages long, double-spaced. Two formats are required: Microsoft Word/Open Office and PDF. Attach also your VeriGuide receipt.

## c) Final (possibly Ethnographic) Paper:

Choose a sport or a body movement practice that you are interested in, attend a related event and write an ethnographic paper about it. You can be a member of the audience or a direct participant (player, referee..). You can write about a sport that you know well, or one that is new to you, which means you can either be an informed insider, or a newly arrived outsider. Both roles have their own advantages. The paper should include your field observations, a few interviews, and a critical discussion of some of the course topics with reference to some of the assigned readings. Instead of merely describing your field observations or summarizing the readings, you should try to use the ideas learned in this course to analyze the event. If you use other people's ideas or words in the paper, remember to cite the sources and list them under "References" at the end. I am always available to discuss your topics starting from Week 1, both for methodology and ideas.

Update: Depending on the scenario on the current COVID-19 outbreak, we will discuss possibilities for your final paper during lectures (such as: how sport practices are changing due to the ongoing epidemic, how your practice has been afflicted, the resilience of training practices routines and some sports gatherings in time of danger and so on).

- The final paper should be 8 to 10 pages long, double-spaced. The final paper is d DUE by May 14th, Thursday 10am. Please submit a soft copy at my email. Two formats are required: Microsoft Word/Open Office and PDF. Attach also your VeriGuide receipt (The university requires all papers to be checked by VeriGuide: https://academic.veriguide.org/ academic/login\_CUHK.jspx).

# **Course Breakdown**

Under "Additional materials" I listed a longer number of readings for your own reference, in case you want to explore more in depth that week's topic, or in case you missed a class and would like to keep track of the arguments discussed.

# Week 1 (January 9): Course Introduction

## **Required readings:**

> No required readings for the first week, but please have a look at the additional materials.

#### Additional materials:

Hejtmanek, Katie R. 2016. "Anthropology 101: A Cultural Anthropologist Walks into a Gym", BarBend.com, 25 May.
Xygalatas, Dimitris. 2019. "How Rituals of Pain Help Heal", SAPIENS, 4 October.

- Ocobock, Cara. 2019. "Sweating Through a Gym's Gender Barriers", SAPIENS, 1 October.
- McDonald, Tom. 2016. "Dancing "My Humps" in Rural China", SAPIENS, 12 April (including video).

## Week 2 (January 16): The Importance of Sports **Required readings:**

> Blanchard, Kendall. 2000. "The Anthropology of Sport." In Jay Coakley and Eric Dunning, eds., Handbook of Sports Studies, pp. 144-156. London: Sage. (8 pages)

> Fox, J.R. 1961. "Pueblo Baseball: A New Use for Old Witchcraft." The Journal of American Folklore 74 (291): 9-16. (7 pages)

## Additional materials:

Geertz, Clifford. 1973 (orig. 1966). "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight." In Clifford Geertz, ed. The Interpretation of Cultures, pp. 412-453. New York: Basic Books.

- Besnier, Niko, and Susan Brownell. 2012. "Sport, Modernity, and the Body." Annual Review of Anthropology 41:443-459.

- Graeber, David. 2014. "What's the Point If We Can't Have Fun?", The Baffler, no. 24, January.

# Week 3 (January 23): The Creation of Modern Sports

#### **Required readings:**

> Guttmann, Allen. 2000. "The Development of Modern Sports." In Jay Coakley and Eric Dunning, eds., Handbook of Sports Studies, pp. 248-259. London: Sage. (9 pages)

> Coakley, Jay J. 2009 (orig. 1982). "Sport in Society: An Inspiration or an Opiate?" In D. Stanley Eitzen, ed., Sport in Contemporary Society: An Anthology, pp. 16-32. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers. (15 pages)

#### Additional materials:

- Collins, Tony. 2013. Sport in Capitalist Society: A Short History. New York: Routledge. Chapter 1 "Capitalism and the birth of modern sport", pp. 1-13.

- Horne, John, Alan Tomlinson, Garry Whannel and Kath Woodward. 2013. "Chapter 1: Industrial Society, Social Change and Sports Culture." In Understanding Sport: A Sociocultural Analysis (2 ed.), New York: Routledge.

- Donnelly, Peter. 2008. "Sport and Social Theory." In B. Houlihan, ed. Sport and Society pp. 11-32. London: Sage.

## From January 30th to February 13th: CLASSES CANCELLED

Extended Spring Festival Holidays due to COVID-19's outbreak: No class/tutorial

## Week 4 (February 20): The Rituals of Sports and Sports as Ritual **Required Readings:**

> Real, Michael R. 2003 (orig. 1975). "Super Bowl: Mythic Spectacle." In Eric Dunning and Dominic Malcolm, eds., Sport: Critical Concepts in Sociology, pp. 187-199. London: Routledge. (12 pages) > Gmelch, George. 2003. "Baseball Magic." In James Spradley & David M. McCurdy, eds., Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology, pp. 348-357. Boston: Pearson. (9 pages)

# Additional materials:

- Bromberger, Christian. 1995. 'Football as World-View and as Ritual'. French Cultural Studies 6 (18): 293-311. (17 pages) - Dundes. Alan. 1999. "Into the End Zone for a Touchdown: A Psychoanalytical Consideration of American Football." In Sands, ed. 1999, Anthropology, Sport, and Culture, pp. 201-210. Westport, CT: Bergin & Garvey. (9 pages) - Cheska, Taylor A. 1981 "Sports Spectacular: The Social Ritual of Power." In Marie Hart and Susan Birrell, eds., Sports in the Sociocultural Process, pp.368-381. Dubuque, IA: Wm. C. Brown Comp. (14 pages)

# Week 5 (February 27): Sport, Ethics and Moral Education **Required Readings:**

> Lipsyte, Robert. 2009 (orig. 2005). "Outraged over the Steroids Outrage." In Eitzen, D. Stanley, ed., Sport in Contemporary Society: An Anthology (8th ed.), pp. 225-227. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers. (3 pages) > Eitzen, D. Stanley. 2009 (orig. 1996). "Ethical Dilemmas in American Sport: The Dark Side of Competition." In Eitzen, D. Stanley, ed., Sport in Contemporary Society: An Anthology (8th ed.), pp. 161-170. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers. (10 pages)

> Kottak, Conrad. 1995. "Swimming in Cross-Cultural Currents." In David J. Hess and Roberto A. DaMatta, eds., The Brazilian Puzzle: Culture on the Borderlands of the Western World, pp. 49-58. New York: Columbia University Press. (9 pages)

> Hoffman, S. James. 2010. "Whatever Happened to Play? How Christians Have Succumbed to the Sport Culture—And What Might Be Done About It." Christianity Today Feb., pp. 21-25. (5 pages)

#### Additional materials:

- Waddington, Ivan. 2000. "Doping in Sport: Towards a Sociological Understanding." In Eric Dunning and Dominic Malcolm, eds., Sport, Vol. IV, pp. 433-454. London: Routledge.

- Harding, Luke. 2005. 'Forgotten Victims of East German Doping Take Their Battle to Court'. The Guardian, 1 November. - Downey, Greg. 2012. 'Roid Age: The Paradox of Pharmacological Puritanism'. Neuroanthropology. July 9.

- Epstein, David. 2014. "Sports Should Be Child's Play." The New York Times (Op-Ed). 10 June -- Fine, Gary Alan. 1981.

"Preadolescent Socialization through Organized Athletics: The Construction of Moral Meanings in Little League Baseball." In Hart & Birrell, eds., Sport in the Sociocultural Process (3rd ed.), pp. 164-191. Dubuque: Brown. - Ripley, Amanda. 2013. "The Case Against High-School Sports." The Atlantic, 10 October.

# Week 6 (March 5): Sports, Gender and Sexuality

#### **Required readings:**

> Bryson, Lois. 1987. "Sport and the Maintenance of Masculine Hegemony." Women's Studies International Forum 10(4): 349-360. (11 pages)

> Hartmann, Douglas. 2003. "The Sanctity of Sunday Football: Why Men Love Sports." Contexts 2(4):13-19. (8 pages)

#### Additional materials:

- Howe, P. David. 2003. 'Kicking Stereotypes into Touch: An Ethnographic Account of Women's Rugby'. In Athletic Intruders: Ethnographic Research on Women, Culture, and Exercise, edited by Anne Bolin and Jane Granskog, 227-46. Albany: State University of New York Press. (16 pages)

- Messner, Michael A. 2003. "When Bodies Are Weapons: Masculinity and Violence in Sport." In Eric Dunning and Dominic Malcolm, eds., Sport, Vol. IV, pp. 59-77. London: Routledge. (15 pages)

- Heissenberger, Stefan. 2016. 'Travelling European Gay Footballers: Tournaments as an Integration Ritual'. In New Ethnographies of Football in Europe, edited by Alexandra Schwell, Nina Szogs, Małgorzata Z. Kowalska, and Michał Buchowski, 120-37. Palgrave Macmillan UK.

- Sterod, Brandon. 2010. 'Come Out and Play Confronting Homophobia in Sports'. In Learning Culture through Sports: Perspectives on Society and Organized Sports, edited by Sandra Spickard Prettyman and Brian Lampman, 2nd ed., 92-106. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield.

- Cahn, Susan K. 2010 (orig. 1993). "From the 'Muscle Moll' to the 'Butch' Ballplayer: Mannishness, Lesbianism, and Homophobia in US Women's Sport." In David Karen and Robert E. Washington, eds., The Sport and Society Reader pp. 266-281. London: Routledge. (23 pages)

- Prettyman, Sandra Spickard. 2010. "Jocks Rule-Girls Drool: Middle cool Definitions of a Jock." In Sandra Spickard Prettyman and Brian Lampman, eds., Learning Culture Through Sport (2nd ed.), pp.43-60. Lanham, MD: Rowan & Littlefield. (17 pages)

# Week 7 (March 12): Sports, Body Politics and Bodily Regimes (Guest: Dr. Elena Nichini, Anthropologist and Yoga Teacher, on Yoga Camps and Certifications) **Required readings:**

> Barland, Bjorn. 2005. "The Gym: Place of Bodily Regimes – Training, Diet, and Doping." Iron Game History 8(4): 23-29. (7 pages)

>Schnabele, Verena. 2013. "The Useful Body: The Yogic Answer to Appearance Management in the Post-Fordist Workplace." In Beatrix, Hauser, ed., Yoga Traveling: Bodily Practice in Transcultural Perspective, pp.

135-153. Heidelberg: Springer International Publishing. (17 pages)

#### **Additional materials:**

- Todd, Jan. 2003. "The Strength Builders: A History of Barbells, Dumbbells, and Indian Clubs." The International Journal of the History of Sport 20(1): 65-90. (15 pages)

- Hingun, Yasmin. 2019. "Movement culture: used by UFC legend Conor McGregor, fitness trend can help no matter how unfit you are". The South China Morning Post, 14 December 2019.

- Strauss, Sarah. 2002. "Adapt, Adjust, Accommodate': The Production of Yoga in a Transnational World, History and Anthropology." History and Anthropology 13(3): 231-251. (<u>19 pages</u>) - Alter, Joseph S. 2009. "Yoga in Asia—Mimetic History: Problems in the Location of Secret Knowledge". Comparative

Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Volume 29, Number 2, 2009, Duke University Press.

# Week 8 (March 12): Sports, Power and Violence

#### **Required Readings:**

> George, Molly. 2005. "Making Sense of Muscle: The Body Experiences of Collegiate Women Athletes." Sociological Inquiry 75:317-345. (24 pages)

> Collins, Randall. 2010. "On-Field Player Violence." In Robert E. Washington and David Karen, eds., Sport,

Power, and Society: Institutions and Practices: A Reader, pp. 422-445. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. (23 pages) Additional materials:

- Hargreaves, John. 1987. "The Body, Sport and Power Relations." In Erick Dunning and Dominic Malcolm, eds., Sport Vol. 3, pp. 256-274. (<u>16 pages</u>) - Downey, Greg. 2010. "Throwing Like a Brazilian: On Ineptness and a Skill-Shaped Body." In Robert R. Sands and Linda

R. Sands, eds. The Anthropology of Sport and Human Movement: A Biocultural Perspective, pp. 297-319. Lanham, MD:

Lexington Books. (23 pages) - Palmer, Catherine. 2002. "Shit Happens': The Selling of Risk in Extreme Sport." Australian Journal of Anthropology 13(3): 323-335. (13 pages)

- Wacquant, Lolc. 2001. 'Whores, Slaves and Stallions: Languages of Exploitation and Accommodation among Boxers'. Body & Society 7 (2-3): 181-94.

- Kath. Woodward. 2009. Embodied Sporting Practices; Regulating and Regulatory Bodies. Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan. (only the uploaded sections)

## Week 9 (March 26): Sports, Social Class and Ethnicity (TBC guest: Eric Roberts from Parkour Practice Group) **Required Readings:**

> Foley, Douglas E. 1990. "The Great American Football Ritual: Reproducing Race, Class, and Gender

Inequality." Sociology of Sport Journal 7:111-135. (23 pages)

> Leite Lopes, José Sergio. 2000. "Class, Ethnicity, and Color in the Making of Brazilian Football." Daedalus 129:239-270. [Slightly abridged version available in David Karen and Robert E. Washington, eds, The Sport

and Society Reader, pp. 72-84. (27 pages)

# Additional materials:

- Hartmann, Douglas. 2000. "Rethinking the Relationships Between Sport and Race in American Culture: Golden Ghettos and Contested Terrain." Sociology of Sport Journal 17(3): 229-253.

- Hallinan, Chris, and Barry Judd. 2007, "Blackfellas' Basketball: Aboriginal Identity and Anglo-Austrian Race Relations in Regional Basketball." Sociology of Sport Journal 24(4): 421-436.

# From March 30th to April 3rd: Reading Week

CUHK's Reading Week: no class/tutorial

# Week 10 (April 9): Case Study on Kabaddi

# (Guest special lecture by Prof. Tang Wyman, Anthropologist) **Required** Readings:

> Alter, Joseph S. 2000. "Kabaddi, a National Sport of India: The Internationalism of Nationalism and the Foreignness of Indianness." Dyck, Noel, ed. 2000. Games, Sports and Cultures, pp. 83-115. Oxford: Berg. (25) pages)

## **Additional info:**

(In the case usual lectures would be resumed) This class will be half lecture and half Kabaddi practice (New Asia Concourse). Please carry some sportswear for today!! Prof. Tang will discuss mainly three points: a) How to turn a game into a sport. b) The nationalist side of the choice on Kabaddi. c) The cultural politics of sport in the globalized era.

# Week 11 (April 16): Sports, National Identity, Nationalism and Politics **Required Readings:**

> Markovits, Andrei S., and Steven L. Hellerman. 2010 (orig. 2001). "Offside: Soccer and American Exceptionalism." In David Karen and Robert E. Washington, eds. The Sport and Society Reader, pp. 356-370. (12 pages)

> Dorđević, Ivan, and Bojan Žikić. 2016. 'Normalising Political Relations through Football: The Case of Croatia and Serbia (1990-2013)'. In New Ethnographies of Football in Europe, edited by Alexandra Schwell, Nina Szogs, Małgorzata Z. Kowalska, and Michał Buchowski, 39–54. Palgrave Macmillan UK. (14 pages)

> Besnier, Niko, and Susan Brownell. 2016. 'Your Olympic Team May Be an Illusion'. SAPIENS. 4 August. **Additional materials:** 

- Guoqi. Xu. 2008. Olympic Dreams: China and Sports, 1895-2008. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. Chapter 5, "The Sport of Ping-Pong Diplomacy" pp. 117-163.

- Rossol, Nadine. 2010. Performing the Nation in Interwar Germany. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK. Chapter 6: "The

death of the spectacle in the mid-1930s", pp. 121-138. - Majumdar, Boria, and Sean Brown. 2008. "Why Baseball, Why Cricket? Differing Nationalisms, Differing Challenges". In Benjamin Eastman, and Michael Ralph and Sean Brown, eds., America's Game(s): A Critical Anthropology of Sport, pp. 1-18. London: Routledge.

- Sonntag, Albrecht. 2015. 'Up to the Expectations?: Perceptions of Ethnic Diversity in the French and German National Team'. In The European Football Championship: Mega-Event and Vanity Fair, edited by Alexandra Schwell and Albrecht Sonntag. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK.

- Hodges, Andrew, and Paul Stubbs. 2016. 'The Paradoxes of Politicisation: Fan Initiatives in Zagreb, Croatia'. In New Ethnographies of Football in Europe, edited by Alexandra Schwell, Nina Szogs, Małgorzata Z. Kowalska, and Michał Buchowski, 55-74. Palgrave Macmillan UK.

- Markovits, Andrei S. 1990. "The Other 'American Exceptionalism': Why Is There No Soccer in the United States?" International Journal of the History of Sport 7(2): 230-264.

- Barmé, Geremie R. 2009. 'China's Flat Earth: History and 8 August 2008'. The China Quarterly 197 (March): 64-86.

# Week 12 (April 23): Sports and Globalization (passing through Colonialism) **Required Readings:**

> Appadurai, Arjun. 1996. "Chapter 5: Playing with Modernity: The Decolonization of Indian Cricket." In Arjun Appadurai, Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization, pp. 89-113. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. (24 pages)

> Miller, James Andrew, Steve Eder, and Richard Sandomir. 2013. "College Football's Most Dominant Player? It's ESPN." New York Times 24 August. (including the 5 min video)

> Klein, Alan M. 2006. "Growing the Game: The Globalization of Major League Baseball." In D. Stanley Eitzen, ed., Sport in Contemporary Society: An Anthology (8th ed.), Boulder: Paradigm Books. (7 pages) Additional materials:

- Morris, Andrew D. 2004. "Baseball, History, the Local and the Global in Taiwan." In David K. Jordan, Andrew D. Morris, and Marc L. Moskowitz, eds., The Minor Arts of Daily Life: Popular Culture in Taiwan. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. (28 pages)

- Morris, Andrew D. 2002. "I Believe You Can Fly": Basketball Culture in Postsocialist China'. In Popular China: Unofficial Culture in a Globalizing Society, edited by E. Perry Link, Richard Madsen, and Paul Pickowicz, 9-38. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield. (24 pages)

- Besnier, Niko. 2012. "The Athlete's Body and the Global Condition: Tongan Rugby Players in Japan." American Ethnologist 39(3): 491-510.

- McKay, Alex. 2001. "Kicking the Buddha's Head": India, Tibet and Footballing Colonialism'. Soccer & Society 2 (2): 89-104.

- Dimeo, Paul. 2002. Colonial Bodies, Colonial Sport: 'Martial' Punjabis, 'Effeminate' Bengalis and the Development of Indian Football, The International Journal of the History of Sport, 19:1, 72-90.

# Week 13 (April 30): Imagining the Future of Sports

# (TBC guest: Andres Vesga, Movement advocate, and part of Ido Portal's mentorship program) **Required readings:**

> Miah, Andy. 2010. 'The DREAM Gene for the Posthuman Athlete: Reducing Exercise-Induced Pain Sensations Using Gene Transfer'. In The Anthropology of Sport and Human Movement: A Biocultural Perspective, edited by Robert R. Sands and Linda R. Sands, 327-41. Lanham, Md: Lexington Books. > Witkowski, E. 2012. 'On the Digital Playing Field: How We "Do Sport" With Networked Computer Games'. Games and Culture 7 (5): 349-74.

> Fogel, Brian. 2017. Icarus (documentary). Diamond Docs (excerpts)

## Additional materials:

- Taylor, T. L. 2012. Raising the Stakes: E-Sports and the Professionalization of Computer Gaming. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press. Chapter 2 "Computer Games as Professional Sport," pp. 35-84. - Szablewicz, M. 2016. 'A Realm of Mere Representation? "Live" E-Sports Spectacles and the Crafting of Chinas Digital

Gaming Image'. Games and Culture 11 (3): 256-74.

**Week TBC: Students' Ethnographic Project mini-presentations** The presentations should last around 5 minutes, followed by a brief Q&A. They should include 5 slides: 1) one photo and the title 2) what is the topic and why it interests you? 3) what is the broader relevance or the connections of your project? 4) A brief description of your "fieldsite": where and how is it? 5) A few methodological hints: How are you gonna study it?

# Final due on/by Thursday, May 14th.

Please submit a soft copy at montagner.hk\_at\_gmail.com by our usual lecture time.