

Newsletter 1 2021

eass

European Association for
Sociology of Sport

Words from the President



Dear members of EASS,

It is over a year ago that we first learned of the COVID-19 virus. Who could imagine that this pandemic would be a burden to the world for so long? It has impacted all parts of society and it will do so for quite some time in the future.

Universities, sport organisations, scholars, sport participants, individuals; they have all experienced the consequences of the COVID-19 measures. Some more than others. Aspects of inequality in sport participation have most likely increased in the past year related to someone's health situation, economic situation or social network. Several studies have indicated the financial burden on the sport sector in different countries as a result of the COVID-19 lock-down. The impact of COVID-19 is also felt at universities. Online lectures can hardly replace the lectures at campus in which you can truly engage with the students.

Also EASS faces as an organization the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately we had to cancel our EASS2020 conference in Southampton. Solent University was originally so kind to be available to organize the EASS2021 congress online. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic

and recent developments at the university they are unable to organize the EASS2021 conference. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Elliot and his team for the hard work in trying to secure the EASS2021 conference. They did a great job, but could simply not avoid that Solent University understandably reconsidered their position and stepped back as organizer of the EASS2021 congress.

It illustrates the commitment of the members of EASS that we were able to secure a new organizer on relatively short notice. The colleagues in Andalucía were open to once again host an EASS congress. The successful organizing committee of the EASS2013 conference in Cordoba has agreed to take up the responsibility to organize the EASS2021 online conference. It is a partnership of Universidad de Sevilla, University of Cordoba and Pablo de Olavide University which is led by David Moscoso, Álvaro Rodríguez Díaz and Jesús Fernández Gavira. The EASS2021 online conference is scheduled on 7-10 September 2021. More information on this will follow in the upcoming weeks. Please mark these dates in your agenda! We are looking forward to meet all of you online to learn about your research, have informative discussion and share new research ideas.

As the date of the conference is now out, the process for submitting papers for the Young Researcher Award (YRA) will be announced soon. Please make your PhD students aware of this possibility.

Let us hope that we regain control over our lives and that we are less guided by COVID-19 in the months to come. All the best and stay healthy!

Remco Hoekman
President EASS

Contents

*Words from the
President*

*Updates on the
upcoming conferences*

CALL FOR BIDDINGS

*New books by eass
colleagues*

*Polish Sociological
Association
conference (Warsaw,
Poland, Nov. 19-20,
2020)*

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UPDATES ON THE EASS CONFERENCES

Covid19-situation has forced to make changes in the timings of the upcoming eass conferences.

- eass2021 will be organised virtually by the Universidad de Sevilla, University of Cordoba and Pablo de Olavide University in Sep 7-10 2021.
- eass2022 will be organized in conjunction with ISSA (International Sport Sociology Association) in June 2022 in Tübingen.
- eass2023 will be held in Budapest.

Further information about these conferences will be announced later.

CALL FOR BIDDINGS – EASS CONFERENCES

We warmly invite colleagues and academic institutions to express their interest in hosting the upcoming eass conferences, particularly in 2024 and onwards. Eass conferences offer an excellent opportunity to gather colleagues in social sciences of sport to present and discuss the recent research outcomes, and to further develop new ideas in academic collaboration. The conferences are also good opportunities to enhance visibility and awareness of your academic institutions and cities more broadly.

If you are interested in sending in your bid, please contact the President of eass, Dr Remco Hoekman (rhoekman@mulierinstituut.nl) or Secretary General Dr Hanna Vehmas (hanna.m.vehmas@jyu.fi) for further information

NEW BOOKS FROM EASS COLLEAGUES:

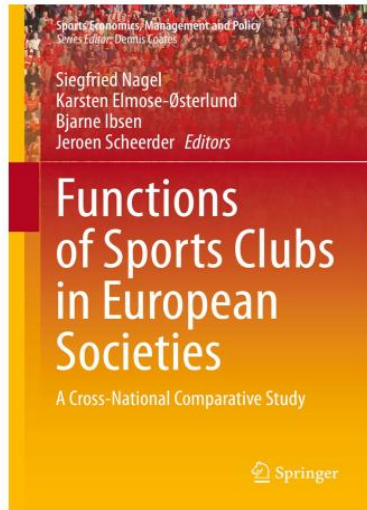
Jeroen Scheerder, Hanna Vehmas, Kobe Helsen (eds.)

The Rise and Size of the Fitness Industry in Europe Fit for the Future?

This book explores the rise, size and shape of the European fitness industry by using harmonised data as well as in-depth analyses of national surveys in fifteen European countries. Following an introduction to the socio-historical and conceptual aspects of fitness, the collection presents the scope of fitness as a business and participatory activity. Furthermore,

both policy and governance issues as well as community and supply angles are considered. Drawing on this unique material, the book will appeal to students and scholars of sport business, sport economics, sport management, and social sport sciences, but also to administrators, policymakers and entrepreneurs in the international and national sport and health community





1st ed. 2020, XVII, 385 p. 144 illus., 142 illus. in color.

Printed book

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S. Nagel, K. Elmosø-Østerlund, B. Ibsen, J. Scheerder (Eds.)

Functions of Sports Clubs in European Societies

A Cross-National Comparative Study

Series: Sports Economics, Management and Policy

- Provides comparative knowledge on the contribution of sports clubs to health promotion, social cohesion and democratic participation through volunteering in European societies
- Supplies country-specific data on the structural characteristics, goals, resources and management of sport clubs as well as the engagement and attitudes of the members
- Presents original research data collected from club and member surveys of various sport clubs in ten European countries

This book takes a closer look at the societal functions of sports clubs by using the broad range of empirical data of a comparative study. There is a limited amount of up-to-date knowledge on the functions of sports clubs and their potential to promote public health, social cohesion and democratic participation through volunteering and thus contribute to public welfare in European societies. Most of the existing studies are country-specific and therefore do not allow for making comparisons from a cross-national perspective. In light of this, the project 'Social Inclusion and Volunteering in Sports Clubs in Europe' (SIVSCE) collected, analysed and discussed comparable data and knowledge across ten European countries and disseminated this knowledge to politicians, sports professionals and sports volunteers in Europe. The SIVSCE project contains comparative data of clubs as well as of members in selected sports clubs. In each country chapter, the comparative data from the SIVSCE project is put together in a coherent way. Particularly, the data of the member survey give in-depth information about the fulfillment of the different functions of sports clubs (e.g. extension of democratic participation, social integration).



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Part of **SPRINGER NATURE**

Polish Sociological Association conference „Social Actors of Sport: Problems, Research Perspectives and Questions” (Warsaw, Poland, Nov. 19-20, 2020)

On Nov. 19-20, 2020 Sport Sociology Section of Polish Sociological Association and Józef Pilsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw have organised an annual conference titled „Social Actors of Sport: Problems, Research Perspectives and Questions”. It has attracted representatives of over twenty top Polish universities and participants from abroad. Conference keynote “The 2015-2016 Russian anti-doping crisis: the failed social performance of the IOC and WADA” was prof. Fabien Ohl from University of Lausanne in Switzerland. Conference participants addressed broad scope of research problems and presented sociological analyses of many sport disciplines including fashion for triathlon, class determinants of cycling, boxing gym culture, sport careers of MMA athletes, e-sport, sport fandom and the educational role of sport referees. Some presentations referred to current issues of epidemiological constrains and problems of sport and leisure participation. Awards for best undergraduate and graduate dissertations on sport sociology in the year 2020 were also granted. Due to the COVID19 restrictions, the conference was held on-line.

Michał Lenartowicz

Józef Pilsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw



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