



Dear EASS Members,

We are delighted to share some important organizational information below!

### *Updates from the association*

During the eass General Assembly in Warsaw on 26th June 2025, the new EASS Board has been elected, setting the stage for an exciting new chapter in the Association's development!

Please find the information about elected Board Members below and on our [eass website](#):

#### **Executive Board:**

**President:** Michał Lenartowicz (Poland)

**President-Elect:** Bente Ovedie Skogvang (Norway)

**Past President:** Hanna Vehmas (Finland)

**Secretary-General:** Astrid Schubring (Germany)

**Treasurer:** Torsten Schlesinger (Germany)

**Chief Editor:** Adam B. Evans (Denmark)

#### **Extended Board:**

Karsten Elmoose-Østerlund (Denmark)

Michał Jasny (Poland)

Mojca Doupona (Slovenia)

Inger Eliasson (Sweden)

### *Conferences*

Get ready for an incredible opportunity to join us at the **22<sup>nd</sup> eass conference in 2026:**

#### **Responsibilities and responses of sport in contemporary society**

The event, hosted **together with the International Sociology of Sport Association** in the beautiful city of **Jyväskylä, Finland**, on **15-18 June 2026**, is set to be an unforgettable experience! Please find some important information below.

## Call for Papers, Guidelines and Information

Authors are required to **submit their abstract online by 30 January 2026**. Abstracts must be submitted in English, and presentations (both **oral and poster**) have to be conducted in English. Translation services will not be available. Each author can present only one paper as the lead author, and his/her/they name can appear on up to two additional papers as second or additional author, but not as the presenter.

Abstracts should not exceed the **250 words**. An abstract must include title, author(s) and affiliation(s). Authors should indicate a **conference theme** which that they feel most closely represents the topic covered and provide **keywords**. Organizers reserve the right to decide on the presentation type and suitable sections.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the members of the Conference Scientific Committee. Abstract submission is free of charge. **Notification of the acceptance of abstracts will be provided by 23 February 2026.**

**You can submit your paper through the Conference website.**

## Registration

**Registration is now open, with Early Bird rates available from 1 December 2025 to 31 March 2026.**

**Regular registration will be open from 1 April to 17 May 2026.**

All participants are required to **complete registration** and submit the applicable **registration fee**. **For more information please visit Conference website:**

<https://www.jyu.fi/en/events/responsibilities-and-responses-of-sport-in-contemporary-society-2026>

## *Seasonal Greetings*

**As you're probably already preparing for Christmas, we would like to wish you, your friends and families Merry Christmas, filled with love, hope and peace.**

**Have a happy holiday season and a best possible New Year!**



# Conference Report

## 21st Conference of the European Association for Sociology of Sport

### Sport and the World in Crisis: Challenges and Solutions

25-27 June 2025, Warsaw, Poland

Marit Hiemstra, PhD Candidate

#### PhD Workshop

The first session, led by Dr Hanna Vehmas and Dr Bente Ovedie Skogvang, focused on the different structures of academic careers – various hierarchies, systems, and possible pathways ahead. While parts of it did not always apply to everyone’s national or institutional contexts, what emerged from it was a fruitful conversation about something that appeared to be more encompassing amongst PhD’s: a shared uncertainty, and in many cases, shared anxiety about our future in academia itself. We are at the beginning of our careers, but we are entering into systems shaped by austerity, one where budget cuts and redundancies (sometimes voluntary, often not) are reshaping the landscape. It’s hard to imagine a clear path forward when the structures themselves feel in flux. And, yet, what was good about the session was being able to name these doubts together, to hear others articulate something of them, and to know that we’re not alone in navigating this.

The second session, led by Dr Adam Evans, shifted the focus toward writing and publishing. As an editor, Adam offered helpful and practical insights into how to structure a strong paper and what journals like the *European Journal for Sport and Society* are looking for. It was particularly insightful to hear from someone who works on the editor side, since that perspective is not something you always have easy access to.

#### Keynotes

The keynote speakers covered a rich and diverse range of topics. Each illuminated different challenges and realities that ‘S/sport’ faces in the current era. From datafication, automation and the implications of artificial intelligence (Dr Brad Millington), to the role of sports clubs as spaces for community organisation, political action and sense of belonging (Dr Dorota Woroniecka- Krzyzanowska). To windows into the future of sport amid digital transformations, climate change, geopolitical instability, and demographic shifts (Prof Holger Preuss), the sessions revealed how deeply entangled sport is with the broader problems of our time.

#### Parallel Sessions and Posters Presentations

The variety of topics and focuses across both the oral and poster presentations stood out to me. With often four parallel sessions running at the same time, it was difficult to choose. I often went in with questions I was grappling with in my own research, and it was so valuable to explore those with others.

Sometimes I and other PhD candidates walked out with even more questions – and that’s actually one of the best parts. The sessions could not give me ready-made answers, but they gave me new ways of thinking, new things to wonder about.

I was particularly pleased to see there were two full sessions dedicated to physical cultural spaces involving people with different bodily capabilities. Being given proper space and attention, important conversations developed, and I hope they continue to grow within our field and beyond.

### **Young Researcher Award**

I would like to express my gratitude for being granted the Young Researcher Award 2025. It was both an honour and a joy to share a piece of PhD research that is deeply personal to me.

In the paper, *Knowing More Than Rationally in Guided Running*, I explore how safety and enjoyment are experienced in running partnerships between blind, partially sighted, deafblind runners and their sighted guides. The paper stems from conversations about tension that runners with sight loss and sighted guides experience regarding guided running workshops, which are typically designed to promote safe and enjoyable practices. On the one hand, runners value these workshops as introductory tools that teach ‘logical’ principles and ‘rational’ approaches to safe and enjoyable guiding relationships. On the other hand, the runners recognise limitations: these standardised courses often leave little room for idiosyncrasy and personal familiarity, particularly in relation to ‘sensing’ safety, comfort, and enjoyment.

I traced this tendency to broader societal processes that reflect neoliberal approaches in many parts of Europe, wherein human relationships are increasingly managed, audited, and standardised. These values, embedded in systems of audit and accountability, are often projected onto human relationships. I also show that such approaches creep into domains characterised by something as intimate, trusting and idiosyncratic as running together.

I was genuinely moved by the response to my presentation, by the thoughtful questions, the feedback and the conversations afterwards. They all help me develop my ideas, expand the work, and think in new directions.

### **City Walking Tour and Conference Dinner**

I found the city tour to be another highlight of the conference. I had never been to Poland nor Warsaw before. Having the chance to explore the city through a walking tour really helped me get to know it in a more intimate way. Our guide was wonderful – she spoke with such passion about the layered history of Warsaw: a history that holds a lot of pain, but also a remarkable resilience.

One detail that really stayed with me was the legacy of Chopin and how his music is literally embedded in the city’s landscape. I was amazed by the sound benches that play his compositions when you sit down. It made me think about how our relationship with a place can be shaped through sound.

In Warsaw, you can follow Chopin's benches through the city – and in so doing, understand a little more about the city's soul.

The conference dinner was another lovely moment. I sat next to Italian sociologists I had not met before. We had a long and enjoyable conversation about their work – which, as it turns out, also engages with disability sport. It is always special when moments like these lead to shared insights and possible future connections. I really liked the venue too. The view overlooking the square was great.

## **Vacancies and calls**

### **Open PhD studentships/positions at the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN).**

[Applicants for the class 2026 of the PhD program for humanities, culture, and educational sciences. \(290386\) | University of South-Eastern Norway](#)

Applicants in any of the areas of Sport, Physical Activity, Exercise and Health should connect with one of the following research groups:

[Body - movement - meaning - Universitetet i Sørøst-Norge](#) – contact Prof Pal Augestad  
([Pal.Augestad@usn.no](mailto:Pal.Augestad@usn.no))

[The Politics of Sports and Culture - Universitetet i Sørøst-Norge](#) – contact Dr Tommy Langseth  
([Tommy.Langseth@usn.no](mailto:Tommy.Langseth@usn.no))

[Health and Exercise in a Lifecourse Perspective - Universitetet i Sørøst-Norge](#) – contact Prof Solfrid Bratland-Sanda ([Solfrid.Bratland-Sanda@usn.no](mailto:Solfrid.Bratland-Sanda@usn.no))

The studentships cover study fees and provide an annual salary. For more information, please contact colleagues listed above. The application **deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb. 2026.**