Special Issue

The Contested Terrain of Sport: Sociological, Political and Policy Perspectives

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue delves into the contested terrain of sport: sport as a site of debate, negotiation and conflict involving diverse interest groups, competing ideas and contrasting beliefs. Examples include the processes of gaining recognition and legitimacy for new sports (eg. the recent entry of breakdancing into the 2024 Paris Olympics and the increasing pressure to include esports). Contested terrain can also extend far beyond this to include the use of sport for peace and development or as a strategic target for terrorists. Our aim is to showcase novel research that illustrates the contested terrain of sport within the broad intersections of sociology, politics and policy. We invite papers that address one or more of the following topics: sociology of sport; sport policy; new and alternative sports: from esport to breakdancing; sport integrity; Indigenous sport; trans athletes and sport policy; sporting identities; sport mega-events; sport media; sport mega-events; sport, diplomacy and foreign policy; sports activism; sport gambling and match-fixing; sport and national identity; sport and wellbeing; sport and the environment.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Steve James Jackson

School of Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Sciences, University of Otago, 9054 Dunedin, New Zealand

Prof. Dr. Michael P. Sam

School of Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Sciences, University of Otago, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand

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Social Sciences Editorial Office MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel: +41 61 683 77 34 socsci@mdpi.com

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Editor-in-Chief

Emeritus Prof. Nigel Parton

School of Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield HD1 3DH, UK

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