



"Sport as a Medium for Social Inclusion and Participation"

First International Conference / University of Zagreb, Croatia
September 29–30 & October 1, 2022

"Sport as a Medium for Social Inclusion and Participation"

Integra – CSF Project: Sport, Discrimination, and Integration. Sport as a Medium for Social Inclusion and Participation & Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

1st International Conference
University of Zagreb, Croatia

September 29-30 &
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PROGRAMME BOOK

**"Sport as a Medium
of Social Inclusion
and Participation"**

PROGRAMME BOOK

Questions concerning social cohesion are inseparable from those connected with problems of integration and discrimination, especially regarding race, regional, ethnic, sexual, or national differences and other kinds of social, cultural, and human diversity. These issues are of contemporary importance in many countries the world over, but especially in the countries of South-East 'post-transitional' Europe, which published reports by international sports organizations (e.g., UEFA and FIFA) have highlighted as especially problematic as concerns discrimination. In recent years, questions of integration and discrimination have also become increasingly crucial in increased refugee and migrant flows into EU countries. In accordance with the exigencies of the contemporary social context, the social sciences and humanities have intensified their work on these topics, researching issues of integration, inclusion, discrimination, and other post-migration-related processes. Due to their potential for a positive social role, some researchers have focused on the above questions in the field of sport, including sportspersons and fans. This conference seeks to contribute to this area of research.

Zagreb | 29 September – 01 October 2022

1st International Conference | Sport as a Medium of Social Inclusion and Participation |

<https://integra.ffzg.unizg.hr/>

Organisers | INTEGRA - CSF Project: Sport, Discrimination, and Integration. Sport as a Medium
for Social Inclusion and Participation |

Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology University of Zagreb |

Organizational Committee

President: Goran Pavel Šantek

Secretary: Andrej Ivan Nuredinović

Conference Committee: Andrew Hodges, Marijeta Rajković Iveta, Rahela Jurković, Tibor Komar, Andrej Ivan Nuredinović, Goran Pavel Šantek, Anton Vukelić

Important Contacts:

Goran Pavel Šantek: gpsantek@ffzg.hr

Andrej Ivan Nuredinović: anuredin@ffzg.hr



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Venues & Access

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Venues Blueprint & Key Information

Registration & Information Desk |

Conference Rooms Index | Conference Hall of the Library of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences





Conference Schedule

1st International Conference Sport as a Medium of Social Inclusion and Participation

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

September 29, 2022

14:30 - 14:40

Welcome & Conference Opening

14:45 – 15:25

Benjamin Perasović, Marko Mustapić & Ivan Hrstić
(Croatia)

The Roots of the Ultras Subculture in Croatia: Once Upon a Time in Yugoslavia a New Subcultural Style Was Born

15:30 – 16:10

Tibor Komar
(Croatia)

Sporting events and participation motivation for children with disabilities

16:15 – 16:55

Antorn Vukelić
(Croatia)

Dinamo fans and their attitudes towards members of the Serbian national group

17:00 – 17:40

Andrej Ivan Nuredinović
(Croatia)

Repressive measures of the Croatian "Supporters Act" - experiences and perspectives of Bad Blue Boys

17:45 – 18:25

Ivan Hrstić & Marko Mustapić
(Croatia)

Sport as a medium for multidimensional social inclusion: The case of rugby and Croats in New Zealand

19:00

Dinner

VENUE:
Conference room of the Library of The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Important contacts:
Goran-Pavel Šantek: gpsantek@ffzg.hr
Andrej Ivan Nuredinović: anuredin@ffzg.hr

1st International Conference Sport as a Medium of Social Inclusion and Participation

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

September 30, 2022

09:00 - 09:40

Marijeta Rajković Iveta (Croatia)

Football as a medium for integration and social inclusion of the Romani people

09:45 – 10:25

Rahela Jurković (Croatia) & Ramón Spaaij (Australia)

Improving the 'integrative potential' of football for refugees: Proposing a Way Forward

10:30 – 11:10

Andrew Hodges (UK)

The politics of 'no politics' in Pula, Croatia: Lessons learned through an ethnography of the Demons

11:15 – 11:55

Hasan Jashari (North Macedonia)

The integrative role of sport for Macedonians and Albanians in the Republic of North Macedonia

12:00 – 12:40

Iva Kyurkchieva (Bulgaria)

Football and Discrimination – a Case Study from Bulgaria

12:40 – 14:40

Lunch Break

14:45 – 15:25

Diamantis Mastrogiannakis (Greece)

Football related violence in Greece: Counter hooligan policies and supporter's perceptions

15:30 – 16:10

Mateusz Grodecki (Poland)

Nationalism in football stadiums and fans' attitudes. Evidence from quantitative research

16:15 – 16:55

Ilias Sailakis (Greece)

The image of Greek women in sport through the political and sport press in the Interwar era

17:00 – 17:40

Marko Vidnjevič (Slovenia)

Sport as a Method of Socialization of Refugees

17:45 - 18:25

Radosław Kossakowski, Przemysław Nosal & Wojciech Woźniak (Poland)

Football fandom as a constraint towards progressive and anti-discriminatory agenda. Case of Poland

19:00

Dinner

1st International Conference Sport as a Medium of Social Inclusion and Participation

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

October 1, 2022

09:00 – 09:40

Goran-Pavel Šantek (Croatia)

“The battle continues.” FC Dinamo’s fans struggle for a less discriminative club and society

09:45 – 10:25

Özgür Dirim Özkan

Women sweat in the pitch dominated by male hegemony: Women’s football in Bosnia and Herzegovina

10:30 – 11:10

Ivan Đorđević (Serbia)

Football in Serbia and Racism. Between Denial and Resentment

11:15 – 13:00

Liam McGroarty
(UEFA)

The roundtable with UEFA: Evaluating the social impact of grassroots football with a view to designing greater impact for more demographics, and for longer

13:00

Conference Closing

13:30

Lunch

VENUE:

Conference room of the Library of The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Important contacts:

Goran-Pavel Šantek: gpsantek@ffzg.hr

Andrej Ivan Nuredinović: anuredin@ffzg.hr

Integra – CSF Project: Sport, Discrimination, and Integration. Sport as a Medium for Social Inclusion and Participation & Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

**First International Conference / University of Zagreb, Croatia
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Abstracts

Day 1

Thursday, 29.09.2022 | 14:45 – 15:25 | CET

Benjamin Perasović, Marko Mustapić & Ivan Hrstić

Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb

ben.perasovic@gmail.com

marko.mustapic@pilar.hr

ivan.hrstic@pilar.hr

The Roots of the Ultras Subculture in Croatia: Once Upon a Time in Yugoslavia a New Subcultural Style Was Born

Organised supporter groups were formed and began to function in the early 1980s in Yugoslavia. After the death of lifelong Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito in 1980, the political crisis reached its peak. The growth in political tensions was especially apparent at football stadiums, which were locations in which forbidden political narratives were expressed *en masse*. The supporter scene formed within this context. The secret service monitored members of supporter groups due to their flirting with nationalism. By using a historical and sociological approach, we wish to avoid numerous mystifications about the supporter scene. The thesis of this presentation is that young supporters in the 1980s, interacting with their peers and society in general, created new forms of collective action. In addition to violence and nationalism, which represent important elements of the supporter scene at the time, we claim that the subculturalisation process itself was key in creating a specific subcultural style of football hooligan, which indelibly marked the 1980s in Croatia and other parts of the former Yugoslavia. Understanding the origins of the supporter subculture in the 1980s is also key to an understanding of the political dimension of the modern ultras subculture in Croatia.

Key words: Politics, Football, Ultras, Yugoslavia, Croatia

Thursday, 29.09.2022 | 15:30 – 16:10 | CET

Tibor Komar

University of Zagreb

tkomar@ffzg.hr

Sporting events and participation motivation for children with disabilities

One of the main aims of the CSF's INTEGRA project is the contribution to models of improvement of inclusion by using sport as a vehicle of social cohesion. When children with various developmental disabilities are concerned, the fieldwork was mostly conducted by the methods of qualitative research and interviews with people involved in the work of associations and institutions concerned with the provision of equal opportunities for these children. The first results point out that inclusion opportunities are usually envisioned to provide children with disabilities a chance and motivation to compete with an aim of reaping all benefits of sport. In this presentation, by looking at two sporting events which could easily be described as examples of good practices it will be described how some of these initial aims could be achieved. The first event is European Youth Games for the Disabled which are held annually in Brno, Czech Republic, in 2022 hosting almost 1000 participants from 15 European countries, competing in five sports. Another event is from Crikvenica, Croatia where every year a children's football tournament is organized by the local NGOs with the aim of offering public a better understanding of the concept of inclusion of socially vulnerable groups.

Thursday, 29.09.2022 | 16:15 – 16:55 | CET

Anton Vukelić

University of Zagreb

avukelic@ffzg.hr

Dinamo fans and their attitudes towards members of the Serbian national group

In the contemporary Croatian context relations between national groups, primarily between members of the Croatian and Serbian national groups, are one of the central social topics therefore this paper focuses on the football fans and their attitudes towards ethnic distance. An additional motif is the *nationalistic rhetoric* that is often present in football fans' iconography. The main focus of this empirical work, based on survey research, was to examine the statistical relationship between the degree of identity with FC Dinamo and the ethnic distance towards members of the Serbian nationality measured by the Bogradus scale. Colloquially put, do "more passionate" fans show a greater degree of intolerance towards members of the Serbian community compared to "regular" fans. Additionally, the ethnic distance of the population of BBB fans is compared to other populations of Croatian society. The empirical research was conducted on a convenient sample of 402 Dinamo fans, and the conclusions obtained can not be generalized to other football fans whose football and social context is different compared to the one in Zagreb. The paper specifically analyzes those fans who identify themselves and call themselves ultras. The degree of subjective identity as a Dinamo fan was analyzed through an additive scale of 12 statements, and the research also questioned the degree of national, religious and political orientation as a possible mediator variable. The analysis of empirical data offers ambiguous conclusions.

Thursday, 29.09.2022 | 17:00 – 17:40 | CET

Andrej Ivan Nuredinović

University of Zagreb

anuredin@ffzg.hr

Repressive measures of the Croatian "Supporters Act" - experiences and perspectives of Bad Blue Boys

This paper brings about the experiences and perspectives of Bad Blue Boys on the enactment of repressive measures of the Croatian Law on Prevention of Disorders at Sports Competitions, popularly called "The Supporters' Act". The main findings of the research derive from 10 semi-structured interviews and an ongoing ethnographic investigation conducted throughout the past four years. The results show that supporters consider this Act to be foremostly a repressive tool, their experiences with the police and the judiciary are various but their perspectives are steadfast in that this Act is unfair and gives non-reciprocal punishments that do not fit the crime committed. Another issue of contention is the case of police officials deliberately estimating when and how the crime is committed. With this paper we address the main problems of the Act and produce a deep insight into a lived world of the repressive reality that reproduces the revolting identity of subcultural actors.

Keywords: Law; Ultras; Supporters; Bad Blue Boys; Repression

Thursday, 29.09.2022 | 17:45 – 18:25 | CET

Ivan Hrstić & Marko Mustapić

Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb

ivan.hrstic@pilar.hr

marko.mustapic@pilar.hr

Sport as a medium for multidimensional social inclusion: The case of rugby and Croats in New Zealand

There are two general approaches to the role of sport in the development of minority ethnic communities. One focuses on the process of assimilation, while the other focuses on maintaining ethnic identity. This paper uses the example of Croats in New Zealand to analyse the role of rugby in terms of both approaches, with additional research on the role of rugby in connecting this community with Croatia throughout the past three decades through the inclusion of the descendants of expatriates in Croatian clubs and the national team. The presentation is based on in-depth interviews conducted with descendants of Croatian expatriates to New Zealand, as well as officials and players in the Croatian national rugby team who have had experience working with them. Special attention will be paid to the institutional relationship between Croatia and its diaspora, as the state attempts to influence the process of reconstructing the national identity of diaspora through sport while simultaneously helping eminent athletes of Croatian origin reach international sporting success. This is especially apparent in the context of elite sport; as concerns rugby, we will research the situation in this a non-elite (amateur) sport in Croatia, but the most popular elite sport in New Zealand.

Key words: elite sport, non-elite sport, rugby, ethnic minority, diaspora, Croatia, New Zealand

Day 2

Friday, 30.09.2022 | 09:00 – 09:40 | CET

Marijeta Rajković Iveta

University of Zagreb

mrajkovi@ffzg.hr

Football as a medium for integration and social inclusion of the Romani people

Romani people are the most marginalised national community in Croatia (and Southeast Europe). Within the *Sport, Discrimination, and Integration. Sport as a Medium for Social Inclusion and Participation* project (funded by the CSF) qualitative ethnological and cultural anthropological field research was conducted with the Romani people involved in football (football players, coaches, NGO activists). This paper discusses the role of football in reducing marginalisation, discrimination, and racism, i.e. the integration process and social inclusion. It relies on the ethnography in particular to analyse different experiences in terms of the integration of Romani football players and (later) coaches, as well as individuals who work in Romani associations, especially when it comes to the organising of football camps with participation of (young) Romani men and women, members of various minority communities, marginalised communities (e.g. refugees, homeless) and members of the majority society. Research shows that football is an important medium for economic and social integration into the majority society, but also for integration within the Romani community(ies) (depending on the country of origin and time of immigration).

Friday, 30.09.2022 | 09:45 – 10:25 | CET

Rahela Jurković

Asesor

rahela_jurkovic@yahoo.com

Ramón Spaaij

Victoria University & Utrecht University

ramon.spaij@vu.edu.au

Improving the 'integrative potential' of football for refugees: Proposing a Way Forward

Based on the research results published in our paper “The 'integrative potential' and socio-political constraints of football in Southeast Europe: A critical exploration of lived experiences of people seeking asylum“, this presentation will propose suggestions to improve refugee inclusion in society through sport (and football in particular). The study critically interrogated the “integrative potential” of football by drawing on ethnographic fieldwork that included 84 semi-structured interviews with refugees, asylum seekers and local community organizations, and five interviews with representatives of national football associations across Southeast Europe, a region that has hitherto been under-examined in this field of research. The results of the research show the uneasy and strained relationship between football and integration, characterized by incongruity between micro-level practices and experiences of solidarity and inclusion, and State-sponsored marginality and deterrence taking place in Southeast Europe. The presentation at the Zagreb Conference will build on these findings to offer recommendations towards filling the gaps in refugee integration through football, with a view to achieve more viable social cohesion in Southeast Europe, and other societies that face similar difficulties as the region.

Friday, 30.09.2022 | 10:30 – 11:10 | CET

Andrew Hodges

The Narrative Craft

info@thenarrativecraft.com

The politics of 'no politics' in Pula, Croatia: Lessons learned through an ethnography of the Demons

When a football fan group claims to be non-political, what does this mean, and what are the broader implications? This article examines such claims in a European context, through an ethnographic case study of the Demons, a small fan group in Croatia who follow Pula's main club, NK Istra 1961. The literature on 'ultras no politica' is first reviewed. Ethnographic descriptions of group activities then form a springboard for a discussion of themes relevant to fan groups the world over: gender, sexuality & race; the role of the internet, social media, and branding; and violence and illegality. Next, the group's 'no politics' positioning is dissected and interpreted as: (i) a strategy for managing diversity, (ii) a rejection of party politics, and (iii) a foil that has facilitated a Croatian nationalist position among younger group members.

Keywords: Pula, Croatian, football fans, ultras no politica, ethnography, political anthropology

Friday, 30.09.2022 | 11:15 – 11:55 | CET

Hasan Jashari

South East European University

h.jashari@seeu.edu.mk

The integrative role of sport for Macedonians and Albanians in the Republic of North Macedonia

All public opinion surveys in Macedonia have proven a great social distance between the two largest ethnic groups. But, obviously, in the time in which we live, sports and recreation contribute positively to our physical and mental health. The question that is imposed on us from the beginning is how much sport affects social cohesion between different cultural groups? Inter-ethnic relations between Macedonians and Albanians are still fragile. But, today we are seeing how, precisely through sports, a cooperation and a spirit of integration for recreation and social cohesion

This paper will address issues related to social distance between ethnic groups in Macedonia. The aim is to determine the development of democracy through sport 30 years after political pluralism. A good example is the Macedonian National football team, which in the last five years has 50% of the football players who are part of the team and who are Albanians. Nationalist fan groups still exchange morbid slogans against each other. The 'Komiti' group leads here with calls for the killing of Albanians. But, everything that happens in society is carried in a more relief way in sports, so the next question is how many citizens are ready to become neighbors, marry or buy different items in each other's stores?

This research was done using the scientific literature related to the social distance between communities in Macedonia with special emphasis on the relations between Macedonians and Albanians. For research purposes, methods such as the Likert scale were used. Analysis and interpretation of the data was also done. Statistical data and previous research related to this social phenomenon have also been used.

Key words: Sport, Integration, Macedonians, Albanian, Social Distance

Friday, 30.09.2022 | 12:00 – 12:45 | CET

Iva Kyurkchieva

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

iva.kyurkchieva@iefem.bas.bg

Football and Discrimination – a Case Study from Bulgaria

This study aims to acquaint the scientific community with the complex amalgam of relationships that arose from the case of a football player from Nigeria, who competed for a Bulgarian provincial team. He was attacked and severely beaten by a group of skinheads in the center of Sofia in 2007. These events provoked interactions between the official state authorities, the non-government sector and various representatives of Bulgarian society. This situation creates conditions for putting sore question before the society and provides an opportunity for some solutions. The study of the degree of sensitivity and commitment of the mentioned actors can help to understand the issues related to discrimination in the Bulgarian society. My research is primarily based on in-depth interviews. I have also used various written data from the official websites of state and non-governmental institutions and media publications to apply the comparative anthropological approach.

Friday, 30.09.2022 | 14:45 – 15:25 | CET

Diamantis Mastrogiannakis

Hellenic Open University

mastrogiannakis.diamantis@ac.eap.gr

Football related violence in Greece: Counter hooligan policies and supporter's perceptions

During the last forty years various policies have been adopted in order to reduce supporters violent behaviour in Greece. In addition to their ineffectiveness in controlling violent incidents, these policies were criticized because they were seen as stigmatizing supporters and infringing on their political and human rights. Following a Foucaultian theoretical perspective, the aim of the presentation is twofold. In the first part, the theoretical idea of the counter-hooligan mechanism is presented, as well as it's main characteristics and it's historical evolution. In the second part, drawing upon recent recherche results supporter's perceptions regarding these policies will be analysed.

Friday, 30.09.2022 | 14:45 – 15:25 | CET

Mateusz Grodecki

The Maria Grzegorzewska University
mgrodecki@aps.edu.pl

Nationalism in football stadiums and fans' attitudes. Evidence from quantitative research

Football stadiums are one of the places where nationalistic views are presented. This is done by means of displays held by organised supporters – Ultras. This includes manifestations of some radical views of nation, among them slogans against immigrants, refugees, ethnic and sexual minorities, or showing national resentments or hostility towards other cultures. This study aims to examine whether, and if so, to what extent these exclusionary views are shared in football fans attitudes at the individual level. The study is based on a survey conducted on a sample representative for Polish citizens (N=4,030) from which football fans were extracted (N=643). The results obtained using multiple statistical methods show that being a fan of a Polish football club accounts for significantly higher scores on postulates referring to ethnic and racial criteria of national identity and glorification of past war heroes. They also indicate that being a fan of a Polish football club accounts for the higher level of experiences of attending organised commemorations of historical events and national holidays and the level of national pride. On the other hand, it is not related with higher levels of prejudice against different minorities and antipathy to other nations, identified in ultras' discourse as a threat to the Polish nation.

Key words: Nationalism, Football, Fans, Ultras, Cross-sectional study

Friday, 30.09.2022 | 15:30 – 16:10 | CET

Ilias Saliakis

University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki
saliakis.ilias@yahoo.gr

The image of Greek women in sport through the political and sport press in the Interwar era

In the early 1920s, the feminist ideology and the political, social and economic circumstances in Greece shaped and influenced certain new perceptions about the role of women in public life. These new perceptions were also expressed through the participation of women in the field of sport. Women in Greece tried to claim their place in this historically male-dominated field and in 1923 started to participate in sports meetings and events organized by the Pan-Ionian Gymnastic Club of Smyrna, a sport club based in Athens following the Greco-Turkish War (1919-1922). However, the Hellenic Association of Amateur Athletics (SEGAS), the central authority for the administration of sports, maintained an opposing view regarding the inclusion of women in Greek sports. This reaction towards female athletes was reflected, directly as well as indirectly, through the political and sports press of the time.

This paper examines how women's sports were covered by the political and sports press in interwar era. Many newspapers treated women's sports and the efforts of Greek women athletes with negativity and degradation. On the other hand, it is observed that a portion of journalists and administrative agents did support women's sports. Through a thematic historical and critical analysis, we attempt to define the obstacles against the establishment of women's sports in Greece. The press at the time directly reflected the dominant social and political beliefs and perceptions about the role of women in social life. Press articles, as materials of public history, enable researchers, as well as readers, to understand and reconstruct the cultural context of that era.

Key words: Greek female athletes, interwar era, Greek press, SEGAS

Friday, 30.09.2022 | 16:15 – 16:55 | CET

Marko Vidnjevič

Alma Mater Europaea – ECM; Maribor, Slovenia
markovidnjevic@gmail.com

Sport as a method of Socialization of Refugees

Objective:

The paper includes a case study which was held in the Slovenian boxing club Koper, almost directly after the wave of refugees that occurred during the Russian intervention in Syria in 2015.

As a result, Slovenia erected wire fences on the southern border with the Republic of Croatia and opened camps for refugees who applied for asylum.

With the aim of integration into Western European society, social services sent young refugees to different sports clubs. It turned out they were young fighters in the Syrian war.

Method:

As a coach in boxing club Koper, I had the opportunity to train and observe three groups of younger men between the ages of 15 and 18 over a period of three months. In addition with observation method I conducted five cognitive interviews with a total of twelve participants, as only they understood some English.

Results:

We found that sport was not only the right move by the Slovenian social services for the integration of refugees into our society, but also the refugees' desire and need for physical activity, which contributed to the reduction of anxiety. The second perceived effect of the refugees' participation in sports clubs was the development of the ghetto system due to socializing among themselves.

Conclusions:

Sports and refugee policy must be much more than just a temporary problem. Especially when we are talking about young people who have the experience and trauma of war behind them.

Keywords: sport, boxing, refugees, socializing, war;

Friday, 30.09.2022 | 17:00 – 17:40 | CET

Radosław Kossakowski

Gdańsk University
radoslaw.kossakowski@ug.edu.pl

Przemysław Nosal

Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
pnosal@amu.edu.pl

Wojciech Woźniak

University of Łódź
wojciech.wozniak@uni.lodz.pl

Football fandom as a constraint towards progressive and anti-discriminatory agenda. Case of Poland

FIFA and UEFA are actively, at least in declarations, encouraging actions aimed at fighting discrimination in football and empowering minority groups through inclusive policies and practices. Sometimes these activities are described as sport-washing given the ambivalence, to say the least, of the credibility of those two multinational corporations using the façade of nonprofit organizations. In many cases however, particularly grassroots actions undertaken in the social world of football brought commendable results enhancing inclusion of disadvantaged groups and individuals.

As we have shown in our previous work, Polish football fandom is almost unanimous in its political and ideological stance, which is right-wing and conservative, bordering on nationalism (2020, 2021). It is also rather single-minded in its efforts to prevent introduction of any kind of top-down anti-discriminatory agenda within Polish football. Consequently, Polish Football Association and football clubs in Poland are very reluctant to implement any activities that may be negatively perceived by the organized fandom. At the same time, on a local level fans are frequently engaged in activities supporting impoverished or disadvantaged children.

In the proposed paper we will utilize the data from several research projects to explain the aforementioned phenomenon. We will also describe the stance of Polish Football Association and the clubs' management towards these issues, casting a light on unusually powerful position of organized fandom in relation to these institutions.

References:

Kossakowski R., Nosal P., Woźniak W. (2021) Guerrilla patriotism and mnemonic wars: Cursed Soldiers as role models for football fans in Poland. *Sport in Society* 24(11), 2050-2065 (z R. Kossakowskim i P. Nosalem).

Kossakowski R., Nosal P., Woźniak W. (2020) *Politics, Ideology and Football Fandom: The Transformation of Modern Poland*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Day 3

Saturday, 01.10.2022 | 09:00 – 09:40 | CET

Goran-Pavel Šantek

University of Zagreb

gpsantek@ffzg.hr

“The battle continues”. FC Dinamo’s fans struggle for a less discriminative club and society

The aim of this paper is to provide a better understanding of how the practices of state and city institutions, whose duty is to ensure that FC Dinamo Zagreb operates following national laws, affect the behavior of supporters. Besides that, it checks hypotheses that parts of fans’ aggressive behavior are structurally caused and that in activist practices of fans, there is also a potential for the democratization of society. As FC Dinamo’s fans persistently ask state and city institutions to observe the law, they can be seen as actors in the democratization of society and close processes like unselective law enforcement and fights against corruption and discrimination.

Saturday, 01.10.2022 | 09:45 – 10:25 | CET

Özgür Dirim Özkan

Freelance social anthropologist, Ankara / Turkey

dirimozkan@gmail.com

Women sweat in the pitch dominated by male hegemony: women’s football in Bosnia and Hercegovina

Football is one of the most essential means of expression of masculine identities in Western Balkans. Football is dominated by male culture and indeed football itself is recognized as “men’s game”. On the other side, recently some successful initiatives on women football take attention in the region. This paper will focus on SFK2000 Women’s football team from Sarajevo, the leading team of the Bosnian Women’s Premier Football League.

During an ethnographic research in Sarajevo in 2006/07, football fans were asked their opinions on women and football on three levels. Football fans (male fans) have had expressed that they would give full support to women as managers of their teams, they would conditionally support women fan groups but they would oppose if a woman would be playing in their team. Stemming from this observation, this paper will be based on interviews conducted in 2016 and additional interviews and observations in Fall 2022 with SFK2000 directors and players. The paper will examine the women’s opinion of football in a male dominated area.

Saturday, 01.10.2022 | 10:30 – 11:10 | CET

Ivan Đorđević

Institute of Ethnography SASA, Belgrade, Serbia
djordjevic.ivan77@gmail.com

Football in Serbia and Racism. Between Denial and Resentment

Racism occurring on football stadiums is still a major problem across Europe today, indicating that, despite many efforts, this phenomenon is not decreasing. Such tendencies are also present in stadiums in Serbia. Unlike other countries, primarily in Western Europe, this problem in Serbia, however, is not yet recognized and addressed. Although numerous fines imposed by international football bodies due to racist outbursts testify that the problem exists, the authorities and the public in Serbia do not pay much attention to the phenomenon of racism. In this presentation, I will focus on the analysis of the reasons why this negative phenomenon is largely ignored. First of all, I will focus on the perception of racism as a phenomenon mostly related to the West, but also on the prevailing culture of the extreme right, which represents the political mainstream of fan groups in Serbia.

Saturday, 01.10.2022 | 11:15 – 13:00 | CET

Liam McGroarty

UEFA
liam.mcgroarty@uefa.ch

Evaluating the social impact of grassroots football with a view to designing greater impact for more demographics, and for longer.

The UEFA Grow team (unit responsible for supporting the strategic direction of national football associations) share their work on impact evaluation, consumer/participation trends, and future opportunities for sporting organisations.

1. Overview of consumer and participation trends in football by country. Key insights on facilities, gender and age.
2. The monetary value of grassroots football in Albania, Macedonia, Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina
3. A sustainable funding model for sport for development: Social Outcomes Contracting

