

RECENZJE / REVIEWS

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About the local, not only European sport – 4th EASS Conference in Münster / O lokalnym, nie tylko europejskim sporcie – IV Konferencja EASS w Münster

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Abstract: The authors present a review of a scientific event which was the 4th European Association of Sociology Sport Conference. The conference which took place in Münster (Germany) was a well organized, valuable scientific devoted to the issues of “local” sport in Europe.

In Münster – not a big, charming, university town of Westphalia – there took place already 4th European Association for Sociology of Sport (EASS) Conference. This year the main thematic motif was “Local Sport in Europe”. However, a great number of participants from over 40 countries of the world decided that the conference deliberations concerned not only the European sport, but also the problems occurring in two Americas or in Asia and Australia.

The organizer of the Conference was (institutionally) Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Fachbereich Psychologie und Sportwissenschaft, Institut für Sportkultur und Weiterbildung and EASS. The enterprise was patronized by the magazine “European Journal for Sport and Society” (EJSS, official magazine of EASS) published here, whose editor-in-chief is Dieter H. Jütting. Prof. Jütting – the head of the Institute mentioned above – was also a member of Scientific Committee and the leader of Organizational Committee of the Conference.

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The aim of the conference was the reflection on the local sport activity. As the organizers of this conference wrote in “Scientific Programme”: “The aim of the conference is to offer a forum for scientists, scholars and researchers involved and interested in the sociology of sport at a local, national and European level. The conference will deal with the peculiarities, differences and similarities of local sport in Europe considering various aspects and applying a multitude of approaches” [www.eass2007.de].

The programme anticipated 4-day deliberations on 31 May – 3 June 2007. The place for deliberations was the building Stadtweinhaus in the centre of the town. In total there were planned 4 key lectures, presentation of 150 submitted papers in 32 thematic sessions and the panel discussion.

Scientific programme of the conference

After the official opening done by the president of the association Otmar Weiss, deliberations were begun by the lecture of Gertruda Pfister (chairwoman of ISSA). The author compared in it the functioning of the European sport (on the example of Denmark) and the American sport (USA).

On the second day the key paper “Local sport activity and sport facilities” was presented by Horst

Hübner. Then, it was necessary to choose among parallel sessions and most interesting subjects. It was enabled by the stiff, minute programme of presentations of papers, observed by majority of lecturers – chairmen of sessions.

Among Parallel Session 1 session B was devoted to the relations “Sport and media”. There were 3 presentations here. The paper on symbolism and visualization of physical culture in the USSR and present Russia was presented by I. Bykovskaya from Russia. S. Ismer (Germany) was speaking about the media, power and emotions. In turn, K. Wickman from Sweden devoted her text to full-ability and disability in the discourse of sport media. The session was ended by the discussion concerning the substance.

After the break for lunch Andrzej Pawłucki conducted a session C on the subject “Top-level sport I”. S. Bergant from Austria presented here the subject of identity and motivation of competitors of this country. The subject of the speech of P. Augestad (Norway) was “The expert’s work of blessing in elite sport”. In turn, M. Lenartowicz (Poland) presented preliminary results of research of the team from Sociology Institute of University of Physical Education in Warsaw concerning socialization and motivation of representatives of Poland from several disciplines. Finally, S. Marivoet (Portugal) presented her sociological reflection after the Portuguese UEFA Euro 2004.

In the third session of that day, session D (“Sport clubs”), planned for hours 16.30-18.00 there were presented all from the five planned papers. Successive interesting speeches were participated by N. Hall (Australia), H. Ebishima (Japan), S. Nagel (Germany), Ch. Stone (UK) and B.J. Pavelko (Finland). There were raised educational and economic dimensions, aspects of transformation and culture of organization in activity of clubs.

Unfortunately, there did not appear Mait Arvisto, anticipated as the author of the speech in the morning plenary session on 2 June. Deliberations began then in parallel sessions. In session C (“Public sport policy”) there presented their works one by one J. Żyśko (Poland), M. Stanek (Czech Republic), R.J. Sonoda (Brasil) and I. Slapickova (Czech Republic). Particularly interesting was the comparison of changes in the sector of sport in Poland and the UK showed by Żyśko and the analysis of politics for sport and leisure time in the area of state Paraná – results of research of the Brazilian team.

After the break it was particularly difficult to choose sessions between history of sport (session A), “Top-level sport II” (- B), “Sociology of football

“ (- C) and “Sport as a social field” (- D). The author chose the lectures: “A qualitative study into the development of capital in amateur and professional boxing” of John Fulton (UK) from session D, with interesting reflection on the subject *body capital* (Fulton develops Bourdieu’s conception concerning human capital) and “Ages and transformations of sports culture in an industrial town” of H. Itkonen (Finland) and the lecture of some Italian researcher of political barriers of development of the Asiatic martial arts – from session A.

Among the most interesting presentations (assessing subjectively) in the successive series of sessions of this day we can rate: “Doping in recreational sport” of I. Slapickova from Czech Republic and “Violence in sports” of her native, A. Sekot (session A), and also “Globalization and de-territorialization: post-territorial sport” of P. Russo (Italy, in session D). Slapickova described the problem on the example of body building. Sekot showed the image of contemporary sport with its immanent aggression and violence. Russo in turn assessed contemporary sport from the perspective of the theory of globalization. It is a pity that at the conference there did not appear anticipated by the programme Nicola Porro from Italy and Marizabel Kowalski from Brazil who were to speak respectively about scandals of football stars and the social *image* of sport body.

Sunday 3 June began with interesting lecture of Fabien Ohl from Lozana (Switzerland) on the subject “Local sport between identity and economy”. Particularly interesting was defining economy by the lecturer as the complex of social beliefs. In this context this author tried also to define “local sport”, the notion of identity etc.

While in session A (“Sport and ethics II”) there held lectures Polish professors Jerzy Kosiewicz (*Aggression behaviour in sport*) and Andrzej Pawłucki (*The sense of the Olympic sport act*), in session C (“Local sport and theory”) conducted by John Fulton there held a lecture the author of this communicate, presenting the paper “The symbolic dimension of Japanese budo” (by W.J. Cynarski and K. Obodyński). The results of research of the Brazilian team were presented here by Ricardo J. Sonoda, who presented the problem “Sport and violence: a study by the figurational theory”. In the discussion there were asked numerous questions and there were noted several more interesting opinions – e.g. of H. Ebishima about contemporary political connotations of old symbols coming from the samurai culture.

In parallel afternoon sessions there were joined – due to absence of a part of lectures – sessions A and

C and sessions B and D. Session A-C was conducted by the vice-president of EASS J. Kosiewicz. There were presented 3 presentations. Ch. Van Tyckom (Belgium) presented results of research which show that “post-national identity” in Europe is fiction. S. Üstüntaş (Turkey) indicated changes in consumption of free time and activity in this area on the example of one of Turkish provinces. Finally, B. Vanreusel (Belgium) presented participation of sport, on the example of the rally “Ronde van Vlaanderen”, in the struggle for national identity and in defence of local community against globalization.

The summary of the scientific programme was the panel discussion on the subject “Local sport in Europe: new challenges – new ethics?”. In the discussion conducted by O. Weiss there participated: J. Fischer (Head of the Federal Institute for Sport Science), Dr K. Koukouris (Greece), Prof. M. Krüger (University of Münster), Prof. A. Pawłucki (University of Physical Education and Sport Gdańsk), A. Sekot (Czech Republic) and W. Stürmann (Head of the Department of Sports in the Ministry of the Interior of North Rhine-Westphalia). There occurred exchange of opinions and various (sometimes divergent) assessments of contemporary sport.

During the conclusion of the Conference Jerzy Kosiewicz received commemorative plates and honour diplomas for absent professors Zbigniew Krawczyk and Mait Arvisto, honourable members of EASS.

Conclusion

In deliberations there participated 130 lecturers, which together with invited guests gives the number of 160 participants. Next to the most numerous group of researchers from Germany, Japanese constituted numerous 11-person group. Eight persons represented the environment of Polish humanists of physical culture. Of course, apart from the scientific programme the organizers provided interesting social programme, including, among other things, visiting the open-air ethnographic museum and a nice Westphalia Evening.

The participants received, at the moment (there should yet be published a thicker publication of selected, complete texts of papers), *Abstract Book* with short summaries of submitted papers, arranged thematically according to the established programme of the Conference.

For these few days Münster became the European capital of sociology of sport. One may risk the statement that 4th EASS Conference was a “history-making event” of the field which is sociology of sport. The aims of the conference assumed by the organizers were realized. Congratulations on the organizational skills.

Słowa kluczowe: socjologia sportu, EASS, konferencja

Streszczenie

Autorzy przedstawiają recenzję wydarzenia naukowego, jakim była IV Konferencja Europejskiego Stowarzyszenia dla Socjologii Sportu. Konferencja w Münster (Niemcy) była sprawnie zorganizowaną, wartościową imprezą naukową poświęconą problemom sportu „lokalnego” w Europie.