

TOURISM OF MARTIAL ARTS. SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY OF TOURISM

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Congress in Rio Maior: the particular example of martial arts tourism and scientific tourism

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Abstract

Background. Particular forms of *non-entertainment* tourism and cultural tourism include scientific and martial arts tourism. In this conference devoted to the theme of martial arts, there is a certain common range, because the objectives are complementary – in terms of scientific research, as well as martial arts studies.

The problem. From the perspective of concepts of scientific tourism and martial arts tourism the problem of the description of the next event (which should be evaluated) appears to be significant for both forms of tourism. It is both a description and an evaluation of the next conference, as well as a contribution to the history of the institutionalisation of research into martial arts and combat sports. The authors are looking for characteristics and criteria for the assessment of similar events. This is also a contribution to the state of knowledge on scientific/conference tourism.

Method. The first qualitative method is one case study research, including descriptive, interpretive and evaluative methods. The second is participant observation. The third is visual sociology (photos from the reviewed event).

Results and Conclusions. It was established that the congress discussed here represents a specific type of conference which allows for a gathering of martial arts and combat sports experts, but is based on strictly scientific debate. The Congress also had significant historical importance for the integration of the international society of researchers into the area of martial arts and combat sports.

Introduction

Particular forms of *non-entertainment* tourism [Cynarski 2012] include: scientific tourism and martial arts tourism. In this conference on the theme of martial arts, there is a certain common field, because the objectives are complementary – in terms of the scientific studies, as well as martial arts. However, while the goal of the tourist interested in martial arts regards particularly practical studies of mentioned martial arts, in the case of a scientific conference that purpose is primarily scientific study.

Scientific perspective for the discussion on tourism and scientific matters in the area of studying and research of martial arts is co-created by *apodemica* – journey theory; theory and methodology of research of the scientific tourism [Cynarski 2015; Sawicki 2016]; and selected theoretical concepts relating to cultural tourism [Buczowska 2014; Cynarski, Sieber, Mytskan 2015; Munsters, Melkert 2015].

In the above-mentioned concepts of scientific and martial arts tourism the problem of description of the next event (which should be evaluated) was undertaken, that is significant for both forms of tourism. It is both an evaluation and a summary of the conference, as well as a contribution to the history of institutionalisation of research into martial arts and combat sports. The authors are looking for characteristic traits and criteria for the assessment of similar events. This is also a contribution to the state of scientific knowledge i.e. conference tourism. *Nota bene*, these conference tours are classified by some theorists and researchers into the category of “business tourism” [Sawicki 2016].

Which research methodology should be adopted here? The first qualitative method is the single case study research, both descriptive, interpretive and evaluative [Skinner, Edwards, Corbett 2015: 116-133]. The second one is participant observation. The third one is visual sociology (photos from one event the 5th World Scien-

tific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts / 5th International Conference of IMACSSS in Rio Maior) [Sztompka 2004; Wagner 2006; Cynarski 2015].

In addition to the content of photos, the study analyses the journey and stay, the programme of the Congress, and also assesses that scientific event.

1. The trip

Both ways of the trip the researchers spent in the company of Polish pilgrims, participants of the pilgrimage to the shrine at Fatima. It is likely that this religious goal is for many Polish travellers a popular reason to visit Portugal. This time, however, the six Polish scientific tourists travelled by plane to a small town of Rio Maior to take an active part in a scientific congress.

Travel, especially abroad, can provide literary or scientific inspiration [Podemski 2004; Zatorska 2016]. Travellers meet with interesting people and experiences new sights. These meetings during travel promote the practical implementation of cultural dialogue [Cynarski 2000]. It is hard to overestimate in particular the inspiring role of conferences, showcasing the latest research findings while discussing their interpretations. But, in addition to new knowledge, the relationship of hosts and participants of various tourist events is very important.

The hosts provided transport for the visitors from the Lisbon airport to their destination. There was also a dinner with tasting of regional cuisine. It is known that the 'tourist tasting' (savouring tourism) [Cynarski, Obodyski 2006] is, next to the visual perception, a very important form of learning a new cultural environment.

What role did the authors-travellers appear in? They starred in several roles e.g. a representative of scientific institutions (scientific society and university), speaker, and leader of a conference session. According to the typology of cultural tourists, they are: scientific tourists, especially scientists and seminarians [Buczowska 2014:171], and sometimes study tourists [Buczowska 2014: 166]. This study concerns the scientists and a strictly scientific event.

2. The programme of the Congress and its evaluation

Prof. Dr **Antonio Manuel Vences de Brito** with his team organised on October 6-8, 2016, in Rio Maior (Portugal), the **5th World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts (5th International Conference of IMACSSS)**. The institutional organisers were the International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society (IMACSSS), and the Escola Superior Desporto de Rio Maior – Institute Politechnico de Santarem.

IMACSSS, bringing together most of the researchers in the area of Martial Arts and Combat Sports (MA&CS), organises annual conferences. This year, the venue of the conference was the town of Rio Maior – the seat of the Academy of Sport Education, part of the Polytechnic University in Santarem (the system of higher education in Portugal creates such a possibility).

The importance that this Conference was given is confirmed by the fact that many important people participated in its opening. The invited guests included: Jose Manuel Constantino – President of the Portuguese Olympic Committee (COP) and Dr Humberto Santos – President of the Portuguese Paralympic Committee (CPP). Guests from the Americas, Asia and almost all over Europe were welcomed by the organizers and the Rector of the University of Santarem and the mayor of Rio Maior – Dr Isaura Morais. There was also a short concert of *fado music*.

Congress was formally inaugurated by the President of IMACSSS and at the same time Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Conference, Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski. He opened the conference with his lecture in the 1st Plenary Session: *Towards a General Theory of Fighting Arts*, which was a prelude to the agenda of Oral Session I: *Historical, Sociological and Philosophical Issues of MA&CS*, in which the participants listened to interesting Portuguese and Spanish presentations, Brazilian researcher on *capoeira* and *judo*, and about the legitimacy of the introduction of martial arts into physical education at school.

In turn, in the Oral Session II: *Psychological, Pedagogic Aspects and Didactics in MA&CS*, chaired by the Secretary General of IMACSSS Dr Krzysztof Kubala, the representatives of Malaysia, Russia, Spain and Portugal spoke about the psychological profile of MA&CS athletes, *Seni Silat*, on expression of emotions in *capoeira*.

After the lunch, the 2nd Plenary Session took place with the lecture by Prof. Abel Figueiredo (Viseu, Portugal) on *MA&CS Coaching. International Framework and Sport Sciences Challenges*. Prof. Cynarski was conducting this session.

Then there was the Poster Session, during which the authors presented theses and research results. There were 23 studies by the authors from almost the entire world, except perhaps Australia. The session was led by Dr Ewa Polak (Rzeszow, Poland).

The third Oral Session was entitled: *Coaching, Training and Health Issues in MA&CS*. Dr Michal Vit (Brno, Czech Rep.), Member of IMACSSS Board was presiding over it while participants from Portugal, Spain, and Brazil spoke about: safety of practising martial arts (*karate, judo, capoeira*), development programmes of these sports and their presence in their education.

On that day there was also Workshop I, which was led by Dr Ewa Polak, during which Dr Marco Branco presented the method of analysis with the help of spe-

cialized software and hardware of MA&CS training, visualization, and correction of player errors. The first day, filled with lectures and practical exercises, ended with a dinner and the opportunity to exchange views and making acquaintances.

The second day began with the 3rd Plenary Session with paper *Assessment of allostasis and of allostatic load as a control tool of the training* by Jose Manuel Garcia-Garcia from Spain. The chairman was Prof. Raquel Escobar Molina (Spain). Then there were three consecutive sessions of YRA – candidates for this year’s Young Researcher Award. In the first YRA Oral Session (*Coaching, Training and Health Issues in MA&CS*) the speaker was Dr Zbigniew Borysiuk (Opole, Poland), and representatives of Spain, Norway, France and Slovenia spoke on: *taekwondo*, pentathlon, and the role of symmetry *w judo*.

The YRA Oral Session II – *Biological, Kinesiological and Psychological Aspects of MA&CS*, was chaired by Ewa Polak. Representatives of Portugal, Spain, Ecuador and Brazil spoke about the role of testing in *judo*, testing of competitors of kick-boxing and young (11-14 years) adepts of *judo*.

The YRA Oral Session III (*Psychological, Pedagogic Aspects and Didactics in MA&CS*), was a kind of continuation of the first day’s session. Dr Sergio Raimondo and Dr Cezary Kusnierz (Opole, Poland) were presiding over it, and the lecturers from Brazil, Japan and the UK spoke of comparative tests in MA&CS, psychology in *jujutsu*, technics in *kendo* and reflected on the essence of *Budo*.

In the 4th Plenary Session Prof. Pierluigi Aschieri (Italy) addressed the issue of *Motor Intelligence*. In turn the Oral Session IV was thematic continuation of the YRA Oral Session III. The chairmen included Prof. Carlos Gutierrez-Garcia (Leon, Spain) and Krzysztof Kubala. This time speakers from Poland, USA, Japan, the Czech Republic, Great Britain and Qatar presented topics related to: motivation in MA&CS, improvement of the training process in MA&CS, *taekwondo*, and usage of MA&CS in the education process.

The Oral Session V – *Historical, Sociological and Philosophical Issues of MA&CS*, which was led by Dr Jong-Hoon Yu (USA) was the continuation of the first day; lecturers from Spain, Italy, the Czech Republic and Japan spoke about: the media, introducing MA&CS in Spain in the 20thC, Italian cultural press in the period of fascism representing the Japanese martial arts, the global promotion of *wushu*, methods used to popularize *taekwondo* and *sumo*, and wondered whether, and to what extent the *dojo* (chamber – the place of fighting and training) is in *aikido* a “sacred place”?

Before the last part of activities of the day there was a meeting of the Board of IMACSSS, during which the participants discussed and decided on the plan of action for the coming years, following the conference, signed by the Society, and current affairs [Newsletter 2016]. As the last part of the conference on that day the Workshop II

was held, during which the software and hardware used to study the impact of forces during combat were demonstrated. It was presented by Luis F. Monteiro (Portugal).

The Congress Banquet and integration (Social Event) complemented that day.

The third day of the conference began with the 5th Plenary Session and the paper *Perceptual-cognitive expertise in combat sport: from scientific research to training* by Oscar Martinez de Quel Perez (Spain). Next, Ewa Polak and Zbigniew Borysiuk led the Oral Session VI – *Adaptive Combat Sports & Martial Arts/Biological, Kinesiological and Psychological Aspects of MA&CS*, and lectures were presented by authors from the Czech Republic, China and Portugal. They covered: history, present and future of MA&CS in China, the role of a master (*sensei*) in *karate*, training of *karate* and the impact of age on the performance of competitors, and the self-defence of disabled people using wheelchairs.

The last, the Oral Session VII, continued on the former topic. It was conducted by Michal Vit and Marco Branco. Representatives of Poland (Borysiuk, Polak and Iwanska) and Malesia (Cheah Boon Chong) spoke about: training of fencing, *karate*, boxing, wrestling and *wushu*.

At the end of the Conference a summary of the presentations was held, as well as awarding diplomas and awards for lectures (the IMACSSS Young Researcher Awards), giving thanks to the organizers for their excellent organizational efficiency, and presentation of the location of the next conference in 2017 – Osaka [cf. Kubala 2016]. Prof. Cynarski awarded Prof. Gutierrez with granted by the IPA (Idokan Poland Association) certificate for 4 dan in *judo*, Charles Spring – 6 dan *renshi* in *karate-do*, and for Prof. Vences de Brito – a plaque of appreciation from the IMACSSS.

Around 140 participants took part in the event. The invited speakers included specialists of sport sciences: Wojciech J. Cynarski, Abel Figueiredo, Jose M. Garcia Garcia, Pierluigi Aschieri, and Oscar Martinez de Quel Perez. Apart from an excellent organization (well planned and carried out according to the plan) [Vences de Brito et al. 2016]), it is worth pointing to the high level of scientific debate in Rio Maior. Extended abstracts have been published [Vences de Brito 2016]. So it can be said that the Congress was both a success for the organizers and all the participants.

3. Analysis of the photographic material

The hosts greeted the visitors [photo 1], then the first speeches were delivered by the invited keynote speakers. This function, next to leading the plenary session, is a special honour [photo 2]. Somewhat reminiscing of the function of the priest during the religious ritual [cf. Cynarski, Obodynski 2004].



Photo 1. Rector greets participants of the Congress [courtesy of organisers, Rio Maior 2016].



Photo 2. Lecture by Prof. Cynarski [courtesy of organisers, Rio Maior 2016]

Dr Kubala [photo 3] served both functions as an active participant. He presented his work and as the Secretary General of IMACSSS he watched over organisational matters. The workshops, unlike the Congress in Rzeszow [cf. Pawelec *et al.* 2015], consisted more of a rather passive participation in a demonstration of bio-mechanical research [photo 4].

The Board Meeting was a working meeting [photo 5], but during the banquet [photo 6] the participants had the opportunity to indulge themselves both in tasting of delicious local cuisine and strengthening the social ties [Cynarski, Obodynski 2006; Zatorska 2016].

Group photos [photo 7] highlight almost a family character of an integrated team, despite the fact that not all participants of Congress are members of the IMACSSS. And it is a memento of the common participation in a major event. The place has, like in the cinema, a stage and the audience. This is a university lecture hall. In this special place, attention of the participants is focused on the person conducting a lecture, with whom they can later discuss the topic. In addition, the big screen displayed the logos of sponsoring institutions [photo 1 and 3]. So to the almost sacred realm (apart from everyday life) the reality of the market economy entered. In contrast, the social work of the organizer is only rewarded with honorary prize [photo 8].

4. Discussion and Conclusions

Since there were no practical exercises, this was not martial arts tourism in its basic meaning [Albrecht, Rudolph 2011; Raimondo 2011; Griffith 2016]. The subject-matter concerned scientific or even scientific events, where even the workshops were only indirectly related to practice and no demonstrations of martial arts were provided [cf. Cynarski, Raimondo 2010; Pawelec *et al.* 2015; Cynarski, Grzywacz 2016]. In particular, it was a meeting of scientist-scholars, including practitioners and leaders in martial arts and of combat sports organisations. The participants were



Photo 3. Dr Kubala with the IMACSSS flag and logo of Congress [courtesy of K. Kubala/IMACSSS].



Photo 4. Workshop I [courtesy of organisers, Rio Maior 2016]



Photo 5. During the Board Meeting [courtesy of K. Kubala/IMACSSS].



Photo 6. Part of the Board of IMACSSS – from the left: C. Gutierrez-Garcia, W.J. Cynarski, A. Figueiredo, K. Kubala, F. Nakiri, S. Raimondo, A. Vences de Brito, and R. Escobar Molina [courtesy of organisers, Rio Maior 2016].



Photo 7. Participants before Closing Ceremony [courtesy of organisers, Rio Maior 2016].



Photo 8. Greetings for Prof. Antonio Vences de Brito and his team [courtesy of organisers, Rio Maior 2016].

Professors: Wojciech J. Cynarski 9 dan *hanshi*; Fuminori Nakiri 7 dan *kyoshi*, Teruo Oboki 7 dan *kyoshi*, Abel A. Figueiredo 7 dan *kyoshi*; Zbigniew Borysiuk 7 dan *kyoshi*, and others; leaders of IMACSSS, Idokan Poland Association (IPA) and the Japanese Budo Academy (JAB), etc.

It was therefore a specific type of conference, which allowed for a gathering of representatives from martial arts and combat sports, but it relied on strictly scientific debate [cf. Cynarski 2015: 41-70, 2016; Cynarski, Kubala 2015]. The debate covered a number of topics in Asian, European, American MA&CS, from a multidisciplinary perspective. Participation in it fully meets the criteria: 1) symbolism of the place; 2) ritual roles and functions; 3) scientific discourse; 4) cultural dialogue; 5) measure of integration [Cynarski 2015: 130].

The Congress was a very well prepared scientific event, with debates of a high scientific level. *Ergo*, it was a very successful event, in both its organisational and

scientific components; a success for its Portuguese hosts and all the participants. The Congress was also of significant historical importance for the integration of the international society of researchers into the martial arts and combat sport arena.

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Kongres w Rio Maior: szczególny przykład turystyki sztuk walk i turystyki naukowej

Słowa kluczowe: turystyka kulturowa, turystyka naukowa, sztuki walki, sporty walki, konferencje

Abstrakt

Perspektywa. Szczególnymi postaciami turystyki nierozrywkowej i kulturowej są turystyka naukowa i turystyka sztuk walki.

W przypadku konferencji poświęconej tematycznie sztukom walki, występuje tu pewien wspólny zakres, ponieważ cele są komplementarne – w zakresie studiów naukowych, jak i sztuk walki. Problem. W perspektywie koncepcji turystyki naukowej i turystyki sztuk walki podjęto problem opisu kolejnego epizodu (jak powinien być analizowany), istotnego jednocześnie dla obydwu postaci turystyki. Jest to zarówno opis i ocena kolejnej konferencji naukowej, jak też przyczynek do historii instytucjonalizacji badań sztuk walki i sportów walki. Autorzy poszukują cech charakterystycznych i kryteriów oceny podobnych wydarzeń. Ma to być też przyczynek do stanu wiedzy na temat turystyki naukowej – konferencyjnej.

Metoda. Pierwszą metodą jakościową jest metoda studium przypadku, zarówno opisowa, interpretacyjna i oceniająca. Drugą jest obserwacja uczestnicząca. Trzecią – socjologia wizualna (analiza zdjęć z prezentowanego wydarzenia).

Wyniki i wnioski. Stwierdzono, że omówiony tu kongres reprezentuje specyficzny rodzaj konferencji, która umożliwia spotkanie ludzi środowiska sztuk walki i sportów walki, ale polega na debacie *stricte* naukowej. Kongres ten miał też znaczącą wagę historyczną dla integracji międzynarodowego środowiska badaczy obszaru sztuk walki i sportów walki.