Session 8G
Negotiations of Gender, Leadership and Community Across Cultural Contexts
Organizer: Program Committee
Presider: Adam Love, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

8G Veena Mani, Indian Institute of Madras
"Playing the Ball: Football and Masculinities in Malabar, India"

In this paper I will look at the production of masculinities through football practices in Malabar. Football (soccer) is a dominant practice engaged by young men in Malabar. Football is not only one of the favourite pastimes but also a source of work. Playing, organising and at most times earning from it, seem to construct a form of masculinity in the region. This playing field and its relation to gender and race are complicated with the inclusion of foreign players from African countries. These local tournaments where players from various nationalities play and compete with and against each other, becomes a rich site where masculinities and race are defined, destroyed and reproduced. Through my ethnographic work, I attempt to look at the lived experiences and representation of masculinities along with the politics of the region as played out in the domain of football in Malabar.

8G Seungyup Lim, Korea University; Benjamin Nam, University of Tennessee, Knoxville & Adam Love, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
"Dong-Gu Chung: A Case of Paradoxical Leadership in International Sport"

This presentation examines the career of Dong-Gu Chung, a South Korean athlete, coach, and sport administrator. As a wrestler, Chung was a national champion. As a coach, he guided the South Korean wrestling team at the 1976 Olympic Games, from which one of his athletes earned the first Olympic gold medal in South Korean history. As an administrator, he served as president of the Korea National Sport University. In these roles, which coincided with a time period during which South Korea’s government was dominated by military rule, Chung was known as an authoritarian leader, who severely punished athletes when they did not perform well and ruthlessly pursued a goal of enhancing national prestige through success in international sport. However, since the end of military rule, Chung has held a much different set of leadership roles. For example, he has served as president of the Asia University Sport Federation, which seeks to foster sports diplomacy among Asian countries, and the Korea Foundation for Next Generation Sports Talent, which provides educational and professional development programs for former athletes. This presentation explores the apparent contradictions in Chung’s career through a biographical approach using pragmatism as an analytical lens.

8G Allison Musser, University of Illinois & Jon Welty Peachy, University of Illinois
"Sense of Community and Underrepresented Students in Intercollegiate Fan Groups"

The emotional attachment to a sports team is an important and vital part of the identity of many sports fans. Besides the attachment to the team, fans often feel a sense of community and camaraderie with other fans of the same team. Sport fandom is an important area of research and as such has been studied extensively. However, one area that has not been studied as extensively is sense of community in intercollegiate sport fan groups, particularly with underrepresented students. This paper fills this gap and examines their experiences as a sport fan, particularly focusing on sense of community, both within the group, and on campus. For this study, the researchers are distributing the Brief Sense of Community Scale (Peterson, Speer, & McMillan, 2008) to underrepresented students who identify as sports fans on the campus of a large Midwestern university. The researchers are also utilizing semi-structured interviews to further gain rich data to understand sense of community among these groups. Potential findings could enhance understanding of how participation in sport fan groups can impact integration into campus culture and academic success. Implications of this research include helping school administrators evaluate how sport can impact and enhance a diverse campus climate.
The United States National Women’s Team has won three World Cup titles, their most recent in 2015. This paper traces their three victories, with an emphasis on the celebration of their most recent championship; specifically, the team was honored with a parade in New York City, marking the first time a women’s team was honored with such an event. Attention will be given to the narratives around the parade, as well as counter narratives, with an aim at thinking about how such a spectacle helps construct public memory. I contend that such a parade is an ephemeral monument that contributes to both the public remembering, as well as forgetting, related to the team and its treatment as a women’s team in America, marginalized and faced with structural inequities, as well as other familiar forms of sexism.