4D Tarale Murry, Texas A&M University & John Singer, Texas A&M University  
“I Don’t Have To, But I Want To: How Society Cultivates A Desire for Black Boys to Play Basketball”  

Previous research has focused on the racial and athletic identity of Black males in U.S. society (Bimper & Harrison, 2011; Harrison, Harrison, & Moore, 2002; Harrison, Sailes, Rotich, & Bimper, 2011). According to Harrison, et al. (2002), Black youth often rely on “perceived positive stereotypes” of Blacks marketed throughout society and “anchor their racial identity” to the narrow channel of athletics and entertainment. Harrison, Lee, and Belcher (1999) found that Black youth were more inclined to see themselves as basketball players, and subsequent research has supported this notion of “hoop dreams” among young Black males (May, 2008; Singer & May, 2011). Some of our previous quantitative research focused on the relationships between basketball, hip hop, Christianity, and racial identity among Black male adolescents, and revealed the more these young boys desired to fit in with and succeed in society, the more they perceived that society viewed them as athletes. The purpose of this presentation is to extend this work by reporting the results of our follow-up qualitative study. Preliminary findings from our interviews with a small sample of these Black boys reveal that despite an awareness of various avenues to success as Black males they maintained professional sport aspirations. This presentation will discuss the implications for future research and practice going forward.

4D Doo Jae Park, Eastern Illinois University & Kristin E. Brown, Eastern Illinois University  
“Exploring the Racialized Athletic Identity Perception of Korean Ice Hockey Players”  

The purpose of this study is to understand the racialized athletic identity perception of Korean ice hockey players specifically members of the men’s national team. Their athletic identity has been re-constructed since six White players from Canada and the US obtained dual-nationality of Korea and Canada/US. This study also explores the negotiation process of racialized athletic identity that has occurred with players of Korean descent after the Korean Ice Hockey Association (KIHA) recruited and naturalized the White players. We utilized Bonilla-Silva’s (1997) structural theory of racism to undergird this study. The study involved interviewing six national team members of Korean descent on their racialized athletic identity perception, their perception of the ‘Whiteness’ of the sport of ice hockey in relation to the six naturalized White players, and changes of their identity perception after White players’ inclusion on the team. Preliminary findings revealed that their racial identities influenced their athletic identities, especially their self-perception of athletic performance in comparison to the White players. Moreover, the KIHA has systematically constructed racialized organizational culture, representing only the White players in the media. Implications and future research directions will be discussed.

4D Robert Washington, Bryn Mawr College  

This paper argues that these three great 20th century black athletes transcended sport as they represented three distinct models of black American identity that resonated with different social-historical developments in American race relations. Extending from the Jim Crow Era of racial segregation to the post-Jim Crow Era of racial protest and reform, their performances of black identity projected very different messages about black life in American society and the social responsibilities of black athletes. This paper is based on an analytical typology that delineates and explains the changing patterns of existential black identity within black America manifested in the radically divergent identities performed by these three great athletes.
**4D Ellen Staurowsky**, Drexel University  
"Exploring the Racial Politics of the Washington Post R-word Poll"

The defense of the racial pejorative, “redsk*ns”, as the signature identifier for the professional football franchise located in Washington, D.C., has taken many forms over the years. One of the most publicized has been the use of what is perceived to be “scientific” evidence obtained through opinion surveys to prove that the term is not objectionable and does not harm American Indian respondents specifically, and other members of U.S. society more generally. Despite American Indian leaders and scholars (American Indian and non-American Indian) pointing out the flaws in these surveys (lack of clarity regarding racial identities of respondents, basic design problems with survey questions, irregularities in information as reported), the Washington Post (WP) commissioned a political polling firm to conduct a survey in 2015 which resurrected as its anchor question one used in the 2004 Annenberg Election Survey identified by scholars as violating basic research design. As a site for exploring how science, media, and racial politics converge, the Post’s decision to fund such an effort in light of these objections is worthy of scrutiny. In this presentation, the connections between the Annenberg and WP surveys, timing of the reported results, and impact on the national dialogue will be discussed.

**4D Shlomo Weinish**, University of Haifa  
"From Facilitators to Leaders – The Next Stage of Latino Baseball Players"

In the last years Latino baseball players became a “hot commodity” in MLB. More than that, many baseball franchises opened baseball academies in Central America (mainly in the Dominican Republic). This phenomenon is parallel to the phenomenon of hegemony change in the MLB of white and Latino players and the misrepresentation of black players. This paper evaluates the impact of these two phenomena on MLB teams and players, fans and American society and eventually the place of Latino players in a team’s hierarchy through the story of Salvador Perez, a Kansas City catcher who won the last World Series MVP. In conclusion, this paper tries to identify the next stage of progress in the phenomenon - the evolution of Latino ballplayers from team facilitators because of their athletic skills to team leaders based on their personality traits and leadership skills, that eventually will have a great impact on them becoming MLB managers.