10G Kiera Duckworth, University at Buffalo, SUNY
“Gender in Adolescence and Young Adulthood: Engaging in Risky Behaviors to Enact and Cope with Pressures of Masculinity”

Some male athletes feel pressure to engage in risky behaviors as a component of their masculinity and as a way to cope with the societal pressures surrounding young men. The findings of this paper draw from a larger study where I interviewed 87 boys and young men in middle school, high school, or college about their individual definitions of masculinity and how those ideals contribute to one’s health behaviors. Participants, at the time of the interview, played on their school baseball team or were members of their school band. Many young baseball players in this study expressed feeling pressure to use illicit drugs, alcohol, and have sexual relations with their female peers much more often than the band members interviewed. Baseball players discussed their struggle with depression, substance abuse, and gaining the approval of parents and peers without allowing anyone to see their vulnerabilities or insecurities for fear of being marginalized. As a coping method, they engaged in risky health behaviors to enact parts of traditional masculinity while simultaneously avoiding being marginalized or seen as weak. These findings contribute to our understanding of how sport may be used to negotiate gendered expectations in adolescence and young adulthood.

10G Christina Gipson, Georgia Southern University
“Integrating At-Risk Youth with CrossFit”

Working with youth identified as at-risk presents numerous challenges and obstacles. According to Coalter (2012), when programs are developed for this population of youth, special attention needs to be given to: program design, needs of the participants, and flexible/changing goals for the program. Two sessions of a CrossFit program were created for youth at-risk between the ages of 10-14. Results identify that both ten week CrossFit sessions were successful in improving fitness levels of participants as well as teaching participants how to set goals and develop strategies for positive self-talk. Although the data showed positive results, the program organizers realized that the aspect of a positive community often identified with the CrossFit environment was missing. The purpose of this study is to analyze changes within the environment when a CrossFit program for youth at-risk is merged with a general CrossFit kids program. Participant observation and focus group data was collected through three CrossFit Kids week-long summer camps.

10G Susanna Hedenborg, Malmö University
“Sport is Life, Sport is Work”

Why do some people participate in sport and exercise and others not? Can sustainable sport patterns be ensured for the future, in that case how? To answer such questions, it is imperative to find out why people choose to or not to participate in sport and exercise and whether and in that case how they could be lead to physical activities. The aim of this presentation is to deepen the understanding of sport and physical exercise through exploring and analysing young people's experiences and ideas of these activities using sociology of childhood as an analytical frame. An analysis of the associations between sport participation and the social construction of childhood and gender will be explored. Previous research has demonstrated that throughout the past 150 years, and at different paces for different social groups, the idea that children should work was replaced by a conception of childhood as a time for schooling and play (Cunningham, 1991). In this presentation, it will be argued that sporting activities have played a very important role in the construction of childhood after WW2 – first of the construction of boyhood and later on also girlhood. It will be argued that today, this construction is challenged by an alternative conception
in which childhood and youth are to an increasing extent seen as life phases in which healthy lifestyle choices must be learnt and performed (cf. Webb and Quennerstedt, 2010; Webb, Quennerstedt, and Ohman, 2008; Dworkin and Wachs, 2009). The use of sociology of childhood as a frame of analysis gives us as researchers an opportunity to give voice and agency to children and youth and to act publicly for a sport which is more in accordance with all children’s and young people’s rights.

10G Matthew Haugen, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Zhouwei Huang, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign & You You Zhang, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

“Understanding Cultural Values, Attitudes and Behavioral Intentions on Participation in Recreational Sport for Children in China”

China is in the midst of a paradigm shift in which society is moving toward a system of autonomy, free will and choice when making decisions. One of the most pressing issues facing parents of aspiring athletes is whether or not to enroll their children into the government sponsored sports programs. This often comes at the expense of continuing traditional education, and instead follows a full time athletic path. Conversely, many full time students spend little to no time in recreation or leisure sport programming, especially as academic requirements become increasingly demanding. Some Chinese parents, however, choose to have their children participate in both traditional schooling and spare time sports programming. This paper outlines the cultural attitudes, values and reasons as to why some parents are pushing back against societal norms to choose a convergent path of academics and athletics. The paper will present the findings and interviews from a study conducted in China with parents whose children are both studying and playing sport. Discussion will be centered around the perceived benefits and potential shortcomings of being involved in both activities, and how to provide a meaningful learning experience in both fields.