7A Ryan Turcott, University of Georgia & Rose Chepyator Thomson, University of Georgia

“International Migration: Examining Factors and Experiences of Male Basketball Players in NCAA Division I Basketball”

Since the late 20th century, basketball has continued to see tremendous growth globally in terms of its registered participants and the overall competitions taking place. As basketball coaches and scouts across the world are more easily able to observe these distant games, players of different nationalities have become more attainable at the NCAA DI level. The theoretical perspectives used to guide this study were: world systems theory and transnationalism. The purpose of this study was to understand migration factors and experiences of former international male basketball student athletes at colleges and universities in NCAA Division I institutions. Data collection method used in this study was an open-ended, semi-structured interview. Sixteen participants were interviewed through videoconferencing. Data analysis was conducted with the use of a constant comparison method and data categories that emerged were organized under themes (Glaser & Strauss, 1967). Findings in this study include: participants’ experiences, decision-making processes in migration, and overall experiences as student-athletes in the U.S. college basketball system.

7A Thomas Carter, University of Brighton

“Accidental Affects of Movement: On Classificatory Apparatuses in Sport”

The ascendant rise of the global sport industries driven by multinational corporations and international non-governmental organizations like the IOC and FIFA created an environment in which athletes can now more readily ply their skills around the world. The “discovery” of specific racialized and ethnicized athletes as being somehow “emblematic” of prowess and “excellence” directly shapes athletes’ ability to produce their own mobility. This paper uses two sports “rugby union and basketball” to demonstrate the ways in which athletes produce mobility or are rendered immobile because of the accident of their race, or a physical injury. Athletes’ movement or stasis is shaped by apparatuses beyond any individual’s own control, such as those of migration, race, and sport. Athletes in this paper do not lack the necessary skills to migrate, indeed some have done so. They all, however, lack, a certain capital, that of mobility, and it is that lack which constrains their ability to migrate and continue their career beyond their current location. That mobility is precarious, and can be lost through accidental injury is evident in how these men deal with these apparatuses and the precarity of being a migrant athlete.

7A Wang Sung Myung, Yonsei University

“Korean Professional Football Players’ Exodus: Migration to China, Middle East and Southeast Asia”

The purpose of this study is to understand Korean professional football league (K-League) exodus and explore its causes and countermeasures. This study classifies the historical background of K-League players’ labor migration as three generations: ‘realized first-generation’, ‘regularized second-generation’ and ‘accelerated third-generation’ which is present among players in the center of the exodus. First, the main structural causes of the K-League exodus were classified as an Asia quota system, due to China’s football rise, the Middle East’s oil-money and Southeast Asian’s football growth. Secondly, the financial deterioration of the parent company and salary disclosure were shown as the additional main structural causes. In terms of those who implement, the main motivation of migration was classified as poor infrastructure of the K-league, the challenge of a new environment, the lure of high salaries, and players’ limited lifetimes. Based on this analysis, the change to selling the league under the K-League exodus phenomenon is an unavoidable choice and worthy of discussion. Also, the strengthening the entries
system for players aged 23 or less can ensure a game participation of young players and provide more synergy of the investment for youth team development.

7A Jerry Reynolds, University of South Carolina; Victor Kidd, University of South Carolina; Richard Southall, University of South Carolina; Anna Scheyett, University of Georgia; Mark Nagel, University of South Carolina

“Risk and Resilience: The Transition of Division I Male Athletes Out of College Sport”

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division-I football, men’s basketball, and baseball players experience significant challenges after their intense competition and campus visibility has ended (Adler & Adler, 1989; Ferrante, Etzel, & Lantz, 2013). These difficulties (e.g., risk factors, Fraser, Galinsky, & Richman, 1999) include significant negative graduation gaps (Harper, Williams, & Blackmon, 2013; Southall, Eckard & Nagel, 2014), emotional and behavioral challenges, inadequate employment opportunities, maladaptive coping skills, and role identity confusion due to athletic role engulfment (Baillie, 1993; Cadigan, Littlefield, Martens & Sher, 2013; Ferrante, Etzel, & Lantz, 1996; Irick, 2012; Murphy, Petitpas, & Brewer, 1996; Turner, Southall, & Eckard, 2014). These difficulties are exacerbated by constant media exposure and revenue generation expectations (Baillie & Danish, 1992). Utilizing Fraser’s et al. (1999) Risk and Resilience Framework (RFF), this ongoing interdisciplinary study (current N = 18) used a mixed-method approach (Southall, Amis, Nagel, & Southall, 2008) to explore the extent to which identified risk and resilience factors predict college athletes’ transition outcomes. This study’s results confirm the presence of both risk and resilience factors among college athletes, and highlights their difficulties and transitions out of sport. This presentation, which summarizes the study’s results, provides an informed basis for policy recommendations, increased and targeted support services, and broad-based sociological discourse concerning college athletes’ post-university sport transitions.