

4th International Conference

ETHICS, BIOETHICS AND SPORT

Zagreb and Varaždin, May 3–4, 2024

“Fritz Jahr” Conference Hall, Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics
Ivana Lučića 1a, Zagreb

“Herzer Palace” Multimedia Hall, Varaždin City Museum
Franjevački trg 10, Varaždin

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**ORGANIZERS OF THE
4th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
*ETHICS, BIOETHICS AND SPORT***

ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics



Znanstveni centar izvrsnosti
za integrativnu bioetiku

Research Committee for Bioethics and Sport
of the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics



Croatian Bioethics Society



Croatian Philosophical Society



Varaždin Philosophical Circle of the Croatian Philosophical Society



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**ETHICS, BIOETHICS AND SPORT –
MOVING FORWARD IN
SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

Two significant developments took place for the geographical region of South East Europe in the period after the third International Conference of Ethics, Bioethics and Sport (ICEBS) in 2022, and before the 4th ICEBS in 2024 at Zagreb and Varaždin, Croatia.

Firstly, at the 4th European Association for the Philosophy of Sport (EAPS) Conference at KU Leuven, Belgium in April 2023 (which is a joining conference with the British Philosophy of Sport Association – BPSA), a member of the Regional Community, Matija Mato Škerbić from the University of Zagreb Croatia, was elected as president of EAPS. This is not only a recognition of the hard work of the individual scholar, but also of the South East Europe regional community.

Secondly, in September 2023, the 50th International Association for the Philosophy of Sport (IAPS) Annual Conference took place in Split, Croatia and the same group of scholars led by Matija Mato Škerbić that is behind the 4th International Conference ‘Ethics, Bioethics and Sport’ was responsible for the 50th IAPS as well. They had a perfect partner in the Faculty of Kinesiology of the University of Split and prof Goran Gabrilo as their representative. The 50th IAPS conference turned out to be probably the most successful in half-century history with 144 participants, which is the highest number so far, and the highest rate of members of the IAPS, which is a *sine qua non-requirement* for attending IAPS events.

From the regional viewpoint, the 50th IAPS conference is an important step forward for the community in the countries of the South East Europe region. We like to think that with this conference region is not only acknowledged as relevant and important to the global community but also recognised as having a growing potential for the future.

However, the SouthEast Europe community is moving forward with the 4th International Conference ‘Ethics, Bioethics and Sport’ as a sign of continuity and determination to further develop a philosophy of sport in the region. In this regard, the near-future plan for the regional community is to officially establish a specific *South East Europe Association for the Philosophy of Sport* as a part of a larger *European Association for the Philosophy of Sport* to have a larger platform to address issues important

for the Region, but also for easier connection and collaboration with the larger international community. Of course, in such a way, the Region will earn one person as an official representative inside the EAPS Executive Committee, and that means both - an official voice and a vote.

After hosting a few of the most important authorities in the philosophy of sport in the previous conferences, such as William John Morgan at the 1st ICEBS, Mike McNamee at the 2nd ICEBS, and Scott Kretchmar, Sigmund Loland and Jim Parry at the 3rd ICEBS, at the 4th conference keynote speakers will be three leading female philosophers of sport: Angela Schneider from Canada, Silvia Camporesi from Italy and Emily Ryall from the United Kingdom, accompanied with the global bard of sports-philosophy Jim Parry from the Czech Republic.

Angela J. Schneider is a Professor of Kinesiology and Director of the International Centre for Olympic Studies in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Western Ontario located in London, Ontario, Canada. She was a Director for Ethics and Education at the World Anti-doping Agency and was a President of the International Association of the Philosophy of Sport and a former Assistant Dean for Ethics and Equity in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Angela also won an Olympic silver medal in rowing in the women's coxed four in the 1984 Olympic Games. The oeuvre of her works is quite significant, and her contributions to the research of enhancements, doping and anti-doping, women in sports and fair play are unparalleled in the field. She is the author of 'Gene Doping in Sports: The Science and Ethics of Genetically Modified Athletes' (2006), and editor, together with W. J. Morgan and K. Meier, a landmark book 'Ethics in Sport' (2001).

Silvia Camporesi is a bioethicist and sport ethicist with a longstanding interest in technologies and health, and an interdisciplinary background in medical biotechnology, and philosophy of medicine. She was originally trained as a biotechnologist at the University of Bologna and at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Trieste. She holds two PhDs: the first in Foundations of Life Sciences and Ethics, a joint program of the European School of Molecular Medicine and the University of Milan (2010); the second in Philosophy of Medicine awarded by King's College London (2013). Silvia is the author of more than 60 peer-reviewed articles in a variety of medical ethics, bioethics, and scientific journals, and three books – 'From Bench to Bedside to Track & Field: the Context of Enhancement and its Ethical Relevance' (2014, University

of California Medical Humanities Press), 'Bioethics, Genetics and Sport' (with Mike McNamee, Routledge, 2018), and 'Partire (s)vantaggiati? Corpi Bionici e Atleti Geneticamente Modificati nello Sport' (2023, Fandango). Silvia is a leading international figure in bioethics and sport. She is Deputy Chair of the British Philosophy of Sport Association and an appointed member of the World Anti-Doping Agency Ethics Advisory Expert Group

Emily Ryall is a philosopher in sport, games and play. She has published and presented on a wide number of topics in these areas around the world. She has been an invited contributor for the BBC, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Guardian, New York Times, Cheltenham Science Festival, Battle of Ideas Festival, and Wellcome Trust, amongst others. She has spoken and written about contemporary issues in the world of sport, such as sportswashing, the inclusion of trans-athletes, the effect of technology, and the beauty and value of sport. She also has an interest in understanding games and play more generally, whether this is in the form of computer games, strategy games, or mindless but fun playful activity. She currently works with UK Athletics, RFU, Sports Resolutions, the British Association for Sport and Exercise Sciences, and NATO. She is the author of 'Philosophy of Sport: Key Questions and Critical Thinking for Sports Students' (2012), and co-author of a series of books on the philosophy of play, and is an associate editor for the Journal of the Philosophy of Sport.

At the 4th conference again, a variety of important topics and current cases in/for contemporary sports will be discussed such as athletes with DSD issues (Camporesi), doping (Schneider, Dikić, Andjelković, Žarković), trans inclusion (Ryall), editing genes associated with sports performance (Korać), the phenomenology of women in sport (Vigato), sporting feminism in Bulgaria (Angelova-Igova), cases of freediver Vitomir Maričić (Dikić, Andjelković, Žarković) and former handball player Denis Buntić (Kunić & Škerbić), weight issues (Parry), VAR technology (Gabriilo, Kučko) mountaineering as a sport (Eterović), fair play (Hosta), strategic fouling (Kreft), physical activities as human right or duty (Pisk), physical activities and children (Zurc), philosophical and cognitive-linguistic analysis of sports metaphors (Defrančeski) and understanding sports through Wittgenstein's language games (Skelac), and bioethics of sport as a discipline (Škerbić & Zagorac).

Matija Mato Škerbić

PROGRAMME OF THE
4th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ETHICS, BIOETHICS AND SPORT

FRIDAY, May 3, 2024

**“Fritz Jahr” Conference Hall, Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics
(Ivana Lučića 1a, Zagreb)**

9:00–9:30 *Opening ceremony*

- MATIJA MATO ŠKERBIĆ, President of the Organization Committee of the Conference
- IVO DŽINIĆ, President of the Croatian Philosophical Society

9:30–10:30 *Plenary lecture and discussion*

- SILVIA CAMPORESI (Italy/Austria): Epistemological and Ethical Problems with Eligibility Criteria to Compete in the Women’s Category for Athletes with DSD: A Review of Values, Norms and Evidence

10:30–10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45–11:45 *Lectures and discussions*

- MATIJA MATO ŠKERBIĆ & IVANA ZAGORAC (Croatia): Bioethics of Sport – Critical Examination of the Current State of the Sub-Discipline
- IGOR ETEROVIĆ (Croatia): From Climbing Games to Distinctive Nature Sport – Providing a Philosophical Account of Mountaineering as a Sport

11:45–12:00 *Coffee break*

12:00–13:00 *Lectures and discussions* (hybrid – virtual and in-person)

- NENAD DIKIĆ, MARIJA ANDJELKOVIĆ, SANJA ŽARKOVIĆ (Serbia): Application of Anti-doping Rules and Regulation in an Inappropriate Way – Vertical Blue Case
- Breaches Of Human Rights In Vertical Blue Case (guest: Vitomir Maričić – Croatian freediver sportsman)

13:00–14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00–15:30 *Lectures and discussions* (hybrid)

- BORYANA ANGELOVA-IGOVA (Bulgaria): Sporting Feminism in Bulgaria - A Challenge to the Patriarchal Culture (virtual)
- JAN DEFRANČESKI (Croatia): Decoding Sportsmanship: A Philosophical and Cognitive-Linguistic Analysis of Sports Metaphors
- INES SKELAC (Croatia): Playing by the Rules: Understanding Sports Through Wittgenstein's Language Games

15:30–15:45 *Coffee break*

15:45–16:45 *Lectures and discussions*

- MATIJA VIGATO (Croatia): Phenomenology of Women in Sport: Subject – Object Relations and the Power of Directed Attention
- LEV KREFT (Slovenia): Moral Hazard of Strategic Foul

16:45–17:00 *Coffee break*

17:00–18:00 *Plenary lecture and discussion*

- JIM PARRY (United Kingdom / Czech Republic): The Weight Category and Weight Issues in Sport

SATURDAY, April 4, 2024

“Herzer Palace” Multimedia Hall, Varaždin City Museum (Franjevački trg 10, Varaždin)

9:00–9:30 *Opening ceremony:*

- NEVEN BOSILJ, Mayor of the City of Varaždin
- MATIJA MATO ŠKERBIĆ, president of the Organization Committee

9:30–10:30 *Keynote lecture*

- ANGELA J. SCHNEIDER (Canada): Safeguarding and Athlete Vulnerabilities: Risk Taking and Doping

10:30–10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45–11:45 *Lectures and discussions*

- JERNEJ PISK (Slovenia): Physical Activities: A Human Right or Duty?
- PETRA KORAC (Croatia): Editing Genes Associated with Athletic Performance – Present or Future Risk?

11:45–12:00 *Coffee break*

12:00–13:00 *Lectures and discussions*

- TAMARA KUNIĆ & MATIJA MATO ŠKERBIĆ (Croatia): Emotions and Hate Speech Against Victims of Domestic Violence on News Sites in Croatia: The Case of Denis Buntić
- JOCA ZURC (Slovenia): How Do Physical Education and Extracurricular Sports Activities Contribute to a Healthier Lifestyle for Children and Youth? – Ethical Dilemmas in Sport From the Perspective of Leisure Pedagogy

13:00–14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00–15:30 *Lectures and discussions*

- MILAN HOSTA (Slovenia): Fair Play as a Moral Form System: Complementing Loland's Normative Approach
- GORAN GABRILO (Croatia): VAR: Friend or Foe of Football? An Inside View
- VID KUČKO (Croatia): The Challenge System and its Impact on Football, VAR, and Ethics of the Game

15:30–15:45 *Coffee break*

15:45–16:45 *Plenary lecture*

- EMILY RYALL (England): How the Experience of Trans Men influences the Debate on Trans Inclusion in Sport

16:45–17:00 *Concluding remarks and closing of the Conference*

PAPER ABSTRACTS

BORYANA ANGELOVA-IGOVA

National Sports Academy 'Vassil Levski', Sofia, Bulgaria

SPORTING FEMINISM IN BULGARIA – A CHALLENGE TO THE PATRIARCHAL CULTURE

The philosophy of sports, partly sporting feminism, makes it possible to trace social processes hidden in the great culture. The research in Bulgaria shows that women suffer from their predetermined role, which places them unequal to men. The attitude towards women changes only if it is economically and politically acceptable, but not from the point of view of humanity. Sport is instrumentalized and corrupt political regimes and organizations are legitimized through it, and the interest of female athletes is sporadic. Through the examples from sports that are included in this paper, we have the opportunity to rethink our understanding of “male” and “female” and to put the human being in the first place.

SILVIA CAMPORESI

*Department of Philosophy and Communication, University of Bologna, Italy
Centre for the Study of Contemporary Solidarity, University of Vienna,
Austria*

**EPISTEMOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL PROBLEMS
WITH ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO COMPETE IN THE
WOMEN'S CATEGORY FOR ATHLETES WITH DSD:
A REVIEW OF VALUES, NORMS AND EVIDENCE**

In *Mokgadi Caster Semenya v. International Association of Athletics and Athletics South Africa v. International Association of Athletics*, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled that World Athletics' Differences of Sex Differentiation (DSD) regulations are appropriate measures to level the playing field in sport. In this paper, I first provide a historical contextualization to the rules and regulations that have been applied and continue to function, to limit athletes with DSD conditions' eligibility to compete in women's sporting events without pharmacologically lowering their testosterone levels. I then review the available evidence regarding performance advantages with which athletes with DSD may compete in order to address the ethical and epistemological challenges related to the level of evidence considered sufficient by CAS for the implementation of DSD regulations. Finally, recognizing that fairness and unfairness remain difficult concepts to define and that selectively used constructs are employed by both policymakers and arbitrators, I argue that "unfair advantage" in competition could be operationalized on the basis of the principle of fair equality of opportunity and attainability of advantage within a given category.

JAN DEFRANČESKI

University Centre for Integrative Bioethics, University of Zagreb, Croatia

DECODING SPORTSMANSHIP: A PHILOSOPHICAL AND COGNITIVE-LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SPORTS METAPHORS

In this paper, the author delves into the intricate relationship between language, cognition, and ethical principles in the context of sports metaphors. By employing a cognitive-linguistic approach (with strong theoretical footholds in G. Lakoff's and M. Jonson's conceptual metaphor theory), the author aims to "decode" the underlying conceptual metaphors used in sports discourse that articulate and shape the ethical dimensions of sportsmanship (i.e., fair play). On the other hand, by using a philosophical analysis of sports-related metaphors (with solid theoretical foundations both in L. Wittgenstein's ordinary language philosophy and H.-G. Gadamer's philosophical hermeneutics), the author seeks to unveil how these "linguistic constructs" not only reflect our perception and understanding of "fairness", "equity", and "honour", but also contribute to the cognitive frameworks that guide individuals in ethical conduct, moral action, and sportsmanship. In that sense, the paper intends to shed light on the subtle ways in which language influences our understanding of ethical conduct in sports, by providing insights into the role of (conceptual) metaphors in shaping and reinforcing ethical norms within the realm of sportsmanship.

NENAD DIKIĆ, Marija Andjelković & Sanja Žarković

Singidunum University, Belgrade, Serbia

Singidunum University, Belgrade, Serbia

Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, Serbia

APPLICATION OF ANTI-DOPING RULES AND REGULATION IN AN INAPPROPRIATE WAY – VERTICAL BLUE CASE

This paper will consider the case of Croatian free divers at Vertical Blue Competition 2023 in the Bahamas from several angles. From improperly applied anti-doping rules and regulations, problems with the role of testing authority and result management authority, inappropriate processing, and punishment, to the consequences of such an approach on processed athletes and the entire free diving community.

FROM CLIMBING GAMES TO DISTINCTIVE NATURE SPORT – PROVIDING A PHILOSOPHICAL ACCOUNT OF MOUNTAINEERING AS A SPORT

Mountaineering is a common social activity, but highly perplexing and elusive in theoretical attempts to give its definition. Moreover, mountaineering is taken for granted as a more or less leisure activity that eventually has some overlapping points with sports. However, it is far from clear what mountaineering exactly is or, more provocatively, what it should be, having in mind some basic postulates and practices exercised by mere practitioners – mountaineers. I argue that there are firm grounds for taking mountaineering seriously as a sport, but a highly distinctive and genuine one. I will elaborate on this in three steps. First, I show that the seminal work of Bernard Suits (1978) about the nature of the game(s) gives a useful and effective theoretical tool for the initial analysis of mountaineering. Starting from the view that it is a special kind of game, specifically a climbing game, some important features of this activity came to the forefront as essential. Second, I take the developed analytical framework of the structure of nature sports given by Kevin Krein (2014; 2019) as a powerful theoretical tool for disseminating mountaineering as a sportive activity. I show that such an approach is not just adequate for the analysis of mountaineering but is also promising in opening further possibilities for epistemological, ontological, and ethical analysis of mountaineering. Third, I take seriously some critics and different views about nature sports, primarily that of Leslie Howe (2012; 2019), showing that there are some points that should be taken into consideration when providing an account of mountaineering. However, I show that this could and should be done exclusively in the sense of the wider ethos of mountaineering, which really broadens the richness of mountaineering, but I firmly argue, does not destroy the essential sportive nature of the activity of climbing mountains.

VAR: FRIEND OR FOE OF FOOTBALL? AN INSIDE VIEW

The introduction of video technology in football is probably the biggest innovation of the 21st century in terms of the Laws of the Game. The pace of the game of football is increasing and decision-making for referees is becoming increasingly difficult, making evidence-based practices in football a necessity. Although the video assistant referee (VAR) is widely recognised as the tool that has made football more just and fairer (Trivino, 2023), it has not been enthusiastically embraced by all (Behrens, 2023).

On the other hand, from the referee's viewpoint, with VAR, it is much easier for the referees as the pressure has shifted from the pitch and the referee to the VAR room. In this lecture, I will make a critical examination of VAR protocol in football, and shed a new light from the perspective of an actual VAR referee using both: personal experience of refereeing in Croatian and UEFA competitions, as well as data gathered on VAR usage from different research conducted in various European national football leagues.

MILAN HOSTA

Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Primorska, Slovenia

FAIR PLAY AS A MORAL FORM SYSTEM: COMPLEMENTING LOLAND'S NORMATIVE APPROACH

This paper delves into the intricate landscape of sports ethics, proposing a novel moral form system that complements and expands upon Sigmund Loland's normative approach to fair play. Drawing on the philosophical underpinnings of the Sufi enneagram and integrating diverse ethical theories the SPORTIKUS (acronym) model is introduced as a comprehensive and practical framework for ethical decision-making in sports. With its emphasis on the essential qualities and existential pathways represented by the numbers 3, 6, 9 (for the formative system) and 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 (for the existential norm formation domain), offers a more flexible, adaptable approach to sports ethics.

Ethical pluralism serves as the foundation of the SPORTIKUS model, advocating for a multifaceted approach to ethical challenges in sports that respects the complexity of moral dilemmas and offers practical pathways for navigating these dilemmas with integrity through tensegrity.

EDITING GENES ASSOCIATED WITH ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE – PRESENT OR FUTURE RISK?

This century began with projects that allowed us closer insight into human genetics. After the Human Genome Project, HapMap, and 1000 Genomes, we have not only the blueprint of the human genome, but myriad of data about genomic differences and similarities between populations and individuals. Moreover, during those projects, new generations of sequencing methods were developed and enabled fast, cheap, and precise “reading” of the human genome. In parallel, it became possible to edit specific parts of DNA on the level of only one nucleotide and design the gene variation that we desire.

At the end of 2018, researcher He Jiankui from China claimed that he edited the genome of human embryos in order to modify the CCR5 gene, one of the genes responsible for HIV infection in humans, using CRISPR/Cas9 technology. On the 8th of December 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Casgevy, the first gene therapy based on CRISPR/Cas9 technology for the treatment of sickle cell disease.

These two examples are the most important examples of CRISPR/Cas9 technology in human gene editing – CRISPR babies show our ability to produce heritable desired traits and introduce them in the population, while CRISPR-based therapy represents gene modification in developed humans (age 12 and above) that affects only specific cell populations in the body. With these accomplishments, and the relatively low cost of technology, gene editing for athletic performance seems to be close to the present.

LEV KREFT

University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

MORAL HAZARD OF STRATEGIC FOUL

There are two extreme positions on the strategic foul, puritanism and moral relativism (with all in-between as well). J. S. Russell wrote that games are played by people and not by rules. Consequently, strategies and tactics oriented towards victory are like water that fills any empty space available by rules, including those which allow for strategic fouls. What to do in case of strategic fouls can be a moral problem from positions of recreational sport, but things become different with spectacular and entertaining global sports which have a different spirit of sport and an ethical core of their own. My proposal is to extend this debate from sport into a broader cultural perspective and connect it with the debate on moral hazard in the insurance business. There, three concepts were examined: risk, uncertainty, and moral hazard. Risk appears when one is exposed to danger of any kind and has some calculable knowledge about it; if we are in danger without information about its character we are thrown into uncertainty. Moral hazard is, as Herbert Grubel concluded in 1971, “the intangible loss-producing propensities of the individual assured.” (Grubel 1971) To make it simple: in the insurance business, it means if certain health situations are covered by insurance, this triggers an avalanche of cases that would not happen if this health situation were not covered by insurance. But is this just a rational response without the need for moral criticism, or proof that we are always ready to immorally abuse what has been allowed to us?! My proposal is then to discuss strategic fouls as a moral hazard in sport, leaving the ground of puritanism and moral relativism, and start with a more rational and less moralizing approach.

THE CHALLENGE SYSTEM AND ITS IMPACT ON FOOTBALL, VAR, AND ETHICS OF THE GAME

The Video Assistant Referee, more often called VAR, has changed the game of football forever. Since its implementation in 2018, VAR has sparked numerous debates with many deeming it an unwelcome addition that damages the ontological authority of the referees by transferring it to technology, gives a false sense of accuracy because of imperfect technology, damages the purity of the game as well as its justice. In this paper, I will present The Challenge System as a solution to some of the problems that have been used to argue against VAR while also answering potential ethical concerns that could stem from such a system. The idea of The Challenge System is to give the head coaches of each team an option to request an obligatory manual VAR check by the main referee once per halftime. Amongst some of the points I argue are that implementing such a system would restore some of the ontological authority back to the main referee which has been partially lost due to technology taking it over, would provide a solid solution to the problems of the potential vagueness of the RINOWN (right if not wrong) approach to the VAR, would serve as a catalyst for improvements in ethical conduct of the coaches as well as reinstate trust in officiating. In line with some of the already present literature, I argue that major ethical and philosophical issues that have been brought upon the game of football by VAR are a cause of procedural issues, rather than the concept of technology in sports itself and how The Challenge System can improve upon some of them in hopes of presenting it as the next step in the evolution of football.

EMOTIONS AND HATE SPEECH AGAINST VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON NEWS SITES IN CROATIA: THE CASE OF DENIS BUNTIĆ

Hate speech on news sites can contribute to a hostile online environment and escalate into real-life violence and Croatia ranks third in the European Union in terms of femicides (mup.gov.hr, 2023). Online, women are often confronted with gender-based hate speech that attacks them based on stereotypes, perpetuates harmful ideologies and reinforces discriminatory attitudes. Previous research (Kunić, 2022) in the Croatian media has shown that women who have been victims of violence are often victims of unacceptable speech in reader comments. This research aims to determine the presence of misogynistic statements and hate speech against female victims of violence in reader comments on Croatian news sites. In this paper, a sentiment analysis and a content analysis of more than 1100 reader comments posted on the two most-read news sites 24sata.hr and Index.hr in the period from September 2023 to October 2023. The corpus for the research consists of comments collected on 13 articles published on a topic that attracted a lot of media attention during this period, the case of former Croatian handball national team player Denis Buntić, who was accused of domestic violence against his wife, who is obviously a vulnerable party. The sentiment analysis of reader comments will examine emotions and feelings towards vulnerable victim of violence, from negative to neutral to positive. Content analysis will examine the presence of incivility towards women victim including qualifications such as hate speech, vulgar language, swearing and offensive language (Kunić, 2024). Rude comments include those that insult the victim because of their sexuality, appearance, education, or mental health. Particular attention will be paid to comments that justify violence against women based on the perpetrator's sporting success or ironically comment on violence through sports jargon. It is expected that this research will provide insight into the misogynistic rhetoric and negative emotions of citizens towards victims of abuse on Croatian news portals when it comes to topics of domestic violence. In the final part, we will suggest building an ethical framework and guidance in such cases of aggression and violence (Butler, 2009) against the vulnerable, based on the ethics of vulnerability (Gilson, 2014) and moral sentimentalism (Slote, 2010).

JIM PARRY

*Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Charles University in Prague,
Czech Republic*

THE WEIGHT CATEGORY AND WEIGHT ISSUES IN SPORT

The aim of this paper is to examine how different types of sport rules place unique demands upon athletes with regard to their weight and how these demands condition different strategies of weight management. We categorized sports rules into three main categories according to their relationship to weight: sport rules on weight-making; sport rules that advantage light lean-bodied athletes; and sport rules that advantage lean robust muscular athletes. This enabled us to provide a more complex view than has been presented by authors in sports sciences, whose emphasis is usually on addressing the problematic aspects of athletes' weight-controlling practices or researching body composition of athletes, sometimes establishing the 'desired body'. We encourage a change of focus from 'weight-sensitive sports' to a perspective directed towards risk groups, since it is those whose body weight is implicated by the sporting test that are most vulnerable. Importantly, not all athletes are equally vulnerable and affected by weight management strategies.

JERNEJ PISK

St. Stanislav Institution, Ljubljana, Slovenia

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES: A HUMAN RIGHT OR DUTY?

Today's promotion of physical activity is increasingly presented as a human right, particularly in terms of personal health and well-being. To support this, many countries invest significant public funds in promoting physical activity, from school-based programs to recreational activities and support for elite sports. This approach is understandable and justifiable, as people are more likely to exercise their rights than fulfil their duties. However, as we will demonstrate, it is important to recognise the educational and developmental potential that these activities have provided for centuries. It should be noted that these activities were based on a different, classical humanist conception of human nature, which placed human personal development in the category of duty, and which the new age has largely ignored.

EMILY RYALL

University of Gloucestershire, United Kingdom

HOW THE EXPERIENCE OF TRANS MEN INFLUENCES THE DEBATE ON TRANS INCLUSION IN SPORT

The issue of transgender participation in sport has become a fervent and febrile topic in recent years as Western societal attitudes towards sex and gender have changed and greater numbers of trans athletes gain prominence. As the number of high-profile and contested cases grows, Governing bodies in the typically sex-segregated sports arena are finding that their policies (or absence of policy) on the issue are coming under scrutiny as they defend their positions against proponents of diametrically opposing arguments.

Most of the popular and academic discussion of transgender participation in sport is focused on trans women. When trans men are mentioned, it is often only as a footnote or addendum. Noting this invisibility of trans men in the discussion of trans athletes further illustrates the contested concepts of fairness, safety, and inclusion and highlights hidden assumptions and biases.

This paper will consider the implications of some published findings from a research project that used semi-structured interviews to explore the experiences, and attitudes and beliefs of trans men towards sport and physical activity (Ryall, Bullingham and O’Neil, 2023). Such empirical evidence not only allows voices that have previously been ignored, to be heard, but arguably also helps to assist the debate on the inclusion of trans individuals in sport and the considerations that follow for policymakers.

ANGELA J. SCHNEIDER

Western University, London, Ontario, Canada

International Centre for Olympic Studies

SAFEGUARDING AND ATHLETE VULNERABILITIES: RISK TAKING AND DOPING

Discussions about safeguarding athletes generally offer little in the way of the definitions of safeguarding. Further, it will be argued that safeguarding requires an underpinning with some theory of vulnerability and that theories of vulnerability from Bioethics are underdeveloped and are closely tied to discussions about autonomy and may have different applications across different fields or populations. At least two over-arching theories of vulnerability relevant to athletes will be examined: i) ontological/corporeal (corporeal); and ii) relational. The corporeal theory emphasizes physical bodies inherently vulnerable to hunger, thirst, illness, and injury, affecting an individual at some point in their life, independent of their relationship to others. Relational theory emphasizes power imbalances exposing the vulnerable to the intents and interests of those who hold power over them. Athletes can experience both corporeal vulnerability (e.g. illness and injury due to physical demands) and relational vulnerability (e.g. through the actions of their competitors, teammates, family, coaches, and/or officials). It will be argued that where athletes are at risk for physical injury and potentially long-term, or life-threatening physical or mental illness due to relational or situational factors, research and development of safeguarding policies are a moral responsibility of sport governing bodies and that this responsibility is greater and more nuances for minors. The autonomous nature of minors has been debated when designing policies to protect vulnerable populations. The notion that young athletes are not sufficiently autonomous has served to justify the implementation of soft paternalistic approaches by sport organizations. While soft paternalistic approaches seem to be supported by philosophical arguments, in complex contexts such as sports, paternalism can promote situations of exploitation of those who are supposed to be protected. Athletes stripped of their autonomy by protectionist policies from sports organizations are vulnerable to coercion at the individual level. This will require identifying which dimensions of protectionist policies may be encouraging abusive practices and coercion.

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PLAYING BY THE RULES: UNDERSTANDING SPORTS THROUGH WITTGENSTEIN'S LANGUAGE GAMES

This talk proposes an investigation into the nature of sport through the philosophical framework of Ludwig Wittgenstein, particularly his concept of 'language games'. Sport can be effectively understood as a form of Wittgenstein's language game, where the meaning and value of its components are derived from their role within specific contexts. Like linguistic expressions whose meanings are grounded in their use within forms of life, the actions, strategies, and rules in sports acquire their significance within the bounded frameworks of the games themselves. Wittgenstein often uses an example of a chess game (*Philosophical Investigations* (1953), *Zettel* (1967), *On Certainty* (1969)) to explain how understanding a language or a game involves knowing the rules that govern it and how these rules are applied in practice. In sports, as in language games, rules do not predetermine every possible action or inner process but rather create a space of possibilities where players engage creatively within a rule-governed structure. This perspective highlights the role of sports rules in enabling the dynamic and varied nature of sporting activities.

BIOETHICS OF SPORT – CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THE SUB-DISCIPLINE

In the last decade, Bioethics of Sport (BES) has become the most vibrant area of the philosophy of sport, in which scholars deal with ethical issues that can endanger the integrity and future of sports, such as the cases of intersex, transgender or cyborg athletes. To address these ethical concerns, sport needs an interdisciplinary network where ethics use help from other disciplines such as Biology, Chemistry, Medicine, Technology, and Law. In this paper, I will provide a threefold critical overview of BES from the perspective of the definition, division, and methodology.

Firstly, I will propose the definition of BES, because BES thus far was not defined or characterized properly (or at all).

Secondly, I will propose widening the narrow thematic spectrum with four additional bioethical topics: a) sport, ecology, and environment; b) non-human animals and sport; c) vulnerability and d) compassion in sport and making BES divisions and contours clear and in a plausible order. Here, it is especially important to draw a clear distinction between ethics and bioethics of sport.

Thirdly, I will raise the question of methodology – how does multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research work in BES academic research, with particular emphasis on the role of ethics in relation to the other disciplines?

**PHENOMENOLOGY OF WOMEN IN SPORT:
SUBJECT – OBJECT RELATIONS AND THE POWER
OF DIRECTED ATTENTION**

Feminist phenomenology explores women's lived experiences, bodily awareness, and interactions with the world through the lens of gender dynamics, highlighting the unique challenges women encounter. Iris Marion Young, a key figure in feminist phenomenology, drew on Maurice Merleau-Ponty's work to identify three key modalities of feminine motility: 1. Ambiguous transcendence – where feminine bodily existence does not fully transcend the lived body but remains partly in immanence, 2. Inhibited intentionality – a self-imposed sense of "I cannot" that restricts the feminine body's ability to reach a projected end; and 3. Discontinuous unity – a lack of seamless integration between the feminine body, its surroundings, and itself. Young argues that these modalities arise from a woman's dual experience of her body as both subject and object. Drawing on the subject-object relation central to Young's work and using the context of women in sport, this presentation will look more closely into: a) the specific variations of entities that take on roles of *relata* within the aforementioned relation, b) the transitions between these entities, and c) the interaction between objects (*figures*) and their backgrounds. The goal is to assess whether directed attention can disrupt cultural mechanisms in feminine phenomenology and enhance sports performance. By understanding how women in sport relate to their bodies, equipment, environment, and others in their sport, we can contribute to the cultivation of an empowering sports culture, enabling women to fully embrace their potential.

HOW DO PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND EXTRACURRICULAR SPORTS ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTE TO A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH? – ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN SPORT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF LEISURE PEDAGOGY

One of the main goals of physical education and extracurricular sports activities at school is to develop a positive attitude towards sport by raising students' awareness of the importance of lifelong physical activity to maintain health (Štemberger & Zurc, 2024). Research shows that high levels of physical activity - both in and out of school - contribute significantly to better academic performance (Booth et al., 2014), coping with behavioural problems (Zurc et al., 2022) and regular participation in physical activities in adulthood (Lahti et al., 2018). Despite the convincing arguments, the low level of physical activity in the adult population shows that this ambitious goal is not fully realised in education.

Starting from the perspective of leisure pedagogy, we will shed light on the ethical dilemmas between practising sport in leisure time and participating in sport in school. It is about the question of freedom and discipline in education, which was already considered by Kant (1991). The unique task of leisure pedagogy, also referred to as "education for freedom" (Svobodová, 2023), is to create the conditions for the formation of the individual's ability for self-development and to increase their leisure competence (Chernikov, 2020). Leisure pedagogy is based on non-directive methods with the main goal of developing a free person who is responsible for freely chosen actions related to personal freedom. In order for students to grow in their freedom and responsibility, they need education (Svobodová, 2023). Therefore, it is not surprising that many EU countries focus intensively on leisure centres for children aged 6–10 years (Ringskou et al., 2022). Against this background, we will discuss and argue how out-of-school sports activities provide opportunities for the child's holistic development, interests, freedom of choice and autonomy and how they could benefit from the leisure pedagogy

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BREACHES OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN VERTICAL BLUE CASE

This paper will touch upon the most important human rights breached in the case of Croatian free divers at Vertical Blue competition 2023 in the Bahamas, encompassing the right to liberty and security of a person, the right to respect for private life, and the right to a fair trial. Some of these breaches are emblematic of what can occur in many “under the radar” sports and their federations, which is why this case is worthy of discussion.

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