THE WORLDS OF FOOTBALL

TRIUMPHS, TRIALS & TRAUMAS

27–28 SEPTEMBER 2010
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE CENTRE
300 FLINDERS STREET, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
We acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the Wurundjeri and Boonwurrung tribes of the Kulin Nation who were the custodians of University land for many centuries. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet was the place of age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal and that the Kulin Nation people's living culture had and has a unique role in the life of this region.

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Rob Hess (Victoria University)

A Fragmented and Forgotten History: Discovering the Past, Understanding the Present and Predicting the Future of Women Playing Australian Rules Football

Abstract

Recent celebrations to mark the sesquicentenary of Australian Rules football were marked by significant academic and public debates concerning the birth of the code. Yet the origins and early development of the women’s game remain shrouded in mystery, despite the fact that females have played the sport for almost 100 years. While the genesis of the women’s code lies in Western Australia, where contests occurred as early as 1915, the template of female involvement in charity matches with strong military and patriotic overtones was soon adopted in South Australia and Victoria. However, prior to the formation of the Victorian Women’s Football League in 1981, the general development of the women’s code can be characterized as fragmentary and discontinuous. This presentation provides a visual overview of the often ignored and misunderstood history of female football, seeking to understand the success of the contemporary women’s game, and offering some predictions about the future of the code. In doing so, a counter narrative to the gendered rhetoric surrounding the game is suggested, and the possibilities for cross-code comparisons are discussed. Tentative conclusions from this ongoing investigation are elicited from such sources as rare archival photographs and film, newspapers and memorabilia, and genealogical profiles of women who have played Australian Rules football.

Dr Rob Hess from Victoria University has published extensively on the history of Australian Rules football. He is the co-author of the award-winning A National Game: The History of Australian Rules Football, and has recently been appointed as the co-Academic Editor of the International Journal of the History of Sport. His current project (with Nikki Wedgwood) is a national history of women’s football.
Jayne Caudwell (University of Brighton)

Football in the United Kingdom, LGBTQ Participation and The Justin Campaign

Abstract

In this paper, I discuss the extent of homophobic practices in men’s elite football (soccer) in the United Kingdom (UK) and the ways homophobia is manifest within this hugely popular and highly visible sporting activity. In particular, I focus on the spaces of the football stadia and football fandom to show how sexuality is produced through sound and [embodied] visual display. I engage with past and present examples of homophobia to demonstrate the extent and normalisation of homophobic chanting and homophobic gesticulation. From this context, and drawing on recent preliminary interview research, I move to consider the possibilities that may work to contest and transform these dominant versions of sexuality. My discussion is based on interviews with two men heavily involved in The Justin Campaign—an “anti-homophobia in football” project established in Brighton on May 2nd, 2008. The Justin Campaign seeks to make visible the tragic death of Justin Fashanu (on May 2nd, 1998) and his plight as a Black British ‘out’ gay professional footballer. Fashanu remains the only professional footballer to date—in the UK—to publicly self-identify as “gay”. Within men’s professional football, Fashanu’s life and death remain silent discourses. This silence reflects a politics of refusal and erasure, and indicates a longstanding lack of concern over endemic homophobia within dominant UK football culture. The Justin Campaign seeks to transform this culture through a combination of art, education, events and football. I discuss both local and international initiates and highlight some recent successes. Finally, I explore why there are still some resistances to The Justin Campaign.

Dr Jayne Caudwell from the University of Brighton has written widely on matters of sport, sexuality and gender, and is the editor of Sport, Sexualities and Queer/Theory and the co-author (with Sheila Scraton) of the forthcoming book, Out of Play: Women, Football and Sports Feminism.
Eric Anderson (University of Bath)

The Declining Significance of Homophobia

Abstract

Although there are various purposes of organized teamsport participation for boys and men, a traditional finding is that competitive sport serves as a social institution principally organized around the political project of defining certain forms of masculinity as acceptable, while denigrating others. In competitive sports, such as football, boys and men are structured into a desire to be associated with masculine dominance by constructing their identities to align with dominant perspectives of heterosexuality, marginalizing gay men in accordance with a conservative form of homophobia. However, homophobia has greatly decreased among young men in high school and university sport, and it has greatly decreased even at the professional levels of play. Increasingly, it is unacceptable for male youth to maintain homophobia, and this has opened the door for many young athletes to come out while playing. While there remains a lack of openly gay professional athletes, there has nonetheless been a sea-change in attitudes toward homosexuality in the previous two decades. Using results from numerous qualitative and quantitative studies over the past seven years, this paper explicates the latest research findings on sport and homophobia from all over the Western world. I use understandable language to show that, increasingly, it is unacceptable to be homophobic and that gay athletes are playing openly with the support of their teammates. Rather than being a cause of social marginalization, being openly gay is often used as a bonding mechanism with heterosexual teammates. This has even lead heterosexual men to be able to kiss one another, without being stigmatized. Finally, I discuss how decreased homophobia also makes sport a more enjoyable and rewarding experience for heterosexual male athletes.

Dr Eric Anderson from the University of Bath has written widely on sport, masculinities, sexualities and homophobia, including the award-winning *In the Game: Gay Athletes and the Cult of Masculinity*, as well as *Sport, Theory & Social Problems*, and *Trailblazing: America's First Openly Gay High School Coach*. 
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<td>The Round Ball Game in Australia</td>
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<td>Girl Patriots: Case Studies of Female Players in Australian Rules Football in 1943</td>
<td>Feeling, Sounding, Knowing: Approaching Football through Philosophies of Affect</td>
<td>Australia, Asia and the Geopolitics of Soccer</td>
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<td>Kathryn Sinclair</td>
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<td>‘Fleet Feminines’: Women Footballers in 1947 - A Case Study Approach</td>
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<td>Lisa Gye</td>
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<td>Chyloe Kurdas</td>
<td>Deb Waterhouse-Watson</td>
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<td>You Kick Like A Girl…Good For You</td>
<td>When the Club Won’t Protect You: Andrew Lovett and the Limits of Team Bonding</td>
<td>A Media Support Phenomenon: Twitter and Changing Norms of Communication in Football</td>
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### Conference Program – Monday, 27 September (Day 1)

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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Session 3B C1105 Football and Community</th>
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<td>2.00 – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Katherine Haines The Inaugural Match of the NSW Ladies Rugby Football League in 1921</td>
<td>Hugh Macdonald Virtual Communities in Australian Rules Football</td>
<td>Shane Pill The Sport Teacher/Coach as Educator: Sport Literacy and Football</td>
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<td>Robert Pascoe &amp; Mark Pennings The Genesis of Australian Football and its Founding Tribes</td>
<td>Dave Nadel Football in Gippsland – Surviving Change</td>
<td>Carl Thomen Anatomy of Triumph, Ferguson, Mourinho and Sun-Tzu</td>
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### Session 3B C1105 Football and Community

- Chair: Stephen Alomes
- Hugh Macdonald
- Virtual Communities in Australian Rules Football

### Session 3C Football Lessons

- Chair: Deb Waterhouse-Watson
- Shane Pill
- The Sport Teacher/Coach as Educator: Sport Literacy and Football

### Session 4A The Politics of Football

- Chair: Matthew Klugman
- Brent McDonald The Politics of Polynesian Identity: White multiculturalism meets ‘Pacific Exotica’
- Thomas Cole & Pi-Shen Seet The Political Context of Football in South Australia
- Brian Moroney Football Corruption: Juventus FC and Melbourne Storm - Worlds Apart?

### Session 4B Fish out of Water

- Chair: Melissa Walsh
- Ciannon Cazaly Can I Play Too? The Experiences of Players from Migrant Backgrounds in Australian Rules Football
- Stephen Alomes As Natural as King Island Brie: Footy in France
- Rachel Winterton & Claire Parker ‘Football in the Water’: Perspectives on the Development of Water Polo in Nineteenth-Century Australia and Britain

### Session 4C Football in the Middle East and Africa

- Chair: Roy Hay
- Peter Ochieng & Majed Alahhmad
- Saudi Arabia Soccer – Successes, Barriers and Strategic Possible Solutions
- Peter Ochieng & Qusai Mabaidin
- Jordanian Soccer – Successes, Barriers and Strategic Future Possibilities
- Peter Ochieng & Bob Stewart
- African Soccer Successes: A Human Resources View of Agents

### Optional Dinner TBA
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>8.30 – 9.15am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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| 9.15 – 10.15am| **Key Note Address (C1105)** – Jayne Caudwell  
*Football in the UK, LGBTQ Participation and The Justin Campaign* |
| 10.15 – 10.30am| **Morning Tea**                                                                  |
| 10.30 – 12.00pm| **Session 1A**  
C1105  
*Football and Race*  
Chair: Brent McDonald  
Sean Gorman  
*The Indigenous Team of the Century 1905 – 2005*  
Christopher Hickey & Peter Kelly  
*The Struggle for the Body, Mind and Soul of Indigenous Football*  
Daniel Kilvington  
*Under Represented, Under Estimated and Under Suspicion: British Asians, Racism and Exclusion in English Football*  
**Session 1B**  
C1107  
*Football Histories*  
Chair: Dave Nadel  
Ian Syson  
*How Lost was My Archive? New Narrative Possibilities in Australian Football Histories*  
Steve Watters  
*The ‘Battle of Solway’ Wairarapa versus Hawke’s Bay, 9 July 1927*  
Ken Mansell  
*From Tripod to Website – The Hidden History of the Boyles Photo* |
| 12.00 – 1.00pm| **Lunch**                                                                        |
| 1.00 – 2.00pm| **Session 2A**  
C1105  
*Former Footballers*  
Chair: Bob Stewart  
John Cash & Joy Damousi  
*Dropping the Ball: How Past Players Have Negotiated Their Retirement from Football*  
Deb Agnew  
*‘Life After Football’: The Construction of Masculinity Following a Career in Elite Australian Rules Football*  
**Session 2B**  
C1107  
*Local Football Identities*  
Chair: Margaret Trail  
Nick Wilson  
*Talking Territoriality in the Huddle: The Linguistics of Locality and Team Identity in a New Zealand Club Rugby Team*  
Melissa Walsh  
*‘The Chardonnay Set’ and the Team from the Docks: Perceptions about Class Amongst Followers of the AFL in Perth* |
| 2:00 – 2:15pm| **Brief Break**                                                                   |
2.15 – 3.45pm
Session 3A
C1105
Panel on Football and Sexuality
Chair: Caroline Symons
This panel will look at recent initiatives challenging homophobia and promoting respect and social inclusion of sexuality diversity within Australian football codes.
Panellists will include Pippa Grange from the AFL Players Association, gay-rights activist Rob Mitchell, Alex Mungall of the gay and lesbian soccer club Melbourne Rovers, Sunil Patel of Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria, with Jayne Caudwell and Eric Anderson providing an international perspective.

3.45 – 4.15pm
Afternoon tea

4.15 – 5.15pm
Key Note Address C1105 – Eric Anderson
The Declining Significance of Homophobia

5.15 – 6.00pm
Launch of Caroline Symons’ The Gay Games: A History (Routledge) and Conference Drinks