



Presentation

Socio-cultural community development and sports cultures

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Sport and associated sporting activities have proven to have a civilizing purpose with regard to developing the social organizations that support them, performance, as well as the values that they convey. This issue of the journal also examines the cultural dimension of sport. It presents various perspectives on sports cultures that could support those involved in socio-cultural intervention by furthering their knowledge and improving current practices.

Analyses

Émile-Jules Abalot, David Agbodjogbe, and Alphonse Gaglozoun open this issue by exploring sport as a strategy used by colonialist countries to empower African peoples. In their article, “Les politiques sportives en Afrique noire francophone: permanence, rupture et/ou continuité des enjeux (1920–2010),” they show concern that over the past two decades, there has been a shift in control, from schools to city sports clubs, with regard to socio-educational practices related to sporting activities. Their study provides a road map to rediscovery of how sports are organized in Africa by effectively integrating practices using a production approach in order to improve the dissemination of local African culture.

Emmanuel Gala Bi Tizie, Roland Bini Koffi, and Frédéric Tano Kouame further examine this issue in their study of the limitations with regard to promoting a sporting culture in schools in Côte d’Ivoire. In their article, “Animation et culture sportive en Côte d’Ivoire: cas des compétitions sportives dans les établissements primaires et secondaires du district d’Abidjan,” they find that the main factors that lead to failure to develop a sporting culture in and by schools are, on one hand, the sports policy (its vision and structure), and on the other hand, sports development in schools, so much so that ultimately all stakeholders involved are partially responsible.

Anna Maria Pioletti’s article, “Sport as a driver for local development and sustainable tourism,” posits that sports tourism constitutes an original product. Large-scale events, such as the Olympic Games, and local events, such as city marathons, are playing an increasingly significant role in tourism rankings of cities and resorts, and in improving branding, local facilities, and infrastructure

in general. According to the author, sports tourism can be a driving force for economic growth, local development, and community cohesion in Italy and abroad.

In his article, “Politique de la ville et transformation des politiques sportives: des erreurs de jeunesse(s)?,” Christophe Arpaillange studies French suburbs as a field of application for a public policy that has been deemed innovative. Seen as uncontrolled yet self-organizing, recreational activities are interpreted and carried out in a variety of ways and are regulated by various levels of government, which consider them to be a means to mobilize and socially integrate young people as well as a step along the path to return to the norm of federated sports. However, according to the author, shaping the minds of suburban youth in order to form a specific public interferes with the recognition of new sports practices and increases distancing on the part of young people from working-class neighbourhoods, no matter which activities interest them.

For the research team led by Romain Roult, the aging population requires that there be new ways of thinking about how to develop communities that support the well-being of seniors. A number of studies have shown that recreation contributes to improving their quality of life, and therefore, municipalities must play an important role in providing recreational activities for this group. In their article, “Repenser les espaces municipaux de loisir pour les aînés,” the authors demonstrate the importance that seniors place on open recreational practices and multi-purpose external spaces. This study ultimately highlights the fact that municipal actions more often appear to facilitate the implementation of projects created by and for seniors, as opposed to simply provide activities.

Free section

In “Une nouvelle direction pour le travail de jeunesse et communautaire: le cas du Royaume-Uni,” Jon Ord focuses on certain issues related to recent attempts to assess youth work. According to Ord, accountability in this field overdetermines the significance of the observed findings and disregards the processes that lead to them. The author is calling for the implementation of a new, more relevant method of assessment that would account for the essentially moral nature of an educational intervention, which aims to enable young people to act and make decisions in order to lead good lives.

Lastly, in her article, “Apport des sciences de l’éducation au concept et aux pratiques de médiation culturelle,” Rébéca Lemay-Perreault reflects and builds on the finding that there has been a displacement of the centre of gravity between objects in a museum’s collection and its visitors. This change is characterized by both an increase and a diversification of the types of public participation within these institutions. However, the ambiguity in the definition of cultural mediation in the museum setting makes its practical implementation more difficult. This idea leads to the question that the author seeks to answer: do theoretical approaches to educational sciences, particularly constructivism and social constructivism, facilitate the standardization of mediation practices in a museum setting without corrupting its nature?

The next issue of the journal, which will be published in Fall 2017, will have the theme of “Development Resulting From Community Action.” Community action refers to any initiatives that come from a community (local, identity-based, or interest-based) or from public institutions, through professionals, with the goal of providing a collective solution to a social problem or common need. Its history is multifaceted and, in some countries, is barely documented. It can use

strategies that are consensus-based, that raise awareness, or that even involve conflict, as long as its basis is the principle that citizens have the most knowledge of their experiences, that they have resources, and that the process created by the action increases their power to act.

The deadline to submit an article or a book review for this issue is September 29, 2017 (guidelines: http://www.atps.uqam.ca/auteurs_en.php). Articles that do not fall under the theme may be accepted for our open topic section and can be submitted at any time.

Enjoy the reading!