
SPORT IN URBAN SPACE. 13TH EASS CONFERENCE AND 7TH CONGRESS, COPENHAGEN 2016

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Abstract:

Background and Problem. From perspective of the sociology of sport we can analyse 'sport in the space of a city', focusing on social and cultural aspects. The analysis was made on example of a thematic conference and about contents of papers presented there.

Material and Method. A method used here is the analysis of one scientific conference according own participant observation.

Results and Conclusion. Idea of the European Association for Sociology of Sport, and programme of 7th EASS Congress and 13th EASS Conferences were presented, as well as an evaluation of the scientific meeting in Copenhagen. It was important event for European sociology of sport.

In days May 4-7, 2016 in Copenhagen held the 7th Congress of European sociologists of sport that are members of the *European Association for Sociology of Sport* (EASS), and 13th EASS Conference on the subject: *Sport in the City: Mobility, Urbanity and Social Change*. As in previous years, participants in this scientific event were also people from non-European countries (some continents).

IDEA

EASS was founded in Vienna in 2001. Thus the Seventh Congress and the 13th EASS Conference were held in the Danish capital in connection with the small jubilee fifteenth anniversary of the organization. EASS brings together sociologists, mainly European, but not only, and people interested in the sociology of sport or associated areas (sociology of leisure, tourism, physical culture, social science of sport).

EASS organizes annual conferences, although originally functioned here a two-year cycle. Incidentally 2nd EASS Conference took place in 2004 in Rzeszów and Łańcut [Obodyński, Cynarski 2011; Cynarski 2015]. EASS publishes scientific journal - "European Journal of Sport and Society" (EJSS). In addition, under the auspices of EASS already established a series of monographs [<http://eass2016.ku.dk/>].

The idea of this year's conference addresses the need to clarify the relationship between cultural phenomenon widely understood sports (or perhaps rather physical culture) and the space of the city. It is significant that the first key lecture at the opening ceremony gave the architect - René Kural - introductory considerations about the sport in the city, which was closer to the sociology of space and alluded directly to the theme of the conference. However, further work discussed during the conference were related more directly to physical activity from the perspective of the sociology of sport.

PROGRAMME

The city authorities greeted the participants in the historic interiors of the town hall. Here Prof. René Kural presented his lecture. While further deliberations were already on the faculty of the university - in the new building "Biocenter".

In preparation for the General Assembly EASS even before the formal start was a meeting of the Board of EASS. Because the organizers gave an incorrect address before, members of the Board (including the author) have a difficult task to find the right place of the meeting. These are the surprises that appear in the "scientific tourism", but they actually better understanding of the city [Cynarski, Ďuriček 2014].

Board Meeting and Opening of the Conference were the only ones on May 4 points of the programme. Of course, before each participant had to fly and reach the place accommodated at the hotel and find the appropriate space (the points shown on a map) - own way.

There will be a small digression about hospitality. Culture of respect for hierarchy and for each "neighbor" makes it different is the treatment of guests in different countries. Here, no matter whether it concerned a student or a professor, serial participant or member of the Board, no one specifically did not show willingness to help in uncovering these points on the map. This cultural dimension of courtesy and hospitality (how different in the case of Polish or e.g. Japanese) is essential for any studies on the sociology of tourism, scientific tourism and cultural tourism in particular [Cynarski, Ďuriček 2014].

May fifth began laboriously from the morning plenary lecture of Prof. Nick Crosseley. This American keynote speaker took issue with "The Social Body", going from Descartes, by Marcel Mauss (the technique of using the body), to the phenomenology of Merleau-Ponty. Then were started deliberations in parallel sessions.

The most interesting (highly subjective choice) was the session "Social Capital" led by Dr Davide Sterchele (UK). Incidentally, at a EASS Conference in Dublin last year the roles were reversed - he played in a session conducted by Wojciech J. Cynarski (Poland). This time, Cynarski presented here his paper entitled "Social structures in martial arts organizations." In the evenings, many schools gymnasiums youth is practicing Asian martial arts; this phenomenon has grown into the social space of Poland and western countries. What brings it for culture? For pluralistic society it is not without significance that kind offer cultural realized in urban space. In contrast, buildings, designed specifically for practicing this kind of physical culture, are rare in Poland [Donohue 1990; Cynarski 2005].

In this session, also starring Arend Van Haafin Slender and Hans from the Netherlands, speaking of the great sports events organized in the cities, and D. Sterchele presented the work (co-author M. Pizzolati from Italy) about "Mixed-sex in sport³." Participants of this session and discussions were also among Prof. Tadehiko Kitamura, a leading Japanese sociologist specializing in the study of martial arts, and a group of Japanese.

That day at the main auditorium (Lundbeck Auditorium) held a general meeting of reporting and election of the EASS Congress. The EASS Board presented proposals for changes to the statutory and personnel changes, the contents of reports presented and discussed. Thanked "past-president," Prof. Hannu Itkonen (Finland) and the Secretary General, Dr Kim Wickman (Sweden). The candidates presented their brief CV. To the authorities for a new term was chosen by secret ballot composition:

Executive Board

- Siegfried Nagel (Switzerland) - President

³ Presented here, a strange mix of cultural program (immigrants and Italians) and male-women's, in a milder version of rugby, which would act for socialisation.

- Hanna Vehmas (Finland) - Secretary General
- Jeroen Scheerder (Belgium) - Past-President
- Remco Hoekman (The Netherlands) - President-Elect and Vice-President
- Ansgar Thiel (Germany) - Editor-in-Chief of the *EJSS*
- Georg Anders (Germany) - Treasurer
- *Extended Board*
- Wojciech J. Cynarski (Poland)
- Laila Susanne Ottesen (Denmark)
- Davide Sterchele (Italy)
- Anna Vilanova (Spain)
- Alvaro Rodriguez Diaz (Spain)
- Richard Giulianotti (UK).

Thus, the organizer of the Congress was elected for a second term, and W. J. Cynarski, the coordinator of the informal countries "Eastern Europe". Generally, however, it can be stated generational change in the Board, where currently only the last of these has been an active member of EASS since 2002.

Then there was a meeting of the Editorial Committee EJSS, the "European Journal for Sport and Society", which was attended by representative of the publishing house Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, specially invited. It is recently publisher the EJSS. The author later asked the gentleman what he thinks of Scopus. Asked Routledge representative replied that in the near future it should become the most important scientific bases. Incidentally it would be a very good change in scientific bibliometry.

On June 6, the first referent was the third consecutive keynote speaker - Prof. Joseph Maguire from the UK. He gave a lecture on the areas of sport - multifaceted and multi-threaded, maybe even too multi-threaded. No slides with the main theses made difficult to capture important conclusions.

While completed this day session "Sport Development & Voluntarianism" included an interesting lecture of Prof. T. Kitamura: "Educational impasto of Budo as a compulsory program in Japanese junior high school" and discussion after its submission. Moreover – a report prepared by Prof. Ramon Goig-Llopis (Spain). The sociologist from Valencia provided a comparison of participation in sport in Spain and France in 2010 on the basis of official documents from both countries⁴.

At the same time they held a workshop on sports Mega Events and sessions's different thematic - papers and posters.

May 7, provided for morning exercises, visits to sites of recreational activity, and the next five parallel sessions. Then Prof. Gertrud Pfister from Denmark gave the fourth key lecture on sports offers and recreational facilities in Copenhagen, separate for men and women (*The gendered use of sport spacer: Observations and evaluations of innovative sport facilities in Copenhagen*).

Dr Sterchele announced the winners YRA '2016, the next edition of the Young Researcher Award. Awarded three prizes for young scientists participating in the conference, including two honorary. Award-kind - 250 euro - given Österlind Malin, a student from Sweden. Honorary honorees received young Italians: Julie Borges (for work as co-author) and Simone Digmaro (for individual work).

Doc. Irena Slepíčkova of Charles University gave a presentation on 14th EASS Conference. Well, it will be held in Prague in May 2017. The theme of the Prague scientific meeting will be values in sport: "The values of sport: between tradition and (post) modernity".

⁴ Significantly, both in France as in Spain Asian martial arts are relatively more popular than in Poland (as category "sport for all") [cf. Llopis-Goig 2015].

At the end spoke the outgoing president - Prof. J. Scheerder, and the new president - Prof. S. Nagel, who announced professionalization activities EASS, but did not explain in what sense.

CONCLUSIONS

In total, attended by 173 participants, including Danish students; in the seven thematic sessions were delivered 126 papers. They held 4 plenary lectures and, in addition, a workshop, poster sessions, meetings, research teams. Also made findings and decisions concerning the EASS Board for another term, and changes in the statutory records.

As usual, they published only abstracts of papers [Evans *et al.* 2016]. But there was also the arrangements for joint research and publications. That is, in addition to the exchange of knowledge, the primary meaning of "scientific tourism".

It is worth mentioning curiosity. Here with great interest was met issued in Polish book *Scientific Tourism in Perspective of Visual Sociology* [Cynarski 2015], especially because it contains photos of sociologists still active in EASS.

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