SPORTING SUBALTERNITIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE  
INSTITUTE FOR RECONCILIATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE 
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE  
10TH TO 13TH APRIL 2017

With an aim to promote and champion the African Sport Studies as a valuable interdisciplinary arena, in February 2004, the Ohio University hosted the first edition of 'Sport in Africa' Conference. Over the last 10 editions of this conference, between 2004 and 2014, a variety of themes were addressed, including Youth, Gender, Health, Communication, Development, Politics, Globalization and Global South, bringing together sport scholars and practitioners from African, American and European Universities. Continuing this agenda to advance research and knowledge on African Sport Studies, the Institute of Reconciliation and Social Justice at the University of the Free State, South Africa will host the 11th edition of the Conference under its new name: Sports Africa.¹ The theme for this year's conference is:

“Sporting Subalternities and Social Justice”

In asking: “how does sport help us better understand the richness and complexities of African experiences, in the past and present?””, Peter Alegi neatly sets out the central agenda for the Conference.² Pursuing this question in the quest to advance knowledge and debate in the field, the 2017 Sports Africa Conference will focus on the structures and relations of power within which sports are negotiated, accessed, practiced and experienced in the everyday on this vast and diverse continent of Africa, as well as those who remain connected to Africa in different parts of the world. It is to these ends that the concepts of subaltern, subalternity and social justice serve as themes for the 11th edition of the Sports Africa Conference.

¹ The name of the conference from “Sport in Africa” to “Sports Africa” was changed with a view that the new name is more inclusive of all forms of African sports, regardless of their geographical location or affiliation.
² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekcdlt36TLUE

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Drawing from the intellectual project of *Subaltern Studies* that attends to the embodied practices and activities of those ‘who do not produce large bodies of texts of their own’, *Sporting Subalternities* is conceptualised to encompass all those experiences, spaces, activities and participants of sport who are unlikely to make news headlines or find their voices or stories heard among the hegemonic discourses. Not only that the *Subaltern Studies* offers useful ways to learn and understand subaltern socialities and experiences, the scholarship in the field tend to valorise, draw on and engage with various forms and acts of subaltern agency, intra-group power relations, politics and resistance. Similarly, *Sporting Subalternities* calls for attention to concerns of social (in)justices within the layers and multitudes of sport practices and experiences. Above and beyond, it takes account of all the intermediary, specific, peculiar and contradictory ways in which relations of power are shaped, performed, struggled over and social meanings these take on in the context of sport. Such a project would necessarily mean engaging with, deconstructing and complicating the many layers of centers and peripheries that compose sporting processes and experiences of the subaltern. The aim of this conference is to propose and inspire ways of thinking about and studying African Sports that challenges and disrupts established models and taken-for-granted understandings of Africa and sport.

**Call for Papers**

To this end, conference organizers invite paper proposals from anthropological, humanities, sociological, historical, socio-cultural, geographical, political, economic, policy and other multi- and inter-disciplinary perspectives. Please submit a **300 word abstract** (along with a paper title, name of the author(s) and institutional affiliations) by **5th September 2016**. The following are some suggested (but not limited to) sub-themes:

**Sub-Themes**

- Trans-national and Transcontinental Athlete Migration
- Sports Geopolitics and Neoliberalism
- Sports Media and Communication

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Sports in Education Systems
Colonial and Postcolonial Policies in Sport Development
Access to Sport in Urban and Rural Africa
Sport Infrastructure and Stadiums
Sports Management and Business
Sport as a Contested Space
Gendered Sites of Sport
Fan Culture and Passive Consumption of Sport
Memory and Heritage
(Un)Fairness and Social (In)Equalities
Sporting Citizenries, Citizenships and Identities
Sports Governance and Politics
Beyond Youth Sports
Reflexive and Auto-Ethnography
Sports in Art, Media, Film and Literature
Special Topics

Presentation Options

Oral Presentation
The Oral panel consists of 20 minute presentation on each paper by the author(s) in a panel of 3 to 4 presenters, followed by question-answer and discussions.

Virtual Presentation
The Virtual panel facilitates paper presentation by author(s) who are unable to attend the conference in person, but keen to share, engage with and get feedback on their research with the conference participants.

Roundtable (Closed Panel)
The Roundtable consists of discussions on selected topics concerning research, pedagogy, knowledge production and scholarship on African Sport Studies and the role such conferences can play in promoting these. Short essay-presentation by selected speakers will set the agenda for debate and discussion.

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Workshop
The Workshop panel consists of pre-circulated papers, uploaded on the online system. These sessions are aimed at more engaged and critical scholarly discussions and feedback on the pre-circulated papers. Authors are not expected to make a full oral presentation, instead each paper will be allocated a discussant or reviewer, with a goal to get the paper ready for publication in a special issue of a journal.

Keynote Speakers to be announced shortly

Important Dates:
1st Call for Abstracts: 5th September 2016
2nd Call for Abstract: 15th November 2016
Final Call: 31st January 2017
Submission of Draft Papers: 1st March 2017
Registration: 15th March 2017

For more information, submission of abstract and registration details, please go to the official website of the Conference: http://sportinafrica.org/ To get in touch with the conference organising committee, please email: sportsafricaUFS@gmail.com