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*Emese Berta*

*Categories and trans women in elite sports: breaking barriers without breaking boundaries*

**Abstract**

The question of trans women's inclusion in the women's category in elite sports has garnered controversy. Pike (2023) argues that the justification for the women's category (sex (dis)advantage) and the eligibility rules for participation in the women's category are inseparable, as every biological male has a sex advantage over every biological female.

Thus, allowing the purported advantage trans woman athletes have, no matter how small, compromises the fairness of the process due to its etiology, i.e. being a type of category advantage, which is, by definition, not allowed. I first explicate "sex advantages" using the property advantage definition introduced by Hämäläinen (2012) and the competition and category advantage distinction introduced by Parry and Martinkova (2021). I will propose a further distinction between "direct" and "indirect" category advantages.

To examine the relationship between individual and group-level advantages, I will first use mathematically simplified scenarios and then apply the principles derived from such idealized scenarios to our biological reality: at the levels of populations, individuals, property advantages, and development. After briefly touching on the relevant normative questions in the philosophy of sport, I will argue that it is possible to create a coherent normative framework based on the previously established epistemological and metaphysical background in which individual trans woman athletes might be allowed to compete in the women's category without compromising the fairness of the process.

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*Marcus Campos*

*Towards a concept of protection in sport*

**Abstract**

Protection is one of the most important concepts in sport and has always been part of this social practice since ancient times. In contemporary elite sport, the variety of protections carry substantial moral weight and make their way into sport from rulebooks to best practice codes, making it irresistible to policymakers. Due to its importance, it is urgent to understand what these ‘protections’ entail, especially when understood as a fundamental measure to secure sports integrity.

Protection belongs in the integrity field, alongside such concepts as good governance, safeguarding, sports competition manipulation, inclusion, or anti-doping. In this paper, protection is understood as a relational concept. One is *always* protected *from* something. Yet, protection is *always* relational *towards* something. So, protections allow athletes to perform in a way they probably would not without them.

In this paper, by drawing on the philosophy of risk and the doctrine of double effect, we define protection as a vigilant measure designed to prevent or avoid a specific and acknowledged threat if, and only if, the protection does not come from the agent responsible for the threat and does not induce a second greater or equal threat.

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*Qiang Gao*

***From “Philosophical horizon” to “Philosophical Text” in Philosophy of Sport - A “Past and present, China and the West” perspective***

**Abstract**

Most philosophers cannot avoid the temptation from “Generality” bearing on the shoulder of “big themes” which relates to “about ourselves” “about the world” and “ourselves and the world” (Blackburn,1999:1-2). While philosophers also cannot escape from the logical and empirical situation of “Past and Present, China and West”, which gave a kind of impetus towards a new mode of philosophy (Qi & Weiping, 2023:11). In other words, philosophical investigation takes place inspired from rumination of “Generality” via a “Philosophical Horizon” to a “Specificity” represented textually, via a “Philosophical Text”.

When it comes to the Philosophy of Sport, as Deleuze indicates, “The task of philosophy when it creates concepts, entities, is always to extract an event from things and beings, to set up the new event from things and beings, always to give them a new event” (Deleuze, 1994:32). The Philosophy of Sport, creates and elucidates the being of “Sport” that bearing the Sport in “Past and present, China and West” leads to a new event. Meanwhile, the Philosophy in “Past and present, China and West” is forming a logical structure from Being to Event consistently.

This study will focus on the history of philosophical thought that gazes on sport, developing a sort of Philosophy of Sport based on “Past and present, China and West”, in order to realize its self-generation conceptual system.

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*Leslie A. Howe*

*How to confuse self-conceit with doing the right thing*

**Abstract**

Given the direction of flow for human and civil rights, there is a *prima facie* case for saying that certain important moral or political concerns and obligations ought to take precedence over our preferences with respect to entertainment and recreation, including sport. However, consideration of two or three examples of such supposed moral priority show that the case is much more complicated and the optimal outcome less clear-cut than a narrow activist approach sometimes takes for granted.

Sport, civil society, and morality share a common grounding; this explains why conflicts arise and it directs us to the point at which possible resolutions must either occur or be ruled out. The general question at issue is whether we can make (certain kinds of) “principled human rights stands” without *also* violating the same human rights we might claim to be defending. The more specific question is whether these measures can be countenanced within the kind of civil structure that is sport without nullifying sport as a practice that must itself operate with fairness, justice, and impartiality - in other words, with the equal recognition of all participants as both rights claimants and moral agents.

The examples considered address different aspects of this problem:

- (a) The demand to exclude competitors of a specific nationality, where this is due to either religious affiliation or political actions of their government;
- (b) the refusal to compete against an opponent (self-exclusion) on the grounds of perceived unfairness of the contest.

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*Ivo Jirásek*

*There is no phenomenon like a phenomenon: why sport definitely cannot be a religion*

### **Abstract**

Sport, that is, the pursuit of records through physical movement, transcends the dimension of mere physical activity and has many similarities not only with play, drama and art, but also with religion. Contemporary literature therefore very often interprets sport as religion, or identifies sporting and religious experiences, or defines a specific sporting sacred.

This paper accepts the position that such phenomenal similarities (phenomenalism) are not sufficient evidence of the fundamental correspondence of these modes of being (phenomenology), since they touch in different ways on the relationship between transcendence and immanence.

Sport can therefore become a representation, a depiction, not a presentation of the sacred. Literary analogies can therefore be considered metaphorically true, but not philosophically accurate.

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*Lev Kreft*

## *Endangered Gender*

### **Abstract**

The book *The Race to Be Myself: A Memoir* by Caster Semenya appeared in autumn 2023. Its second edition is expected this August. It is an autobiography with a purpose. She does not expect to race again but to fight discrimination against women with DSD. The process against Switzerland because it allowed that sport judicial authorities disregard human rights on territory under Swiss jurisdiction is believed to conclude soon (the Grand Chamber hearing in the case of Semenya v. Switzerland was held on May 15, 2024).

In 2023, a book of Silvia Camporesi *Partire (S)vantaggiati: Corpi Bionici e Atleti Geneticamente Modificati* was published to question when disability becomes super-ability with the help of technological doping – her first book in Italian. She is well known also for her ethical and advocacy analyses of Caster Semenya's case. The question introduced in this book appeared as title of her article about Caster Semenya in 2019 (“When does an advantage become unfair? Empirical and normative concerns in Semenya's case”).

This coincidence of three important sources in the same year (and also the expectation that the ECHR will announce its decision this year) calls for an elucidation of the general question: why did this case become so important for the whole sport management community that it probably persists until athlete will be too old to compete anyway?

An examination of the highest sport managers' obsession with these rare sexual and gender issues might throw some light on the importance of sexual binarity for the emergence of political power in sport.

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*Matyáš Kubů and Irena Martínková*

## *Problems of Paralympic Classification*

### **Abstract**

This presentation critically assesses the Paralympic Classification system, which is usually discussed only with respect to the values of fairness and inclusion of athletes of various body types. This presentation consists of three parts, each referring to an aspect of the Paralympic Classification.

The first part focuses on what is referred to by Tweedy and Vanlandewijck (2011) as ‘performance classification’ which classifies athletes based on their athletic performance, and which is a necessary part of every sport, since sport is a competitive social practice.

The second part deals with ‘selective classification’ (Tweedy and Vanlandewijck 2011), which is unique to parasport and which consists in classifying athletes with respect to the athlete’s impairment and its impact on athletic performance. This is usually the most discussed aspect of para-classification.

The third part of this presentation discusses categorization of athlete’s bodily characteristics, such as age, sex and weight (Parry and Martínková 2021), which are also part of parasport classification, but which are usually taken from sport for able-bodied athletes and not discussed.

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*Jingqian Li*

*From Sport to the World: A Perspective from the Phenomenology of the Body*

**Abstract**

"Can humans understand the world and recognize existence through sports?" This question logically involves the relationship between sports and the means of human understanding the world and recognizing existence. Philosophical reflections on the body have thus formed logical pathways and systematic concepts.

The controversy in human life over understanding bodily activities and ways of comprehending the world has condensed into debates between dualism and monism of body and mind. Ancient dualism emphasized the dominance of the mind, governing the body as a shell, which has developed in modern times into sports psychology, viewing the human brain as a computer processing information according to certain rules or programs. It proposed a stimulus-response model, advocating the mind while excluding the body, which reinforces mind-body dualism. This viewpoint hinders the positive functions of the body in sports.

However, the phenomenology of the body emphasizes monism of the body itself, focusing on the lived body, the original embodied experience. This theory aims to uncover the meaning of the body to the world, the bodily experience in sports. It unfolds interpretations of the body in sports such as the non-necessity of sensory movement patterns, interaction between subject and environment, and the labour of everyday being. This provides a pathway for human understanding of existence and recognition of the world. Deepening monism of body and mind in sports can attempt to answer whether humans can understand the world and recognize existence through sports, thereby enabling profound consideration of the basic theoretical framework of Philosophy of Sport.

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**Jiří Mališ**

***The influence of ideology on scientific discourse on transgender athletes in women's competitions***

**Abstract**

This presentation focuses on the analysis of the scientific discourse regarding the participation of transgender athletes in elite sport, especially in the women's category.

The aim is to present the different currents of opinion among scholars and to identify key value positions and ideological assumptions influencing the interpretation of data in this area. The main arguments used in relation to this topic will be presented and put in context with the principles of 'fairness' and 'inclusion' in elite sport.

Particular attention is paid to the phenomenon of the ideologization of science in this field and its implications for the scientific discourse that is radicalized by it.

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*Eric Moore*

*Are there any good arguments for a universal doping ban?*

**Abstract**

Here are seventeen rationales for a universal doping ban found in the literature: Doping ...

Is against the rules	Violates game-theoretic rationality
Is cheating	Threatens the integrity of sport
Destroys the sport	Cheapens athletic accomplishment
Destroys the spirit of sport	Is unnatural
Is unacceptably coercive	Is unfair
Is medically harmful to health	Is an addictive gateway to recreational drug use
Replaces training with medical manipulation	Leads to an unacceptable arms race
Disrespects the audience	Destroys the skill of sport
Disrespects other competitors	

In this paper I explain the rationales in detail and then show that each and every one of them fails. My question is, “What have I missed?” Have I mistaken the strength of these rationales or am I missing some much stronger argument? If so, what is it? In the absence of any satisfactory answers to these questions, I claim to have proven a negative: there are no good reasons for a universal doping ban.

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*Jon Pike*

*Sex Trouble: Butler and Mumford on Sex and Gender in Sport*

**Abstract**

In this lecture I will discuss and criticize the work of two eminent philosophers on Sex and Gender in sport: Judith Butler in 'Who's Afraid of Gender?' (2024) and Stephen Mumford in 'A Philosopher Looks at Sport' (2021). I aim to show that, in interestingly different ways, both get the arguments badly wrong, and I will suggest some reasons for this.

I will find fault with their accounts of sport, of sex and gender in sport, and with the argument itself, as it plays out. I will identify straw manning, non sequiturs, ad hominem, misrepresentations, enthymemes, uncharitable interpretations, misattributions, and implausible explanations. My main aim is the clarification of arguments in the philosophy of sport, and, more, a defence of our sub-discipline against the effect of bad arguments left uncriticized.

I will present an alternative view, better informed by science, and more conceptually adequate.

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[Why 'Meaningful Competition' is not fair competition](#) in the Journal of the Philosophy of Sport (2023)

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## ***Fairness in Sport and Transgender Inclusion***

### **Abstract**

Our empirical research shows that opinions towards transgender women inclusion in the elite female category of sport differ depending on sporting context, level of competition, and stage of career, although overall cis women athletes favour categorisation according to biological sex and are unsupportive of trans women in the female category on the grounds of fairness (Shaw et al., 2024). As discussed in the academic literature, fairness plays a key role within the trans women elite sport debate (Camporesi & Hämmäläinen, 2021; Loland, 2001).

In this paper, I argue that the inclusion of trans women may detract from cis women's sporting excellence in certain sports, creating unfairness within the women's category. Devine's (2022) intervention on sport excellence clearly underscores the complexity that each sport associates with athletic performance. Each sport is composed of its own goals, rules, sporting excellence, leading to different measures of what is fair within elite sport and hence how categories help to ensure fairness. Unaccepted/intolerable unfairness depends on how it impacts the rewarding of and/or admiring the display of sporting excellence.

The aim of this paper is to understand how or how not trans women impact cis women's sporting excellence and thus potentially impact the fairness of women's sport. Trans women inclusion in the female category has the potential to lead to disruptions in balancing and clarity of sporting excellence, leading to unreliable and invalid ways to measure cis women athletic performance.

**Keywords:** Trans women, Trans men, Sport ethics, Excellence Principle

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*Matija Mato Škerbić*

*What Should Technology Preserve, Promote, and Develop in Sports - an Ethicist's View*

**Abstract**

In recent decades, technological innovation has had a profound impact on every aspect of modern sports. Technology has transformed sports in numerous ways, becoming an indispensable, if not crucial, component. Given its current trajectory, one can easily anticipate an even greater influence of technology on sports in the future. From an optimistic perspective, technology may be viewed as an external value to sport—important, but not essential to its core.

The central claim of this paper is that all technologies introduced into sports should undergo rigorous ethical analysis before implementation. Furthermore, the goal here is to establish general ethical guidelines for the (future) application of technology in sports. In this context, and to benefit both technology and sport, I propose addressing three fundamental questions:

1. What should technology promote in sports (e.g., excellence, fairness, adherence to rules)?
2. What should technology preserve in sports (e.g., integrity, values)?
3. What should technology enhance or develop in sports (e.g., human potential, talent)?

By drawing from the existing body of sports-philosophy literature, I will provide answers to these questions. These responses will serve as the foundation for establishing the necessary ethical principles for incorporating new technologies into sports.

I will conclude by asserting that such discussions should form part of a specific subfield within philosophy of sport called 'technology and sports.'

**Keywords:** Sports, Technology, Implementation, Ethical Framework

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*Haonan Xu*

*Sports and Truth: A Critique Based on the Dimension of Art Philosophy*

**Abstract**

The "truth of sport" is not equivalent to "truth in sport": the former focuses on the logic of sport *per se*, examining the logos behind the sports phenomenon; the latter seeks to uncover the facts in sport for acquiring knowledge within the field of sport. Nevertheless, the pursuit of "the truth in sport" in traditional sports researches has led to a narrow definition of the concept of "truth" in contemporary sport, intertwining with external factors, such as technological advancements and ethical standards.

In contrast, even though we often regard sport on par with art, in the field of art, Occidental philosophers have established a grand theoretical framework in response to the question of "the truth of art". Through the enquiries of Kant, Gadamer, Heidegger and other philosophers, the concept of the "truth" of art has evolved stepwise from "aesthetic idealism" to "hermeneutic experience" and further to the interpretation of "off-cover theory", they interpreted art as the source of truth.

The elaborations of this dimension has also profoundly influenced reflection on the dilemma of the "truth of sport". Considering of these theories, the two-dimensional framework - "a priori elucidation" and "metaphysical elucidation" of sport - is constructed, adequately expounding the fundamental issues of "the original emergence of sport as truth" and "the connotation of sport truth". Besides, In the context of the integration of Eastern and Western cultures, our research seeks to bridge the sport field with emotional cognition, especially the idea of "Extramundane Existence", accomplishing a critical and expansive analysis of the truth of sport.

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