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Call for papers

International symposium

“City and Sport”

May 10th-12th - 2017

University of Western Brittany, Brest (France)

Across France, cities are taking into account the impact that sport can have on urban development. Actions include Local Sports Projects, large-scale sports events organized by municipalities, the implementation of neighbourhood sports-based inclusion and integration measures, support for high-level sports clubs through, for example, the French Sports for All Federation, and the consideration of sport in urban renovation projects. If the renewal of sports services' structures and objectives, the setting up of complementary support systems by the French national sports movement and even the use of sport as a symbolic tool for regional development are anything to go by, then it can be safely said that sport is sweeping across cities.

The objective of this first international symposium organized by the Interdisciplinary Research Group on Sport (GRITS) is to examine the close and complex ties that unite cities and sport. At a time when territorial rescaling (metropolization, regionalization, etc.) is taking place at the national, European and global level, such questioning seems to be just as crucial for the municipal services in charge of socio-cultural, educational and sports affairs as it is for the local stakeholders involved in the sports movement.

This highly-topical issue has been considered from different angles and scientific approaches, and in recent years, the international literature on this subject has become relatively prolific. Some historical research has shown how cities have gradually integrated sport into their policies and by doing so, have steadily carved out a sporting image for themselves (Marquis, 2011; Machemehl & Robène, 2014; Gold & Gold, 2014; O'Hanlon, 2009). From a geographical perspective, various studies have helped us to understand how cities use sports events and facilities as tools for regional promotion (Bessy, 2000; Barthou et al, 2007; Blin, 2012; Augustin, 2015; Chaboche, 2015; Arnaud, 2008; Chappelet & Pinson, 2015). In the field of sociology, researchers have examined the myths and truths behind the use of sport to improve integration in urban neighbourhoods (Gratton & Henri, 2001; Gasparini, 2008; Vieille-Marchiset, 2015; Coignet, 2013; Charrier, 2015; Parmantier & Charrier, 2014; Guérandel, 2016). Other more ethnological studies have analysed how people who practice a sport are assimilated into urban

spaces and call into question the city's spaces and uses (Calogirou & Touché, 1995; Chantelat & al, 1998; Pedrazzini, 2010). From a more political perspective, other research has focussed on the highly topical matter of participatory democracy in relation to sport, on the place and role of elected representatives in sports, and on the development of municipal sports policies (Gasparini, 2006; Fuchs & Guyon, 2015; Koebel, 2016; Lapeyronnie & Charrier, 2014). Finally, research from an economic perspective has highlighted how event organization, sporting activities and sports amenities can benefit and impact a city (Green & al., 2003; Kurtzman, 2005; Lefebvre, 2003).

It is clear that in today's world, sport contributes to the urban, socio-cultural, educational, economic and political landscape of a city. This can mainly be attributed to the activity of the sports movement itself, the diversification of sporting activities, the relative expansion of sports clubs in wider regions and the spread of sporting practice in its various forms among a growing public, thus increasing its visibility and importance in the cityscape. In March-April 2016, the journal *Espaces* published a special edition on the new challenges of outdoor sports ("*Nouveaux enjeux des sports de nature*"). One of the things it set out to illustrate was that although outdoor sports were historically defined by their place of practice, they have since been reinvented to respond to changing needs by moving to the cities and being used as a tool for town planning, health and social cohesion policies. Therefore, one of the challenges that cities face today is how to link the urban and outdoor contexts of sporting practice, from an environmental education and sustainable development perspective. Indeed, this situation is largely due to the measures that cities have in place to support the development of this movement. This symposium aims to explore this aspect in particular. In other words, while the sixth *Carrefours d'histoire du sport* conference held in 1996 (and the publication of the proceedings edited by Christian Vivier and Jean-François Loudcher) laid the groundwork for the topic of "Sport in the City", the Brest symposium aims to turn this topic on its head into "City and Sport", starting with a debate on how cities position themselves with regard to sport. Today, how do cities understand sport and what sports policies are being developed? Do cities see themselves as a regulator of sporting activities, a guide for sports stakeholders or as leaders of innovative services? What importance do municipalities give to sport in the city's layout and urban planning? Are the educational, social, economic and tourism strategies developed by municipalities in line with sport and are they explicit, coherent, and well thought-out over the long term? As regards the diversity of cities, do large municipalities develop a sports ideology that is different from medium- and small-sized ones?

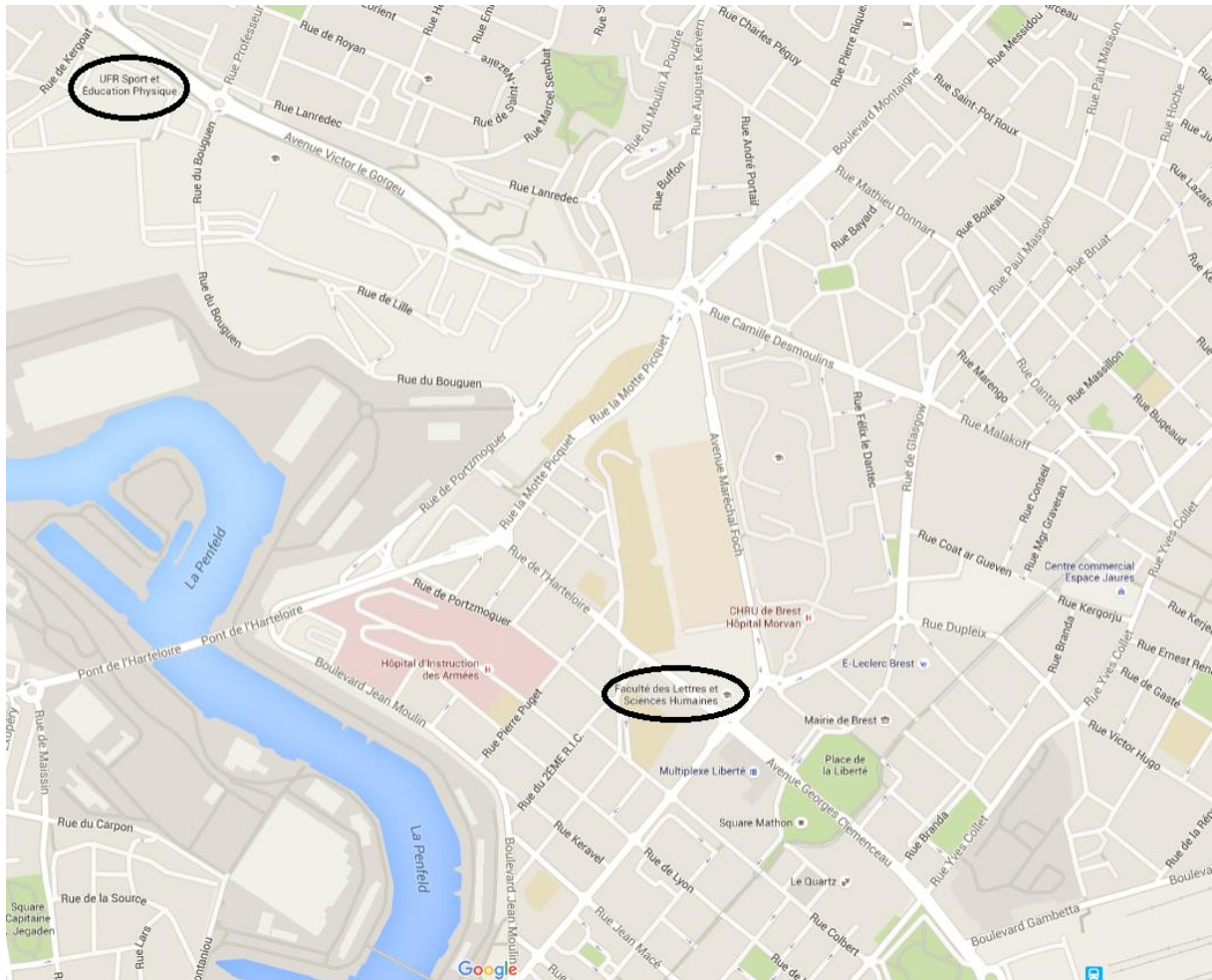
This symposium will take stock of the research carried out to date on this list of questions, which is by no means exhaustive. It aims to provide an overview and comparison of the work conducted in different French and European cities, as well as cities in other continents. It will also provide an opportunity to showcase some case studies of specific municipalities, with researcher-practitioner exchanges informing the debate. The submitted papers, from all fields of social sciences (history, sociology, political science, ethnology, anthropology, geography), can cover, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- 1- ***The city and its image:*** how do cities use sport and its symbols to create and enhance their visibility and image? The local development of sport is now defined by social, tourism-related and economic challenges that have created a uniqueness in the municipal provisions/sports policies that have been introduced. How can municipal policies that target a certain type of activity (e.g., outdoor sports or sailing) or event (a marathon or a cycling race) give a city a specific sporting identity? How do events and activities established by a town's sports actors (clubs, universities, social and cultural institutions, private entities, etc.), whether supported by the local authority or not, contribute to building the

town's sporting image? Lastly, how do cities deal with the issue of professional sport: how do they "engage" with professional clubs, for example, and what support do they receive from sports professionals to create, inter alia, their social, educational, cultural and sporting projects?

- 2- **Local development and sport:** how do the sports policies introduced help regional development? Does, for example, the way in which a town considers sport enable the centre and peripheral dialectic to be redefined, or even the sporting policies between different neighbourhoods to be balanced? To what extent are sports-related issues included in interactions between elected representatives and associations of municipalities or inter-municipal administrative organizations? On another level, how does the territorial rescaling seen today at the European and global scale (such as metropolization of cities and regionalization) impact the sports policies adopted at the local authority level? How do these issues develop when envisaged on a European or global scale?
- 3- **Sport in the city – urbanisation and facilities:** how is sport considered in the city? What importance are sports facilities given in renovation projects? Today, the traditional image of sport as an organised or federal activity is no longer valid, and therefore, it is important to examine how the purposes and uses of sport – bearing in mind all the different means and reasons behind its practice – are taken into account in town planning. At a time when cities are being restructured around rehabilitated urban centres, new neighbourhoods (eco-neighbourhoods, etc.) are being built, and diverse urban zones are being renovated, what facility-related policies are essential?
- 4- **Inhabitants and sport:** far from being a single civic and political entity, a city is above all a plural space in which very different actors meet, interact and appropriate the region in their own way. What place is given to inhabitants' views in municipal sports policy-making? Do the measures introduced in a town, particularly those claimed to be "participatory", provide for a balanced relationship between sport actors and reflect the diversity of such actors and their interests? How do citizens react to the implementation of sports policies? Furthermore, how are the expectations of residents according to their residential area (Sensitive Urban Zones (ZUSs), centres, etc.) taken into account?

Where and when: The “City and Sport” symposium will be held from **Wednesday 10 May to Friday 12 May 2017**, in **Brest (Finistère, France)**. It will take place at the *Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines* (20 rue Duquesne), and the *Faculté des Sciences du Sport et de l’Éducation* (20 avenue Le Gorgeu).



For a virtual, drone’s eye view of the campus: <http://irealite360.com/ubo/>

Symposium languages: French and English

Length of presentation: 20 minutes

Key dates:

- Submission of abstracts: **15 October 2016**
- Comments and acceptance of proposed papers: **15 December 2016**
- Registration : **January-March 2017**

Registration fee:

The registration fee includes:

- **attendance at the symposium**
 - **meals** (excluding the gala meal)
 - **tours** (exploring the coastal path and the bay of Brest)
 - **accommodation** for speakers (**2 or 3 nights**).
- Doctoral speakers: Free
 - Researcher-lecturer speakers: €180 (2 nights) - €240 (3 nights)
 - Attendees (attendance at the symposium): Free. Please note that *meals, excursions and accommodation are not included, but can be reserved for a fee through the organisers.*

Registration for the conference will be via this website. The procedure will be explained precisely. In case of difficulties, please contact the organisers (ville-et-sport-2017@univ-brest.fr)

Submit a paper: Submission is done via the website of the conference

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