

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
BODY AND SPIRIT:
SPORT AND CHRISTIANITY IN HISTORY



18-21 | October 2016
Murcia (Spain)



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

BODY AND SPIRIT: SPORT AND CHRISTIANITY IN HISTORY

The Department of Humanities and Religious Sciences of the Catholic University of Murcia and the research group *Stodia Humanitatis* organize an International Conference on the relationship between the themes of sport and the Christian religion from a historical perspective. There are many studies from the sociological and anthropological perspectives about the relationship between sport and religion, and between sport and Christianity, especially in what refers to the present world. What is intended in this Conference is to work on the historical perspective of this relationship, from Antiquity to the present day and therefore, all covered by the various branches of historical studies. Sociological and anthropological studies will be included too, through different eras, countries, civilizations, cultures and even religious relationships and dialogues, with their different conceptions of sports and sports spectacles, and varied expressions of public or private living of Christian religion, associated with sporting events in history, as a cultural phenomenon.

While the extreme importance of sport and its relationship with religion in classical civilizations are facts that help us to understand the outstanding presence of the sport today, the establishment of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire led paradoxically to the banning of the Olympic Games as a pagan ceremony. Still, various sporting events continued occurring in Byzantium for many centuries, with a strong relationship with the Christian religious sphere. Manifestations of that relationship in other historical ages are a subject of study equally relevant. And beyond the sociological and anthropological studies, the historical analysis must bring more light on these issues to better decipher the past at the same time that our understanding of the present gets illuminated. The aim of this Conference is to reflect these issues from different perspectives and timelines to try, in short, to understand a little better our current reality in which the relationship between religion and sport –and in this case, between Christianity and sport– still is very present, but essentially changing the public sphere by a private one.

The Catholic University of Murcia-UCAM –the "University of Sport" in Spain–, whose model starts to be imitated by other modern universities, with a powerful Faculty of Sports, a large number of students who are athletes and Olympic medalists, and sponsoring several sports teams, including a first level one in the regular Spanish League of Basketball, hosts this International Conference which brings together three of its central pillars: culture –inherent to any University–, sport and the Christian religion.

The UCAM will host the Conference at its headquarters in the city of Murcia, the monumental Monastery of *Los Jerónimos*, from beginning of the 18th century and Baroque style, and in Cartagena, historical city of more than 2000 years old, a foundation of Carthage and broad Roman legacy.

The Organizing Committee invites interested researchers to submit abstracts of communications for its oral presentation in a maximum of 15 minutes, including the time to answer any questions. Abstracts, as well as later communications, may be written in English, French, Italian or Spanish. Proposals must contain a summary, between 150 and 200 words, the title of the communication, the authors name and their academic affiliation and a brief curriculum profile. They should be submitted to the online address of the Conference: SCH2016@ucam.edu, using the submission form attached to the end of this call for papers. The deadline for submission of proposals is May 21, 2016.

The topics of communications should circumscribe forcefully –and doing so in the submission form– to one of the 4 central thematic strands around which the Conference will be articulated: 1- Ancient History (October 18); 2-Middle Ages, Early Modern Period and American history (Oct 19); 3-Late Modern Period and Contemporary history (Oct 20); 4-Evangelization and Sport (Oct 21). Each of these central thematic strands will also feature plenary keynotes.

Each communication may treat aspects related to the general subject of the Conference from the following perspectives in each of the 4 central thematic strands, as a guide:

1. Ancient History (October 18)

- Literary sources
- Epigraphy and numismatics
- Artistic representations
- Archaeology of the sports and religious enclosures
- Power and religious symbology
- Sports metaphors in spiritual literature
- Use of the sports simile in patristics
- The use of images of sport and play in the Christian world
- The Christian vision of the sport. Controversy, censorship and Christian answers
- The sport & spectacle buildings as places of martyrdom. Acts of the martyrs

2. Middle Ages, Early Modern Period and American History (October 19)

- Celebration, festivities, power and play
- Literary sources
- Artistic representations
- Epigraphical and archaeological sources.
- The use of the images of the sports game in the mystical and ascetic literature. Fencing to the spiritual
- Prescriptions and prohibitions
- The urban framework
- Pilgrimages
- Description and analysis of events
- Comparison between regions or time periods
- Rituals
- The role of physical activity in the education program
- Body and its symbols. Sick body, healthy body

3. Late Modern Period and Contemporary History (October 20)

- State and sport
- Birth of different sports
- Olympism and religion
- Sources
- Sport in Arts
- Propaganda
- Sport, spectacle, ideology and business
- Anthropology of sport
- National identities and sports
- Religious identities and sports
- Media
- Sport, politics and eugenics
- Architecture and spaces for sport
- Language sports and religious language: translations and interferences

4. Evangelization and Sport (October 21)

- Texts on religion and sport
- Religion, education and sport
- Religion, peace and sport
- Motivations and values
- Theology of sport for the disabled people
- Ethics and sport
- Sport and bioethics
- Sport and pastoral
- Tutelage and guardianship through sport and physical education
- Sports Chaplaincy
- Catholicism and sport
- Athletes of Christ
- Global perspectives and new approaches on sport and Christianity
- Christian sociological perspectives of sport

The Organizing and the Scientific Committees will be responsible for the procedure of selection of the communications in within 15 days and the notification of the decision will be made to stakeholders at the deadline of June 15, 2016. Information for travel and accommodation will be provided on the web page of the Conference (under construction: deporteycristianismo.ucam.edu). However, the travel and accommodation expenses will be paid by the participant speakers.

The authors of accepted communications for the Conference will have two deadlines for payment of the fees in its different variants. The first term will end on July 31; the second term, September 15.

	July 31	September 15
a) Participation with communication and the rights to receive the digital offprint of the own publication, when successfully overcoming the peer review.	80€	120€
b) Participation with communication and the rights to receive the printed publication of the Conference with all the plenary keynotes and accepted papers after peer-review.	120€	160€
	September 15	October 15
c) Attendees without communication, but in need of a certificate.	45€	60€

The complete information of the Conference, including the list of accepted and registered communications, and the list of plenary speakers and their presentations will be available from 1 October, 2016, although the web page of the Conference will be already reflecting this information gradually before that date.

The results of the Conference shall be printed and digitally published too with a ISBN once the sent contributions exceed a process of evaluation by peers. Publishing instructions will be provided later, and the deadline for the submission of written contributions will be December 31, 2016.

Committee of honour:

President:

José Luis Mendoza

President of the Catholic University of Murcia

Members:

Alejandro Blanco

President of the Spanish Olympic Committee

Josefina García Lozano

Rector of the Catholic University of Murcia

José Alberto Cánovas

Vice-Rector of Religious Matters of the Catholic University of Murcia

Antonio Alcaraz

Vice-Rector of University Extension and Chair of Department of Human and Religious Sciences of the Catholic University of Murcia

Scientific Committee:

President:

- **José María Sesé (UCAM)**
Coordinator of Humanities. Chair of History of Cinema. Modern History. Contemporary History.

Members:

- **Antonio Sánchez Pato (UCAM)**
Dean of the Faculty of Sports. Philosophy of Sport.
- **Annette Hofmann (Ludwigsburg University of Education, Germany)**
President of the International Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport. History of Sport.
- **Gertrud Ursula Pfister (University of Copenhagen)**
Conference Advisor of the International Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport. History of Sport.
- **Wolfgang Decker (Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln)**
History of Sport.
- **Fernando García Romero (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)**
Classics. History of Sport.
- **Prof. Dr. D. Patrick Lesbre (Université Toulouse 2)**
American History.
- **Prof^a. Dr^a. D^a. Teresa González Aja (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid)**
History of Sport.
- **Prof. Dr. D. Werner Petermandl (Universität Graz)**
History of Sport.
- **Prof. Dr. D. Jerry Toner (University of Cambridge)**
Ancient History.
- **Prof. Dr. D. Paul Christesen (Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire)**
Ancient History. History of Sport.

Plenary keynote speakers:

Opening:

- **Alejandro Blanco** (President of the Spanish Olympic Committee)

Ancient History:

- **Thomas F. Scanlon** (University of California, Riverside)
- **Juan Ramón Carbó** (Universidad Católica de Murcia)

Middle Ages, Early Modern History and American History:

- **Jean Michel Mehl** (Université Marc Bloch, Strasbourg)
- **Serge Vaucelle** (Université Toulouse 3)
- **Alessandra Rizzi** (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)
- **John McClelland** (French University of Toronto)

Late Modern Period and Contemporary History :

- **Hugh McLeod** (University of Birmingham)
- **Laurence Munoz** (Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale)
- **Roberto Cipriani** (Università degli Studi di Roma 3)
- **Armando Rangel Rivero** (Universidad de La Habana)

Evangelization and Sport:

- [Nick Watson](#) (York St John University)
- [Tomás Emilio Bolaño Mercado](#) (Medellín)

Closing:

- [-S.E.R. Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko](#) ((President of the Pontifical Council for the laity))
(*pending confirmation*)

Contact and Information:

E-mail: SCH2016@ucam.edu
https deporteycristianismo.ucam.edu

Organizing Committee:

[Juan Ramón Carbó García](#) - jrcarbo@ucam.edu
[José Jesús García Hourcade](#) - jjgarcia@ucam.edu

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Deadlines 2016:

May 31	Abstract submission
June 15	Final selection of communications
July 31	End of the first period for inscription of communications
September 15	End of the second period for inscription of communications
	End of the first period of registration of attendees without communication
1 October	Publication of the final programme of the Conference
October 15	End of the second period of registration of attendees without communication
October 18	The Conference begins
December 31	Submission of the final text for publication



ANNEX

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

(to fill, scan and send it together with the abstract
to the e-mail of the Conference, SCH2016@ucam.edu)

TITLE:

**CENTRAL :
THEMATIC
STRANDS**

Ancient History

Middle Ages, Early Modern
and American History

Late Modern History
and Contemporary History

Evangelization and Sport

AUTHOR/S:

**ACADEMIC
AFFILIATION:**

BRIEF PROFILE & CURRICULUM:
