

RERIS 2022

Beyond failing!

The non-existent history of international sport and its real impact on European and global sporting heritage



Réseau d'Etudes des Relations Internationales Sportives
Convention

26th and 28th August 2022

Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education (AWF)

Chairs: Kamil Potrzuski, Philippe Vonnard

In cooperation with:



Short description

Since the last three decades, the study of sport at international level has been widely developed. Despite this (positive) trend, few scholars have focused on the topic that concern failures. For instance, if it is possible to find a rich literature on the sport mega-events (and especially Olympic games), nevertheless most of these researches have been conducted on the successful project. This lack of research is quite surprising because working on unrealized sports initiatives, unsuccessful projects of expanding the infrastructure for local and international sports, and/or failed applications for organization of sporting mega-events could really help to better understand why a project and/or a career obtain success.

Based on this statement, which has been already pointed out by some authors (for e.g.: Loepkey, Salisbury, Tinaz 2019; Vonnard et al. 2020) and inspired by research conducted notably on the “Missing Olympic games” (for e.g.: Collins 2007) or failing bid (for e.g.: Bason and Grix 2020), the VIe RERIS congress will propose to the participants to work on this thematic. Our objective is to enlarge the perspective and to considerate different kind of failures (from event to the careers of the athlete) at international sport level during the 20th century. Here are some ideas of topics (but others proposals are obviously welcome).

- Olympic Games and other sporting events not held during World War I and II.
- Failed applications for rights to host international sporting events and it's consequences to the applicant or candidate city.
- Lost architectural competitions for the implementation of sports facilities and their impact on architects' careers, shaping sports infrastructure and public spaces.
- Unrealized projects of sporting events of various ranks (local, national, international) and the significance of these failures in the context of further development of specific sports disciplines.
- Broken careers. Athletes who have lost the opportunity to compete in international sporting events, including the Olympic Games, for political reasons (e.g. Boycotts).
- Female athletes who could not compete because their competition has not yet been introduced into Olympics or other international competition.
- Women, non-heteronormative, non-binary athletes and athletes with atypical sexuality, whose careers have been prematurely interrupted due to legal conditions or moral norms.
- Sports careers whose development has been suddenly hampered by changes in regulations or rules of competition (e.g. changes in weight classes in strength and combat sports).
- Sports careers whose development has been prevented by unauthorized disqualifications or groundless accusations of abuse in or outside of sport.
- Sports careers of activists who unsuccessfully aspired to lead the main institutions of world sport (Olympic committees, sports federations, etc.)

The aim of the conference, apart from documenting interesting case studies concerning unrealized sports investments, will be an attempt to formulate working hypotheses relating to such research questions. We will also try to consider what research methods to use to analyze the "non-existent history of sport", where to search for key source material and how to organize scattered source evidence. The conference may result in outlining a research trend in the history of sport and opening new - so far explored only fragmentarily - spaces of historical cognition.

Reference:

- Collins, Sandra (2007). *The 1940 Tokyo Games: The Missing Olympics. Japan, The Asian Olympics and the Olympic movement* (Routledge, New York – London).
- Bason Tom, Grix Jonathan (2020), Every loser wins: leveraging 'unsuccessful' Olympic bids for positive benefits, *European Sport Management Quarterly* [published online]: <https://doi.org/10.1080/16184742.2020.1838590>
- Loepkey Becca, Salisbury Paul, Tinaz Cem (2019), Examining legacies of Unsuccessful Olympic Bids: Evidence from a Cross-Case Analysis, *Journal of Global Sport Management*, [published online]: <https://doi.org/10.1080/24704067.2019.1604072>
- Vonnard, Philippe, Astruc Clément, D'Amado Jalabert Lorenzo, Sbeti Nicola (2020). Organizing the World Cup : Organization, heritage and failing bids (1930 – 1998), *Soccer & Society*, 21(8), special issue, <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/fsas20/21/8>

Formal information

Participation fee:

The registration fee is 30 euro per person.

Information on the account number to which the conference fees will be paid will be announced at a later date.

Calendar:

Call for papers publication: January 15, 2022

Application and abstract deadline: March 25, 2022

Confirmation to the participants: April 15, 2022.

Initial programme release: April 30, 2022.

Deadline for payment of the publication fee: May 10, 2022.

Registration: July 1-31, 2022

Final programme and book of abstracts release: August 10, 2022

RERIS annual meeting: August 26 – 28, 2022.

Place of the congress:

The congress will be held by the Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw

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