

The Routledge Olympics Special Issue

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to introduce the Routledge 2012 Olympics Special Issue. The 2012 London Olympic Games present a unique opportunity for the academic community and Routledge to address in a systematic way the global phenomenon that is the Olympics. The Games have been generating considerable scholarly interest and rightfully have been referred to as a laboratory for the analysis of modern society.

There has been a wave of interest in Olympic studies across the world in recent years but the forums for publication of Olympics related research have not kept pace with this burgeoning of scholarship. While new journals in the area of sports studies have emerged, these are principally of specialized focus and what Olympic studies needs at this point of its rapid broadening and proliferation is a new forum that will provide an integrated perspective on the field at large. In other words, a project that brings together 2012 Olympics-related research in the humanities and social sciences, and provides scholars with a platform covering, but not restricted to their particular fields of interest and specialization. Such an approach is critical to any expanding field of study, for the development of more informed and broader perspectives and more overarching theoretical conceptions. The proposed journal special issues project with its broad scope and ideas of synergy has been accordingly conceived. It aims to fill a gap in journal publishing in the field of Olympic studies, where journals have not kept pace with the newer trends of academic inquiry.

In trying to address the above issues, Routledge, in conjunction with the 2012 International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport (ICSEMIS) organised by the Brunel Consortium, have extended an invitation to the Editorial Boards of a number of journals to consider publishing a special issue on the London Olympic Games. We are absolutely delighted to inform you that the invitation has been accepted by 38 journals from a wide range of scientific disciplines (see the journal list at the end). With your help, we would like to produce a series of critical studies on the Olympics to be published in 2012 and 2013. Routledge has a pedigree in promoting Olympic-related texts and its strategic involvement with the 2012 ICSEMIS Pre-Olympic Convention combined with its forward thinking would allow us to make a major contribution to the field of Olympic Studies and a range of other disciplines.

Following the theme of the winning London 2012 Olympic bid, both Routledge and ICSEMIS 2012 want to ensure that they inspire and leave a strong learning legacy for a range of subject fields. The project will be launched at the ICSEMIS Pre-Olympic Convention in Glasgow in July 2012. The Convention is expected to attract about 5,000 delegates from all over the world representing all scientific disciplines. More information about the Convention may be found at <http://www.brunelicsemis2012consortium.com>

Vassil Girginov, Executive Editor
Vassil.Girginov@brunel.ac.uk

Jonathan Manley, Publisher
Jonathan.Manley@tandf.co.uk

Taylor & Francis Group, Informa UK Limited
4 Park Square
Milton Park
Abingdon
Oxon OX14 4RN
UK

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Each journal will choose the theme of its special Olympic issue. The emphasis will be on critical scholarship that uses new and fresh theoretical perspectives to scrutinize the social, political, cultural, economic, sporting, urban/environmental aspects of the 2012 Olympic Games and the Olympics in general. The special issues will provide a platform for writing of a high intellectual, aesthetic and imaginative standard accessible to both the academic and interested general reader. The discipline of Olympic/sport studies has added a new dimension to our understanding of societies but it can be self-referential and exclude specialists in related fields. This project sets out to cross disciplinary boundaries and produce research that will be of value across many fields.

This project will be based on the highest academic standards of thorough and meticulous research for creating new knowledge but it will also welcome practitioners and independent writers. Although these researchers have produced outstanding work, academic forums have largely failed to provide a systematic platform for them. We aim to encourage this kind of scholarship and initiate synergy between research from outside and within academia. The project also aims to integrate the brand of activist scholarship that is emerging in Olympic circles in relation to new fields such as athletes' rights and sexuality studies. It is important to note that the project's focus is global and should not concentrate solely on London, as most '2012' studies will inevitably do. Our aim is to bring 2012 Olympic stories from across the world into focus.

We would like to thank the Editorial Boards of the journals who accepted the invitation to participate in the project and to encourage academics, practitioners and independent writers to submit their research for publication in the special issue. If you would like to find out more about the themes of the special issue of one of the participating journals please get in touch with the editors. Journals contact details can be obtained from visiting Taylor & Francis journal website at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/>

Journals participating in Routledge's Olympic Special Issue Collection:

Celebrity Studies
Citizenship Studies
Consumption Markets and Culture
Critical Studies in Media Communication
Cultural Trends
Current Issues in Tourism
European Journal of Sport Science
European Sport Management Quarterly
Footwear Science
International Gambling Studies
International Journal of Sport Policy

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International Journal of the History of Sport
International Planning Studies
Journal of Building Performance Stimulation
Journal of Environmental Planning & Management
Journal of Sport & Tourism
Journal of Sports Sciences
Landscape Research
Leisure Sciences
Leisure Studies
Local Economy
Mass Communication and Society
Measure in Physical Education and Exercise Science
New Political Economy
Physical Education & Sport Pedagogy
Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise
Research in Sports Medicine
Soccer and Society
Social Identities
Sport in History
Sport in Society
Sport, Ethics and Philosophy
Sports Biomechanics
Structure & Infrastructure Engineering
Tourism and Cultural Change
Visitor Studies
Visual Studies

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