Summaries

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Antero Heikkinen: Why did Socrates dance, and Plato was wrestling: exercise for health in ancient Greece and Rome

The purpose of the article is to study the theoretical and practical basis of the exercise of health in ancient Greece and Rome. The main thesis is, that this basis was established in Athens under the classical period of the Greek culture in the fifth and fourth centuries B.C. The Romans, then, did adopt this cultural heritage. At the beginning Christianity didn't change the basis of the exercise for health.

The main examples used here are the Hippocratic writings on Dietetics, some ideas of Xenophon in his Oeconomicus, and these of Plato and Aristotle concerning exercise in the ideal state, the thoughts of Cicero, and the ideas of Seneca and Plinius the Yonger in their letters. Also it has been studied the role of exercise for health in the extensive and popular roman bathing culture.

Hannu Itkonen & Arto Nevala: Roots of the organization culture. Sports club Varkauden Tarmo and its partners until 1940's.

Sport clubs has played an important role in the Finnish civil society. Historical and sociological researches show how the social network of sport clubs has changed. In our article we describe those changes in local context, in industrial town of Varkaus. In our focus is worker's sport club Varkauden Tarmo, founded in 1912.

The first partners of Tarmo were other organizations of workers' movement, e.g. those from the trade union movement and the workers' co-operative. We found three kinds of changes. Firstly, when the competition sports become more important, connections to the sports' organizations came closer. Secondly, actors in sport crossed the old
social borders between workers' movement and bourgeois organizations. Thirdly, during the Second World War actors from different classes' met and competed in same sports fields and organized also competitions together.

Changes in Tarmo’s partners show that actors of sport clubs must evaluate whole the time their social and cultural networks. When the cultures of workers' movement become weaker, actors in Tarmo found new partners from other side of class border

Anna-Maria Nurmi & Hannu Itkonen: From youth culture to movement – the early stages of hip hop dance in Finland

This article focuses on hip hop dance and its arrival to Finland in the late 1980s. The article uses the theory of acculturation which, from our point of view, is applicable in this kind of discussion. The theory of acculturation has been used widely in the field of research. In this article we are utilizing the discussion of acculturation that has been going on when researching music and its spreading. The main topics of this article are as follows: who were the pioneers around hip hop culture in Finland, what were the possible phases and the changes that hip hop culture went through when reaching Finland, and how did hip hop dance acculturate with school culture. Hip hop culture is known to be one of the youth cultures that has spread extensively around the world. It’s about lifestyle and it includes body movement and also other different elements of the culture.

This article exposes the early history of hip hop in Finland and it discusses the phenomena that were part of the acculturation process. It will also bring forward the thoughts of one of the pioneers in Finland and tell what kind of acculturation happened between school culture and hip hop dance.

Minna Uusivirta: The connective torch. Representations of Spanish and Catalan identities in the press during the Barcelona Olympic Torch relay

The Barcelona Olympics organisation in 1992 faced pressures for catalanisation and espaniolisation due to various political interest groups in a Spain, which had quite recently recovered from the centralist connotations of nationalism in Franco's dictatorship. A
comparison between two newspapers, the leading Barcelona journal La Vanguardia, and a major Madrid paper El País revealed this situation during the torch relay prior to the Olympic Games. Both papers represented a discourse, which held high the positive and unifying euphoria aroused by the relay and its organisation that functioned well. The nationalism-wise moderate journals also expressed somewhat differing discourses that emphasised the differences between the Spanish and Catalan identities. The Spanish discourse brought out an image of a country seeking for unity and longing to break free of its past while the Catalan counterpart underlined the importance of a distinct Catalan culture and its differences with Spain. The tone of the discourses was, however, relatively composed and both papers agreed that over accentuating either Spain or Catalonia would be counterproductive for the success of the Olympic Games.

Heikki Roiko-Jokela & Antero Holmila: The interplay between national and international: the communications and information flows of Finnish sport and health science research 1960–2005

In Finland, research on sport and health science is divided into three segments: basic research (i.e. investigating new problems), applied research and sector research (i.e. research typically conducted under state ministries). In practice, a significant part of sport and health research is interdisciplinary. Research has also a great degree of applicability which increases the wider social significance of sport research communications. For about 40 years now, Finnish sport and health research communications has had a clear strategy and goals. In the 1960s, the goal was on the one hand to increase information flows within the science itself and on the other, to popularize the science. At the same time communications became more international and Finnish researchers started to participate in international forums. In the 1970s, the focus was on the interaction between physical activity and society by and large. From the perspective of society and national health, research programs and research communications were seen as increasingly important. The main arena for publications was the international one. Yet, on the national level, communications developed too. In the 1970s and 1980s, with effective distribution channels of knowledge, the goal was to transmit know-how to those who most urgently needed it. In the 1990s, the focus of sport and health science communications shifted to massive (typically computerized) database systems. The challenge was still to mediate research findings to those who needed it. In the new millennium, the focus has moved on from “data communication and mediation” to “data transfers”.

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Erkki Vetteniemi: Jukola’s enduring legacy.
Notes on the practice of sports history

Methodological issues have been increasingly discussed by sports historians in the new century, as attested by Douglas Booth’s monograph (The Field, 2005) and the anthologies edited by Murray Phillips (Deconstructing Sport History, 2006) and most recently by S. W. Pope and John Nauright (Routledge Companion to Sports History, 2010). My article is the first Finnish contribution to that debate, a contribution that is quite partial to the proponents of the linguistic turn, the relevance of which has, at long last, been acknowledged by leading historians of sport. To put it briefly, historical texts do not recreate the past; they provide interpretations of past events in a literary form that creates a reality in its own right.

A case in point is the legacy of Martti Jukola (1900–1952), arguably the most prominent Finnish sports journalist ever who churned out history books, too. As I demonstrate in my article, Jukola mastered the use of literary tricks to the extent that his chronicles are still accepted as first-hand sources by academics. Ironically, though, Jukola often based his narratives on second-hand accounts of events which he did not even attend. He merely touched up other writers’ reports, which is, on reflection, a passable description of the historian’s craft. Sports historians should cultivate the crucial art of self-reflection and pay more attention to the variety of linguistic devices encountered in historical texts.