

Summaries

Gerald Hoedl: Africa's Position within the Globalised Football Economy. Over the past two decades professional football has become a part of the global entertainment industry characterized, like any other capitalist economic sector, by core-periphery relations. This article examines Africa's position within this globalised football economy, arguing that it primarily serves as a source of cheap, but highly qualified, players primarily, but not exclusively, for European clubs. It is argued that in several respects the production and distribution of African football labour resembles the commodity chains of other African products, as control over the player-market is mainly exercised by European actors who are the biggest beneficiaries. However, there are also significant differences between African countries. Clubs and players from better-off African countries with functioning professional leagues, like Egypt, Tunisia and South Africa, are less exposed to metropolitan allures and pressures and act as regional cores towards economically weaker neighbouring countries. In taking this line of argumentation the article further concludes that in parallel to economic dependence there is also a cultural dependence that connects Africa to the centres of world football.

Carlos Sandoval-García: Football: Forging Nationhood and Masculinities in Costa Rica. This article draws on a concluded research project that examined football as a site for the analysis of the mutual constitution of nationhood and masculinities in daily life in Central America. In particular, the article explores the processes that surrounded national and gender identification during the Costa Rican team's participation in the qualifying tournament for the 2002 World Cup Finals in Japan and South Korea, as well as the matches Costa Rica played in the 2002 World Cup. Conversations among fans, media chronicles, advertisements and emails are analysed in this article. By way of conclusion, it is argued that football's dynamics of triumph/pride and defeat/shame provide interchangeable images for representing both nationhood and masculinities.

Wilfried Schwetz, Donna McGuire & Crispin Chinguno: Why should Trade Unions pay Attention to Mega Sports Events? In this article the authors trace the development of mega sports events as big business and the growing awareness of unions and civil society of the threat such events present to working conditions and social and union rights. The authors argue that the high profile and economic importance of mega sports events, such as the Olympics and the Football World Cup, also provide unions with opportunities to build organisational strength and to influence the ever-more globalised world of work. After a brief outline of the role of unions in the Atlanta and Sydney Olympics, the authors compare unions' attempts to influence the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany and the upcoming 2010 World Cup in South Africa. In providing an overview of the political and organisational contexts of union

movements in each country, the article identifies areas of union activities with the potential to achieve sustainable gains regarding working conditions and long-term organisational strength. The degree to which unions in both countries managed to take advantage of such opportunities is additionally assessed. The authors find that attempts by German unions to use the World Cup for long-term strategic gains were exceptional, with specifically notable gains being made in the security and sportswear industries. While unions in South Africa have taken a more strategic approach, with significant achievements in the construction and security sectors, they are still a long way from achieving a „unionised“ World Cup. The article highlights some exciting new developments in relation to the role of union learning, broad coalition building, global networking and an increasing role for the Global Union Federations.

Christina Peters: Contested Space. The Popularisation of Football in Brazil, 1890-1930. This article argues that the arrival and diffusion of football (called „soccer“ in North America) in Brazil between 1890 and 1930 can be interpreted as a process of spatial formation rather than a process of cultural imperialism and the result of the „exportation“ of a British cultural product. In considering recent studies on the history of modern sport and its diffusion in different parts of the world, this article finds that the incorporation of football in Brazil depended on the agency of individuals, such as journalists, social reformers and „sportmen“, and on social groups, such as immigrant communities in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Even though the first football clubs were exclusive and hermetical spaces of urban elites, the article shows how members of other social groups contested the cultural space of football and, thereby, helped to reconstruct it along more inclusive lines.

Robert Meyer, Janosch Prinz & Conrad Schetter: A Game trapped in a „Container“? – Connections between Football and Space. This article inquires into the relation between spatial concepts and the political organization of football, as well as the spatial logic of the game itself. While at first it would appear that football – as a „national“ sport – is organized along the boundaries of national „containers“, due to its rigidity, thinking space in terms of nation-state containers is in decline. In light of this, this article asks whether the political organization of football has become de-spatialized. In following this line of questioning, the article argues that the coexistence of container- and fluid-spaces permeates the political organization of football. Nevertheless, simplistic binary thinking is incapable of appropriately dealing with football-related constructions of representation and space. Rather, its overlapping and ambiguous features make football a political phenomenon and a thrilling game.