The Centre for Work, Organisation and Wellbeing

invite you to a seminar:


Previously entitled “Sociological Research Into International Sport Development”

When: 10:00 – 11:00 am, Monday 1 February, 2010
Where: Room -1.18, Business 2, Building N72, Nathan campus
Food: Morning tea will be served; please RSVP

Abstract: The use of sport in pursuit of international development goals is broadening, with widespread policy support for sports-based programmes that promote social, educational and health goals. Academic assessment has however been more critical, posing searching questions about the paucity of evidence that justifies the use of sport in these roles. This presentation will examine these issues through a small-scale study conducted with young women and adult sport workers involved in a 'successful' community based sports programme in Delhi, India (n=38). The study identified multiple positive benefits in the young women's experiences, but recognised that these occurred within structural limits that might limit long-term and strategic impact. The issues surrounding this are examined, and critical attention also paid to the research approach adopted, including the significance of local knowledge in challenging neo-colonialism in sport-in-development research.

Speaker: Dr Tess Kay, Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director of the Institute of Youth Sport, Loughborough University, UK

Tess Kay undertakes research into youth and adult sport and leisure behaviour in the context of social policy. Since her work on youth unemployment in the late 1980s, one of her main focuses has been the use of sport to address issues of diversity, disadvantage and inclusion in changing policy contexts. Tess also has a long-standing background in research into sport and leisure in family contexts, and through her work on family lifestyles and activity patterns has served on European research networks in the area of family-related social policy, undertaking work for the European Social Fund and the European Commission Framework 5 research programme. She has written and presented widely in the UK, North America and Australia on interrelationships between family, sport and leisure and has recently edited Fathering through sport and leisure (Routledge, 2009), an international collection of research contributions on the relationship between fatherhood, sport and leisure. Since 2004 Tess has worked within the School’s Institute of Youth Sport directing evaluations of initiatives that use sport to promote physical activity among young people and/or to contribute to wider social development goals. She has undertaken research with a total grant value in excess of £1million for a wide range of agencies including the British Council, DCMS, DIES, DFID, Sport England, sportscotland, UK Sport and UNICEF, producing outputs to inform policy and practice at local, regional, national and international level. In 2006 she initiated the Institute’s international research into the use of sport within international development work and has since led research teams working with young people in Zambilia, India and Brazil. Tess is founder member of a research network in sport for development research in which the universities of Loughborough, Southampton, Central Lancashire and York St. John are partners. Its members are committed to carrying out ethical, democratic and participatory sports research in ways that build local capacity and foster local ownership of knowledge production in ‘majority world’ (global South) countries. Tess is Senior Managing Editor of Leisure Studies journal and a member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Sports Policy and the Editorial Advisory Board of World Leisure.

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