



Physical Culture

Guest Editor:

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (30 July 2018)

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Historically, the term 'physical culture' describes health and fitness movements that emerged from Europe and the United States in the late-19th and early 20th centuries. These were derived from a wide variety of physical activities, such as traditional pastimes, calisthenics, weightlifting, sport, gymnastics, military exercise, and dance. Today, many of these movements continue, added to by new movements such as Crossfit®, as well as a truly massive cross-cultural and intercultural array of singular activities ranging from parkour to quidditch. Physical culture has now come to represent almost any activity in which all or part of its focus is on the development of particular forms of physicality valued by its practitioners. The term also embraces elements of sports and more general cultural formations which have socially and culturally meaningful physical practices embedded within them. The purpose of this Special Issue is to provide a collection of papers that examine the phenomenon of physical culture from a broadly sociological and cultural studies perspective.

David Brown

Guest Editor





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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