

DIAGORAS

International Academic Journal on Olympic Studies



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The aim of *Diagoras: International Academic Journal on Olympic Studies* is to foster a critical understanding of Olympism, the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games. The focus of the journal is Olympic Studies with an emphasis on the educative, pedagogical, historical, socio-cultural, communicative and sport and exercise science aspects of Olympic Studies. *Diagoras* seeks to become the prestigious multi-disciplinary scholarly journal on Olympic matters by extending knowledge and understanding of related areas. Published materials will be focused on original research, integrative and analytical reviews and philosophical discussions on Olympic matters.

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Preface

The idea of launching the e-journal *Diagoras: The International Academic Journal on Olympic Studies* was initially presented to the *Second International Colloquium of Olympic Studies and Research Centres* held 2-3 August, 2016 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The symposium's aim was to strengthen the collaboration between Olympic Studies Centres in academic projects on an international level. The proposed publishing initiative was unanimously approved by the symposium delegates. The editors-in-chief, who proposed the Journal, embody this collaboration between Olympic Studies Centres. Prof. Ian Culpan holds the position of Co-Director of the *New Zealand Centre for Olympic Studies at the University of Canterbury, NZ*; Prof. Emilio Fernandez chairs the *Olympic Studies Centre of the Autonomous University of Barcelona* and Prof. Stephan Wassong chairs the *Olympic Studies Centre of the German Sport University Cologne*. In 2018 the *International Pierre de Coubertin Committee* was added to the institutional partnership model.

Since the decision at the 2016 Porto Alegre Symposium three issues of *Diagoras* have been published. Originally, it was planned to present issue number 4 at the *3rd International Symposium of Olympic Studies and Research Centres*, which was scheduled for 2020 at the Tsukuba University, Tokyo. Like the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, the Symposium has been postponed to 2021 due the COVID-19 pandemic. Of course, this has not meant postponing publishing the 4th issue of *Diagoras*. Actually, we have not even thought about a postponement as the 4th issue is a special issue. It contains a specific section in which we have included articles resulting from presentations delivered at the International Congress – *Olympism: A Mirror and an Impetus for Changing Societies*, held between 16th - 19th October 2019 at the *CY Cergy Paris Université*, France. The French Pierre de Coubertin Committee assumed the patronage. On behalf of *ILEPS*, the sports faculty of *CY Cergy Paris Université* and the congress organizers Prof. Gilles Lecocq agreed to become

a guest editor of the 4th issue of *Diagoras*. Please refer to his introduction published to start the section on the conference articles. The editors-in-chief of *Diagoras* wish to thank Prof Lecocq for his collaboration with the Journal. We have thoroughly enjoyed his cooperation. It was uncomplicated, supportive and has made an important contribution to the quality of the 4th issue.

Last but not least, we would like to make an announcement for the next issues of *Diagoras*. We have decided to create the new position of “Invited Chief Co-editor” for the Journal. This new position would have the purpose of promoting the Journal in new communities and participating in different stages of its production process, such as the coordination of peer-reviewing and inviting high quality authors to submit manuscripts for review. At the same time, the “Invited Chief Co-editor” would have responsibilities to seek funding to support the Journal’s on-going publication. The duration of the tenure as “Invited Chief Co-editor” would be for Issue numbers 5, 6, 7 and 8, that is to say, during the period of the Paris 2024 Olympiad. Our new colleague is Prof. Arnaud Richard from the *University of Montpellier*. Welcome to the team.

Prof. Ian Culpan
Prof. Stephan Wassong
Prof. Emilio Fernández Peña
Prof. Gilles Lecocq (Guest Editor)

Conference Preface

Olympism A Mirror and an Impetus for Changing Societies!

Gilles Lecocq

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Fundamental position of the body as mediator of the being, space and time as categories of the experience, constitutive character of the relationship to others, search for new challenges, creation of values, free nature of the project, perpetual resurgence of the defeat...: aren't all these Existentialist themes, to a fairly large extent, illustrated by the human phenomenon we call sport? (M. Bouet, 1968) (Translation Elsa Carton, 2019)

The Pierre de Coubertin French Committee Congress was held in Cergy, Val d'Oise, at CYILEPS Cergy Paris University, 16 - 18 October 2019. The congress was organized under the auspices of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee and was an opportunity to develop actions to support the intercultural and universal Olympic values. By analysing how these values influence and are shaped by evolving cultural standards, the aim, in 2019, was to identify the future prospects of the 'Olympic Dynamic' using Tokyo city and two time markers –the Olympic Games of 1964 and 2020. The congress venue in Cergy, in the Val d'Oise, was also an opportunity to examine how the French Pierre de Coubertin Committee positions itself as a support base to serve the organization of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Congress was also an opportunity to identify the new challenges and multiple stakes the Ile-de-France region will be facing.

The title of this congress reflected a question which resonates with the directions given to the 'Olympic Dynamic' and the transformations and evolving processes within multicultural societies. A symphonic dimension was given to that resonance around a central question:

Is the 'Olympic Dynamic' a mirror and/or an impetus for changing societies?

The sporting body in movement, and the sports heritage in movement, were the two foundations from which answers to the following three questions were developed:

- In what ways do sports-oriented social organizations take advantage of Sport Mega-Events that are organized in relation to the Olympic and Paralympic Games?
- In what ways do new forms of Sport Mega-Shows media coverage connected to the Olympic Games participate in the emergence of new sports-oriented social organizations?
- In what ways can territories which serve as a support base to the organization of Mega Sport-Events in relation to the Olympic Games be the opportunity to develop new relationships between the cultural heritage of sport, education and health?

Hosting the Olympic Games is indeed a historical moment and a new dawn, when new forms of economic, cultural, educational and media exposure emerge (Lecocq, 2018). This emergence is witness to a significant heritage landslide capable of modifying the appearance of urban and rural territories. Keeping the Olympic flame burning implies the recognition of the true impact of this major event on body and territorial ecology, economic impact, societal impact, environmental impact, urban impact, human impact...

Organizing an event such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games allows a territory to become a paradoxical memorial, enabling people to envisage that a sporting life is worth living, when all the aspects of the Olympic phenomenon are taken into account. Then, camaraderie and unity can be part of what makes the agonal dimensions of the sporting spirit. This is how the practice of sport can reveal an aptitude within the inner self to watch and listen to the global world.

However, a few months ago, the world of sport had to open its eyes to a phenomenon that surpassed it. Even the Olympic and Paralympic Games had to admit their disabilities to overcome a planetary outbreak. Tokyo 2020 was postponed! A new dynamic crosses the sporting certainties. When uncertainty prevents normal living, some questions are being raised. What to do when the sport can no longer be a shared show? Is the practice of sports to be avoided? Then, Olympism is fully concerned with existential aspect of new way of life.

Do we have to approach a cactus to see its flower or do we have to detach from it to avoid touching its crown of thorns? In the face of a contaminated body, is it advisable to run from it or is it necessary to maintain contact with it, as if nothing had happened? In a first step, Olympism has to identify the ways in which the carnal tissue of an intimate body and the symbolic shell of a cultural body face each other when spatial and temporal references are turned upside down by an unthinkable health crisis. In a second step Olympism has to specify the processes that are at work when it comes to taking the body to allow an experiential feeling to make the inexpressible audible. It is in a third time that, faced with the abolition of touch, Olympism has to mention the characteristics of the compassionate person who, by distancing himself from tactile touch, is able to understand the double essence of a passionate life: that which is born from the sound of a voice and that which gives life to the visual envelope of a shared gaze.

Even if the Olympic and Paralympic Games are postponed, Olympism is always a meaningful way of development of the human being through sport for new generations (Lecocq, 2020).

“What must finally be said and repeated tirelessly is that, beyond means which are always relative, there are values in which we believe. Men set goals, create techniques to achieve them, transcend them. That is why, without any renunciations nor exclusions, men must be presented, within sports practice, as the condition of all the conditions and, consequently, as value” (Jeu, 1977). (Translation Elsa Carton, 2019)

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