UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Social and Political Sports Research

Introduction

1 The paper provides a brief overview of Edinburgh Social and Political Sports Research (ESPSR) for the period between December 2018 and April 2019.

Purpose

This paper is for noting. It compliments rather than duplicates that which is publicly available through Edinburgh Research Explorer and the institute updates on publications, grants, and knowledge exchange. The briefing supports the power point visual that has been circulated.

Background

2 Edinburgh Social and Political Sports Research is a network of researchers within and external to the University of Edinburgh. The premise that guides our research, education and advocacy is that sport for change through social and political research.

3 Edinburgh Social and Political Sports Research is open to forging partnerships where it helps to enable and advance sport for change.

4 Should any of the other groups wish us to share our work and intelligence of what is going on locally, nationally and internationally then this can be easily arranged. Please contact Grant if you would like this to happen.

Some Recent Themed Interventions

5 Scottish Sporting Landscape: Members were invited by the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Well-Being to carry out a review of the Scottish Sporting Landscape and offer observations and recommendations. The review has been completed and is due to be published shortly. The review afforded a fantastic insight into the contemporary world of sport in Scotland and beyond.

6 Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity: Members continue to be part of the externally funded Sport and Physical Activity Changing Lives project which is internally lead by Gavin. Both Grant and Nanette were invited to join an international working group on measuring the contribution of Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity to the sustainable development goals lead by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The 3 day working group included a wide range of Ministers, Civil Servants, Multi-Lateral International Organisations such WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO. Pilot countries include Australia, Canada, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho.

7 Education: Members were invited to provide evidence to the Welsh Government and the institute of Welsh Affairs about Scotland’s experiences of curriculum reform. https://www.iwa.wales/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/20190104-IWA_CommonPurposes.pdf

8 Sports Diplomacy: Members of the Group are involved with a number of sports diplomacy studies and policy interventions. The work of the group was cited in the launch of Australia’s new sports diplomacy strategy launched in February by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Australian Minister for Sport. We are external...
advisors to a project funded through the British Council Wales which is looking at the contribution of Welsh Sport to soft power and perceptions of Wales. We have been invited to tender for a study jointly funded by UEFA and the Croatian Government on football diplomacy as well as other studies of sports diplomacy involving China. If you add to this the work that Jay has carried out around for example South Korea, then collectively we are very much part of a recognised international network that is at the forefront of sports diplomacy.

9 **Sustainable Development Goals**: We are part of an external funded consultancy (Australian Government/Commonwealth Secretariat) that is developing a MOOC on Sport for Development and Peace that will be piloted during the summer and launched at the end of the year across the 53 countries of the Commonwealth.

Grant was the only UK academic invited to speak at 2019 Commonwealth Sports Policy Debate introduced by Baroness Scotland – Secretary General to the Commonwealth.

10 If you add to this, for example, the work of Davies through the Wallace Group and Peter (Higgins) environmental sustainability and the fact that it is about to become more of a strategic imperative of the University we are contributing across a number of fronts. The work of at least two of our PhD students is in this area.

11 **Homeless World Cup. Poverty and Homelessness**: We have helped to facilitate 3 funded internships for University students working with the Homeless World Cup Foundation. A number of research outputs are in the area of sport, poverty and homelessness and we are part of a research consortium involving the Centre for Homelessness, The Homeless World Cup Foundation and other parts of the University.

12 **Social Inequality and Football Symposia**: To celebrate the Women’s World Cup we are holding a joint symposium in June involving some of the top leaders in women’s football locally and internationally. We will be joined by Ebru Koksal one of only two women in the world to have been a CEO of a European Champions League Football Club, current Chair of Women in Football and Laura Montgomery co-founder of Glasgow City. Members contributed to a University symposium on the future of football at Edinburgh held in April. The Scottish Government have provided us with data that will allow us to analyse the current picture of sport and social inequality in Scotland- this is currently being analysed. A research briefing paper on representation on Scottish sport and physical activity boards/working groups is about to be released. Finally, on this one the partnership with Barcelona helped to secure a student placement at a 3-day workshop on women and leadership in football.

13 **Jimmy Reid Foundation**: A review of sports policy to be publicly launched shortly-sponsor Jimmy Reid Foundation.

14 **OSS**: Observatory for Sport in Scotland – We have been invited to host the University OSS Forum.

15 **Ref 2021**: Contributing to both Edinburgh preparations as well as other Universities. How others see us is not insignificant.

16 **University Student Awards**: It is pleasing to note that the partnership with Barcelona was shortlisted by the students and acknowledged by the Principal in the recent round of University awards. Congratulations must also go to other colleagues such as Justine and maybe others who were also shortlisted. Maybe the institute should note these successes in the minutes for this and future years.
17 **New Members**: We welcome new members Professor Robin Williams (sociologist) and Director of the Institute of Science, Technology and Innovation. Pippa Chapman has also written to Grant to say she would like to be involved in the Group and we will welcome her when she arrives.

18 **A word of thanks** to members from all the groups who have helped a number of other initiatives that we have lead during this period - **Thanks**

**Recommendations**

8 *The report is noting* - ESPSR Report of 24/04/19

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