



Human Rights



© **The Olympics**
as a means/tool/social space
for promoting Human Rights

3d class lecture Wednesday, November 23, 2021

Sociology Lab. (14.00-16.00)



Human Rights

Irene Kamberdiou, Professor of Sociology:
Gender issues in Sport and Society

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2. Social stereotypes / myths

the 'weaker sex' and the 'weaker brain' theory

The “weaker brain” theory in nineteenth-century Britain ...

Women “need to conserve energy” ...

“deciphering the way theories of female inferiority managed to permeate **all scientific, public and private areas** (to a point where women came to convince themselves of their own inferiority – the ultimate symptom of alienation” (Fauvel, 2013).

“Whether gynaecologists or psychiatrists, those British doctors who were the most deeply convinced of the debility of the weaker sex thus came up against the opposition of women, who counter-attacked on three different fronts. Firstly from within the associations, activists fought to make cases of medical abuse known...” (Fauvel, 2013)

...the construction and consolidation of the social myth (stereotype) of the “weaker sex”, primarily from medical fields...

(Kamberidou, 2019; Kamberidou, Bonias & Patsantaras, 2019; Kirk 2002; Pfister, 1990; Sandow 1898, Moebius 1908, Weininger 1917, Webster 1930





5. Muslim Women Team Wearing Muslim Dress | Rio Olympics 2016

(βίντεο) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crC798N5oZw>

RIO 2016 OLYMPICS





6. Changing stereotypes..



6. Pierre de Coubertin

“I do not approve of the participation of women in public competitions. In the Olympic Games, their primary role should be to crown the victors.”

....

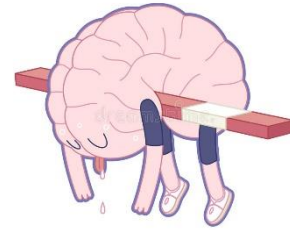
Women’s participation, “**a distinct threat to the spectators’ morals**”....

(Coubertin, *Revue Olympique*, 1902, also in: in Fauvel, 2013)



Aleksandra Szynoga
Liceum Ogólnokształcące Im. Jana Kochanowskiego w Olecku

7. Social stereotypes/myths the ‘weaker sex’ and the ‘weaker brain’ theory



The “weaker brain” theory in nineteenth-century Britain ... “women need to conserve energy ... Doctors hospitalized ‘abnormal’ women who dared to rebel” “deciphering the way theories of female inferiority managed to permeate **all scientific, public and private areas (to a point where women came to convince themselves of their own inferiority – the ultimate symptom of alienation**” (Fauvel, 2013).

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Pierre de Coubertin

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“Women, to his mind, were like other **‘weak’** members of society – children, the elderly, and the sick – and were **best suited for physical education and the pursuit of public and personal health-oriented goals.**



“ Women’s athletic ‘exhibitions’ were a **distinct threat to the spectators’ morals.** Noting that athletic clothing was lighter than ordinary dress, he **[Coubertin] was concerned that the sight of women’s nearly nude bodies would arouse the primordial passions of the male spectators.** A clear danger was thus that the spectacle of **the lightly clothed female body would become more attractive than the athletic performance itself.”**

Carpentier & Lefèvre (2006)



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onal Library of Australia

nla.pic-an22730619-v

18. Cathy Freeman's [victory lap](#) at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, with the **Aboriginal** and **Australian** flags draped on her shoulders



A symbol of hope for reconciliation....

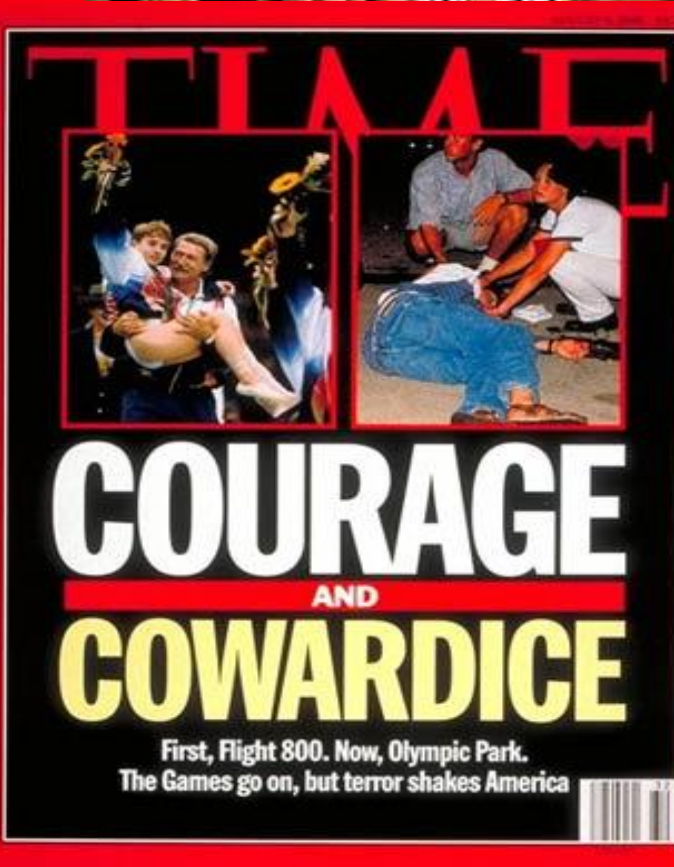


Chronicle / Michael Maloney





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Beijing Olympic Games 2008

Reporters without borders...

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Swiss reporter (with Tibetan descent) being dragged away...

“BLOODY GAMES” (2008)



“The Beijing Olympics, a nightmare for the millions of people in China who love peace...” “Free Tibet”, “cultural genocide”



“STOP BEIJING 2022”

No more Bloody Games” – Young Tibetan activists stage IOC protest as Beijing makes pitch for 2022 Winter Olympics

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JUNE 25, 2015

MEDIA CENTRE, NEWS

[HTTPS://TIBETNETWORK.ORG/NO-MORE-BLOODY-GAMES-YOUNG-TIBETANS-PROTEST-BEIJING-2022-OLYMPICS/](https://tibetnetwork.org/no-more-bloody-games-young-tibetans-protest-beijing-2022-olympics/)

“Cultural genocide”, “political tyranny”, “political prisoners”
“no more bloody games”



[Tibetan torture victim Golog Jigme from 2008 calls on IOC to reject China's bid.](#)

ANCIENT OLYMPIA: Tibetan protestors tried to stop the lighting of the Olympic flame for the Winter Olympics

HuffPost Greece— Associated Press 18/10/2021 16:42 EEST

“NO TO THE GENOCIDE GAMES” (2021)



NO TO THE GENOCIDE GAMES !

https://www.huffingtonpost.gr/entry/archaiia-olempia-thivetiano-i-diadelotes-diekopsan-ten-afe-tes-floyas-ton-cheimerinon-olempiakon_gr_616d75abe4b065735730a440

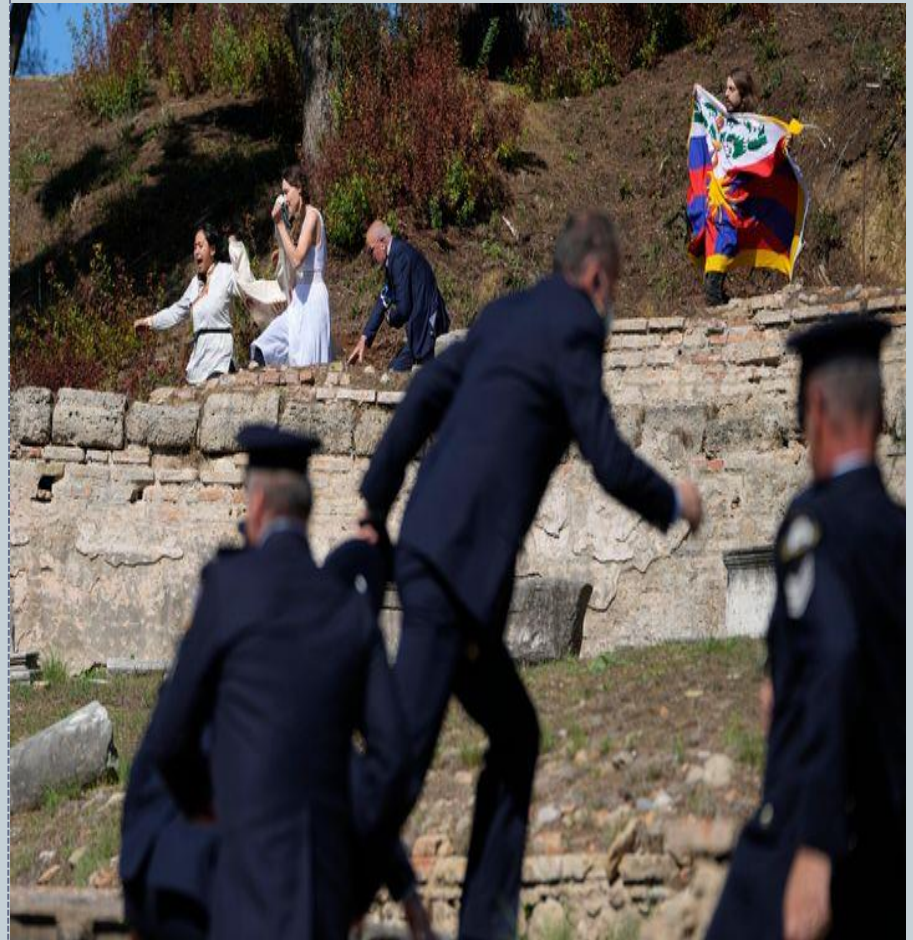
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HOLDING THE TIBETAN FLAG

HuffPost Greece—
Associated Press 18/10/2021 16:42 EEST



Protesting against the Winder Olympics
in Beijing...





19. “The Munich massacre” 1972



....demanded the release of 234
Palestinian prisoners in Israel jails

...



- "On September 5th 1972, during the games held in Munich, 8 Arab terrorists infiltrated the Olympic village, in the subsequent battles, **11 Israeli athletes were killed.** This attack was by far, the worst event in Olympic history..."

“The Munich massacre” 1972

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Mexico's 1968 Massacre

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Thousands
demonstrated/protested....
300 protestors lost their
lives...

Hundreds injured, and
thousands arrested...

22. **“Eyewitnesses described the bodies of hundreds of young people being trucked away. Thousands of students were beaten and jailed, and many disappeared...”**

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=97546687>



Olympic Project for Human Rights (OPHR)

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Tomie Smith



Tomie Smith και **John Carlos**



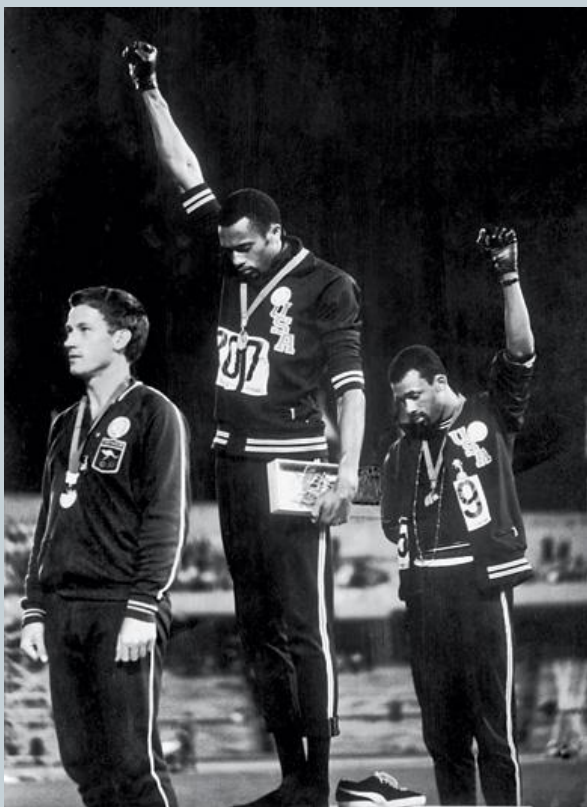
MEXICO 1968:

Silent protest: Black power, black unity

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Tomie Smith και
John Carlos

“Black power” – “Black unity”



THE IOC CONDEMNED THEIR...

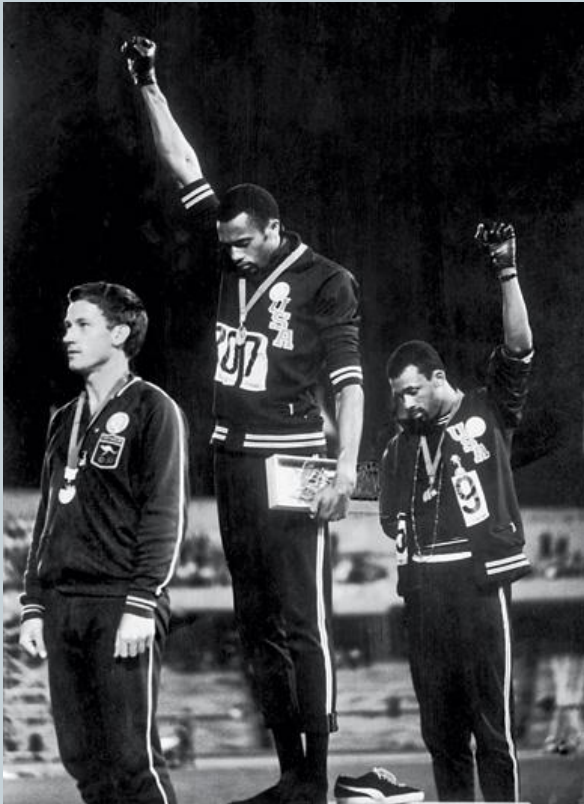
- “...the 1968 Olympics Black Power salute. Gold medalist Tommie Smith (center) and bronze medalist John Carlos (right) showing the raised fist on the podium after the 200 m race at the 1968 Summer Olympics; both wear Olympic Project for Human Rights badges. Peter Norman (silver medalist, left) from Australia also wears an OPHR badge in solidarity with Smith and Carlos.”
- **“Black Unity” : Black Unity and Power**... “the **black scarf** represented **black pride** and the **black socks with no shoes** stood for **black poverty in racist America....**”

MEXICO 1968: silent protest

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Tomie Smith και John
Carlos

THE IOC



- “...it was a deliberate and violent breach of the fundamental principles of the Olympic spirit. It is widely expected the two **will be expelled from the Olympic village and sent back to the US.**”

A FEW DAYS LATER....Black Panther salute/symbol: Larry James , Lee Evans and Ron Freeman

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I. Protests in 2020

II. Athletes Will Be Banned From Protesting at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. But the Games Have a Long History of Political Demonstrations ([MÉLISSA GODIN](#) in her article dated JANUARY 14, 2020 12:19 PM EST)

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IOC'S no-protest rule silences, intimidates athletes

John Carlos: 'Why do I have to sacrifice my moral character' to participate in the Olympics?'

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In this Aug. 9, 2019 photo, released by Lima 2019 News Services, gold medalist Gwen Berry, of the United States, raises her fist on the awards podium for women's hammer throw at the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru. Claudio Cruz/Lima 2019 News Services via AP



OLYMPICS STRIVE FOR POLITICAL NEUTRALITY

Rule 50 Guidelines Developed by the IOC Athletes' Commission

<https://www.olympic.org/-/media/document%20library/olympicorg/news/2020/01/rule-50-guidelines-tokyo-2020.pdf>

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“NO KIND OF DEMONSTRATION OR POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR RACIAL PROPAGANDA IS PERMITTED IN ANY OLYMPIC SITES, VENUES OR OTHER AREAS ... THE FOCUS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES MUST REMAIN ON ATHLETES’ PERFORMANCES, SPORT AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNITY AND HARMONY THAT THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT SEEKS TO ADVANCE. ATHLETES AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES ARE PART OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY ...”

Perhaps no more political neutrality ??

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16/05/2022 by Pascal Boniface

"THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE: A TURNING POINT FOR THE SPORTS MOVEMENT"

- "Make no mistake. The conflict in Ukraine could mark a turning point for the international sports movement. It will go down in history. **For the first time, sports governing bodies have massively abandoned their sacrosanct principle of political neutrality.** The IOC led the way and international sports federations have followed suit. Russia and Belarus have been excluded from the Olympic movement, their events have been taken away from them, their teams banned from competitions. This position sets a precedent. A first in contemporary history (...)"

RESEARCH PAPER – LITERATURE REVIEW ON

- **POLITICAL ACTIVISM AND POLITICAL NEUTRALITY IN SPORT (AT MEGA SPORT EVENTS, THE OLYMPICS, ETC.)**

THANK YOU

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THANK YOU

