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Histories of Women's Work in Global Sport A Man's World?

Edited by
Georgia Cervin · Claire Nicolas

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Editors

Histories of Women's Work in Global Sport

A Man's World?

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FOREWORD: THE NEED TO DISCLOSE WOMEN'S BIOGRAPHIES

The idea for this collective work around sports leaders' biographies saw light during discussions held around a workshop organized as part of the second meeting of the *Réseau d'Etudes des Relations Internationales Sportives* (RERIS), in Barcelona, July 2016. In regard to the call for papers and our respective research interests—the shared edition of a book on sport during the Cold War (published with De Gruyter), paired with some more small projects around biographies from several leaders, including some women—the Gender gap around sports leaders' biographies was clearly at the centre of our concerns and discussions. Thus, the exchanges worked so well that second RERIS meeting, that we decided to have another round—in July 2017—this time only around female leaders.

This book embodies, to our greatest proudness, this network's second publication. As such, we need to thank Claire Nicolas and Georgia Cervin who kindly took upon themselves the heavy burden of editing this volume, dealing with some authors—including me—passionate about the topic but also facing sometimes difficulties to deal with their archives, problematization or even leader(s). In addition to their extensive knowledge of international sports relations and their undeniably critical minds, Georgia and Claire's commitment is the key factor for the success of this book.

This volume has several objectives that are both scientific and more epistemological. First, it wishes to make available the biographies of women sports leaders whose careers and successes are not necessarily yet

known to the historian community. Secondly, it has a more methodological objective, by combining work whose tools and archives reveal the entire range available to historians, from institutional archives of international organizations to interviews with women leaders themselves. Thirdly, by making it possible to update biographies that are secondary or that were too long considered less important than those of the presidents, this volume plunges us into the heart of the manufacturing processes of international sport, but also shows us in an original light the problems associated with the gender of actors in a world of sport that still remains a “fiefdom of virility”.

Thus, this book wants to be a milestone in (and beyond) the field of sport history, not for itself, but for the horizon it shows and the hopes it raises around the need to disclose women's biographies.

Besides, we give our regards to the publishing house Palgrave Macmillan for trusting a group of young researchers and giving them the opportunity to publish their research. We wish to thank Oliver Dyer and Emily Russell in particular for their supervising and availability. Finally, we want to whole-heartedly thank Shani D'Cruze for the quality of her proofreading, and the “Faculté des Sciences Sociales” from the University of Lausanne, which gave us a small grant to cover the cost of this process.

We hope that this volume will open new questions on Women's sport, Women's biographies, Women's commitment to the development and institutionalization of sport, but more broadly that it will spark off new debates to be discussed in Barcelona ... or anywhere else of course!

Bern, Switzerland
Spring 2019

Grégory Quin

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There are a number of people we would sincerely like to acknowledge for their assistance in the creation of this text. First, we owe a great debt to Grégory Quin, who has advocated for this project since its conception. When we first began organizing the 2017 Barcelona conference of the *Reseau d'Etudes des Relations Internationales du Sport* (RERIS), he provided support and encouragement for us and our colleagues' willing to push the boundaries of their research. He empowered us to dare to transform this insightful conference into a collective book. Gregory has been present at every stage of this project, offering insightful comments and remarks, engaging in compelling scientific discussions. He also provided valuable material assistance, helping with his large experience of edited volumes and acquiring additional funding from the Faculty of social science of the University of Lausanne. His support has been pivotal to the realization of this text.

Second, we would like to thank the Juan Antonio Samaranch Olympic Studies Centre in Barcelona which hosted the conference that gave birth to this book in July 2017, and most specifically, Alberto Aragón-Pérez who so dedicatedly made sure that the conference went smoothly. We also wish to thank the contributors from this conference, as the scientific and informal discussions proved so fruitful, and the RERIS network at large, always providing such an engaging scientific community. Third, we would like to acknowledge the work put into this volume by our contributors. Each of these authors rose to the challenge, devoting hours of work into this volume, and the result is what you see before you. Going

the extra mile, Grégory Quin, Philippe Vonnard, Igor Martinache and Michelle Sykes agreed to review chapters within this volume, and we are grateful for their expertise and assistance in ensuring the quality of this work. Shani d’Cruz provided detailed editing and proofing of our work, for which we wish to thank her and her keen eye. And we would also like to thank the team at Palgrave, including Oliver Dyer, Carmel Kennedy and Emily Russell, for working with us on this project and transforming it into the book you are now reading. Finally, we acknowledge the many women who have spent their lives working and volunteering in sport: thank you for all you have done.

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INTERNATIONALES SPORTIVES—RERIS
NETWORK

RERIS is an international group of predominantly early-career researchers interested in historicizing the links between sport and international relations. We aim to promote dialogue around topics concerning sport, politics and history, and provide a platform for early-career scholars. Our members have published several articles, special issues and books resulting from the discussions at our annual conference, and we remain committed to expanding the boundaries of sport history.

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