

18 Society-Culture-Sports: The Contribution of Social and Cultural History of Sports

Akis PAVLOGIANNIS

Ionian University, Corfu, Greece

George PAVLOGIANNIS

Physical Education and Sports Science, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece

18.1 Abstract

The institutional and social changes that have caused the widespread acceptance of the importance of the phenomenon of sports and exercise and the expansion of the subjects and disciplines of history science have led to the emergence of scientific and research fields. Systematization of the social and cultural history of sports, with extension to the culture of human body, health, diet and entertainment, is an innovating process with obvious value and utility, mainly because it allows the approach of sports beyond the stereotypical opinion of the humble physical activities and their research as social process through which cultural significant data are produced. The development research and laboratory infrastructures around the history and management of athletic culture contributes to the emergence of new scientists who will focus on the specific topics of athletic events and at the same time they will manage interdisciplinary the cultural environment of sports and they will examine their interactions in the different levels of social, educational and scientific use.

18.2 Introduction

Sports topics are very essential, for the simple and obvious reason that they engage with, in a lot of different ways, a large majority of citizens. This large and multifaceted occupation with sports is now gaining a great deal of interest for many different reasons, mainly because it seems not to depend on separate criteria of social classes, descent and gender, without of course implying the autonomy of sport. Such an activity (sports), which is supposed to be a phenomenon, refers to social issues and reflects cultural practices. It is also linked to "information" both in the context of the formation of the world of sports and in the development of the various parameters and activities of sports. It seems that there is a problem at this point of interest in the organization and dissemination of "information", because there is a contradiction of the poor influence of representatives of the social sciences on such a popular activity, such as sports. The inclusion of athletic and physical activities in the context of research into social and cultural history and their approach through modern tools of historical research may favorably influence the formation and development of sport information and, by extension, the management of the evidence and the effects of athletic and physical culture.⁹⁸

⁹⁸ The topic of research about the appearance and functioning of gymnastics and sports in the methodological framework of social and cultural history, with the basic prerequisite of liberation from the ideals and stereotypes of the past, was introduced into the domestic dialogue on the historical interpretation of sports and physical activities by Christina Koulouri at the end of the 20th century. At the same time, she had greatly expanded the bibliographic approach of gymnastics and sport in the fields of intersection of social and historical sciences: Koulouri, C. (1997). Sports and aspects of urban sociability. Gymnastic and sports clubs 1870-1922. Athens: Historical Archive of Greek Youth, General Secretariat for New Generation, Center for Modern Greek Studies [in Greek]. In the international research environment the starting point for a "new" sports story: Chartier R. & Vigarrelo, R. [1982]. Les trajectoires du sport, Pratiques et spectacle. Le Debat 19.

The view of sports and of practices and behaviors as well, that are developed around them, must become a substantive discussion in the research fields of cultural history not only on a theoretical level but also in relation to the level and manner of their implementation in the function of sports organizations. This development of the redefinition of sports through social and cultural sciences, will further influence the constitution of "information" and the "informing" process that is focused on sports practices and expectations.⁹⁹ It will reconstruct the "building" of information that at this time is loose and controlled by others. It will reconstitute the content of information that remains committed to a narrow and directed perception of athletic expectations¹⁰⁰. The widening of the concept of "success" from its closed utilitarian dimension to the open social and cultural fields¹⁰¹ (modern demands of the quality management of citizens' time¹⁰²) passes through the research of history and culture. Necessary factor in order to co-modulate the information process through the theorization of the influences and practices of sports that is dealt with social and historical interpretation is to release them from any form of reduction, especially economic, which makes athletic and physical activities to look like other social phenomena and thus makes their transformation into an independent research object with remarkable social significance and impact more difficult¹⁰³.

The main concerns about the scientific subject of Sports History are briefly contained in indicative views of representatives of the social sciences¹⁰⁴. Polley wonders "if sports history exists" and "who are considered as historians of sports"¹⁰⁵, Weber notes that PhD theses (doctoral theses) are needed to explain the absence of sports theory in the scientific community¹⁰⁶ and Elias wonders about what kind of society is the one that more and more people are in to these competitions which are named as sports¹⁰⁷. A common component of these phrases is the indifference by the world of intellect on the world of sports, something that has decisively influenced the historical and sociological research in this field. Through the absence of strong scientific structures, sports have incorporated the terms of "diachronicity"

⁹⁹ Expressions of these concerns are put in the study: Bourdieu, P. [1980]. Comment peut-on être sportif. in P. Bourdieu, Questions de sociologie. Paris: Minuit. Very interesting for the relationship of sport and social reality, despite its critical views, it remains the theory of the "process of culture and sports" introduced by Elias and Dunning to express the use of modern sports as mechanisms of peace in society and self-control behavior: Elias, N. & Dunning, E. [1998]. Quest for excitement - Sport and leisure in the civilizing progress [eds] P. Kyprianos. Athens: Δρομέας / Dromeas [in Greek].

¹⁰⁰ For such a case: Pavlogiannis, O. [2018]. From information management to the formation of the athletic consciousness of the child. In Canellopoulou - Boti, M. [eds]. "Information and Child. Searches of History, Law, Ethics, Culture". Proceedings of the Conference [Corfu, 28-29 / 4/2017]. Ionian University. Athens: Οσελότος / Oselotos: 528 - 539.

¹⁰¹ Ordine, N. [2013]. The usefulness of the waste. Manifesto with an essay by Abraham Flexner. Athens: Άγρα / Agra [in Greek].

¹⁰² The issue of new perceptions and optics in the management of citizens' time is a "separate chapter" in the sociological and historical approach of sport and exercise. Indicatively: Horne, J, Jary, D.D., Tomlison, A. [1987]. Sport, leisure and social relations. London, Dunning, E. & Rojek, C. eds [1992]. Sport and leisure in the civilization process. Critique and counter-critique. London: Macmillan, Jarvie, G. & Maguire, J. [1994]. Sport and Leisure in Social Thinking. London and New York: Routledge. In Greek-language literature : Elias, N. & Dunning, E. [1998], Koronaiou, A. eds [1996]. Sociology of leisure time. Athens: Νήσος / Nisos [in Greek], Myrizakis, G.G. [1997]. Free time for young people. Recreational and athletic activities. Athens: ΕΚΚΕ [in Greek].

¹⁰³ See Elias, N. & Dunning, E. [1998]: 169-196. For this view of sports on the basis of political and economic practices see "The Tough War of Sports" (1997, October). Tributes Le Monde Diplomatique. Athens: Publications Δρομέας / Dromeas [in Greek].

¹⁰⁴ Hobsbawm, E. [1987]. The Age of Empire 1870 - 1914. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson: 179-183. More recently: Hill, J., 2003, "Introduction: Sport and Politics". Journal of Contemporary History, 38/3: 355-361.

¹⁰⁵ Polley, M. [2007]. Sports History: A Practical Guide. Basingstoke: Palgrave

¹⁰⁶ Weber, E. [1971]. Gymnastics and sports in fin-de-Siecle France: Opium of the classes?. American Historical Review 76: 70.

¹⁰⁷ Elias, N. [1997]. The evolution of culture. Sociogenic and psychogenic investigations. [Über den Prozeß der Zivilisation: Soziogenetische und psychogenetische untersuchungen: Wandlungen des Verhaltens in den weltlichen Oberschichten des Abendlandes], vol. A-B. Athens: Νεφέλη / Nefeli: 19 [in Greek].

and "ecumenicity" and they also have created the myth of their autonomous functioning beyond time, cultural system, social and political conditions¹⁰⁸. In the Greek case the removal of the historical time endorsed the integration of sports into the Greek narrative of cohesion and the formation of national memory, national identity and historical consciousness¹⁰⁹.

However, in recent years the developments in the field of human sciences have promoted the research of sports as a creation of western European modernity¹¹⁰. As a result, on the one hand, the changes of the institutions and the society that have led to the broad acceptance of the significance of the phenomenon of sport and exercise and on the other hand the widening of the topics and the development of the forms, methods and tools of the science of history led to the appearance of new scientific disciplines. In the documentation of the request are contained some specific reasons which will be briefly given below and which can be part of a wider discussion about the scientific fields in which the science of "History of Sport" can be developed and acted upon¹¹¹.

18.3 Social Sciences and Sports

At the level of sociological approach, History as a social science has recognized the field of social sciences as a fertile field of exploration and examination of key issues that provide theoretical and comparative advantages in historiographic optics¹¹². In this way, sport is now a privileged scientific and research field of understanding of modern society, which is historically structured as a part of it. In the fields of sociological research of sports¹¹³, apart from the indifference of the area of intelligence for sports and the limited interdisciplinary approach, the difficulties follow the myth of the widely accepted theories of diachronicity and universality, which in this case strengthened the problematic perception of autonomy of sport beyond social and cultural reality.

According to the modern sociological view, sports topics and practices are monitored and discussed as part of a cultural context that follows social transformations, class reclassifications, colonial and migratory policies, political differentiations, social conquests, economic models¹¹⁴. In a deeper and more detailed exploration, the structure of sport topics

¹⁰⁸ Zaimakis, I. & Fournaraki E. [2015]. Introduction. In Zaimakis, I. & Fournarakis E. [eds] *Society and Sports in Greece Sociological, Historical and Anthropological Approaches*. Athens: Αλεξάνδρεια / Alexandria: 9 – 21 [in Greek]. See Elias, N. & Dunning, E. [1998] : 19 - 38. For the mythological function of sports practices and the difficulties it has caused in social and historical analysis, for example: Hargreaves, J. eds, [1982]. *Sport Culture Ideology*. New York: Routledge, Vigarello, G. [2004]. *From the game to the athletic show. The birth of a myth [Du jeu ancien au show sportif. La naissance d' un mythe]*. [Eds] N. Dinopoulou. Athens: Αλεξάνδρεια / Alexandria [in Greek].

¹⁰⁹ Koulouri, C. [1997] : 24-28. Kitroeff, A. [2004]. *Wrestling with the Ancients: Modern Greek Identity and the Olympics*. New York: Athens Printing Company.

¹¹⁰ The theory of the figuration of Elias and Dunning determines, not without objection and criticism, this new view of sports. In the Greek bibliography for this new view of sports and physical activities as modern inventions and for the "topics of views of domestic research and scientific procedures": Zaimakis, I. & Fournaraki E. eds, [2015]. *Society and Sports in Greece Sociological, Historical and Anthropological Approaches*. Athens: Αλεξάνδρεια / Alexandria [in Greek] .

¹¹¹ Koulouri, C. [2015]. *The History of Greek Sports: Sports, Physical Education and Olympic Games*. In Zaimakis, I. & Fournarakis E. [2015] : 57-122.

¹¹² For the first review in Greek bibliography of this interest of social scientists for game and sports: Koulouri, C. [1997]: 17 - 24. In addition to the work of Elias, & Dunning, [1998] and Bourdieu, [1980], which have already been mentioned, a special place in this thematic literature of social sciences is occupied by Huizinga, J. [1989]. *Homo Ludens..* Athens: Γνώση / Gnosi [in Greek], Hargreaves, J. [1986]. *Sport, Power and Culture: A social and historical analysis of popular sports in Britain*. Cambridge.

¹¹³ For this "close" relationship between sociology and sport: Dunning, E. [2004]. *Sociology of sport in the balance: Critical reflections on recent and more sustainable trends*. *Sport in Society* 7/1: 1-24 [2-3].

¹¹⁴ For a comprehensive overview of the international sociological view of sport as a complex social phenomenon in the Greek literature: Zaimakis, G. [2015]. *Theoretical trends and approaches in the sociology of sport*. In Zaimakis, G. & Fournarakis, E.: 123-183.

(practical and theoretical) and their respective institutions is approached through different social sciences and new visions of developing the culture of sports, such as in relation to manhood patterns and gender inequalities, social peacemaking, behavior patterns the current economic systems and the cultural imperialism¹¹⁵. However, these new interdisciplinary paths are often inaccessible, because they impinge on powerful mentalities that some times reproduce images that at times raise at least reasonable concerns.

18.4 History and Sports

In a historiographic level, since the second half of the last century, and especially since 1970s, sports have gradually stopped being considered as humble physical activities and have begun to be explored in the process of culture as a social process. The main demand in this process of creating the identity the Sports History¹¹⁶, is the gradual transition from the "historicism" of the phenomenological and linear character and the dominance of descriptiveness and empiricism to the social and cultural history that studies the sports in the context of social and historical changes¹¹⁷. The issue though, especially in Greece until the last decade of 20th century, is much more complicated. It is considered extremely necessary to manage two additional situations, one of which is mainly for intellectuals, professional historians and representatives of complementary sciences around History and the other for professionals in sports and physical education, for fans and journalists. In the first case, the deduction of historical time is confirmed through the integration of sport into the Greek narrative of continuity and cohesion, something that on the one hand was adapted to the historical need of forming national memory and identity but on the other hand encapsulated athletic historiography into the national one and allowed the production of anachronistic and dangerous narratives. In the second case, the rich historiographical production of sports has been limited to professionals and fans of gymnastics, remaining most of the times far from social and historical changes, and displaying research deficiencies in interdisciplinary issues, resource management and the use of new forms and tools of historical science¹¹⁸.

In the field of social sciences, the aim is to transform the past into history through research-based information processing, which will involve mechanisms of discharging, distancing itself from events of idealization and demonization, and will extend to scientific areas ignored by the field of sports (such as local history, oral history, microhistory, etc.) using new research tools and parameters (such as memory, mediation, interview, practice, etc.)¹¹⁹. "History" is not

¹¹⁵ The systematicisation of the study of sports in the international research environment in the fields of social sciences has contributed to the formation of a remarkable thematic literature. Indicatively: Jarvie, G. [2012]. *Sport, culture and society*. New York: Routledge, Pope, S.W. & Nauright, J. [2012]. *Routledge companion to sports history*. London: Routledge Mangan, J.A. [1998]. *The games ethics and imperialism: Aspects of the diffusion of an ideal*. London: Frank Cass Publisher, Brohm, J.M. [1992]. *Political Sociology of Sport*. Nancy: Press Universitaires Nancy, Messner, M.A. & Sabo, D.F. [1990]. *Sport, men and gender order. Critical feminist perspectives*. Human Kinetics Books.

¹¹⁶ Due to the limits of this article, the term "sport" alternates with words like athletics, gymnastics, physical education, physical activities, sports practices. Schematically, it is useful to note that gymnastics and physical education are linked to pedagogical, health, physical well-being and military objectives, while sports and athletics, although their absolute identification is not effortless, refer to competitive shows, games, recreational and social activities. The meaning of "competitive" passes through gymnastics and sports. Subdivisions can be continued and distinguished according to the baseline. For example, "gymnastics" as an educational and social measure follows the German-Swiss or Swedish system accordingly.

¹¹⁷ Iggers, G. [1999]. *Historiography in the twentieth century. From scientific objectivity to the challenge of postmodernism*. Athens: Νεφέλη / Nefeli [in Greek], Booth, D. [2005]. *The field. Truth and fiction in sport history*. London: Routledge.

¹¹⁸ These issues are addressed in an outlook by Koulouri, C. [2015]: *The History of Greek Sport*. In Zaimakis G. & Fournarakis E.: 77-110.

¹¹⁹ It is obvious that the relevant literature, especially the international one, is extensive. Indicatively and mainly in the Greek language: Liakos, A. [2007]. *How does past become history?* Athens: Πόλις / Polis [in Greek], Thompson, P. [2002]. *The voice of the past: Oral history*. Athens: Πλέθρον / Plethron

enough for every interpretation, and it is not the only valid form of knowledge as well¹²⁰. For example, is it possible to understand the appearance and development of cricket in Corfu if we do not see the specific sport as an invention of British society in the 18th and 19th centuries that expressed industrial society needs that were spread through colonial politics and cultural influence and also if we do not take into consideration the transformations that took part in the urban environment of Corfu society¹²¹? Is it, also, possible to study the function of sports through the years of the Greek Civil War, as well as in the period before and after that, without the recognition of the relation between memory - history and in more detail the contribution of the term of "trauma" and emotional load to this memory function¹²²? Should not the modern term of "nostalgia" be considered in the field of study of the professionalism of sports in our time, which sometimes erroneously shapes ideological developmental conditions in the past¹²³?

[in Greek], Abrams, L. [2016]. Oral History Theory. Athens: Πλέθρον / Plethron [in Greek], Tsiolis, G. & Siouti, Er. eds [2013]. Biographical (re) constructions in later modernity. Theoretical and methodological issues of biographical research in social sciences. Athens: Νήσος / Nisos [in Greek], Cahn, S.K. [1994]. Sports talk: Oral history and its uses, problems and opportunities for sport history. The Journal of American History, 81/2: 594-609. For "memory", culture of memories and analysis of mediations: Halbwachs, M. [2013]. The social context of memory [Les Cadres Sociaux De La Memoire]. Athens: Νεφέλη / Nefeli [in Greek], mainly Assmann, J. [2017]. Cultural Memory and Early Civilization: Writing, Remembrance, and Political Imagination. Heraklion: ΠΕΚ / PEC [in Greek]. For the study of historical practices: Herman, P. [2011]. Performing history: How historical scholarship is shaped by epistemic virtues. History and Theory, 50/1: 1-19. For the "body" in general: Pourkos, M. eds [2017]. The Body as a Place of Life, Identity and social matters. Athens: Publications 8 [in Greek]. For the place of bodily culture in sports: Fournaraki, E. & Z. Papakonstantinou. [2011]. Sports, Bodily Culture and Classical Antiquity in Modern Greece. London: Routledge. See also Fournaraki, E. [1998]. Education for both genders in 19th century Greece. In the Proceedings of the International Symposium: The Times of History. For a history of childhood and youth. Athens: IAEN: 293-315 [in Greek].

¹²⁰ Karr, E.H. [1999]. What is History? Thoughts on the theory of history and the role of the historian. Athens: Knowledge: 11 – 79 [in Greek].

¹²¹ Koulouri, C. [1997]. 28-44: for sports and forms of sociality and time management, 171-279: for the development of sports clubs and the case of Corfu in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. See also still Mangan, J.A. [1981]. Athletism in the Victorian and Edwardian public school. The emergence and consolidation of an educational ideology. Cambridge: Cambridge U. P., Guttman, A. [1994]. Games and empires: Modern sport and cultural imperialism. New York: Columbia University Press, Elias, N. & Dunning, E. [1998]. O., Mangan, J.A. [1998]. I.

¹²² For the "trauma" as a tool for memory processing and study: Caruth, C. [1996]. Unclaimed experience: Trauma, narrative and history. London: Johns Hopkins University Press, Alexander, C.J. [2012]. Trauma: A social theory. Polity Press.

¹²³ Boym, S. [2002]. The future of nostalgia. New York: Basic Books. For nostalgia over the disappointing present: Shaw, C. & Chase, M. [1989]. The dimensions of nostalgia. In Shaw, C. & Chase, M. The imagined past: History and nostalgia. Manchester University Press. For an interesting application in the Greek bibliography of the mechanisms of memory formation in relation to mediation, trauma, nostalgia and historical practice and writing: Salvanou A. [2018]. The formation of refugee memory. The past as history and practice. Athens: Νεφέλη / Nefeli [in Greek].

18.5 History and Greek Ancient Times

A special topic in the history of sports is Greek antiquity, the period that sport and physical exercise acquire the timeless human values and crystallize the cultural value that affects Western modern civilization¹²⁴. The same subject displays its own characteristics for obvious reasons in the history of the Greek nation, where national history incorporates the history of sport and, through the well-known shape of continuity, determines the national imaginary situation¹²⁵. The abstraction and eventual "erosion" of historical time, characteristics that "ensured" the duration and the idealization of sports and fitness conditions and gradually formed a militant ideologically sporting story have dominant positions in these methodical conventions.

For example, there is an outdated and wrong perception of the decline of sport in Hellenistic and Roman antiquity rather than the modern view of the normal change of gymnastics and sports institutions as an expression of the new forms of political and social organization¹²⁶.

The management of these issues is a complex process, since the intellectual contribution of antiquity is great, its "loans" are real and decisive and the adjustment of its ideas through the dimensions and mechanisms of cultural memory is irrefutable¹²⁷. The crucial point in these concerns is the decoupling of the research methodology, which may also deal with fields of continuity and intersection at historical time, from "legitimizing needs" and the re-examination of the significance of the past uses in the present. We refer to the way that specific societies interpret the past, positive or negative, and use it systematically in the context of their own time, which is often far away from the past that they invoke. Research into the transformation of past sports practices and scripts into modern expressions requires new considerations of

¹²⁴ For the presentation and critical procedure of classical heritage in modern sport: Kitroeff, A. [2004], Koulouri, C. [2010]. From Antiquity to Olympic Revival: Sports and Greek National Historiography (19th-20th Centuries). International Journal of the History of Sport 27/12: 2014-20152, Fournaraki, E. & Z. Papakonstantinou. [2011].

¹²⁵ Generally, about the relationship of historians with the formation of national ideology, see introduction at: Berger, S. & Lorenz, C. ed. [2015]. Nationalizing the past. Historians as nation builders in modern Europe. Palgrave Macmillan: 1 - 25. In Greece, by the end of the 20th century, the positions and practices of the main exponent of romantic historiography Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos are reproduced, mainly by gymnastics professionals and archaeologists, according to which sport, physical activity and the struggling institutions acquire cultural content and become a component of the continuity of the nation. The effect is obvious in the History of the Greek Nation. Athens: Publishing Athens: [mainly] volumes B ' - F'. Indicative for professionals in gymnastics in the educational and academic field: Pavlinis, E. [1927]. History of gymnastics. Athens [in Greek], Chrysafis, I. [1965, reprint]. The Gymnastics of the Ancient. Athens [in Greek]. In recent years: Giannakis, Th. [1980]. Physical education and sport over time. Athens [in Greek], Giatsis, S. [2000]. History of sports and games in the Greek world during Greco-Roman, Byzantine and Modern times. Elements from European sport and modern Olympic games. Thessaloniki: Elimia Graphic Arts [in Greek]. For the "archaeological" approach with common characteristics : Yalouris, N. eds. [1982]. The Olympic Games in Ancient Greece. Athens: Editorial of Athens [in Greek], Yalouris, N. [1996]. The contribution of struggles to the development of arts and Literature. Sports and Society 14: 43-52 [in Greek]. For the first changes in the writing of history of sport: Mouratidis, I. [1992]. History of physical education (with elements of philosophy). Thessaloniki: Χριστοδουλίδης / Christodoulides [in Greek], Albanidis, E., [2004]. History of sport in the ancient Greek world (with reference to the Olympic Games of 1896 and modern Greek sport). Thessaloniki: SALTO [in Greek].

¹²⁶ For sports in the Hellenistic and imperial years, in the context of the new institutions of social and political organization, without the confirmation of "continuity" affairs throughout the centuries: Albanidis, E. [1995]. Sports in Thrace during Hellenistic and Roman times. Xanthi, Department of Physical Education and Sport Science, Doctoral Thesis [in Greek], Pavlogiannis, O. [2000]. The evolution of gymnastics and sports ideas in Hellenistic and imperial times. Corfu: Ionian University. Department of History: Unpublished PhD Thesis [in Greek]. For "new" archaeological approaches: Kefalidou, E. [1996]. Nikitis. Illustrative study of ancient Greek sport. Thessaloniki [in Greek], Valavanis, P. [2004]. Sacraments and games in ancient Greece: Olympia, Delphi, Isthmia, Nemea. Athens: Καπόν / Kapon [in Greek]. The "new" history of sports, with its inclusion in the fields of social and cultural history, begins in Greece with C. Koulouri: [1997].

¹²⁷ Assmann, J. [2017].

the use of the past and of the art of history. This, also, needs the ability to synthesize by recognizing and choosing between its sources its own and its readers' prejudices and the wrong opinions that the modern ones themselves have established. All this procedure has to become true without anachronism¹²⁸.

18.6 History and Olympic Games

The timing of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens and Greece, which is recorded in the consciousness of the modern world as the birthplace of the Olympic Games, started the production and the publication of a large number of writing and artistic creations for all the dimensions of the topic and for most of the periods of sports and gymnastics. At the level of historical and sociological research, what is primarily noted is the absence of principles, methods and tools in the work of the well-know

receipt of the ideal version of of sport that contains human values and highlights the history of the Olympic Games as a way to reproduce moral values and national ideals¹²⁹.

These scientific "aberrations" penetrate into the very short period of application of the Olympic education in our country and the few school textbooks of Olympic education¹³⁰. However, since the Olympic Games are at the same time a global event beyond the national and local particularities, Olympic ideology accepts the criticism of historical and social sciences about creating texts and events of a dominant ideology that usually reproduce hierarchical structures and phenomena of exclusion and eventually misinforming¹³¹. In Greece the problem is shaped when a large part of this old bibliography and a big amount of dissimilar events, which sometimes are moving to the limits of the picturesque, constitute a composition of propaganda, journalism and amateur history and memoirs and testimonies in which scientific historiography owns a small part. From all the above we can understand that it is necessary to establish the view of the social and cultural practices of the Olympic Games, from a structural, functional and value point of view in the context of the synergy of at least historical, sociological and anthropological studies and following the modern perception of the "new" history of sports and physical activities to be examined through their relevance to social and cultural contexts¹³².

18.7 Cultural Heritage and Sports

Dealing with the interests and sports sciences contains the familiarity with written and virtual / digital files, collections, museums of Sport, ritual procedures¹³³, bibliography about gymnastic, literature and sports content. Managing the material and the intangible culture of sports and

¹²⁸ Liakos, A. [1999]. Essay on a Poetic of History. *Historical* 6/31: 259-289 [in Greek]. See also Lorenz, C. & Bevernage, B. [2013]. *Breaking up time: Negotiating the boundaries between present, past and future*. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

¹²⁹ For a comprehensive overview of theory and methodology issues in the history of Olympic Games: Koulouri, C. [2015]. The history of the Olympic Games. In Zaimakis, G. & Fournarakis, E. 100-106.

¹³⁰ Tzachrista, B. [2015]. The invention of antiquity in the Olympic Education Handbooks "Athens 2004". In Zaimakis, G. & Fournarakis E. : 253-288.

¹³¹ Chatziefstathiou, D. - Henry, I. [2015]. The construction of the speech on Olympism in the modern Olympic Motion: Olympism, Governance and Power Technologies. In Zaimakis, G. - Fournarakis, E.: 182-214.

¹³² This modern view of games takes place through works of professional historians. Indicatively: Georgiadis, K. [2003]. *Olympic Revival: The Revival of the Olympic Games in the Modern Times*. Athens: Publishing Athens, .Kitroeff, A. [2004]., Solomou – Prokopiou, A. & Vogiatzi, I. [2004]. Athens in the late 19th century and the first international Olympic Games. Athens: General Secretariat Olympic Games, Historical and Ethnological Company of Greece [in Greek], Coulouri, C. [2005]. *Athleticism, society and identity: A survey of scholarly debate*. *Imeros* 5.1: 333-343.

¹³³ Indicative of "rituals" as a cultural practice: Hobsbawm, E. & Ranger, T. [2004]. *The invention of tradition*. Athens: Θεμέλιο / Themelio [in Greek], Assmann, J. [2017].

physical activities is de facto a new and attractive proposal¹³⁴. However, the question that effortlessly and maybe ironically comes in our minds is "What files? What evidence? What documents? And this question not only reflects the reality, but also confirms the indifference that for a long time the world of science and the intelligence showed on these issues and secondly the sloppy that exists in relation to sporting items and documents.

The reluctance of the state, the official organizations, the sports and cultural associations themselves and the individuals sports people to organize, maintain and manage their sports material, a remnant of the stereotypical position on the humility of sports and physical activities, is responsible for the poverty of sports records and the formation of a reality with broken, fragmented and inaccessible sports evidence, even in the official organizations, such as athletic federations. This is also responsible for the lack of archival consciousness in the field of sports. Similarly, the poverty of collections and sports museums in Greece is noticed¹³⁵. A common element in the evaluation of the archival and museum reality of sports is the discovery of the well-known difficulty of moving from historicism to the new historical readings of postmodernism. Historicism is, therefore, a dominant example of historical knowledge centered around the archive, where almost all dialogue with the past and the verification of information takes place. In this way, the neutrality and authority of the archives (their power) are being shaped, a reality that often leads to the production of historical knowledge outside the mechanisms of controlling the historical sources of archival sources and removes it from modern research tools such as memory and subjectivity¹³⁶.

In a same way, in sports museums¹³⁷ and especially in sports collections / exhibitions organized by associations, federations, social and voluntary organizations and individually sports people are rarely recorded attempts to apply events of social and cultural history¹³⁸. On the other hand, there is the linear narrative concept that, with problems of research consistency, reproduces the well-known myths of continuity and great achievements and maintains the protagonists and performances in the foreground, unaware of the events, small and old things of everyday life, and for their faces and experiences which do not fit into the official narrations of history¹³⁹. Regarding some international examples, such as major sports clubs, they are a scientific challenge, because they have managed to combine their organized archives with the operation of museums and libraries and using forms of public history such as social media and websites.

In Greece the "touring" in the past of sports clubs as an application of social history or the organization of small museums and exhibitions as a form of communal / collective memory in the context of their micro-history is a challenge for the exploitation of their archival material¹⁴⁰.

¹³⁴ For cultural material management issues: Poullos I., Aliivatou, M., Arabatzis, G., Giannakidis, A., Karahalios, N., Mascha, E., Mouliou, M., Papadaki, M., Prosuli, X., Touloupa, S. [2015]. Cultural Management, Local Society, Sustainable Development. Athens: Greek Academic Electronic Books and Assistants [SEAB] [in Greek].

¹³⁵ The first systematic effort: Koulouri, X. Ed. [2002]. Archives and history of the Olympic Games Committee. Athens: International Olympic Academy [in Greek]. At the level of sports clubs: Kardasis, B. [1996]. Olympiakos Piraeus: An archive, a story. Istor 9: 59-86 [in Greek].

¹³⁶ Liakos, A. [2007] : 81-89, Karr, E.H. [1999]: 11-79, Mbembe, A. [2002]. The power of the archive and its limits. In Hamilton, C. eds. Refiguring the archive. Cape Town: David Philip: 19-26.

¹³⁷ We mean three museums. The two in Ancient Olympia: "Museum of the Ancient Olympic Games" and "Museum of Modern Olympic Games" as well as the Olympic Museum in Thessaloniki. In recent years, the basketball thematic basketball museum of the YMCA Thessaloniki has been remarkable. . The two museums in Thessaloniki implement several educational programs for all levels of education.

¹³⁸ Indicatively, for a modern view of the museums see: Nakou, E. [2001]. Museums: We Things and Culture. Athens: Νήσος / Nisos [in Greek], Kokkinos, G. & Alexakis, E., Ed. [2002]. Interdisciplinary Approaches to Museum Education. Athens: Μεταίχμιο / Metaichmio [in Greek], Gazi, A. & Nikiforidou, A. [2004]. Texts about museums and exhibitions. Considerations, methodology, study. Museology International Scientific Electronic Journal, Issue 2 [in Greek].

¹³⁹ Vamplew, W. [1998]. Facts and artefacts: Sports historians and sports museums. Journal of Sport History, 25/2: 268-282.

¹⁴⁰ Thematic Museum of the Historic Athletic Club of YMCA Thessaloniki which has at its target point the sport of Basketball. For this different approach and study of sports clubs and sports that cultivate in the fields of social and cultural history: Koulouri, C. [1997]. 209 - 259 [Panellinios Athens: Gymnastic

They may also be involved in the study of local [sports] history that records the specificities of each city as well as any influences it has received from other cultures and combines it with the founding of sports clubs as a conscious choice of local societies and as a new proposition of sociability¹⁴¹.

They can also follow the oral history that builds new sources of information, giving voice to people not only from the foreground but also from the background, people who have offered time, money and their own soul to support sports. No matter how these paths of historical browsing are drawn, they are a way to mitigate the real danger, which is to write the history of sports in the absence of records and evidence.

18.8 Conclusions

Sport has always been a complex and extremely popular phenomenon, and as a result it has a wide resonance and a high popular base, it is very popular to all the different classes and a very big part of the media. Because of this situation sports are offered to develop cultural and intercultural approaches. The issue of problematic historical information is primary because it confirms the inadequate historical research and the outdated knowledge production, since History is not only a science but also an art / technique as it examines the methods of processing the past and transmitting information. However, all this defines only the surface of the problem. Historical recording and analysis of this reality, which is a key priority for modern science and mainly work of the historian of sport, faces difficulties, because sports remain for a long time captive of mythologies and their demonic activities. The approaching of sports as a distinct subject of social sciences through the demanding of social and cultural history is a laborious process because it must reach a greater depth than its stereotypes reach. And because these stereotypes are usually based on reality, prior to historical writing, it is necessary to precede the turning of the research look into the daily reality, where those who do not fit in the martial and national stories remain inert and speechless.

Club], 261-289 [Ethnikos Athens: Gymnastic Club], 291-219 [Omilos Ereton Pireus: Rowing Sport club], 321-355 [Tennis Club of Athens].

¹⁴¹ Indicatively: Tombros, N. [2010]. Nautical Club of Patra.80 years of gold history in the water sports. Patra : Nautical Club of Patra [in Greek], Ballas, G. [2017]. Nautical Club of Argostoli.The difficult times of 1957 - 1983 (the beginning - the action - the athletes). Argostoli: Kefalonitis [in Greek]. Different writing, in accordance with the principles and methods of social history, is a book of Zaimaki, G. [2010]. Ergotelis [1909 - 2009]. Pictures of the athletic and social history of a progressive-friendly club. Athens: Αλεξάνδρεια / Alexandria [in Greek]. For a suggestion of educational use of the cultural history of a sports club see: Pavlogiannis, A. & Ganatsiou, P. [2018]. When Art meets the History of Sport - An Educational Program for the Navy Sports Club of Corfu [NAOK]. In Proceedings of the Conference "Bridges of Communication of Art and Didactics". [Regional South Aegean Education Directorate, Syros 10-12 / 6/2016]. Athens: Ars Libri [under publication] – [in Greek].