**UK Scoping Survey – Overview of findings**

**Method**

The on-line scoping survey was launched in October 2021 and was open until January 2022. It was publicised via various social media and organisational mailing lists of both the Critical Sport Network and the learned societies/representative bodies that were partner organisations. in the research, or which we had identified to work with. A series of reminders were sent after the initial launch. In total 32 responses were received.

**Demographics**

The majority of responses (23) were received from those with research and teaching positions. Job roles ranged from Professor to lecturer. The other significant cohort was postgraduate research students (6) but no respondent held a solely research post (research associate or fellow) and 2 respondents were currently not employed in the sector.

Respondents were broadly representative of the spectrum of career stages, with 13 having worked in the sector for less than 7 years (the threshold for Early Career Researcher status with UK funding councils), 13 in mid-career (7-20 years) and 6 having worked 21 or more years.

The vast majority (27) held a doctoral degree and with the other 5 holding a Masters level award. The dates at which these degrees were awarded suggested that they were gained prior to working in the sector rather than as part of continuing professional development. Just over half of respondents (17) defined the primary disciplinary focus of these degrees as sociology. Other disciplines included history (2), philosophy (2), sports science (2) plus coaching, geography, management, physical education and psychology.

**Teaching and Research Activities**

In contrast to the disciplinary backgrounds of respondents, the largest number taught on sports business or management courses (9), followed by sports coaching (6). Others identified sociology of sport (4), philosophy of sport (2) , physical activity/education (2), leisure studies and sports media/communication. 4 identified teaching ‘sports studies’, indicating a multi- or cross disciplinary teaching role. Respondents dedicated an average (mean) 7.41 hours to teaching per week, though the range was 0-18 hours, and the mode was 10 hours per week.

Respondents were active across a range of research activities. During the last 5 years respondents had presented at a conference an average (mean) of 7.75 times, had submitted an average (mean) of 10.5 journal articles, had conducted a peer review of an article an average (mean) of 8.9 times and supervised PhD/Research students an average (mean) of 3 times.

Most described sociology (16) as the disciplinary orientation of their research while others identified management/business (2) and related topics such as sport for development and volunteering. It was also notable that 5 respondents defined their research as multi/interdisciplinary or broadly social scientific. The empirical focus of most research was the UK (n=22), while others focussed on Europe more broadly (4) and Asia (3). The greatest theoretical influences on this research were Bourdieu (8) and Elias, Foucault and Goffman (4 responses each) although in total 58 different social theorists or authors were listed, suggesting a diverse and eclectic body of theoretical influences on critical sports research.

**Organisational Affiliations**

Not surprisingly most respondents were affiliated to one of the organisations that had actively publicised the survey. These included the British Sociological Association, Sport Study Group (12), the Football Collective (8), Leisure Studies (6), the Political Studies Association Sport Specialist Group (5) and the British Society of Sport History (4). Membership of the International Sociology of Sport Association was both the single largest cohort and greater even that the domestic group for sociology of sport (13). A significant number (5) were also members of the multidisciplinary European College of Sports Science, and 2 were members of the British Educational Research Association, Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy Special Interest Group.

Nearly half of respondents (14) were members of multiple groups/organisations. These included international organisations such as Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise (1), the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (2) and the North American Society for Sport Management (1). No respondents were members of the either of the European counterparts to these Associations. Others were affiliated to broader disciplinary groups, such as the Royal Society of Arts, British Psychology Society, and the Royal Geographical Association. Additionally, respondents were members of sport specific organisations such as the Martial Arts Studies Research Network and the Emerging Sports Studies Group.

The main motivations cited for joining such groups was ‘to build networks with like minded scholars (19) and to be aware of conferences, events and developments in the field. Many, however, noted that he cost of joining these organisations was prohibitive (22). Respondents attended an average (mean) of 4.9 in-person, sport-related academics conferences over the last 5 years, so approximately 1 per year. Virtual sport-related academics conferences were also relatively well attended (a mean of 3.9 per person in the last 5 years). Attendance at non-sport conferences was less common, but not insignificant (with means of 2.1 and 2.5 for in-person and virtual events respectively).