

Introduction

- Role of sport in society
- Marxian critique of sport
- Sport and women
- Mind/body dualism and sport
- Sports design
- Athlete as hero
- Youth and sport
- Hegemonic masculinity in sport
- Learning outcome 2: Assess the ways in which gender are constituted or challenged through particular forms of culture (sport)
- Assignment topic – sport and gender

Role of sport in societies

- Introduction to some of the debates (4.59 mins)
- will men and women be paid the same in sports (6.21 mins)
- Vocabulary of sport pervades everyday life
- Hegel
 - One can understand a people by the gods they worship
- Values are present in sport which reflect society
- Camus
 - Once claimed he learned ethics in sport

Marxian Critique of Sport

- Sport reflects capitalist society
- Capitalist competition
- Sport as alienating
- Abolish competitive sport
- Lasch – contemporary sport should be independent of education, business, entertainment
- Both assume
 - Values in sport reflect society
 - Sport teaches those values

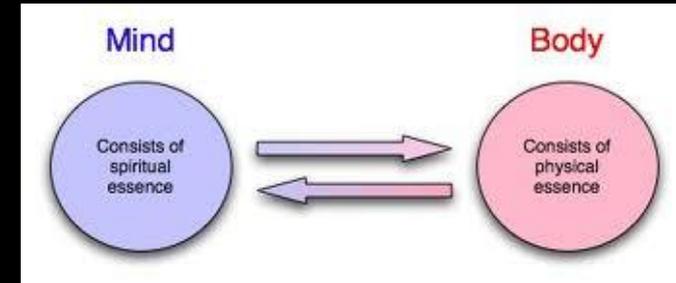


Sport and Women

- History of women being excluded from full participation in sport
- Less money, less press coverage
- Different arguments
 - Women are physically weaker ([see the BBC debate](#))
 - More desirable for men to gain sporting values (courage, competitiveness, discipline)

Mind and body

- Paul Weiss: Philosophy of Sport
 - Sport overcomes the separation between mind and body
 - Weiss argues the separation of mind/body is more acute for men
 - From this viewpoint sport addresses the mind/body issue for men
 - Such arguments have been challenged by women participating in sport
 - And when women beat men there is controversy (e.g. [Ye Shiwen](#))



Sports design

- Sports - designed and developed by men
- Betsy Postow
 - Built in bias in sports
 - Marion Young (philosopher)
 - distinction between experience of oneself/ others as body-subject/body-object
- Sport calls upon the body's capacities/skills
- Our culture is dominated by the masculine
 - Where the body-subject source of energy, activity, power
 - Body-object to be looked at, passive (sexualisation of female sportspeople)
 - **Q: is it the case that boys learn to be active, energetic, assertive and girls learn to be beautiful?**



Differences?

- Claims are made there are differences
 - Psychological, intellectual, spiritual
 - Muscles might result from social conditioning
 - Men and women share characteristics
- Values encouraged in sports
 - self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork, competitive spirit, spirit of fair play
 - Both males and females are competitive



Athlete as hero

- Heroes display the traits of character/personality most desirable and honoured
- Era dominated by technology
 - Reduces need for physical strength
 - Therefore the athlete's virtues leads us to admire athletes
 - Nostalgia for the past
 - Want to preserve these values
 - Become our model – how we want to be (self-discipline, teamwork)



Youth

- Athletic field
 - Youth can hope to achieve and exhibit the excellence admired in heroes
 - Excellence in athletes before excelling in politics, business etc.
 - Personal lives of athletes might not be morally and ethically inspiring
- Athletes have no practical value
 - scientists, business people, campaigners engage in 'useful' activity
 - Others argue against this and suggest athletes are better heroes than trained killers (soldiers)



Hegemonic Masculinity and Sport

- Sport stresses hegemonic masculinity
- Different sports with different versions of masculinities e.g. Wimbledon
 - Englishness
 - Media constructing differences
 - Competing codes of gender



Summary

- Dick Kerr Ladies (30 minutes)
- Various different ideas regarding gender and participation in sport
- Including mind/body and masculinity/femininity
- Marxism and competition bringing about alienation
- Viewpoints about physical, spiritual and moral differences
- Athlete as hero
- Young boys learning to be men
- Hegemonic masculinity and sport

Bibliography

- Lasch, C. (1988). 'The Degradation of Sport' In W. Morgan and K. Meier. *Philosophic Inquiry in Sport*. Illinois, Human Kinetics Publishers.
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