



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY



# 30 YEARS

## Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students

Editor: Konstantinos Georgiadis



International Seminar on Olympic Studies  
for Postgraduate Students  
(1993 – 2022)





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Konstantinos Georgiadis

ATHENS 2022



*DEDICATED TO*

*Nikos Filaretos*

*Norbert Müller*

*Nikos Yalouris*

*Stephen Miller*



# Contents

Foreword by the IOA President, <b>Isidoros Kouvelos</b> .....	13
Foreword by the IOC President, <b>Thomas Bach</b> .....	15
Foreword by the IOC Member for Greece, HOC President and EOC President, <b>Spyros Capralos</b> .....	17
Introduction by <b>Konstantinos Georgiadis</b> , The vision and establishment of the Postgraduate Seminar .....	19
<b>Alberto Reinaldo Reppold Filho</b> , IOA Postgraduate Seminar: An academic and life-changing experience....	33
<b>Junko Tahara</b> , Memories of the first International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students.....	40
<b>Lamartine DaCosta</b> , Innovative developments joining scholars, students and universities worldwide: Experiences at the International Olympic Academy - Postgraduate Seminar, 1993-2020.....	45
<b>Éric Monnin</b> , Second International Postgraduate Seminar: A unique experience .....	54
<b>Cesar R. Torres</b> , Participating in the Seminar: A Fateful Moment of Moments.....	61
<b>Michał Bronikowski</b> , How the "Olympic spirit" has changed my life .....	66
<b>Holger Preuss</b> , The IOA as inspirer of Olympic Research.....	70
<b>Ingomar Weiler</b> , My Experience and Memories as a Supervising Professor during the years 1993 and 2017 ....	75
<b>Gino Schiavone</b> , Olympia - the Heart of Olympism and Olympic Education.....	82
<b>Robert K. "Bob" Barney</b> , Remembering Olympia: Teaching Future Olympic Scholars .....	87
<b>Ian Brittain</b> , The IOA Postgraduate Seminar(s) Defined my Career Path .....	92
<b>Stephen G. Miller</b> , The International Olympic Academy at Nemea .....	97
<b>Benoit Séguin</b> , Experience and memories of the IOA International Seminar .....	102
<b>Kristine Toohey</b> , Teaching in the Postgraduate and the Master's Degree Programmes .....	107
<b>Dongguang Pei</b> , As an IOA Participant in the Postgraduate Seminar, I have been promoting Olympic Education in China for more than 20 years .....	112
<b>Wolfgang Decker</b> , Personal Experience with the International Olympic Academy.....	119

<b>Hai Ren</b> , My unforgettable memory of the IOA .....	124
<b>Beatriz Garcia</b> , The IOA made my world bigger and defined my 20-year career as a leading international Olympic scholar .....	128
<b>John J. MacAloon</b> , Pre-History of the IOA Postgraduate Seminar .....	135
<b>Angela. J. Schneider</b> , Reflections on the International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students: From the perspective of a supervising professor and an Olympian .....	140
<b>Jim Parry</b> , What fantastic career development and personal development! .....	145
<b>Maha Zaoui</b> , IOA Postgraduate Seminar 2002. <i>18 years later! What's new?</i> .....	152
<b>Susan Brownell</b> , The worldwide reach of the IOA's Postgraduate Seminars .....	157
<b>Christian Wacker</b> , From Archaeology in Olympia to the Olympic Movement .....	162
<b>Sarah Teetzel</b> , Musings on Olympia as Muse: Finding Inspiration for a Career in Olympic Studies at the IOA's Postgraduate Seminar .....	167
<b>Andreas Zagklis</b> , We will always have the IOA steps .....	172
<b>Thomas Junod</b> , My Olympia dream... .....	177
<b>Nelson Todt</b> , Letter to Chronos .....	182
<b>Małgorzata Bronikowska</b> , Proud Olympia - my dream and love... .....	187
<b>Nikos Choutas</b> , Olympic Education "Greenhouse": Lessons from the future .....	192
<b>Becca Leopkey</b> , The Legacies of the International Olympic Academy Experience .....	199
<b>Evangelos Albanidis</b> , Travelling in memory... through the International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students .....	205
<b>Anita Sterea</b> , 2008 the year my Olympic journey began .....	210
<b>Sam Ramsamy</b> , Olympic Studies - Postgraduate Seminars .....	215
<b>Karsten Nikolas Liese</b> , The social construction of the International Olympic Academy as a model of Cosmopolis? .....	220
<b>Jeffrey O. Segrave</b> , The Beauty of Olympia .....	225

<b>Angelo Altieri</b> , A National Olympic Academy in the 21st century .....	230
<b>Li-Hong (Leo) Hsu</b> , A Journey to last: My Olympic Dream .....	237
<b>Alberto Aragón-Pérez</b> , A first step to falling in love with Olympic Studies .....	242
<b>Wojciech Lipoński</b> , A meaningful Seminar, not only for Olympism .....	249
<b>Bárbara Schausteck de Almeida</b> , When a young researcher met the world: Essay on a personal experience at the IOA .....	254
<b>Paul Christesen</b> , Fond Memories Indeed: Studying the Olympics at the International Olympic Academy ....	259
<b>Adrianna Banio</b> , Memories from the 21st International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students in 2014 .....	264
<b>Jean-Loup Chappellet</b> , Meeting Olympic scholars in Olympia .....	271
<b>Ewa Malchowicz-Mośko</b> , Studying Olympism .....	274
<b>Nigel B. Crowther</b> , My two magical places: Ancient Olympia and the IOA .....	279
<b>Nikolaos Papacharalampous</b> , Building knowledge and life skills through experiencing the Postgraduate Seminar .....	284
<b>Stephan Wassong</b> , Lecturing at the International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students: An honour and academic experience .....	289
<b>Susannah Stevens</b> , The IOA as a platform for pedagogical discussions, playfulness and peace .....	294
<b>Irena Martínková</b> , 20 years at the IOA .....	299
<b>Matthew P. Llewellyn</b> , The most profound educational and cultural experience in my life .....	304
<b>H. Björn Galjaardt</b> , From participant to Seminar researcher .....	311
<b>Krystian Zawadzki</b> , Class 2019... .....	316
<b>Bianca Gama Pena</b> , Experiences, Memories and Opportunities provided by the IOA Seminar .....	321
<b>Tariq Ali Gujar</b> , Way to Olympism through the Seminar .....	326
<b>Iva Glibo</b> , Reflections on the International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students .....	331
<b>Derrick Charway</b> , Recounting my IOA Postgraduate Seminar experience .....	334





*J*t is with great pleasure that I welcome the publication of the commemorative volume marking the 30th anniversary of the IOA Postgraduate Seminar and its rich educational work and academic status. The IOA began its work by holding international Sessions with participants from all over the world; in due course, it incorporated and implemented the wonderful idea of postgraduate studies, initially with the Seminar and then with the International Master's Degree Programme in Olympic Studies. It is clear that the Postgraduate Seminar paved the way for the subsequent expanded postgraduate programme, which makes the IOA the most important institution on Olympic Studies internationally. It is obvious that over time the Academy realised the noble visions of Coubertin and his successors (Ioannis Ketseas, Carl Diem, Otto Szymczek, Cleanthis Palaeologos, Nikos Yalouris, Nikos Filaretos, Norbert Müller, etc.) on the need for, and the importance of Olympic education within the modern Olympic Movement.

Sport, Culture and Education represent the triptych of prosperity in a cultured society. This tenet remains the basis of the Olympic Movement, the defining philosophy of modern Olympism and the educational pinnacle of the IOA. During these 30 years, the Academy welcomed in its premises hundreds of students, but also professors from all over the world and collaborated with leading international universities, National Olympic Committees and National Olympic Academies on the implementation of the Postgraduate Seminar. It gave young people the opportunity to live and be educated for a satisfactory period in Ancient Olympia, the cradle of the ancient Olympic Games.

In 1961, the German Carl Diem, one of the pioneers of the establishment of the IOA, said: "The Olympic Academy which is to arise here will be at once a continuation of the ancient Academy - an Elis of today - and the realisation of Coubertin's plans to lay a scholastic foundation for the Olympic idea."

The 30th anniversary edition of the Postgraduate Seminar is the best message not only on the value of scientific knowledge, but also on the appeal of "travelling" together with people from different countries with respect and understanding. I hope this edition becomes the key to the hearts of all those who participated during these years in the Seminar's planning, development and future course and awakens beautiful memories in the souls of people.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Isidoros Kouvelos".

Isidoros Kouvelos  
IOA President





*D*ear friends,

*It still seems like only yesterday, that I was sitting on the lawn of the International Olympic Academy for first time, listening to the scholars together with so many other young people. This visit to the IOA left a deep impression on me. The unique setting in Ancient Olympia gives the Academy a special, almost spiritual quality which has attracted countless educators and students from around the world over the years, to learn more about Olympism.*

*Since its inauguration in 1961, the IOA has played an invaluable role in raising awareness of the origins, values and mission of the Olympic Movement. The Academy lays the intellectual foundation for preserving our heritage and for the Olympic spirit to inspire leaders, educators and students alike. With the recent modernisation of the IOA facilities, the Academy has the best conditions at its disposal to continue its important mission to carry the Olympic spirit into the future.*

*In this respect, the IOA Postgraduate Seminar has played a central role to shape the next generation of young Olympic scholars. After their experience in ancient Olympia many of them have stayed closely connected and engaged with the Olympic Movement and have since then been enhancing knowledge, conducting research and promoting Olympic values around the world.*

*As you mark the 30th anniversary since the creation of the Postgraduate Seminar, I would like to congratulate the IOA leadership and all professors who have contributed so generously to the success of the Postgraduate Seminar over the years. This publication, compiling insightful experiences and accounts by many of its leading alumni, is a testimony not only to the intellectual depth that characterises the Postgraduate Seminar but also to the inspiration that the Olympic spirit continues to provide for generations of students.*

*In this Olympic spirit, let us continue to go faster, aim higher and be stronger -together- as we carry forward our shared mission to make the world a better place through sport, inspiring a new generation with our timeless Olympic values.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Bach".

Thomas Bach  
IOC President





*S*ince the establishment of the International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students back in 1993, we, as a society have come a long way. Our world has evolved facing sometimes the positive impact of scientific progress yet sometimes also enduring the challenging effects of globalisation.

*In a fast pace changing world, we realise now more than ever, that the values of Olympism remain engraved in our mind as an indelible imprint in time.*

As Baron Pierre de Coubertin said: "Olympism is not a system, it is a state of mind. The most widely divergent approaches can be accommodated in it, and no race or time can hold an exclusive monopoly on it."

Thankfully we have come to realise that no matter how our lives and universe change or are undesirably affected, the Olympic spirit remains intact to continue its journey across time and cultures, and this can only make us, the Olympic Family, proud and confident about the development of the future generations.

With this anthology, we celebrate 30 years of passing on and spreading the Olympic spirit through educational sessions that have shaped the minds of generations of people giving them greater perspectives and enriching them with a philosophy that opens up new horizons in a unique way.

The Hellenic Olympic Committee, together with the International Olympic Academy, celebrates this important milestone and commends the efforts of each and every student who chose to be part of this fantastic journey. May this work inspire future generations and lead the way to a better world in peace and solidarity.

The Hellenic Olympic Committee will continue to support the IOA, this prestigious institution, in all its efforts to spread the principles of Olympism and develop Olympic Education.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Capralos".

**Spyros Capralos**  
IOC Member for Greece  
HOC President  
EOC President



# *Konstantinos Georgiadis* PhD

*Professor, University of Peloponnese*

*IOA Dean*

*Member, IOC Commission for Olympic Education*

*Vice-President, International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH)*



## *Introduction: The vision and establishment of the Postgraduate Seminar*

The Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students is one of the most wonderful experiences in the field of education and especially in Olympic studies.

The Postgraduate Seminar is the continuation of the IOA's excellent educational pathway, a vision of Pierre de Coubertin that began 60 years ago, through its founding pioneers Ioannis Ketseas, Carl Diem and their fellow travellers.

This creative process was continued by the Dean of the IOA, Otto Szymiczek (1909-1990), assisted in his work by Professors Cleanthis Palaeologos, Nikos Yalouris and many other mem-

bers of the Olympic Movement and the worldwide academic community, with the support of the serving IOA Presidents and Administrations. The IOA, starting with an annual educational programme during its first decade, soon succeeded, under the auspices of the IOC and the Hellenic Olympic Committee, in gradually establishing itself in the Olympic family and the academic community as a unique educational institution of the Olympic Movement for Olympic studies.

The Postgraduate Seminar is designed to broaden students' knowledge on all issues related to the Olympic Movement. It was set up at the

beginning of the fourth decade after the IOA's foundation and in a period characterised by innovative initiatives that supported the IOA's upward trend.

The planning, establishment and institutionalisation of the Postgraduate Seminar began in 1991 to enrich the activities of the IOA on an academic level.<sup>1</sup> The Olympic Movement changed dramatically under the Samaranch reforms, requiring the IOA to adapt to the new changes, particularly with regard to its academic profile.<sup>2</sup>

Within the context of these new developments, the Dean of the IOA proposed the organisation of an International Seminar for selected students: "... excelling in their studies in the field of the History of Sport, in cooperation with the Universities of their countries".<sup>3</sup>

Student selection was to be made in collaboration with professors of recognised standing

in Olympic studies, to ensure that students possessed an advanced level of knowledge and to recognise their diplomas as awarded in the context of a "postgraduate training seminar".<sup>4</sup>

Moreover, students had to present research papers on topical scientific issues in the Olympic Movement.<sup>5</sup>

The publication of the papers would help to fill "the gap in scientific research"<sup>6</sup> on Olympic issues, but at the same time would also enable the IOA to cooperate with the academic community and upgrade its educational programme.

The Olympic Games became the subject of specialised research and studies in universities, attracting the attention of the scientific community because of the importance the Games acquired and their impact on society.

The IOA needed to collaborate with the academic community, creating a common reference and con-

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1 See IOA Minutes, 14th IOA Ephoria Meeting, 12/11/1991, p. 52.

2 15th IOA Ephoria Meeting 12/12/91, pp. 59-60; see also 16th IOA Ephoria Meeting 24/1/92, pp. 68-69; see also 17th IOA Ephoria Meeting, 26/3/92, p. 77.

3 Georgiadis K., 20th Meeting of the IOA Ephoria, 6/11/92, pp. 119, 124-125. On 6/10/92, the Dean of the IOA was unanimously appointed on the proposal of its President Nikos Filaretos.

4 Ibid. p. 124.

5 Ibid. p. 124.

6 Ibid. p. 124.

vergence point for the development of Olympic studies. At the same time, in relation to international developments in its specific scientific field, the IOA laid solid foundations for cooperation with the Olympic Studies Centres and the National Olympic Academies. Its President, Nikos Filaretos, a member of the International Olympic Committee, secured the support of the IOC President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, for these new visions.<sup>7</sup>

With the support of the IOC, the IOA would consolidate existing initiatives and become a reference point for an international network of Olympic studies. The IOA's role would not be limited to the teaching aspect but would attract young researchers who would later join National Olympic Academies and Olympic Committees, and above all the Olympic Studies Centres in Universities.<sup>8</sup>

In December 1992, the IOA Ephoria decided that the Seminar's duration should be 45 days,

and at the last meeting of Nikos Filaretos' first Presidency the Dean's proposal with its detailed programme for the Seminar was approved with the title: International Postgraduate Seminar for Selected Students.<sup>9</sup>

The detailed presentation mentioned, among other items, the Professors<sup>10</sup> whose collaboration should ensure the project's success, namely N. Yalouris (GRE), I. Weiler (AUT), N. Müller (GER), J. Lucas (USA), J. Parry (GBR), J. Mouratidis (GRE), W. Liponski (POL), L. DaCosta (BRA), I. Jobling (AUS) and R. Barney (CAN). The above Professors have indeed been staunch pillars of support for the Programme.

Particularly important was the collaboration with Professor Norbert Müller and his presentation of the Programme to the IOC Commission for the IOA, of which he was a member.<sup>11</sup>

The success of the Seminar is mainly thanks

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7 According to the IOA President, it was likely that Juan Antonio Samaranch would encourage the establishment of the "New I.O.C. Commission for Social and Cultural Studies", 14th IOA Ephoria Meeting, 12/11/91, p. 52. At the same time, a group of professors was trying to establish an "International Commission for Olympic Research and Studies", see 15th IOA Ephoria Meeting, 19/12/91, p. 59.

8 17th IOA Ephoria Meeting, 26/3/92, p. 77.

9 21st IOA Ephoria Meeting, 17 December 1992, pp. 126, 140-144.

10 Ibid. pp. 141-142.

11 Georgiadis K. Olympic Studies: International Seminar on Olympic Studies of the IOA for Postgraduate Students.

to the selfless, voluntary contributions of the professors and the excellent cooperation between the IOC, the National Olympic Academies, the National Olympic Committees and the Olympic Studies Centres.

Highly qualified experts have taught in the Seminar's four different modules, motivating students to become involved in the Olympic Movement. Professors Nikos Yalouris and Ingomar Weiler, Stephen Miller, Jim Parry, Norbert Müller and Otto Schantz, have attended the Seminar most frequently as guest professors; the author of this text has participated in all of them.

The title for the Seminar was established after the 3rd Seminar. The first two Seminars were named in the official programmes "International Seminar for Selected Graduate Students of Physical Education and History".<sup>12</sup> After the 3rd year it was renamed the "International Postgraduate Seminar on Olympic Studies" and from 2003 it was known as the "International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students", a

name it still retains today.<sup>13</sup>

The first two years of its operation were decisive in terms of the curriculum, structure and organisation of the Seminar. Based on experience, annual evaluations of the Seminar and extensive discussions with students and professors, a programme was established which was attractive to students, effective in the production of knowledge, rich in innovative activities and enjoyable for both students and teachers. Of great value was the presentation of new research papers providing incentives for young scientists to join the Olympic Movement and the academic community dealing with the subject of Olympic studies.<sup>14</sup>

Through participation in the Seminar, students undoubtedly enrich their knowledge of the Olympic Movement. It is a unique experience from which they gain knowledge of Olympism as an educational process that will accompany them for the rest of their lives.

The high academic level of the Seminar is confirmed by the fact that doctoral candidates and

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12 Archive K. Georgiadis, Postgraduate Seminar Programmes.

13 Georgiadis K., Olympic Studies: International Seminar on Olympic Studies of IOA for Postgraduate Students.

14 Students of the first two years will also remember classes held on the lower level, in the first dormitory to the right of the Academy's marble stairs.

even PhD holders have increasingly shown the desire to take part in the Seminar. Moreover, a large number of the students teach at their universities, and in this way transfer their experiences to the academic world.

The Seminar has supported young scientists in Olympic studies and they, in turn, have spread their knowledge and promoted the educational values of Olympism worldwide.

Many of the students have also pursued academic careers with outstanding achievements in Olympic studies research. Others have gone on to become officials in the National Olympic Academies or have founded Olympic Studies Centres at their universities. A small number work in the IOC and International Federations serving the values of Olympism.

In November 1999, a five-year partnership between the IOA and Loughborough University was signed, offering students the prospect of optional examinations with the possibility of obtaining 30 credits for the Postgraduate Programme of the above University.

While in the early Seminars we were distrib-

uting daily correspondence to the students, ten years later computers and laptops would become useful tools in the educational process of the Seminar, however also replacing, to a certain extent, the musical instruments that students brought with them for entertainment purposes. The 10th Seminar was the one and only Seminar to be broadcast daily for 40 days via the internet for all those who wished to attend.<sup>15</sup>

It is safe to say that participation in the Seminar inspires the students and creates the necessary enthusiasm for them to return to their countries, continue their Olympic studies and deepen their knowledge of the Olympic Movement, the IOC and Olympism.

In its thirty years of operation, the Olympic Studies Seminar is, in the spirit of Pierre de Coubertin, an essential "Olympic factory" of Olympism and Olympic education.

Through its educational activities, it inspires young scientists to acquire knowledge of Olympism and to disseminate its ideas at an academic level.

Through the operation of the Seminar, Olympic education and Olympism have become more

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15 Georgiadis K., Prologue: Report on the IOA's Special Sessions and Seminars 2002, in *IOA Special Sessions and Seminars 2002*, IOA, HOC, Athens 2003, pp. 9-11.

accessible and attained more visibility within the academic community.

Professors of international standing and prestige have inspired their students to connect with the Olympic Movement and approach it scientifically, as well as to integrate Olympic education into their educational and research work.

The Postgraduate Seminar has created and provided access to necessary educational materials and developed new educational methods and content. Through innovative educational ideas, which participants have transferred to their workplaces, Olympic studies have developed worldwide. Its operation has also reflected the wish of the IOA and the Olympic Movement to reach out energetically to young people in the academic community.

The educational benefits and impact of the programme are evident from the fact that many former participants return to the IOA as lecturers after establishing themselves in their academic fields. These professors constitute the crucial group of scholars who have supported the foundation of

Olympic education with academic arguments.

Throughout the years, student participation has been free of charge, allowing for the participation of young people from all walks of life and from NOCs with limited financial means.

The university professors who continue to offer their services voluntarily to the operation of the Seminar have made a huge contribution. Both personally and on behalf of the Ephoria, I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to them.

Because of the far-reaching economic crisis that hit Greece, the Postgraduate Seminar was not held in 2010, since the financial support from the Greek state had been drastically reduced.

Furthermore, in 2020 and 2021 the Seminar was successfully organised online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the renovated IOA facilities, in cooperation with the IOC and within the context of new educational planning, the Postgraduate Seminar will be one of the pillars for promotion and development of the Olympic Movement.





Under the presidency  
of Nikos Filaretos, the  
idea for the Postgraduate  
Seminar was conceived  
and evolved.

At the stele  
Pierre de  
Coubertin - 18th  
Postgraduate  
Seminar (2011).





Prof. Kostas Georgiadis teaching in the classroom (23rd Postgraduate Seminar - 2016) and at the Olympia archaeological site (26th Postgraduate Seminar - 2019).





Prof. Nikos Yalouris (on the left), a long-standing IOA Ephoria member and firm supporter of the idea for the Olympic Postgraduate Seminar, and Kostas Georgiadis (1997).



The proceedings  
of the  
Postgraduate  
Seminars have  
been published  
since 1997.

Πρόταση για διεθνές σίμποιο Επιστημονικού Σεμινάριο για επιλεγμένους φοιτητές

Να οργανωθεί εφέτος για πρώτη φορά από 8/5 -25/6/1993 διεθνές Σεμινάριο για επιλεκτούς φοιτητές Ιωαννιτικής Αγωγής και Ιστορίας, διαρρέαντες στις Επουδές τους στον τομέα της Ιστορίας του Αθλητισμού, σε συνεργασία με τα Πανεπιστήμια των χωρών τους.

Η επιλογή των φοιτητών στο πρώτο Σεμινάριο θα γίνεται σε συνεργασία με γνωστούς καθηγητές Πανεπιστημίων οι οποίοι έχουν διατελέσει κατά κατούς φοιτητές σε Συνέδρια της Δ.Ο.Α. .

Τα διηλώματα που θα λαμβάνουν να αναγνωρίζονται ως μεταπτυχιακό = επικωνιατικό σεμινάριο σπουδών από τα Πανεπιστήμια τους. Αυτό θα εξασφαλίζεται υψηλό είπερδο γνώσεων των μετεχόντων και θα συμβάλλει στο να αναγνωρισθεί η Δ.Ο.Α. ως ένα κέντρο σπουδών στους Ακαδημαϊκούς κώνους να αποδειχθεί το έργο της.

Ο αριθμός των μετεχόντων δεν πρέπει να ξεπερνά τα 14-18 άτομα κατ' αρχήν. Ως πότε να ξεκινηθούμε με μικρά και σταδερά θήματα ώστε να είναι εξασφαλισμένη η επιτυχία του Σεμιναρίου για την καλύτερη διερμηνεία του.

Την εποπτεία και επιμόρφωση των φοιτητών θα αναλάβουν σε συνεργασία με την Δ.Ο.Α. γνωστοί και εξειδετοί Πανεπιστημιακοί καθηγητές από όλο τον κόσμο. Η ύπλη των μαθημάτων θα χωρίσεται σε τομείς όπως:

- Φιλοσοφία : Προέλευση των φυσικών ασκήσεων, Μηναΐκός πολιτισμός, Μυκηναϊκός πολιτισμός, Πανελλήνιοι Αγώνες, Ολυμπιακοί Αγώνες της Αρχαλότης, παγκόσμιη στην Αρχαία Αθήνα κατ' την Ιπάτη

- Ιστορία και φιλοσοφία του σύγχρονου Ολυμπιακού Κινήματος

- Ιστορία και έργο της Δ.Ο.Α.

- Παραγωγικές διαστάσεις του σύγχρονου Ολυμπιακού Κινήματος

Οι παραπάνω τομείς προτείνονται για γίνεται πρόσκληση να επωποτευθούν από τους εξής καθηγητές: Καθηγ. N. Γιαλαύονης, Καθηγ. Weiler, Καθηγ. Lucas, Καθηγ. Mueller

Η διάρκεια διδασκαλίας και επόπτευσης των φοιτητών από τους παραπάνω καθηγητές θα είναι 10-15 πνέρες (8-20/5, 20-31/5, 1-12/6, 12-24/6)

Να δοθεί το δικαίωμα επίσης στους παραπάνω καθηγητές να συνοδεύονται από 3-4 φοιτητές του Πανεπιστημίου τους διότι θα είναι ευκολότερο να αποδεχθούν την πρόταση να λάβουν μέρος στις εργασίες της Ακαδημίας κατά τη διάρκεια του Πανεπιστημιακού εξαμήνου και να παίρνουν άδεια από τις σχολές τους.

'Όλοι οι φοιτητές θα πρέπει να προστοιμάσουν και να παρουσιάσουν επιστημονική εργασία κατά τη διάρκεια του Σεμιναρίου η οποία θα δημοσιευθεί από τη Δ.Ο.Α.. Οι εργασίες αυτές θα πιστούν να καθορίζονται από τη Δ.Ο.Α. για τα επίκαια επιστημονικά θέματα που μας απασχολούν. Έτσι θα καλυφθεί κατά τον καλύτερο τρόπο το 'κενό επιστημονικής έρευνας' της Δ.Ο.Α..'

**ΔΙΕΘΝΕΣ ΜΕΤΑΠΤΥΧΙΑΚΟ ΣΕΜΙΝΑΡΙΟ ΕΠΙΛΕΓΜΕΝΩΝ ΦΟΙΤΗΤΩΝ**

**Στόχος** : 'Αυστη συνεργασία και ανταλλαγή φοιτητών με Ανότατα Εκπαιδευτικά Ιδρύματα (αρχικό θέμα) (Αποδοχή της Δ.Ο.Α. ως Διεθνούς Ειδικού Κέντρου Ολυμπιακών Επουδύνων)

**Εκπόσιος** : Κάλυψη του κένου της επιστημονικής έρευνας εκ μέρους της Δ.Ο.Α.

**Βασικό θέμα** : Το ειδικό θέμα της Διεθνούς Συνέδριου της Δ.Ο.Α. για Νέους Μετέχοντες: Οι διαφορετικές ερμηνεύσεις του Ολυμπισμού στις Μείζονες Πολιτιστικές Ζώνες του κόσμου.

**Διάρκεια** : 45 πνέρες, 15 Μαΐου - 30 Ιουνίου

**Αριθμός μετεχόντων** : 15 - 18 άτομα

**Γλώσσα** : Αγγλικά

**Προηπόβεση συμμετοχής σπουδαστών** : Συνεργασία με τα Πανεπιστήμια τους, αποστολή Βιογραφικού σημειώματος, επιστημονική έρευνα σε ειδικά ολυμπιακά θέματα.

**ΠΡΟΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΑΣΤΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ**

**Θεματολογία Σεμιναρίου** : Τέσσερις (4) κύριοι ειδικάν θεμάτων :

1. Αρχαιότητα 2. Σύγχρονοι Ολυμπιακοί Αγώνες

- επιλογές σε αρχαιολογικούς χώρους (Νέαρεα, Ισθμία, Ολύμπια, Δελφοί)

- παραδόσεις μαθημάτων για τον αθλητισμό στην Αρχαία Ελλάδα (Ιστορία, Φιλοσοφία)

3. Ερευνητικές εργασίες φοιτητών

- σύντομες παρουσιάσεις των εργασιών τους

- έναρξη Παραδόσεων για την Δ.Ο.Α.

4. Ετοιμο Ειδικό θέμα

Άνοιξη - Παρευθύνσεις

The official proposal for a Scientific Seminar for Selected Students by the IOA Dean, Kostas Georgiadis to the IOA Ephoria (20th Meeting, 6 November 1992).

Document entitled "International Postgraduate Seminar for Selected Students" with details of the organisation of the 1st Seminar presented to the IOA Ephoria by the IOA Dean, Kostas Georgiadis (21st Meeting, 17 December 1992).

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR  
SELECTED GRADUATE STUDENTS  
OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND  
HISTORY

15.05-01.07.1993

## PROGRAMME

ANCIENT OLYMPIA

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY

3rd INTERNATIONAL POST GRADUATE SEMINAR  
ON OLYMPIC STUDIES

15.5 - 30.6 1995

PROGRAMME



Ancient Olympia  
GREECE

The programmes of the 1st and the 3rd Seminars (1993 and 1995).

Prof. Dr. Norbert Müller  
Universität Regensburg  
8400 Regensburg  
Tel. 0921 - 38 35 06

## Exposé (Überblick f. Seminar)

zum ersten akademischen "graduate/postgraduate-Seminar"  
der Internationalen Olympischen Akademie in Olympia/Griechenland.

### 1. Teilnehmerkreis

Studentinnen und Studenten, welche ein Studium absolviert haben, in dem sie sich mit olympischen Fragen in unterschiedlichster Form (Geschichte, Politik, Soziologie, Trainingswissenschaft, Sportmedizin, Theologie, Pädagogik, Philosophie etc.) beschäftigt haben.  
Es müssen also nicht zwangsläufig ausschließlich Studenten sein, die Leibeserziehung/Sport studiert haben, sondern können auch andere Studenten sein.

Der Bezug zu olympischen Fragestellungen muß jedoch eindeutig gegeben sein, also nicht zu allgemeinen Fragen der Sportgeschichte oder der Sportpädagogik, sondern zu speziellen wie z.B der "Geschichte der Olympischen Spiele", der "Sportpädagogik Pierre de Coubertins", der "Akzeptanz olympischer Werte in der Bevölkerung von Frankreich", der "Struktur des Nationalen Olympischen Komitees von Japan", den "Olympischen Bewerbungen Australiens und deren Unterstützung in der Bevölkerung", dem "Einfluß der Kunst auf die ganzheitliche Bildung des Menschen im Sinne Coubertins", den "Olympia-Boykotts 1980/84 und deren Auswirkungen auf die Entwicklung des Hochleistungssports in den boykottierenden Ländern" etc etc

Die Studenten sollen aus möglichst allen Erdteilen kommen, jedoch ist Qualität wichtiger als Repräsentanz!  
Eine Gesamt-Teilnehmerzahl von maximal 20 ist anzustreben.

### 2. Dozenten

#### a) Kursleiter-Studienleiter

Als Kursleiter soll ein Universitätsprofessor fungieren, der über breite akademische Erfahrungen verfügt und im olympischen Bereich breit geforscht hat.  
Da die Haupt-Verständigungssprache Englisch sein sollte, muß er diese gut beherrschen.  
Der Kursleiter muß die gesamten 6 Wochen mit der Gruppe zusammen sein, ihr Tutor, Lehrer und "Vater" sein.  
Er muß menschliche Qualitäten besitzen, die auch in Konfliktfällen unter den Teilnehmern Lösungen ermöglichen.

#### b) Dekan der IOA

Dieser wird aus Zeitgründen nur einen beschränkten Zeitraum in Olympia zur Verfügung stehen. Er soll in der Vorbereitungsphase den Kontakt zwischen dem Kursleiter und den Gastprofessoren herstellen und in der IOA die Studenten in die Institution IOA aus geschichtlichen Perspektiven einführen.

#### c) Gastprofessoren

Neben dem Studienleiter sollen für jeweils 14 Tage insgesamt 3 bis 4 Gastprofessoren hinzukommen, die ein Basis-Lehrangebot zum einen garantieren, zum anderen neue Perspektiven den Studenten anbieten zur Diskussion.

Report regarding an academic Seminar at the IOA by Prof. Norbert Müller presented to the IOC Commission for the IOA (February 1993).



The IOA awarded Prof. Norbert Müller with the prize "Delphi" in 2005 at the Pnyx ceremony. In the photo receiving the prize from the President of the Hellenic Republic, H.E. Karolos Papoulias.



Prof. Norbert Müller assisting the works of a discussion group - 8th Joint Session for NOAs/NOCs (2006).

Prof. Norbert Müller (in the middle) had participated in the "Scholars for Olympia" initiative following the destructive fire of 2007 in Ancient Olympia.  
From left to right, Prof. Karl Lennartz, George Dolianitis, Haralambos Kafyras and Georgios Deves.





## 1st Postgraduate Seminar 1993

# *Alberto Reinaldo Reppold Filho* PhD

*Professor in Sport Policy and Management,  
Faculty of Physical Education  
Head of the Center for Olympic and Paralympic Studies,  
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul*



## *IOA Postgraduate Seminar: An academic and life-changing experience*

*P*articipation in the First International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students, in 1993, marked my academic career in a decisive way. It is not an exaggeration to say that it also represented a milestone in my personal life, since living together and sharing experiences on a daily basis for about six weeks, with 16 students, from ten countries, and with a number of professors from different academic fields and cultural backgrounds, in addition to creating bonds of friendships, helped in the formation of a way of seeing the world and relating to people that I still hold firmly today.

At the time, I was a young teacher taking the first steps in my professional career in the Faculty of Physical Education at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), in Brazil, and was about to apply for a doctoral scholarship with a research agency of the Brazilian government. My academic interests were focused on the philosophy of education. My interest in philosophical themes had arisen in the last semesters of the undergraduate course and gained strength during the Master's in Education. It was a period in which I was looking forward to a university where I could carry out doctoral studies, recon-

ciling my interests in philosophy with my training in physical education and sport. Participation in the Postgraduate Seminar was not just an injection of impetus into this study project but ended up representing an important step towards its realisation.

My participation in the Postgraduate Seminar took place on the recommendation of Professor Lamartine DaCosta, a renowned Brazilian scholar in the field of Olympic studies. The preparation for the Seminar required readings on various subjects and the elaboration of a paper. The theme I chose for this paper was Olympism and the Olympic Movement in Brazil. In the months leading up to the Seminar, I was doing a study internship at the University of Oporto, in Portugal, and as part of my preparation for the event in Olympia I was requested by Prof. DaCosta to participate in the annual meeting of the Olympic Academy of Portugal (AOP). Participation in the meeting, in addition to increasing my knowledge in the field of Olympic studies, which was scarce at the time, raised me to the status of a member of the AOP, a position that I still hold with great pride. For the journey through Olympic studies, on which I was taking my first steps at that very moment, my participation in the Postgraduate Seminar was

already having positive effects even before the event had started.

In the Postgraduate Seminar, I became acquainted with Prof. Ingomar Weiler, whose ideas strongly influenced my understanding of sport in Ancient Greece. His theoretical and methodological rigor, his critical attitude and, in particular, his commitment and engagement in classes and respect for the students, have served me ever since as a model and inspiration. Sometimes I still wonder how tiring it was for him to spend whole afternoons clarifying my doubts about sport in antiquity. At the invitation of Prof. Weiler I returned to Olympia in 1997, as his assistant in the 5th edition of the Postgraduate Seminar. This new experience in Olympia was fundamental to the deepening of my knowledge in the area of sports history and the reinforcement of my interests in teaching and scientific research.

It was also at the Postgraduate Seminar that I got to know Prof. Kostas Georgiadis who at the time was doing a PhD at the University of Mainz, in Germany, under the guidance of Prof. Norbert Müller, and who had been given the difficult task of turning into reality the Postgraduate Seminar idealised in the previous years by the IOA. My participation in the Seminar was the beginning of

a fruitful collaboration with Prof. Georgiadis that extends to today. Years later, when I was already a senior lecturer of sports policy and management at UFRGS, I was honoured with an invitation from Prof. Georgiadis to participate as a supervising professor at the 13th and 14th editions of the Postgraduate Seminar, in the years 2005 and 2006. The invitation was part of an initiative to bring a new generation of scholars to the Postgraduate Seminar, a generation who years earlier had attended the event as students, and to integrate them with the “older” and more experienced generation.

Another remarkable event related to my participation in the Postgraduate Seminar was receiving the acceptance of Prof. Jim Parry, whom I only knew from reading academic texts, to pursue a doctorate at the University of Leeds, in the United Kingdom. So, in 1993, with the support of a scholarship from the Brazilian government, I started my studies in sport philosophy under the guidance of Prof. Parry. Although my thesis was directed towards philosophical issues in physical education, in the four years under the supervision of Prof. Parry I was encouraged and supported to study and attend events on sport ethics, Olympism and Olympic education. During this period, I partici-

pated in annual meetings of the British Olympic Association, at one of which I spoke as a guest speaker about the Olympic Movement and Olympism in Latin America, an extension of the paper I prepared for the 1st Postgraduate Seminar now enriched and strengthened by the studies carried out at the International Olympic Academy.

After completing my doctorate, I returned to Brazil to continue my academic career. From the outset, I engaged in the efforts initiated years before by Prof. DaCosta to develop the area of Olympic studies in Brazil. In 2000, inspired by the example of other universities and with the support of Brazilian colleagues, I created the Center for Olympic and Paralympic Studies (CEOP) at UFRGS. Since then, the CEOP has organised local, national and international events in the field of Olympic studies. Many of these events were developed in partnership with the Brazilian Olympic Academy, the Federal Government, sports organisations and research groups from Brazilian and foreign universities, creating a network of institutions dedicated to the development of Olympic and Paralympic sport. Over the course of 20 years, the CEOP has organised more than 60 events, including courses, seminars, exhibitions and congresses, addressing Olympic and

## *Alberto Reinaldo Reppold Filho*

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Paralympic themes from a disciplinary and multidisciplinary perspective, with special attention to philosophy, history, management and sports policy. Sixteen television programmes were also produced. One of the most important projects carried out by the CEOP, at the request of the Ministry of Sports, was to produce a wide and detailed database on Brazilian sport to be used by sports managers and national sports policymakers. The project was part of the governmental actions for the Rio 2016 Olympics and included the collaboration of many former students of the IOA Postgraduate Seminar.

The return to academic activities in Brazil also allowed me to include topics on Olympism, the Olympic Movement and Olympic education in undergraduate and postgraduate courses in my faculty. These courses, developed in conjunction with other professors, created the conditions and motivated new generations of students to pursue a career in the field of Olympic studies. I am pleased to say that all CEOP students who attended IOA's Postgraduate Seminars now have permanent academic positions in universities (six

of them in Brazil and one in the United Kingdom).

Over the years, participation in the IOA events has put me in contact with a large number of scholars, some of them former Postgraduate Seminar students, from whom I learned a great deal. In this regard, the academic partnership with professors Jim Parry, Lamartine DaCosta, Kostas Georgiadis, Irena Martíková, Mike McNamee, Holger Preuss and Stephan Wassong produced so many positive results including the realisation of research projects, student exchanges, academic events, publications, and countless moments of joy and good memories.

Now, not so far from retirement, I can say that my academic and personal life would certainly have taken a different path had it not been for my participation in the First International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students. So, while I congratulate the IOA for keeping this important Seminar in operation for so many years, despite the difficulties faced along the way, I also express my sincere gratitude for the many opportunities that have been opened to me as a result of participating in this event.





Opening ceremony of the 1st Postgraduate Seminar (1993). The IOA President, Freddy Serpieris (on the right) and the IOA Dean, Kostas Georgiadis (on the left).

Prof. Norbert Müller with the students of the 1st Postgraduate Seminar (1993).





Lecture by Prof.  
N. Müller at the  
library (1993).



Olympic Day  
Run celebrated  
by the  
postgraduate  
students (1993).



Evening out for the  
students, the professors  
and the IOA President,  
Freddy Serpieri (1993).

Closing ceremony of  
the Seminar (1993).

Alberto Reppold  
with his guitar. On  
the podium (from  
left to right): Prof.  
Lamartine DaCosta,  
the IOA Dean Kostas  
Georgiadis and Prof.  
John Hargreaves.



# *Junko Tahara* PhD

*Professor, Faculty of Physical Education, Kokushikan University*



## *Memories of the first International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students*

*T*t all started when I received a letter from Professor Norbert Müller from Germany, a lecturer at the 1991 IOA Educators' Session, which I attended. He requested that I attend the first Postgraduate Seminar at the IOA. I rejoiced to receive such an invitation from a foreign instructor.

The first Postgraduate Seminar was held for a duration of six weeks, from 15 May to 01 July 1993.

There were a total of 17 participants from ten countries (UK, Australia, Canada, Greece, Czech Republic, Germany, France, Brazil, Poland and Japan), ranging in age from early twenties to mid-thirties. Among the three Japanese who participated in

this Seminar were Ms Kyoko Raita and Mr Koichi Wada, former students of Professor Shigeo Shimizu, a leading Japanese scholar of Coubertin's work. They attended the Seminar in accordance with Professor Shimizu's recommendation.

The lecturers were Professor Ingomar Weiler (Austria, Ancient Olympic History), Professor Norbert Müller (Germany, Modern and Contemporary Olympic History), Professor John Hargreaves (UK, Sociology of Sport) and Professor Lamartine DaCosta (Brazil, Philosophy), all of whom were renowned researchers in their respective fields. The lectures covered a wide range of topics reflecting the IOA's annual theme, i.e., "The Different Appli-

cations of Olympism in the Major Cultural Zones of the World": the history of the ancient Olympic Games, the life and thoughts of Coubertin, the history of the modern Olympic Games, the history and activities of the IOA, Olympic education, sport and the arts, Olympism and nationalism, cultural differences in the world and Olympism, Sport for All, and other topics.

The Seminar was started by a six-day visit to ancient archaeological sites on our way from Athens to Olympia. The visit led by Professor Weiler provided us with a very valuable and special experience. We learned about ancient Greece and the ancient Olympic Games, which served as a catalyst that spurred us to think about modern society and today's Olympic Games. The tour, therefore, led to a deeper understanding of the current situation and issues regarding the future of the Games.

Professor Müller helped us gain a deeper insight into the fundamental ideas of the Olympic Games, such as modern and contemporary Olympic history, Coubertin's ideas, Olympic education, sport and literature and art. I was particularly impressed by his lecture on the history of the creation of the IOA.

From Professor Hargreaves we learned how to analyse and understand the events of sport and

the Olympic Games from the perspectives of nationalism, globalisation and social classes in the sociology of sport.

Professor DaCosta gave lectures on cultural differences and Olympism, referring to Brazil and Japan. Until then I considered that studying Olympism was to study Europe, so it was a novel approach to study Olympism from a non-European perspective. His assertion that Olympism should be applied in relation to the times and society, based on history and philosophy, opened my eyes.

During the Seminar, all the participants gave presentations on their research, which were followed by comments from the Seminar lecturers and discussions by the participants. My times doing research work in the library, discussing with participants and deepening our thoughts during the stay at the IOA, were extremely valuable. In addition, there were opportunities for participants to make presentations of their work. During my stay, several small birthday parties were held. During Professor Weiler's session, we recorded a video in which all the participants introduced themselves and performed as ancient athletes. We were one team.

After returning to Japan, we prepared a 74-page report on the Seminar. The report, entitled "Winds

of Olympia", was a detailed diary of the day-to-day activities with summaries of the lectures, a list of resources and a glossary. We did not want to omit anything of our experiences at the IOA, so we summarised the knowledge we had gained and recorded our valuable experiences on paper.

Even after the Seminar, I had the opportunity to reunite with some of the participants at various international conferences. Some of them have advanced to doctoral programmes and are now teaching at universities or working for Olympic-related organisations. At the time of the Seminar, I was working as a research assistant at the graduate school of Chukyo University in Japan. I later obtained my doctorate degree with a dissertation entitled "A Historical Study of the Cancellation of the 12th Olympic Games in 1940" and am currently teaching at Kokushikan University. Both Kyoko Raita and Koichi Wada are university professors, and we participate in national and international Olympic Movement organisations such as the Japan Olympic Academy and the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee, and we are com-

mitted to teaching the next generation to promote the Olympic Movement. The six weeks at the IOA Postgraduate Seminar certainly guided us to be a part of the Olympic Movement and become Olympic scholars who have an understanding about the present situation with Olympism as a cornerstone.

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games were postponed for one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Times have changed, but one thing that has never changed and should not change is Olympism. Through our research and educational activities and together with our colleagues in the IOA network in Japan and abroad, we hope to promote a modern interpretation of Olympism and to explore the ways in which sport and the Olympic and Paralympic Games can better contribute to the harmonious development of humanity and promote a peaceful society.

Lastly, I would like to again thank from the bottom of my heart all the people who helped us at the Postgraduate Seminar. I hope that the IOA will continue to develop and have a positive impact on the lives of all of the participants.





The Japanese students of the 1st Seminar (1993). On the right, Junko Tahara.

Junko Tahara with friends from the Seminar (1993).



Students dancing Greek dances next to Alpheios river (1993).





**2nd Postgraduate Seminar  
1994**

# *Lamartine P. DaCosta* PhD

*Professor, Rio de Janeiro State University  
Olympic Studies Research Group*



## *Innovative developments joining scholars, students and universities worldwide: Experiences at the International Olympic Academy – Postgraduate Seminar, 1993–2020*

In 2008 an international book was published anticipating guidelines for the 2016 Olympic Games, which were designed for the city of Rio de Janeiro (1). This work included an introduction made by Lamartine DaCosta and Ana Miragaya, Brazilian scholars, in which they mapped the nine Olympic Studies Research Groups based at Brazilian universities as well as their exchange relations with universities on four continents. (Figure 1)

The continuity of the DaCosta – Miragaya Research Group's initiatives is depicted in Figure 2,

which shows the multiple forms of cooperation between scholars, students and universities from different countries in the years before and after the 2016 Olympic Games. In this other period, the emphasis was upon international publications, reaching 85 authors, a significant number, between 2015 and 2017, out of which 60% were Brazilian and 40% were international. (2)

Therefore, a Virtual Hub for the Olympic studies international relations based in Brazil was created, and it is still active today. (3) Since then,

this knowledge management tool has received favourable reviews by leaders of international Olympic bodies. (4)

However, more than good results from a Brazilian Olympic studies entity, it is important to emphasise the role of the International Olympic Academy (IOA, Olympia-Greece), which has the Postgraduate Seminar as the starting point of the outcomes highlighted over here.

### **Networking**

The Brazilian connection to the IOA-Postgraduate Seminar began in the year this course was created, in 1993, when IOA's Dean, Kostas Georgiadis, invited Lamartine DaCosta (Gama Filho University) to be one of the professors in the company of Norbert Müller (University of Mainz), Ingomar Weiler (University of Graz) and John Hargreaves (University of London). And it was up to the Brazilian scholar to address Olympic-studies-related concepts of philosophy. By the way, this last assignment was linked to the fact that DaCosta gave presentations on this subject at the 1991 and 1992 International Sessions for Young Participants.

Furthermore, it is noted that emergence of the Postgraduate Seminars did not constitute a rupture in the Young Participants' routines - which

have defined IOA traditions since 1961 - but rather these procedures have been kept. This is because the Postgraduate Seminars have innovated by bringing better-selected students from master and doctoral courses to the IOA. (5) Thus, closer relationships between the IOA and universities have been encouraged, leading to networking, i.e. better connections among students, scholars and the International Olympic Academy. Under these conditions, the following are examples of networking promoted by DaCosta between 1993 and 2020.

Significantly, choosing a Brazilian student for the innovative Seminar has already been a networking product. In fact, the selection of Alberto Reppold, a PhD student in philosophy from the University of Leeds (UK) selected for the 1993 Postgraduate Seminar, arose from the connection between DaCosta and Jim Parry, both IOA guest speakers. As a memory from those times, the first group photo below shows this Brazilian student who was included in the Postgraduate Seminar's pioneering group.

Focusing on academic production, the scholars - universities - IOA relationships in the 1990s were progressively defined. And for DaCosta, it finally achieved the mapped status in 2008, (Figure 1)

and even beyond this date. This is the case of the connection with the University of Mainz, in Germany, coordinated by DaCosta - Müller until 2015, as reported by Wacker, Wassong & Wilant (2017) writing about Norbert Müller's academic life. (6) DaCosta's relations with Mainz continued after 2015 with Holger Preuss, Müller's alumnus and former student of IOA-Postgraduate Seminar 1995. His academic commitments extended to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and, in 2017, this cooperation included an extensive international research project on Olympic values. (7)

Similar to Mainz, an exchange took place with the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Olympic Studies Centre - UAB-CEO, through the connection between DaCosta and Miquel de Moragas which was developed at the IOA in the 1990s, later including Emílio Fernandez Peña in the 2000s. Consequently, books were written, (8) Brazil-Spain seminars were held and visits were made by professors from both countries. In turn, in 2011, UAB-CEO published a book commemorating its 20th anniversary, in which DaCosta participated as an author valuing the option of networking. (9)

Comparable to Mainz and Barcelona, it is important to mention the collaborations of DaCosta - Hai Ren (Sport University of Beijing)

and DaCosta - Cesar Torres (College of Brockport, NY, USA) with roots in the 1990s at the IOA, which have continued up to recent times. Having said that, (10) lists the Beijing connection books dated 2009 and 2016 and (11) describes Brockport's connection work produced from the 1990s to 2020.

### **Knowledge production**

By summarising DaCosta's networking experiences based upon the Postgraduate Seminar, Olympic studies are confirmed as a multidisciplinary production. Nevertheless, there is specific knowledge within the variety of Olympic topics that stood out in academic production which originated from network relations.

This was the case with philosophy, the initial reason for DaCosta's engagement, which in his connection with Torres had its best and longest lasting results in association with historiographic studies. In addition to Torres, there was a connection based on interests in philosophy linking DaCosta with Angela Schneider (University of Western Ontario) as reported in (12). But the culmination of the post-1993 IOA philosophical approach was DaCosta's proposal to consider Olympism as a "Process Philosophy" according to

a text published in 1998 and later consolidated as an article in 2006. (13)

Under these circumstances, it is important to emphasise the DaCosta - Parry - Torres - Schneider relations which led the IOA to produce an institutional video in 2000 describing the philosophical foundations followed in the Postgraduate Seminars and Young Participants' Sessions. (14)

Another association that brought emphasis to various disciplines of knowledge focused on the Hai Ren connection that resulted in two collective and multidisciplinary books previously cited in (11) with DaCosta & Miragaya, focusing on multiculturalism, history, values and legacies. (15)

Finally, the tendency towards multiple or specific approaches dealing with knowledge throughout the experiences between the 1990s and 2000s culminated in the publication of the book "*Olympic Studies*" in 2002. The authors of this book were DaCosta and four Brazilian students who emerged from networking. This work reviewing DaCosta's experiences as a scholar at the IOA produced a synthesis of Olympic studies from Pierre de Coubertin's writings to today's multidisciplinarity. (16) Among the subjects considered in this work is the reproduction of DaCosta's pioneering approach to sustainability as an Olym-

pic value, published by the IOA in 1998. As such, this text is nowadays recognised as having had an innovative impact on the IOA, as shown in (17).

In 2011, DaCosta produced another unprecedented synthesis, which was included in a chapter in the book organised by the IOA as a commemoration of its 50th anniversary. In this case, the focus was upon the IOA as a privileged locus of knowledge and memory production. (18)

In conclusion, Figure 3 represents the three major innovative proposals Olympic studies originated from DaCosta and their connections, now linked to the "Place of Memory" conception of traditions, which are reinvigorated by the Postgraduate Seminars. May this meaning be finally attributed to the historical and philosophical role of the International Olympic Academy, Olympia, Greece.

### Notes

1. DaCosta, L., Miragaya, A. (2008) *Introduction - Legacies of Sports Mega-events*. Brasilia: CONFEF and Ministry of Sport, pp 33-47. Available at [http://www.esporte.gov.br/arquivos/ascom/publicacoes/Legados%20de%20Megaeventos%20Esportivos\\_Portugues\\_e\\_Ingls.pdf](http://www.esporte.gov.br/arquivos/ascom/publicacoes/Legados%20de%20Megaeventos%20Esportivos_Portugues_e_Ingls.pdf)
2. "Olympic Studies developed by means of a virtual platform are promoting connectivity between authors, universities and countries". DaCosta & Miraga-

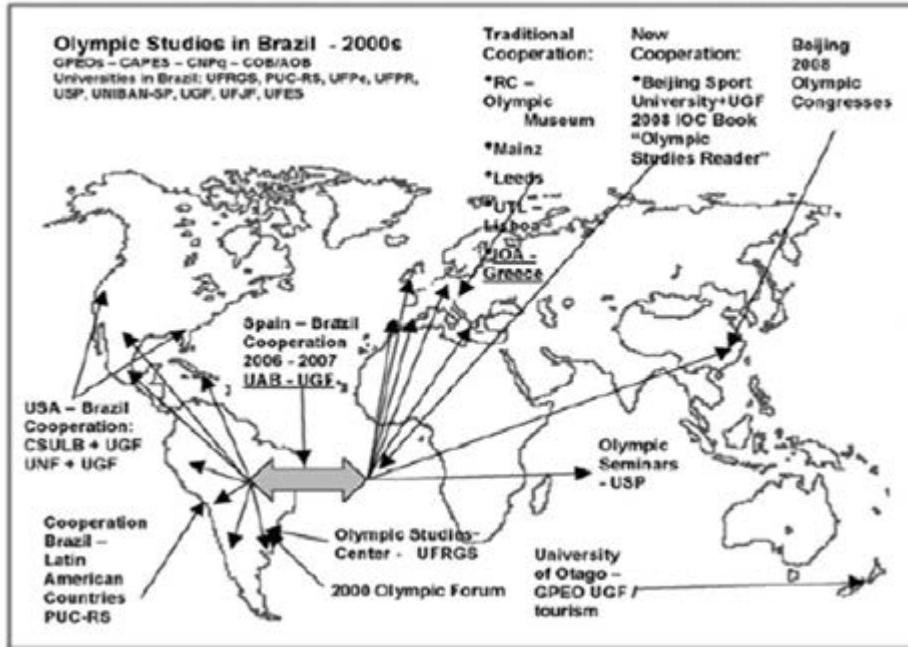
- ya's Position paper available at [http://www.sportsinbrazil.com.br/artigos/virtual\\_hub.pdf](http://www.sportsinbrazil.com.br/artigos/virtual_hub.pdf)
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  4. Message from IOC President Thomas Bach (2016): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeQ8WU\\_tHf-WM&t=44s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeQ8WU_tHf-WM&t=44s)  
Declarations from Nuria Puig and Maria Bogner / Olympic Studies Centre - IOC (2019): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vu12KjNV4EE>  
Talk by Stephan Wassong, Director of the Olympic Studies Centre / German University of Cologne (2019): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=en36h5h72HU>
  5. According to Kostas Georgiadis, the IOA Postgraduate Seminar was created in view of the fact that "The Academy's educational activities had to be adjusted... and it was decided to launch new educational programmes... to provide adequate ongoing training to their members"; source: Georgiadis, K. - Ed (2011) Introduction. 50 Years. International Olympic Academy. Inspiration & Memories. Athens: IOA, p. 2.
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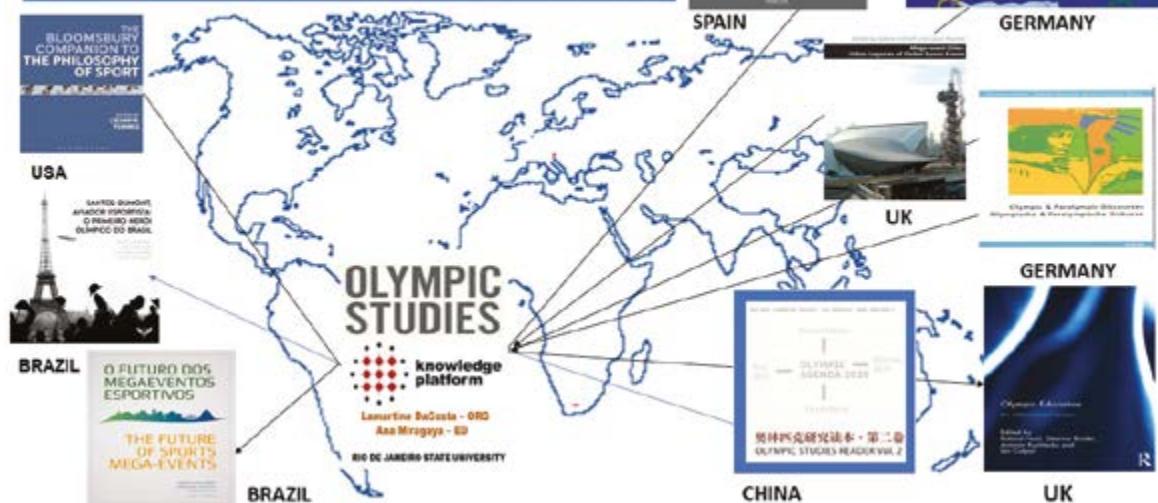


The students of the 1st Postgraduate Seminar with the IOA Dean, professors John Hargreaves and Lamartine DaCosta and the coordinator Eleni Theodoraki (1993).

International Networking of  
the Olympic Studies Research  
Group – Rio de Janeiro  
under DaCosta & Miragaya's  
coordination in 2008 (Figure 1).



Rio de Janeiro based Olympic Studies  
Olympic Agenda 2020 – Virtual Hub  
85 Collaborative Book Authors, 2015 - 2017

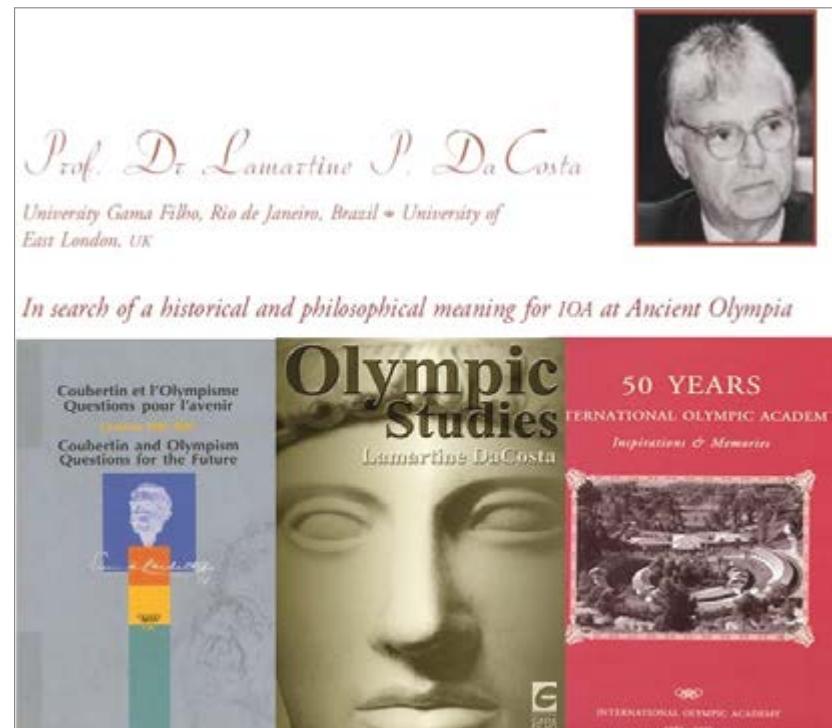


Rio de Janeiro  
based Olympic  
Studies Virtual Hub  
in 2015; DaCosta  
& Miragaya's  
coordination  
(Figure 2).



At the classroom with the postgraduate students of the 2nd Seminar (1994). Prof. Lamartine DaCosta is second on the left.

Title of Lamartine DaCosta's chapter in the IOA's 50th anniversary commemorative book published in 2011, in addition to 1997, 2002 and 2011 book covers, as highlighted innovations from the IOA networking i.e. Process Philosophy, Sustainability and Olympia as Place of Memory (Figure 3).



# *Eric Monnin* PhD

Associate Professor

Vice-President of the University of Franche-Comté

Representative for Olympism - Generation 2024

Director of the Academic Olympic Studies and Research Centre (CEROU)



## *Second International Postgraduate Seminar: A unique experience*

In 1993, Professor Otto Schantz, my professor at the University of Franche-Comté, suggested I apply to attend the first International Postgraduate Seminar at the International Olympic Academy (IOA). Unfortunately, the university timetable and competitive examinations meant that I was not able to apply. With the advice and support of Otto Schantz, I submitted my application for the second round of the Seminar, to be held from 15 May to 30 June. On 1 April 1994, President Freddy Serpieri told me by fax that I had been accepted.

As a postgraduate student and a trainee teacher of Sports and Physical Education (PE), I shared

a unique experience for six weeks, in which I was able to attend lectures by eminent international professors on subjects that included sociology, philosophy and archaeology. Visits to the various ancient sites, such as Delphi, Corinth and of course Olympia, were an opportunity to share emotions and exchange ideas. The interesting cultural environment also enabled me to change my perspective on ancient and modern Olympism. The notion of Olympism seems like a cross-cutting concept to me; it could be described as a "frontier field" as it borders so many areas such as philosophy, economics, politics and sociology. Modern

Olympism has become an integral aspect of contemporary culture. In this sense, it appears to be what is known as a "total social fact". It draws on so many aspects, including political, economic, cultural, social and technological aspects, and at the same time it is entwined with the varied daily lives of those who embody it through their practice, representation, ethics or lifestyles. Any individual can thus find a personal interest in Olympism that may be totally different from the others taking part in this Olympic Movement.

This unique experience at the IOA developed in me an insatiable curiosity about the world around me, and especially the human approach in different cultures.

This foray into the world of Olympism has been consolidated by my wish to take part in and organise events directly related to Olympism.

A few months after my return from the IOA, I took part as an observer in the XII Centennial Olympic Congress of the IOC, held from 29 August to 3 September 1994 at the Centre of New Industries and Technologies (CNIT) in La Défense, Paris. With the ongoing support of the IOC, I organised "Olympic Weeks" in the schools where I was employed as a PE teacher. Using travelling IOC exhibitions and testimonies from athletes,

doctors and teachers, I provoked active reflection among students and adults on the principles of the Olympic Movement and the concept of Olympism.

Two key events were to influence my future research. In 1997, I took part in the centenary event for the Le Havre Congress of 1897, entitled "Coubertin and Olympism: Questions for the Future - Le Havre 1897-1997". This event was held from 17 to 20 September and included an unforgettable evening at the Château de Mirville, birthplace of the de Coubertin family. In 2000, during the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, I took an active part in organising the youth camp, which provided me with a unique social, cultural and sporting experience.

This personal path thus quite naturally led me to ask myself questions about the nature of perceptions and practices that were developing in the education system around the idea of Olympism. My research is the subject of my doctorate (PhD) in sociology entitled "Olympism: practices and perceptions in the educational milieu" and my *Habilitation à diriger des recherches* (HDR) entitled "Olympism and universities. Generation 2024 Olympic Label: an example within the University of Franche-Comté", both undertaken at the University of Franche-Comté. Through my cho-

sen area of study, Olympism in the school environment, I am trying to understand what beliefs students and teachers may hold about Olympism, and how the concept could be effectively put into practice in daily life. My research has enabled me to work in many countries, including Greece, South Korea, Colombia, Japan, Australia and China. In 2019, it enabled me to join the scientific committee to have the Olympic spirit included in the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Currently, I am HDR Associate Professor in the Culture, Sport, Health and Society Laboratory (C3S, EA 4660) at the University of Franche-Comté (UFC), and also Vice-President of the University of Franche-Comté Representative for Olympism - Generation 2024. During the London 2012 Olympic Games, at the suggestion of IOC President Jacques Rogge, I received the Pierre de Coubertin medal (the only Frenchman to hold this prestigious international award) for service to the IOC and to the Olympic cause.

My role as Vice-President of the University of Franche-Comté Representative for Olympism - Generation 2024 has given me the opportunity to work on several projects for my university (Olympic and Paralympic Week, exhibitions, conferences

etc.). The following have been two key projects.

- My university was one of the first 24 universities to receive "Generation 2024" accreditation. This shows recognition of the Olympic activities carried out by the university for more than ten years, demonstrating a commitment to research and to promoting sport and Olympic values.
- I oversaw the establishment of the first French Academic Olympic Studies and Research Centre (CEROU), which was founded on 10 December 2019, and I have been the Director since 12 March 2020.

Thanks to the IOA, I have been able to perform and lead on Olympic actions at a national and international level. Since 1994, I have returned several times to Olympia, either as a coordinator or as a speaker. I always feel great pride and honour in being regularly involved in the work of the IOA. Below is a summary of my contributions.

- 2018: Lecturer at the 14th International Session for Presidents or Directors of National Olympic Academies (NOAs) and Officials of National Olympic Committees (NOCs)
- 2014: Lecturer at the 54th International Session for Young Participants
- 2013: Lecturer at the 10th International Ses-

sion for Educators and Officials of Higher Institutes of Physical Education (my appearance was cancelled for scheduling reasons)

- 2011: Lecturer at the 51st International Session for Young Participants (my appearance was cancelled for scheduling reasons)
- 2008: Lecturer at the 48th International Session for Young Participants
- 2003: Coordinator at the 43rd International Session for Young Participants
- 1997: Coordinator at the 37th International Session for Young Participants
- 1994: Participant in the 2nd International Session for Directors of NOAs, Members and Staff of NOCs and International Federations
- 1994: Participant in the 2nd International Seminar for Selected Graduate Students of Physical Education and History.

Like Professor Otto Schantz, for several years now I have had the privilege of recommending and

sending my students to the International Postgraduate Seminar:

- 17th International Postgraduate Seminar (2009): Raphaëlle Peltier
- 19th International Postgraduate Seminar (2012): Alexis Maurivard
- 21st International Postgraduate Seminar (2014): Lydie Emeraud
- 22nd International Postgraduate Seminar (2015): Orlane Messey
- 24th International Postgraduate Seminar (2017): Martin Lanoux

I would like to conclude by expressing my warm thanks to the IOA for providing me with this unique experience in 1994, which I shared with my sister Catherine Monnin on my return. On my recommendation, she took part in the 7th International Postgraduate Seminar in 2000, before serving as Coordinator of the International Session for Young Participants from 2001 to 2006.





Opening ceremony of the 2nd Postgraduate Seminar (1994).  
Éric Monnin in the centre.



Participation diploma from the 2nd Postgraduate Seminar (1994).



Olympic Day  
Run celebration  
(1994).



Commemorative photo  
of the 2nd Postgraduate  
Seminar students (1994).

Diploma awarding  
by the IOA  
President, Freddy  
Serpieris (1994).





**3rd Postgraduate Seminar  
1995**

# *Cesar R. Torres* PhD

*Professor in the Department of Kinesiology, Sport Studies, and Physical Education at The College at Brockport, State University of New York*



## *Participating in the Seminar: A Fateful Moment of Moments*

In their invitation to contribute to this volume, Mr Isidoros Kouvelos and Prof. Konstantinos Georgiadis, President and Honorary Dean, respectively, of the International Olympic Academy (IOA), requested that contributors reflect on “your experience and memories from your participation in the [International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students]” and suggested that contributions could reflect on “how your participation in the Seminar affected your choices, defined your studies [,] your career orientation and/

or influenced in general your life.” Their invitation reminded me of a short story in which the writer Jorge Luis Borges avows that any human life, “however long and complicated it may be, actually consists of a *single moment* – the moment when a man [or a woman] knows forever more who he [or she] is.<sup>1</sup> For many, it is not just a single moment, but a series of moments, a process, that defines who they are or aspire to become. For me, participating in the 1995 edition of the Seminar was one of those transformative moments. To ex-

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1. Jorge Luis Borges, “A Biography of Tadeo Isidoro Cruz (1829-1874),” in *Collected Fictions*, trans. Andrew Hurley (New York: Viking, 1998), 213.

plain how it came about, and the impact it had on me, I first have to refer to a few other moments, also related to the Olympic Movement.

In 1990, I was a young physical education teacher practicing in the Argentine school system and working for the Argentine Baseball Federation (ABF). That year, the ABF asked me if I would be interested in participating on its behalf at the annual session of the Argentine Olympic Academy (AOA). I jumped at the opportunity. As luck would have it, I was chosen by the AOA to be one of its two representatives at the 1991 IOA Session for Young Participants. Referring to her experience as a lecturer at the 1964 edition of this event, philosopher Eleanor Metheny noted that participants "asked hard questions, and they did not delude themselves with easy answers."<sup>2</sup> I recall a similar inquisitive mood in 1991. After the "rich and rewarding experience [at the Session],"<sup>3</sup> as Metheny put it, I left for home forcefully pondering many professional and personal ques-

tions, old and new. Those questions, in large measure, motivated me to continue my studies. Due to the lack of graduate programmes in physical education and related disciplines at that time in Argentina, the following year I enrolled in a senior diploma in social sciences.

Not long afterward, I received a fax from Prof. Lamartine Pereira DaCosta, one of the lecturers at the 1991 Session, describing the Seminar and letting me know that if I were willing, he would nominate me for the 1995 edition. After briefly discussing it with my wife, whom I had married in 1992, I jumped, once again, at the opportunity. The prospect of going back to Olympia for six weeks in order to delve more deeply into lingering questions related to sport and the Olympic Movement was enticing. I once wrote that in the educational model implemented at the IOA, "everything [...] seems to be designed to encourage reflection about who we are, what we can become and how we can achieve it."<sup>4</sup> This is embedded in lectures,

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2. Eleanor Metheny, "Olympia Revisited. Summer Session of the International Olympic Academy", *Journal of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation* 36, no. 2 (1965): 71.
  3. Idem., 72.
  4. Cesar R. Torres, "Address on behalf of the Lecturers," in International Olympic Academy and International Olympic Committee, *Report on the Forty-Fourth International Session for Young Participants. 23 May-6 June 2004 (Athens: International Olympic Academy and International Olympic Committee, 2005)*, 230.

group discussions, presentations, excursions, and different kinds of physical exercises, among other activities, “all of which have the potential to amaze us. [For the IOA,] education is a starting point, never a point of closure.”<sup>5</sup> That is how I felt and experienced the Seminar, which I shared with a group of talented, curious, and friendly students from all over the world. I was amazed with the programme and, particularly, the instructors in charge of the different courses. Three of them stood out for me: Profs. Bob Barney, John J. MacAloon, and Jim Parry. This was so because their expertise directly addressed the questions I was, and still am, most concerned with, which relate to the history as well as the meaning and value of sport and the Olympic Movement. Additionally, they stood out because of their teaching methods and passion for their craft and disciplines.

Inspired by the experience at the Seminar and, in particular by these three instructors, I started to seriously imagine myself pursuing a doctorate and embarking on an academic career. Indeed, not knowing where to start or how to proceed, some of them advised me on how to apply to graduate school and what schools could be a

good fit for me. Energised and emboldened upon returning home, my wife (a political scientist) and I decided to leave everything behind to pursue our dreams. In August of 1996, I joined the doctoral programme in the history and philosophy of sport at The Pennsylvania State University, under the supervision of Prof. Scott Kretchmar, to whom I was kindly introduced by Ms Luanne Fox, a fellow participant in the Seminar. I graduated a few years later and was hired by The College at Brockport, State University of New York in 2001 where I have been teaching and researching in my areas of interest and expertise ever since. In turn, my professional commitment has led me to serve several professional organisations. My connection to the IOA has also proved to be long-lasting; in addition to assisting the Session in different roles since participating in the Seminar, I have also been teaching a course within the Master’s degree that it offers in concert with the University of Peloponnese. In a nutshell, participating in the Seminar was a momentous episode in my life, one that had a profound impact on both my professional and personal choices, outlooks, horizons, and trajectories. I owe a debt of gratitude to those

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5 Idem.

who gave me, in different ways, the opportunity to take part in the Seminar, three of whom I would like to mention: my wife and Profs. DaCosta and Georgiadis. It does not surprise me, as I read the report of the 1995 edition of the Seminar, that even back then the participants expressed that

"they were completely satisfied with the academic level and the whole atmosphere of the seminar which they saw as a significant moment in their academic careers."<sup>6</sup> Often, a fateful moment can be recognised as it happens, even though its full bearing is yet to be known.



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<sup>6</sup> Konstantinos Georgiadis, "Foreword," in International Olympic Academy and International Olympic Committee, Report of the Thirty-Fifth Session. 5-18 July 1995 (Athens: International Olympic Academy and International Olympic Committee, 1997), 10.



Opening ceremony  
- 3rd Postgraduate  
Seminar (1995).

Sports activities - 3rd  
Postgraduate Seminar.  
Prof. John Mouratidis as a  
judge (1995).



# *Michał Bronikowski* PhD

*Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Didactics of Physical Activity  
Poznań University of Physical Education*



## *How the “Olympic spirit” has changed my life*

*Y*ears ago, when I first got this white paper with emblem of the International Olympic Academy and Olympic rings on it, an invitation letter to my first session – the 3rd Postgraduate Seminar (1995), I was over the moon. I had just graduated from University in Physical Education major, and after some years as a PE teacher, I started my career in academia as an assistant, a PhD candidate.

This invitation to Olympia, the sacred place and cradle of ancient Olympic history, came at the best possible moment in my life. I was young and still believed that ideals and universal values rule the world. Even my first presentation at the IOA Seminar concerned fair play and moral standards. All these discussions with young people from all

over the world, thinking critically and acting just like me, but still being fair, inspired my thoughts. The teachers that we met, renowned professors from various fields and cultural backgrounds, added an extra flavour to this with the quality of the arguments they brought to the academic dispute, not just during the lectures but also on other occasions – and believe me, there were many such occasions. A female colleague from Australia singing in the amphitheatre of Epidaurus for hundreds of air force soldiers who happened to visit this historical site just that day, or rowing in boats in a lake-cave somewhere in Greece. Evening supper with all the group and professors in a beautiful place by the sea side and these dis-

cussions enhanced with wine and Greek music. I remember thinking to myself, "Perhaps I will not become an Olympic athlete", I was a football player back then and my chances were decreasing with every year, "But becoming a Professor of the Academy - that could be my Olympic Parnassus." When I was 17, on vacation in Greece with my parents, we climbed the famous Mount Olympus, my Parnassus (near the village of Litochoro). It was tough, but worth it. However, I knew that academic Parnassus would call for more work and sacrifice than that or than winning my first Ancient Pentathlon in the Seminar (I won three out of five competitions – 200m run, pankration and javelin) in that magic summer of '95. Unforgettable!

I returned to Olympia a few years later as a group co-ordinator for the Session for Young Participants. And again, you could feel the same vibe right from the beginning - hundreds of young people from all over the world with their fresh look at global ideas. That was something that I appreciated greatly. And leading discussion groups with such bright minds, yet willing to learn from each other, was an honour for me and a valuable lesson. I also had a chance to get closer to the teaching group – most of the lecturers made an impression on me. I had that kind of open-minded

relationship that I was missing sometimes at my home university. There were very few academics (i.e. Wojciech Liponski) with that kind of attitude and academic openness. As the years passed I realised that positive atmosphere was something that I was longing for as a "gulp of fresh air" in the intervals between my visits to IOA. The simplicity of the place - some call it Spartan conditions - was quite all right as all I really needed were young, critical minds, sporting facilities and good company.

I well remember my first Session on the other side of the teaching table - I was invited as a Lecturer in 2007 to the Session for Educators. My lecture went well, but then I realised that the real challenge is going to be the debate - questions and answers. On the one hand, I was curious with each red light that flashed (indicating the next person with a question), but at the same time I wondered whether I would understand the question and be able to find the appropriate answer or comment. But once I passed this Session, I never again felt afraid in any conferences, congresses or public debates.

I have been coming back to IOA for different Sessions and occasions and I always enjoy that pleasant feeling of being united with all those before me and those to come after me

to this fountain of international peace and intellectual friendships. I still meet with many of my colleagues from my first session on various occasions - the vast majority became academic professors and IOA lecturers over time. I have kept in touch over the years with some of the professors (like Jim Parry - scholarship at Leeds University some years ago), and with others I co-operate from time to time (the whole list of the academic colleagues from over the world), but there is one person that links all the strings - Kostas. He is the real example of truly "Olympic Spirit", someone that has managed to keep this place (IOA) free from all these negative influences of the outside world. I hope my Olym-

pic dream will go on (now together with my wife Małgorzata, who, inspired by the spirit of Ancient Olympia, also became an academic professor and an IOA lecturer), but nevertheless, I will always be thankful to all the people (students, professors, staff and administration) that I met on my IOA pathway for influencing me to become a better person. I will always be thankful to Kostas Georgiadis, the Dean of the Academy, for showing me that I can be a better version of myself, if only I try hard to respect the Olympic values. I have been trying to do so for years and am still struggling, but I will never give up. This is the lesson that I have learned, and I am trying to pass on to the next generations.





Sports activities - 3rd Postgraduate Seminar (1995).

Closing address on behalf of the students by Michal Bronikowski - 3rd Postgraduate Seminar (1995).



In the classroom (1995).



# *Holger Preuss* PhD

*Professor of Sport Economics and Sport Sociology,  
Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz*



## *The IOA as inspirer of Olympic Research*

Berlin lost its Olympic bid against Sydney in 1993 and this caused me to research the economic impact of the Olympic Games in my master's thesis. I then answered a call from the German NOC for participants at the International Olympic Academy (IOA) and was selected for the 34th IOA Session in 1994. This trip opened my eyes, heart and mind towards internationalism, intercultural understanding and the unity in diversity that we have in our world. The two weeks that I spent with 85 nationalities from around the globe changed my perspective of the world. Then, in 1995, I attended the 3rd Postgraduate Seminar at the start of my PhD in Göttingen with a thesis en-

titled "Economic implications of Olympic Games from 1972 to 1996" and met Prof. Müller and Prof. Messing (Johannes Gutenberg University) who offered me a scientific assistant position in Mainz. There, my deeper Olympic research began.

In 1996 and 1997, I was invited as coordinator at the 36th and 37th Sessions for Young Participants. I became acquainted with many lecturers, scholars and former participants during that period. Many of them, such as Benoit Séguin, Cesar Torres, Martyn Scott, are currently researching the Olympic Games. In 1998 I successfully completed my PhD.

In 1999 I had the honour of presenting my first lecture at the 39th Session for Young Participants

on "Globalisation and its economic impact on the Olympic Games", which helped me to create a valuable network of lecturers and to learn a great deal during long talks at the Academy. It is noteworthy that I was connected to Bob Elphinston (former General Manager of Sport SOCOG 2000 and President of FIBA during the period of 2006-2010), who supported my research and opened doors for me in Australia. Another "evergreen" in Olympia was Prof. Parry, a dear colleague with whom I have close contacts until today - we are partners in running an Erasmus Mundus Master in "Sport Ethics and Integrity". Further, Prof. Kang (South Korea) is a special person who gave me a deep understanding of intercultural and anthropological perspectives in research. Later, I visited Prof. Kang in Busan and he attended several conferences with me in Germany and around the world. Prof. Masumoto at Tokyo Metropolitan University became a special friend with whom I have kept in close contact. We met at the Olympic Games and planned several lectures together for the upcoming Games in Tokyo. In brief, I made many new contacts within the last 25 years and I endeavour to pursue new contacts on an ongoing basis.

Only two years later, I was again at the IOA as lecturer at the 41st Session with "The economic

and social impact of the Sydney Olympic Games". I had a full research agenda on Olympic research at that time while preparing my way to becoming a professor in Sport Economics. In 2001 I wrote to the President of the IOA, Nikos Filaretos, saying, "Personally, this session was important for me and gave me a better understanding of cultural differences. I would like to thank you for allowing me to run a questionnaire which supports my next research project." Together with the questionnaire, I undertook recorded interviews with R. Steadward (IPC President) entitled "About the Paralympics and their integration into the Olympic system" (approx. 20 min.); S. Hollway (SOCOG-Chief Executive Director) entitled "About the management of the Olympic Games in Sydney " (approx. 70 min.); and L. Silance (IOC lawyer) entitled "Television Contracts 1976 and 1980" (approx. 45 min.).

During that time, I also ran some group discussions to learn about different cultural perspectives. For example, I asked five athletes (from Uruguay, Peru, Hong Kong, Hong Kong, USA, respectively) about their experiences in Olympic villages (approx. 35 min.) and I ran five discussion groups of 45-60 min. (four - eight people each) about the Olympic rings, Olympic ideals, and personal memories of the Olympic Games. A group

from Europe, South America, Africa (not Islamic countries), Greece/Cyprus and Islamic countries was selected. The questionnaire (n=138) was distributed to all participants at the beginning of the Session, with the aim of highlighting the cultural differences in perspectives regarding the Olympic Games, their importance, and their ideals.

Teaching at the International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students became a reality for me in 2011, 2012 and 2014. It was the most challenging IOA experience as the students were highly motivated and the discussions were conducted at a high level. The cooperative teaching with colleagues such as Vassil Girginov was enriching and initiated valuable future research.

All of these contacts and ideas that came to my mind in Olympia gave me strength, confidence and inspiration for my many publications. In the meantime, I published around 100 papers related to the Olympic Games. On that path with my Olympic visibility and network, I became an International Visiting Scholar at the State University of New York College at Cortland, a visiting Professor in Beijing Sport University and University East London, and Adjunct Professor in Molde

and Ottawa. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that I became influential in several organisations of the Olympic Movement. I am a Board Member of our German Olympic Academy, a Commission Member of the World Flying Disc Federation and UIPM World Pentathlon. The most influential position is certainly that as IOC Commission Member for Legacy and Sustainability where I can help to develop a better world through sport by contributing more than ten years of research experience on the Legacy of Olympic Games.

The future of Olympic studies looks bright. No other event attracts so much attention as the Olympic Games and this fact can be used for education purposes. An indication of this can be seen in the ever-growing interest in attending the academic symposiums I organise at each Olympic Games to bring scholars together and help to exchange their ideas. In Tokyo we will have the 10th symposium. Since 2000, I have also undertaken an International Case Study Competition for students in relation to the Olympic Games with the 20th edition being this year. The Olympic Studies Centres and the National Olympic Academies are cornerstones of support, but we need to make them cooperate more.



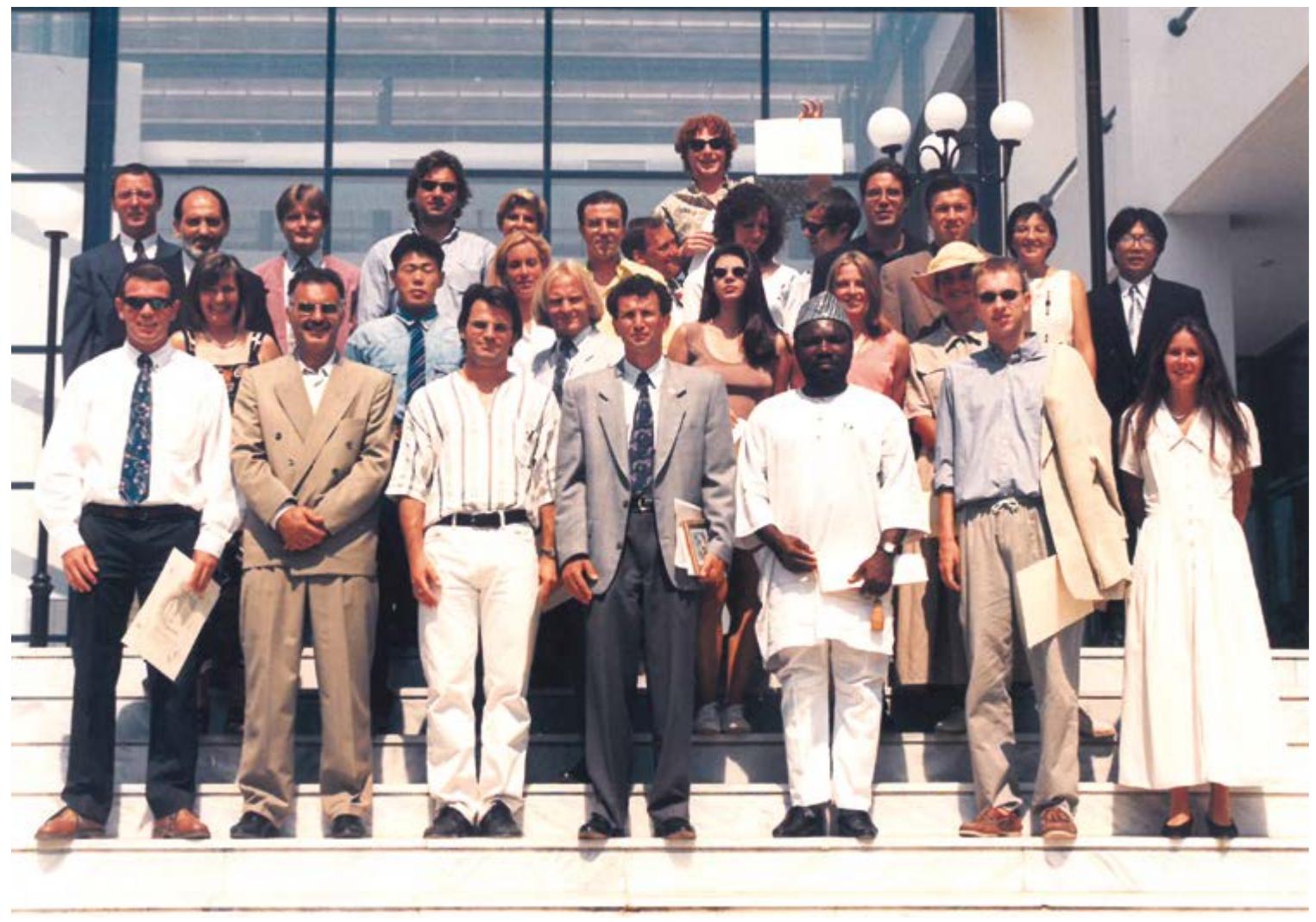


Holger Preuss receiving his participation diploma from the IOA Dean, Kostas Georgiadis (1995).

Walking down to the Coubertin stele after the Opening ceremony - 3rd Postgraduate Seminar (1995).

In 2014, Holger Preuss was invited as one of the supervising professors of the 21st Postgraduate Seminar. Together with two of the postgraduate students.





**4th Postgraduate Seminar  
1996**

# *Ingomar Weiler* PhD

*Professor of Ancient History and Sports History,  
University of Graz*



## *My Experience and Memories as a Supervising Professor during the years 1993 and 2017*

I had the opportunity and the privilege of working as a supervising professor at the Postgraduate Seminars of the IOA from the very beginning, i.e. since the first session in the early 1990s, usually together with internationally renowned colleagues. Until 2017, the year of the 24th International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students, I was almost continuously active in this function. During my last stay at Olympia in 2018, I was a lecturer at the 58th International Session for Young Participants.

During more than 30 stays in ancient (and modern) Olympia I gained some experiences,

and one aspect seems to me to remain particularly memorable: the fact that the ambience of the location plays a decisive role for the Seminar participants: Olympia, located at the foot of Kronos hill, with its excavations, with the sacred district of the *Altis* and the buildings surrounding it, as well as *stádion*, *gymnásion* and *palaístra*, with Olympia's three museums – for most of the participants, this will remain a permanent impression, as an immovable *lieu de mémoire*. This new term, coined by Pierre Nora, describes "any significant entity, whether material or non-material in nature, which by dint of human will or the work

of time has become a symbolic element of the memorial heritage of any community". In other words: for the group participating in the Seminar, something like a collective memory develops over the course of the weeks, Olympia as a geographical place becomes part of a common culture of remembrance. In its symbolic meaning, it has an identity-forming function for the participants.

The young Nikos Kazantzakis (born in Iraklion, 1883-1957), who was not allowed to be buried in the consecrated ground in the cemetery of his home town because of his church-critical remarks - his grave is therefore on the Martinengo Bastion of the city wall of the Cretan capital - visited and captured the valley at Alpheios and the "holy landscape of Olympia" on one of his hikes "with a stick of olive wood and with a rucksack", saying that there was "no landscape in Greece so sweet and constant as to exhort peace and reconciliation". For the hiker there is an emotional impression that many students from almost all countries of the Olympic community will have felt - or a similar one. The poet of the famous Zorbas - *Βίος καὶ πολιτεία του Αλέξη Ζορμπά*, the original title - stresses also that athletes and pilgrims found the Panhellenic cradle of the games together

and they felt the harmony of the spirit and the body as their ideal.

You can organise conferences and seminars about Olympia and the Olympic Games anywhere in the world, in North Korea as well as in South Africa or Argentina. This is what happens again and again. Almost every postgraduate in Olympia gets to know the so-called "ancient immortal spirit", as Kostas Palamas (1859-1943) described it somewhat pathetically in *Ολυμπιακός Ύμνος* (Olympic Anthem) and how it was first sung about at the Games of 1896. The *autopsía* (αυτοψία), seeing with one's own eyes, i.e. being at the place where the Olympic Games began, and the weeks of the postgraduates living together in the IOA, have all contributed to internalising or at least understanding the main Olympic ideas.

It is certainly instructive for postgraduates to gain knowledge of the history of the Olympic Games from the beginnings to modern times, and also of the other Panhellenic *agónes* (contests) as well as of Olympia as a religious centre with its numerous temples and more than 50 altars. Since we also visited the Isthmian Games at the Gulf of Corinth, the Nemean Games at Nemea, about which Stephen G. Miller offered

such excellent introductions, and the Pythian Games in Delphi, the conditions were created for getting to know the so-called *períodos* of the Panhellenic Games in their entirety. The educational programme for the participants at the Postgraduate Seminar usually began in Athens with a visit to the classicist building complex which recalls the first local Olympic Games, the *Zappas Olympics* of 1859 and 1870, and the *Panathenaikón Stádion*, where the 1896 Games were celebrated. That these magnificent buildings were largely financed by wealthy merchants, so-called *euergetai* (benefactors), is only briefly mentioned here. These are primarily gifts from George Averoff and Evangelis and Konstantinos Zappas. If you would like to know more about these sponsors, please turn to the publication by Konstantinos Georgiadis: *Olympic Revival. The Revival of the Olympic Games in Modern Times* (Athens 2003). In earlier years Elis, about 60 km north of Olympia, was also visited by the students several times. For a long time, the *pólis* of Elis was responsible for the organisation and performance of the Olympic Games.

The Seminars provide important impulses for all these historical centres of ancient agonistics and gymnastics. In addition, the visits to

the excavations, the ancient sport-facilities and the entire archaeological area, the museums in Olympia and the independent research-work in the library of the IOA should extend and supplement the perfection of the knowledge acquired during the Postgraduate Seminar. As a historian I can only speak here for those participants who have dealt with questions of ancient sport. Some precise and concise presentations were given during the Seminars. Topics on mythology and various historical events were dealt with. Questions about the profane and religious origin of the ancient *Olympiakoí agónes*, the fairness in competition, the role of athletic women in antiquity, the geographical origin of the athletes and their social background as well as the influence of the politics of kings, tyrants and Greek city-states (*póleis*) were discussed remarkably frequently.

Some of the participants have also published their work in scientific journals, for example in the reports of the IOA Sessions, where both lecturers and postgraduates have commented on a wide variety of topics. These include contributions about central problems in the movement of Olympism, the economic and educational impacts of the Olympic Games, sponsorship, sport

for all, historical essays concerning the Olympic Games in antiquity and in modern times and, of course, the much-used term Olympic spirit. Some participants in the Postgraduate Seminars also have published in the periodical *Nikephoros. Zeitschrift für Sport und Kultur im Altertum*. The fact that a fair number of successful participants have returned to Olympia as lecturers and Seminar leaders and that some of them have become professors at universities shows the outcome and resonance associated with the Post-graduate Seminars.

### **Epilogue**

In the course of my life I have met former post-graduates again and again or have exchanged letters, today these are mostly emails, with some of them. In this way a worldwide communication network was created as a consequence of these events of the IOA. It is always a highlight when some former students come to Austria to visit me. I am extremely grateful for the privilege of being able to teach in Olympia – it has been a great enrichment and a very valuable addition to my life.





Prof. Ingomar Weiler with the students of the 11th Postgraduate Seminar (2003) at the Couvertin stele.



Prof. Weiler guides the students of the 1st Postgraduate Seminar around Isthmia (1993).



Prof. Ingomar Weiler  
received the IOA prize  
"Olympia" in 2018  
from the IOA President,  
Isidoros Kouvelos.



Prof. Weiler with the students of the  
23rd Postgraduate Seminar (2016).



The 1st Postgraduate Seminar at the ancient  
theatre of Megalopolis (1993).



Prof. Ingomar Weiler as *hellanodikis*  
with Kostas Georgiadis.

# *Gino Schiavone*

*Quality Assurance Consultant and National ECVET expert*



## *Olympia – the Heart of Olympism and Olympic Education*

I landed in Athens both in 1996 and 1997 as a student and a co-ordinator respectively. From touchdown, all the way to Olympia and during my stay, the hospitality was always an excellent five-star service. Reaching the Olympic Academy, I already felt a sense of its aura - the spirit of Olympism itself through the beautiful surroundings and unity through sports-loving human beings.

### **The sessions**

All the teaching and learning that took place at the Olympic Academy was full of valuable knowledge and skills which gave me better competencies, not just for Olympism as a subject matter, but also for life. The sessions were not just lectures, rather stu-

dents were involved in creating discussions and analysing Olympism. All students had to prepare a research paper before arriving at the Olympic Academy and during one of the sessions we all had to defend it viva voce in front of the lecturer and other students. All the sessions were a source of inspiration for me both when I became a lecturer and also when I occupied the position of a Chief Executive Officer of the Malta Sports Council. As a lecturer I actually included Olympism as a module in the programme I designed and developed for Sports Tourism. I transferred all the knowledge and skills I learnt at the Olympic Academy to the lecturing of this module, including all the research presented, so my students could benefit from it all.

On the other hand, when I was Chief Executive Officer of the Malta Sport Council I upheld the values of Olympism, and often in my speeches to national clubs I passed on the same messages of these Olympic values. The learning from these sessions in the Postgraduate Seminar made me richer in my approach to society in general. Nowadays, I pass on these values of Olympism to my son who plays water polo with a club and also at a national level. In fact, on one of my family holidays I revisited Olympia to show them the greatness of this place and the sense of feeling that comes with being there.

### **Pierre de Coubertin**

The activity of paying tribute to the Pierre de Coubertin Monument at the Olympic Academy is worth mentioning on its own. This is an organised activity which all students and several distinguished guests are invited to attend. It is so inspiring and so wonderful to participate in this that all those who hold Olympism to their hearts must definitely visit at least once in a lifetime.

### **The Cultural Tours**

The cultural tours complimented the sessions, especially for the ancient history of Greece – they were absolutely fantastic and gave me an ever-

lasting interest in visiting Greece - I will never get tired of visiting Greece. Needless to say, the first impressive tour was that of the stadium in Olympia but other visits like the Corinth Canal, Nemea, Delphi and so on were equally interesting. It was also very impressive to see the sound and light show on the Acropolis.

### **The Games**

There was never a dull moment at the Olympic Academy. Organisation was at its best - and this was also a learning process for me in organising such activities. I remember very clearly the Greek theme where we were all robed in whites by the pool, the football matches, the volleyball games and I still recall the shouting, the laughing and, again, those beautiful surroundings we were in.

### **The Friendship**

All those who find themselves at the Olympic Academy will make friends for a lifetime. After the sessions, the evenings were the perfect time to mingle together and get to know each other, and other Greeks from the area, better. I also remember the whole group walking from the Academy to the village centre. It was here that one night I was so amazed at what I saw - I had never seen

fire flies glowing with light – and it was so impressive that it is imprinted on my mind. Whether the evenings were spent on campus or in the village centre, it was always fun to be with so many different nationalities and sharing the same passions. Sometimes we just stayed at the campus singing songs from different nationalities. This also helps in understanding different cultures.

### **The Food**

One of the good ingredients of the Academy is that, at the time, the canteen was excellent at preparing Greek food. This is where I first tasted moussaka, tzatziki, taramosalata, souvlaki and many other Greek foods – not to mention the wine. We also ate in other Greek restaurants which were always very good, and this is how I fell in love with Greek food. I still go to Greek restaurants in Malta at least once a month. I also remember one particular tour to a winery where we tasted wine and cheese. I bought a few bottles to take to Malta with me and I only have one left as a souvenir.

### **The Souvenirs**

There is no doubt that everyone buys souvenirs to take home with them. I brought bronze figures of Olympic sport and Greek mythology and the Phaistos disc which are now in my living room and remind me every day of my experience in Olympia. In my kitchen I have the ceramic containers and the remaining Greek wine. And of course, I hold several photos taken there close to my heart, especially the one of myself and Lisa O'Connell just before we went up on stage as representatives of the students to read the farewell message as all good things must come to an end. The message was heart-breaking but, in reality, also inspiring for our lives and our friendships and also praised all the Olympic Academy itself and its staff.

Practically, I am reminded every day of Olympia, the Academy and Greece itself.

For all this, I want to thank the Olympic Academy and I wish it a good future as it is a necessity for the spirit of Olympism.





In the classroom - 4th Postgraduate Seminar (1996).

Group walking towards the Coubertin monument (1996).



A collection of bronze statuettes reminding Gino Sciavone of his experience in Olympia.





## 5th Postgraduate Seminar 1997

# *Robert K. "Bob" Barney* PhD

*Professor Emeritus, Western University, London, Ontario*



## *Remembering Olympia: Teaching Future Olympic Scholars*

The summer of 1978 marked my first visit to Olympia and the International Olympic Academy (IOA). The occasion was a university student trip to Greece, one of many that I conducted in years following. My last visit occurred in 2004 at the "Lighting of the Torch Relay Flame" ceremony for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. In between those "bookend experiences" were four IOA student/young people-related visits: (1) presenting a 1993 keynote address at the IOA's so-called "Young Participants' Session", where I met and became the friend of Irena Szewińska, former IOC member, and the most successful lady Olympian in Polish athletics history; (2) as a visiting professor in the 3rd Postgraduate Student Seminar

(1995); (3) as a visiting professor in the 5th Post-graduate Student Seminar (1997); and (4) as one of the founding visiting professors (2004) in the Master's Degree Programme in Olympic Studies jointly administered by the University of the Peloponnese and the IOA.

*The International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students* has proven to be a noble dimension when measured against the entire menu of various endeavours carried out by the Academy. There is no doubt in my mind that the interface between the world's most noted "senior" Olympic scholars and their "next generation" successors has produced across the globe a cadre of young professors whose "scholarly work

## *Robert K. "Bob" Barney*

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and teachings" have led the way in helping to produce the knowledge and insight necessary in this age of exploding interest in the modern Olympic Movement. To document my point here is the fact that two of my own doctorate students, Douglas Brown and Gordon MacDonald, were members of the IOA's first Postgraduate Seminar in 1993. Dr Brown is currently Dean of the School of Kinesiology at the University of Manitoba in Canada. Dr MacDonald is Senior Research Officer in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Western University in London, Canada. Among the initial professors in history's first IOA Postgraduate Seminar (1993) were Norbert Müller of the University of Mainz (Germany), Ingomar Weiler of the University of Graz (Austria), Lamartine DaCosta of the University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), and John Mouratidis of Thessaloniki University (Greece).

In 1995 I was invited to be a professor in the 3rd IOA Postgraduate Seminar. Among the aspiring young professors under my tutelage at that time were: Cesar Torres from Argentina, Holger Preuss from Germany, Otávio Tavares from Brazil, Scott Martyn from Canada, and Bao Li from China. Each one of them has gone on to forge illustrious professorial careers at State University of New York-Brockport, USA (Torres), University of Mainz,

Germany (Preuss), Vittorio University, Brazil (Tavares), University of Windsor, Canada (Martyn), and Beijing Sport University, China (Bao Li). In 1997 I returned to Olympia as an invited professor in the 5th Postgraduate Seminar. Among the noted future luminary scholars were Canadian Debbie MacDonald, currently professor of Kinesiology at St. Francis Xavier University (Canada); and Reele Remmelkoor from Estonia, director of the Estonian Olympic Academy. Each of them has forged worthy professorial and professional careers in education.

The Greek Olympic Year of 2004 found me back at Olympia where Dr Karl Lennartz of the Deutsche Sporthochschule in Cologne and I formed the two-professor team that taught the very first classes in the IOA/University of the Peloponnese Master's Degree Programme in Olympic Studies. Among a worthy list of course enrollees were Ian Brittain from England and Ioannis Papaioannou from Greece.

Since my first IOA experience until now (December 2020) I have kept in touch with many of the postgraduate students and young people attendant at the various Seminars I have been party to there in Olympia. Many of those folks have gone on to obtain doctorate degrees, become

professors at fine universities the world over, and, more importantly, serious contributors to the body of knowledge upon which the socio-cultural aspects of the modern Olympic Movement rests. Therefore, to me at least, the IOA and its Post-graduate Student Seminar programme is without doubt one of the foremost entities in the world

in helping to provide the scholars necessary for the scholarly mission of understanding the Olympics in all its dimensions. Honour to the names of those IOA "graduate scholars" who have laboured to meet that challenge. I will neither forget them personally, nor the challenge of fulfilling the role of being their teacher.





Prof. Bob Barney with the IOC Member and Olympic gold medallist,  
Irena Szewińska at the IOA court (1993).



Lecturers at the 33rd Young Participants' Session (1993). From left to right: Guido de Bondt, Prof. Shin-pyo Kang, Prof. Ian Jobling, Prof. Bob Barney, Prof. Guillermo Dellamary, Prof. Wojciech Lipoński.

# *Tan Brittain* PhD

*Coventry University, UK*



## *The IOA Postgraduate Seminar(s) Defined my Career Path*

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have an association with the International Olympic Academy that stretches back nearly thirty years. My first encounter with the Academy was as a British participant at the Session for Young Participants in 1992 where I instantly fell in love with both the place and its mission. I attended the reunion Sessions in 1993 and 1995 and through these, and the networks I was building from all the people I met at the Academy, I learnt about the Postgraduate Seminar. At that period of time I was working as a sports facility manager and had not thought about a postgraduate qualification, which is a prerequisite of attending the Postgraduate Seminar. However, such was the appeal of

returning to the Academy I began a Master degree in the sociology of sport and sport management by distance learning, whilst continuing to work and this qualified me to apply to attend the Postgraduate Seminar. My successful application to attend the Seminar in 1997 was the beginning of a change of career path for me, away from the world of practical sport towards a career in academic research - a change I have never once regretted.

Something that has changed over the years is the length of the Postgraduate Seminar. When I attended my first Postgraduate Seminar in 1997, it lasted 45 days. These days it is around 28 days. The Seminar itself was an amazing mix of historical

visits (Delphi, Nemea, Sparta, Epidaurus to name but a few), lectures from some world-leading scholars in their field, friendly debate with fellow participants and of course the socialising and playing sport outside of the classroom hours that allowed us to really get to know each other. We were 31 participants from 24 countries covering four of the continental associations and it is this diversity of people and their backgrounds that, for me, has been the greatest learning experience over the years at all of the Academy Sessions I have attended. Not only has it taught me to respect and listen to other people's viewpoints (even if I do not always agree with them), but it has also taught me a myriad of different ways to approach a problem. So, if I am stuck trying to write an article and my usual approach is not working, I often think of the way someone I met at the Academy approached a problem and this often clears my writer's block and off I go again. Even now, some 23 years later, I am still in touch with at least five of the participants from the 1997 Seminar through social media. They form part of an invaluable IOA network of contacts that have assisted me greatly throughout my ensuing career.

However, 1997 was not my only Postgraduate Seminar. Every year one individual from the pre-

vious year is invited back the following year to be the co-ordinator for the next year's group of participants. So in 1998 I returned to the Academy for another 42 days, along with 33 participants from 24 countries, again covering four of the continental associations. In some ways this is a really fun and slightly more relaxing role to play at the Postgrad Seminar. I had the benefit of attending all the lectures, getting to know all the participants, but without having to write and present a paper. I was, however, responsible for organising all the social activities (including a fun weekend in Zakynthos). Again, I am still in contact with a number of the participants from this Seminar today. It was also this Seminar that sealed the desire that had been growing within me to pursue an academic career by undertaking a PhD, which I commenced the following year in February 1999. I was also invited back to the Academy for the next six years as a co-ordinator for the Young Participants Session, which further grew my network of international contacts in sport (as well as my number of friends around the world).

There is little doubt that my participation in the two Postgraduate Seminars had a huge impact on my career direction or that my attendances at the Academy over the years have had a massive im-

pact on my life. I am now a successful researcher in my own right and have, over recent years, been invited back to the Academy as a lecturer at the Session for Young Participants and a visiting Professor on the Master in Olympic Studies, Olympic Education, Organisation and Management of Olympic Events. I guess it is also worth noting that the focus of my academic career, since the start of my PhD, has not, as you might expect, been in the field of Olympic Studies, but rather Paralympic studies. Again the IOA played a part in this as it invited lecturers from the Paralympic Movement to attend the Session for Young Participants in the late nineties, whose presentations played a role in igniting a deep passion for the subject area that

still burns brightly today. My work in this field has put me in the position of being one of the few people in the world who has a strong theoretical background in Olympic AND Paralympic studies, allowing me to combine the philosophies underpinning the two movements and critically analyse the points at which they intersect.

My career has now reached a point where I have been successful in bidding for over £2million in research funds, I travel all over the world to do research or give invited lectures and keynotes and I have good friends in all corners of the planet, but I can honestly say that without my participation in the two Postgraduate Seminars my life might well be very different right now.





The students of the 5th Postgraduate Seminar with their participation certificates after the Closing ceremony (1997).



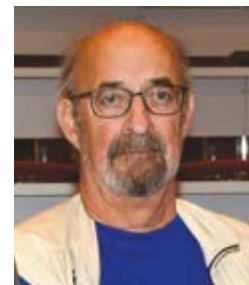
The students of the 5th Postgraduate Seminar at the archaeological site of Isthmia (1997).



**6th Postgraduate Seminar  
1998**

# *† Stephen G. Miller* PhD

*Professor Emeritus,  
University of California, Berkeley*



## *The International Olympic Academy at Nemea*

For the last three decades I have had the privilege to be associated at various times with various programmes of the International Olympic Academy, including the Postgraduate Seminar. Since all these programmes involve young people from around the world, they tend to blur in my memory, but my time teaching at the Academy in May, 2000 was memorable because it led to an emphatic participation by the Postgraduate Seminar at the Second Modern Revival of the Nemean Games in early June.

In 1996 there had been founded at Nemea a Society for the Revival of the Nemean Games (<https://nemeangames.org>) which has the purpose of holding games every four years in the an-

cient stadium that I had discovered. The Nemean Games in antiquity were a part of the crown-game cycle together with Olympia, Delphi, and Isthmia. The goal is to give anyone and everyone the opportunity to be an ancient athlete for a few moments; these are the principles of participation and authenticity which provide insightful experiences.

It was not possible to insist upon ancient nudity, and women were to be included, but all wore a simple white tunic, placed their bare feet in the ancient starting blocks, and waited for the call of the starter and the fall of the restraining cord just as was done 2300 years ago. And then the runners felt the ancient earth of Greece beneath their bare feet as they raced down the track.

At the conclusion of each race, the winner was awarded – as in antiquity – a ribbon of victory around the head and a branch of palm. The final prize – the crown of wild celery – was presented at the end of the day to all the winners.

After each race, all returned through the tunnel to the locker room to retrieve their modern clothes and shoes.

Although I believe that the experience of the revival of the Ancient Games is the best pedagogical tool we have, that experience is only possible every four years. But the IOA, including the Postgraduate Seminar, has visited Nemea many other times.

Indeed, our new office was inaugurated on September 4, 2011; its first visitors: the Postgraduate Seminar.

It has been, and continues to be, a joy for me to welcome enthusiastic young minds and to have the opportunity to share with them some of the new knowledge about the ancient games that has come from my excavations at Nemea. One of the negative aspects of retirement is that I am divorced from those young minds which never fail

to invigorate, to revive me. I am grateful to the IOA for my own revival.

As the years advance, my role has been increasingly to deliver lectures in the revival's office, surrounded by the flags of 122 countries which have been represented at least once since 1996 at the revived games. One experience stands out for me. The games of 2012 were the basis for a documentary entitled "A Passage into History" a trailer of which can be seen on our website. At the eight-second mark one of the runners shouts that he is from Chinese Taipei. As I showed the trailer six years later, on September 3, 2018, this voice was echoed in our office, for there he was, Joey Tseng, who had run in 2012 and was now back to continue his Olympic studies. Forgive my pride that Nemea continues to be a part of those studies.

As this brief account will make clear, the Postgraduate Seminar, and the IOA generally, have been most important in my efforts to spread an awareness of the contributions Nemea has made to our knowledge of the ancient basis for the Olympic Movement. May that co-operation live on!





After the 55th race in the Second Nemead in 2000. Runners from Austria, Colombia, Germany, Greece, Moldavia, Russia, Spain, and the USA (two of Prof. Miller's students from Berkeley), with the winner from Canada.

A group returning to the locker room through the ancient tunnel led by a winner from Thailand, 2000.



Stephen G. Miller as an ancient judge at the conclusion of the First Nemead, 1996.

In 2018, the IOA awarded Prof. Stephen Miller with the honorary distinction "Athina". In the photo he is seen with the IOA President, I. Kouvelos.



Prof. Miller during his lecture at the 58th International Session for Young Participants (2018).

On the podium: Isidoros Kouvelos, Kostas Georgiadis.





Students of the 24th IOA Postgraduate Seminar in the office of the Society with  
(seated from left to right) Professors Nigel Crowther, Stephen Miller, Kostas  
Georgiadis, and Ingomar Weiler, September 9, 2017.

# *Benoit Séguin* PhD

*Professor, School of Human Kinetics,  
University of Ottawa*



## *Experience and memories of the IOA International Seminar*

I am honoured to share my experience and memories on the anniversary of the IOA International Seminars. As I have shared many times with friends and colleagues over the years, the IOA and its Postgraduate Seminar has made a significant contribution to me both personally and professionally over the years.

I learned about the Postgraduate Seminar while attending the Session for Young Participants in 1997, a life-changing experience. At first, I saw the Postgraduate Seminar as an extension of my experience as a Young Participant ... an opportunity to go back to Olympia for a six-week period! In the application process, I was asked to submit

a research paper that was to be presented during the Seminar. I must confess that after receiving the programme along with the list of topics to be presented by my fellow students, I felt like... an "Alien". Olympic marketing was rather new at the time and somewhat contentious among some Olympic scholars. My research topic examined "ambush marketing", an aggressive marketing strategy used by non-sponsors to "attack" official sponsors and gain some of the benefits without paying the fees to be a sponsor... rather distant from other topics studying Pierre de Coubertin, the meaning of Olympism, Olympic ideals, history, philosophy, or Olympic education. But the

experiences and knowledge gained during the Seminar far exceeded my expectations.

Over a six-week period, we were privileged to have remarkable Olympic scholars as professors, each covering different topics related to the Olympic Movement and sports (history/archaeology, philosophy, sociology, education, management). As a student, I remember their kindness, but also their rigour, their ability to challenge us, to be critical while keeping an open mind on various subjects. For me, the Seminar was an eye-opener and really shaped my thoughts on Olympic marketing and its connection to other areas of Olympic studies. I remember Professor Norbert Müller challenging my views of marketing, its place within the Olympic Movement, its connection to Olympism and to the Olympic ideals. This certainly made me appreciate the potential disconnects between the "Olympic" product being consumed (Olympic Games as a global entertainment property) where success is measured in terms of bottom line (revenue, ratings, market share, etc.) and the core of its brand - Olympism. It is the "Olympic Movement" itself united under the concept of "Olympism" that provides a unique proposition with its commitment to "contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educat-

ing youth through sport practiced in accordance with Olympism and its values". As seen in recent years, failure to live up to its promise can lead to problems for the Olympics. The IOA and its International Seminar plays an essential role in reaching this ambitious goal.

The IOA experience was also about my fellow classmates and the friendships that emerged. It fostered an environment conducive to the sharing of experiences, respecting and appreciating our differences as human beings. I have wonderful memories of the sport activities (table tennis, volleyball, diving at the pool), the nights spent on the marble stairs of the IOA talking with professors and classmates, the sharing of stories about our respective lives, listening to music, walking to the village of Olympia, or just hanging out contemplating the full moon illuminating the stadium of ancient Olympia. The IOA Seminar also meant long hours spent at the library reading, studying, or just perusing a few of the thousands of books and documents from all over the world.

For me, the visits to archaeological sites in various parts of the Peloponnese with experts such as Professor Ingomar Weiler and Professor Donald Kyle was one of the best educational experiences in my life. They taught us important aspects/mean-

ings of ancient Games while making us feel as if we were there, back in time, thousands of years ago, living in Ancient Greece. I remember the passion of Professor Norbert Müller for Olympic education and the revival of the Olympic Games by Pierre de Coubertin; the lectures of Professor Otto Schantz by the Kladeos River discussing the Presidency of Avery Brundage; Professor Lamartine DaCosta on philosophy, the environment, and its place as the third pillar of the Olympic Movement and Professor Fernand Landry on the Presidency of Samaranch and the IOC's opening to Olympic marketing. While all these professors had a significant impact on me, I will always be grateful to Professor Otto Schantz (Germany) and the late Fernand Landry (Canada) who were instrumental in my decision to pursue doctorate studies on Olympic marketing. Their encouragement, support and friendships throughout the years were invaluable. Over the years, I have heard many stories similar to mine from other participants.

A few years later, I was thrilled to be invited to participate in the works of the Seminar as a supervising professor. My experiences as supervising professor were quite like the ones experienced as a student ... a unique chance to create new

friendships, to share my passion for sport/Olympic marketing, to engage with students and other professors on topics/issues related to the Olympic Movement and to appreciate different perspectives. Lecturing alongside colleagues such as Jean-Loup Chappelet (Governance), Scott Kretchmar (Philosophy), and Dr Sam Ramsamy (IOC member/Sport Management) was amazing.

I sincerely believe that the IOA and its International Seminar on Olympic Studies has significantly contributed to the Olympic Movement and to the promotion of Olympism throughout the world. Graduates have a thorough understanding of various aspects of the Olympic Movement which makes them great ambassadors for the Olympic Movement, whether they are scholars, professors, sport administrators or teachers. In addition, the environment created by Dean Konstantinos Georgiadis and the IOA staff fosters friendship, understanding, peace and cooperation, all true to Olympic ideals and at the core of the Seminar! Congratulations to the IOA Ephoria and its President Isidoros Kouvelos, IOA Dean Konstantinos Georgiadis and to all IOA staff for this 30th anniversary of the International Seminar on Olympic Studies.





Before the Closing ceremony of the 6th Postgraduate Seminar (1998).

The students of the 6th Postgraduate Seminar with Prof. Fernand Landry in Ancient Olympia in (1998).





## 7th Postgraduate Seminar 1999

# *Kristine Toohey* PhD

*Professor Emeritus, Doctor of Philosophy,  
Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sport Management,  
Griffith Business School, Griffith University*



## *Teaching in the Postgraduate and the Master's Degree Programmes*

*T*is a long journey from Australia to Olympia, in terms of distance, geography, history, politics and culture. But it is also proximal in some of these characteristics too. For example, the cultural distance between our nations has been lessened by the Greek diaspora. Many Greeks migrated to Australia, to the extent that Melbourne, the capital city of the state of Victoria, is said by some to be the third largest Greek city in terms of population, behind Athens and Thessaloniki. Those that came to Australia brought with them their religion, customs and food. What they also showed us is that we are more alike than different.

That lesson is one of the most powerful I, and I suspect most others, have learnt during my time at Olympia, teaching in the Postgraduate Programme, the Master's Degree Programme and, on my first visit to the IOA, being a delegate in the Educators' Session.

In terms of difference, in the IOA classes I teach, I have found that if I want to reach and engage the postgraduate students from a diverse range of cultures, I need to begin with the premise that there are multiple viewpoints and interpretations.

My Australian accent, terms and idioms that are ingrained in my conversations are not always

understood by all students, even by citizens of other countries whose first language is English. Nevertheless, with a little effort and sensitivity, I have always been able to communicate my intent. And the linguistic and cultural gap between myself and others in Olympia has been lessened. This knowledge has impacted on my teaching at Griffith University in Australia too, where, until Covid-19 struck, the lecture halls in my department had students from many nations.

This is important, as the IOA is a global cultural meeting place, facilitated by a common interest of its "citizens" in the Olympic Games. This commonality should allow for respect of our differences as well. As postgraduate students and their lecturing staff have learnt to accept that their cultural norms are not uniform in Olympia, so too this teaches us that they may not be so in our homelands.

There is more interest now in academe in the concept of intersectionality - how gender, ethnicity, diversity and socio-economic status impact on each other. At Olympia, I have incorporated this realisation into understanding that even though students may come from the same country, they may have had very different lived experiences. So, it is incumbent on all of us to realise that cultural/ethnic/gender/(dis)ability etc. stereotyping is

problematic and does not assist in breaking down barriers. We are all unique and have something to offer others at the IOA, just as they have something to offer us.

In terms of our commonalities, understanding our differences brings us closer together. So too does the interest in Olympic Studies, whether it be in terms of education, management, history or any other facet of Olympic knowledge creation and dissemination. By allowing students time in class to discuss and share their viewpoints, I have found that sometimes peoples' opinions have been changed, especially when more facts are known and shared. Also, Olympic issues affect individuals, communities and nations differently. So, allowing time for students to explore and then share their perspectives on the origins and consequences of Olympic issues unpacks multiple outcomes. Of course, 100% consensus is not always the goal in these discussions, but rather that understanding and considering a variety of points of views allows for more informed decision-making.

Many of these discussions occurred outside the scheduled class times, often in the dining hall. Perhaps its relative informality, compared to the classroom setting, made some students feel more comfortable in articulating their opinions.

This, in turn, made for many enjoyable and lively meals. Speaking of which, the closest restaurant to where I live in Manly, Australia is Greek. I eat there when I can.

Although this pandemic means I might not return to Olympia in the short-term, I can keep some of my IOA memories alive by having a *frappé*, *spanakopita*, or a *pita gyro*. I can sit outside and listen to the Greek music they play and remember meeting, for the first time, amazing lecturers

whose work I have admired. I can remember the enthusiasm of students whose contributions to my classes have taught me more than I have ever taught them. I can remember the friendships I have made, the intellectual challenges I have initiated in the classroom and the similar academic challenges to me that have been raised by students and other staff. My life has been made richer by my time at the IOA, its dedicated staff and postgraduate students. For that I am most grateful.





In the classroom - 7th Postgraduate Seminar (1999).



The students of the 7th Postgraduate Seminar  
with their participation diplomas (1999).

# *Dongguang Pei* PhD

*Professor of Olympic History,  
Capital Institute of Physical Education and Sports, Beijing*



*As an IOA Participant in the Postgraduate Seminar,  
I have been promoting Olympic Education in China for more than 20 years*

In 1995, I, Dongguang Pei, had earned an MA from the International Center for Olympic Studies at the University of Western Ontario, Canada. My adviser, Bob Barney, later recommended me to IOA. I participated in the Postgraduate Seminar in 1999 and now I am working as a professor for the Capital University of Physical Education and Sports in Beijing, China. I was the first Chinese person ever invited to act as a coordinator for the Young Participants' Session in 2000, and I delivered the lectures on Olympic education for the Young Participants' Session at IOA in 2007 and 2008 respectively. Since I returned to China

in 1996, I have been teaching the Olympic course for more than 20 years. I have published 40 papers and 10 books on Olympics and Olympic education and initiated the China Olympic Education Promotion team in 2001. The team has delivered 800 lectures on Olympic education across China. I was awarded "Special Contribution Person to the Olympic Education in China" by the 2008 Beijing Olympic Organising Committee, "Beijing Model Worker" and "Excellent Returning Overseas Student" twice, in 2015 and 2019, by Beijing City Government, the Vikelas Plaque by the International Society of Olympic Historians in

2012. I was appointed Olympic education expert by the Chinese Ministry of Education in 2019.

Actually in 1999, I heard about the idea of Olympic education for the first time on the IOA campus and at that moment, I believed that Olympic education would benefit our Chinese students. Chinese students can learn something beyond the Olympic Games through Olympic education, which they did not know before, so I was determined to spread what I learnt in IOA.

### **The Difficult Genesis of the School Olympic Education Practice in China**

In 2001, during Beijing's bid for the 2008 Games, I designed the "Olympic Exhibition Tour of China" with funds from China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation. This was a set of 138 foamboard posters with dimensions of 2m (height) x 2m (width), containing information about Olympic history and philosophy illustrated by more than one thousand vivid images. The exhibition toured six Olympic co-host cities, ten universities, and one hundred communities and reached almost one million people. A series of Olympic knowledge posters selected from the exhibition boards was distributed to around one hundred thousand schools. This was one of the first nationwide

Olympic education activities in association with the 2008 Olympics.

After the success of the bid, I visited a couple of schools and told them about Olympic education and Olympism. The teachers looked at me with wonder in their eyes, since at that time people believed that the Olympics were only games. By coincidence, in 2001 I met Zhou Chenguang, a PE teacher from Beijing Yangfangdian Primary School. He accepted my ideas. We decided first to organise an Olympic theme activity for the pupils named the "Mini Olympic Opening Ceremony and Ancient Olympic Pentathlon", an idea that I had learned at the IOA during the Postgraduate Seminar where it is an annual ritual for the students to dress in togas and take part in sprinting, long jump, wrestling, discus and javelin. With almost a year's preparations and without any funding, we designed the olive-branch crowns, angel wings for our "Olympic Angel Choir," a torch stand (with flame-coloured cloth blown upward with a fan, since a real flame would be too dangerous), and so on. It was a very difficult time, illustrated by a story. We bargained with a carpenter on the price for constructing the torch stand, eventually reaching a deal of 200 RMB for the stand (less than 30 U.S. dollars). During his work, the car-

penter would chat with us and ask, "Why are you doing this and what for?" We explained, "We are organising a mini Olympic Games for our pupils, to give students the experience of lighting the Olympic flame." By the end of his work, the carpenter rejected our money. His only request was, "Could you please go to my hometown and give our children a chance? I live in a mountain area."

The events at Yangfangdian Primary School were very successful. In the morning on May 10, 2002, many people, including students' parents, gathered on the campus. The students marched into the stadium representing different countries, wearing the traditional dress of the country, speaking their language, and performing their traditional dances. An Olympic angel holding an Olympic torch lit the Olympic flame to the accompaniment of the Olympic song (the "Olympic angel" was inspired by the images of Winged Nike on ancient Greek vases and was defined as a "strong body with a beautiful heart"). During the event, the people were moved by the experience of Olympic spirituality, beauty, dignity and romance. Lü Xiaoli, an employee of the Beijing Municipal Commission on Education (BMCE), said on the occasion, "I was moved to tears at the moment the Olympic angel lit the Olympic flame,

and by the pupils on the stage reciting Coubertin's 'Ode to Sport'. I have come to love the Olympics since being involved in Olympic education theme activities three times."

The school also organised an Olympic angel chorus, Olympic garden, Olympic knowledge corridor, mini United Nations, etc. The school's Olympic education activities attracted foreign and domestic media attention and became famous worldwide. In 2005, Yangfangdian Primary School was honoured as the pioneer of Olympic education practice in China by BOCOG and the Chinese Ministry of Education. The certificate is located in the Yangfangdian school file of 2006.

I next established a "Grassroots Olympic Education Promotion Team." This was nearly four years before the government officially initiated Olympic education. The original goals of the Grassroots Team were to promote the concept of Olympism and Olympic knowledge; to use the opportunity of the Games to broaden students' international horizons, spread the concept of a "healthy mind in a healthy body" with the idea of the "Olympic angel", promote "sport for all", "sport as a way of life," and "fair play" to the Chinese people and urge the schools to give students more outdoor activities by organising Olympic theme activities.

During these 20 years, the team worked out the planning and implementation of Olympic education, edited Olympic readers for pupils and produced "Olympic Classroom" CDs, set up a website for Olympic education called the "People's Website for Olympic Education" and published more than 100 articles on Olympic education in different journals and newspapers, with titles such as "Exalting the Olympic Spirit and Implementing Olympic Education", "Practice of Olympic Education Values in China", "Olympics and Aesthetics" and so on. In the past 20 years, team members have delivered lectures to hundreds of schools and neighbourhood communities. The team also cooperated with mass media and the government to promote Olympic education on TV programmes such as "Olympic Dawn" (a feature on the genesis of Olympic education aired on Beijing Television), "Moments of the Olympics" (screened on China Central Television for 15 minutes every day for a year on golden time), and "365 Olympic Stories" (shown on Beijing Television for a year, 15 minutes every

day). "Bathe in the Glow of the Olympics" was a short documentary film about the team's visit to a prison in July 2006, where it organised Olympic theme activities for prisoners at the request of the government. The team was invited by the Beijing municipal government to assess and instruct the Olympic education demonstration schools (described below) and to take part in the training of 3,000 schoolteachers in Olympic education organised by the Capital University of Physical Education and Sports.

In addition, Zhou Chenguang invented "soft" sports equipment for elementary school pupils, such as javelin, discus, shot put, hurdle, epee, and so on, which was made out of inexpensive styrofoam and foam insulation materials held together by clear plastic packing tape. This enabled students to personally experience some of the Olympic events without fear of hurting themselves. The number of the team members grew to around 100 people. The team members consisted of professors, teachers, students, and people from all walks of life.





Guided tour at the archaeological site of the Acropolis - 7th Postgraduate Seminar (1999).



Dongguang Pei receiving his participation diploma from the 7th Postgraduate Seminar from the IOA President, Nikos Filaretos (1999).

Representation of the ancient Pentathlon / Sports activities during the Seminar (1999).





Students experiencing Olympic events using "soft" sports equipment within the framework of Olympic education activities organised by Prof. Pei in China.





## 8th Postgraduate Seminar 2000

# <sup>†</sup> Wolfgang Decker PhD

*Professor Emeritus for Sport History,  
German Sports University Cologne,  
Institute for Sport History*



## *Personal Experience with the International Olympic Academy*

*A*s a fitting introduction, I would first like to mention that I was the last student of Carl Diem (1882-1962) when I completed a diploma thesis under his supervision in 1962. It was Diem himself who proposed the idea of establishing an International Olympic Academy (IOA) in Ancient Olympia. The realisation and inauguration of this proposal came to fruition in the summer of 1961 when a camp was organised at the same site where the luxurious facilities of IOA are presently situated. This first celebration of Diem's promising initiative brought together students of both the Greek Academy of Physical Education in Athens and the Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln (German

Sport University Cologne). One highlight of the camp's programme was the opening of the ancient Olympic stadium for the public following a long period of archaeological research.

Mention must also be given here to the Greek Ioannis Ketseas, who contributed greatly to the foundation of the IOA. Honouring both Ketseas and Diem, memorial monument, which has been preserved until today, was erected at the Academy. It is interesting to note that Ketseas was also the uncle of Stratis Stratigis, 1st appointed President of the Olympic Games of Athens in 2004. The efforts of Stratis Stratigis greatly influenced the enhancement of our understandings of the cultural

value of Athens and the Olympic Movement throughout the world. This statement can be best exemplified through Stratigis' own words, which can be found in the corresponding chapter of his autobiography *Astygraphia* (Description of a town), written in Greek, Athens 2018.

My own personal experience with the IOA is that of participating as a supervising professor in four International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students in the years of 1994, 1995, 2000 and 2001. As a professor of sport history, I had the privilege to be involved in each of these for approximately ten days of the Seminar's syllabus. The main topic that I covered was that of the Olympic Games in Greek antiquity, but this also extended to a more general overview of sport in Ancient Greece. Further, it was also important to draw a comparison between the sporting culture in Greece and its counterparts in the Ancient Orient and Ancient Egypt. Briefly summarising this here, I outlined how sport was rather a means of demonstrating the superiority of the king for the latter two, whereas sport prevailed in Ancient Greece as a depiction of equals fighting to be the best, hence the reflection of a democratic society.

It should be said that the location of the IOA - directly beside the archaeological site of Olym-

pia, where the Olympic Games were invented and lasted for more than 1000 years as the most important *agon* (sport festival) in the world of Ancient Greece, is ideal for stimulating teaching and discussion on the topic and its history. And, *vice versa*, it would be unthinkable to organise a Seminar on Olympic Studies at such a place without dealing with the Olympic Games in antiquity as a main subject. Hence, the *genius loci* was inspiring for not only the teacher, but also the students coming from different countries and cultural milieus. We all lived together in an atmosphere of total respect for one another and tolerance - a typical example of agreement between nations. This was the aspiration of Pierre de Coubertin, above all, when he renewed the Olympic Games during the Olympic Congress at the Sorbonne of Paris in 1894 and it is the most important potential of Olympism. To my understanding, this sentiment was always present during my working groups at the IOA.

I remember vividly that the participants of the Seminars I taught were enthusiastic and keen to continue their studies within the covered topics. From the total of nine attendees proposed by myself, seven of them later wrote dissertations in associated fields of scholarship such as Ancient

History, Archaeology and Sport History and also went on to undertake related doctoral studies. Since then, these participants have contributed to academic discourse through the publication of seminal books such as: Anke Bohne, *Bilder vom Sport. Untersuchungen zur Ikonographie römischer Athleten-Darstellungen*, Hildesheim 2011; Barbara Rieger, *Von der Linie (grammē) zur Hysplex. Startvorrichtungen in den panhellenischen Stadien Griechenlands*, Hildesheim 2004; Jörg Tremel, *Mágica agonistica. Fluchtafeln im antiken Sport*, Hildesheim 2004.

Following up on my previous students, I would like to take the opportunity here to highlight some of their accomplishments/my encounters with them to-date. Thus, to mention but a few, these have included: Andreas Niehaus, who is now Professor for Japanese Studies in Gent/Belgium. It is known to me that two of the students of my Seminars are likewise now professors, Zinon Papakonstantinou for Ancient History at the University of Illinois in Chicago and Cesar Torres at the Pennsylvania State University. Zinon Papakonstantinou has now taken over the mantel as co-editor of the sport historical journal, *Nikephoros* (Journal for sport and culture in antiquity) - of which I was a co-founder and am

actually still co-editor. Further, it was a pleasure to catch up with Cesar Torres again some years ago in Ancient Corinth and I shall never forget my three days' travel through Albania in 2003 guided by Arben Kacurri, a student of my Seminar held in 2001. At that time, I detected the charm of a country in a situation that reminded me of Greece in the fifties and sixties.

Returning to the IOA more generally, I have great admiration for the fact that on the road to Olympia the members of the Postgraduate Seminars traditionally also visit the other places of the Panhellenic Games, the so called *periodos* (in addition to the *Olympia*; the *Pythia* at Delphi, *Isthmia* near the isthmus of Corinth and *Nemea* at Nemea). And, in the same light, I am very contented by the knowledge that these students also visit the ancient Panathenaic Stadium, which was rebuilt for the first modern Olympic Games held in Athens in 1896 and financed by the great sponsor Georgios Averoff. Lastly, it is also greatly welcome that the attendees get the opportunity to enter Zappeion which was financed by Evangelis Zappas, who realised the first Olympics in Athens in 1859, some decades before Couvertin (but limiting the participation of athletes to Greeks only).

Nevertheless, I would like to make an additional proposition in relation to the travel programme for future Seminars. Given that the participants get to enjoy the atmosphere of the Ancient Games at Olympia for six weeks, it would also be useful for them to visit the venerable Sorbonne, University of Paris. The rationale behind this is that of the Sorbonne being where the first modern Olympic Games were decided on and where Coubertin charmed 2000 people at the Opening Ceremony of the Congress. This inclusion, in my opinion, would surely support the development of more intensive ties to the elements of the modern Olympics. Thus, although it may be unnecessary to say, there should be a ceremony in honour of the French founder of modern Olympism.

To conclude, I would like to add a final remark on my former colleagues at the IOA, Ingomar Weiler, John MacAloon and Evangelos Albanidis. It was a pleasure to have cooperated with them during our time together and I wish to thank them for sharing with me their knowledge and expertise. My connection with Ancient Olympia has, over the years, led me to conduct numerous research studies on the history of sport in Ancient Greece and especially on the Olympic Games in Antiquity as well as in modern times. Moreover, the impressive place has never failed to attract me in such a way that I have continued to return several times every year. If I were to count all of my visits to Olympia, this number would exceed a total of 60.





From left to right, Prof. Wolfgang Decker, Dr Kostas Georgiadis and Prof. Evangelos Albanidis standing for the Olympic anthem - 9th Postgraduate Seminar (2001).

Prof. Decker in the classroom with Prof. Ioannis Mouratidis (on the left) and Prof. Ingomar Weiler (on the right) - 2nd Postgraduate Seminar (1994).



# Hai Ren PhD

Professor, Beijing Sport University



## *My unforgettable memory of the IOA*

In the 1980s, when studying at the University of Alberta in Canada, I was attracted by the charm of ancient Greek sports and admired their athletics mingled with interesting stories of so many legendary figures and events. Through reading a large number of documents, I realised that ancient Greek sports were by no means only meaningful in physical education but integrated into a broad range of areas such as religion, philosophy, military, politics, economy and so on. Ancient Greek sports were an extraordinary cultural phenomenon which fully reflected all aspects of ancient Greek society and thus provided an excellent window to study this marvellous civilisation. My doctoral dissertation, therefore, was a comparative study of sports between ancient China

and ancient Greece. Since then, visiting Olympia, the birthplace of the ancient Olympic Games, had been my dream. In July 1995, I was honoured to be invited to give a lecture at the IOA 35th International Session for Young Participants. So I went excitedly to the IOA to fulfil my dream with a pilgrimage mentality. Today I still remember vividly what I saw and felt when I actually got to the IOA campus.

The Olympic atmosphere was present everywhere, making the IOA unique. Immersing myself deeply in the Olympic atmosphere, I found that what I had learnt from books came to life: Olympic values no longer seemed abstract but were so real as to be touchable, and many fresh ideas emerged in my mind. More than twenty years have passed since my first visit; over these years I have

returned to the IOA many times to keep updating my knowledge, just like recharging a battery. Moreover, the IOA is an extraordinary platform which provided me with various opportunities to learn from and share with many excellent scholars and young people from all over the world, which definitely improved my understanding of the Olympic Movement, its historical process and its values and enriched my Olympic experience. The IOA has certainly played an important part in my teaching and research all these years.

I would like to thank the IOA, not only for the benefits I got in my own academic career, but also for its significant contribution to China's Olympic education and research. The International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate

Students is a magnificent IOA programme, thoughtfully designed and carefully carried out. Starting from 1995, for more than 20 years without interruption, every year one or two young Chinese scholars have come here to study. These IOA students have already become the backbone of Olympic education and studies in China, they worked as teaching staff in universities, administrators of government sport agencies, journalists at national sport media networks, researchers in sport museums, played active roles in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and are playing more roles in preparing the 2022 Winter Games.

I am sure that the cooperation between Chinese Olympic scholars and the IOA in the future will be even more fruitful.





After the Closing ceremony of the 8th Postgraduate Seminar (2000).

Prof. Hai Ren,  
after one of his  
lectures at the  
8th Postgraduate  
Seminar with Kostas  
Georgiadis (2000).





Prof. Hai Ren as a lecturer at the 35th International Session for Young Participants (1995) with the other lecturers: (1st row, from left to right) Prof. Vladislav Stolyarov, Prof. Montserrat Llinés, Prof. Hai Ren, Dame Mary Glen-Haig, (2nd row) Kevin Whitney.

# *Beatriz Garcia* PhD

*Director, Cities of Culture Research Observatory  
University of Liverpool  
Member, IOC Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission*



*The IOA made my world bigger and defined my 20-year career  
as a leading international Olympic scholar*

I was a participant at the International Olympic Academy Postgraduate Seminar in year 2000. And the rest... is history.

Witnessing the lighting of the Olympic flame as it started its journey to the Sydney 2000 Games, making friends for life, discovering treasures about the many hidden histories of arts and culture at the Olympic Games... these are just some of the most memorable experiences I had as a PhD student who had the privilege to research and present my thesis during a six-week stay at the IOA. I left the Academy with a much-reinforced conviction about

the value of my chosen - but obscure - topic: the cultural policy needs and opportunities of the Olympic Games.

Twenty years later, I am a member of the IOC Culture and Olympic Heritage Commission, I have published two books; over thirty academic papers and countless essays on Olympic culture and the arts, and I have returned, as a lecturer, many times to the IOA.

My time at the Academy and Ancient Olympia is always inspiring. I value in particular the opportunity to engage with people from a wide diversity

of countries, far beyond the range I am used to in English-speaking academic conferences. But I also very much value the opportunity to spend time in such a precious historical retreat, as it gives me the rare chance to observe and reflect on issues and values without being at the mercy of the fast pace imposed on us in our respective working environments.

I have argued often about the importance of advocating for study residencies at the IOA for everyone playing a role within the Olympic Movement: this would mean not only young athletes, scholars, journalists, sponsors and representatives from NOAs and NOCs but also, crucially, IOC and OCOG staff. The latter are the people who mould the most visible policies and delivery mechanisms which shape the Olympic Movement and the Games, and they are the people most at risk of overlooking the values and heritage that give meaning to their work for the sake of much needed efficiencies and never-ending external pressures.

It has been interesting for me to observe what is similar and different at each type of IOA Session. The Postgraduate Seminar was life-changing for me for many reasons, one of them being the amount of time I spent getting to know the other participants,

promising emerging scholars like myself. It was also an important opportunity to go deeper into the research topics most of us were exploring as part of our PhDs or related advanced studies and it contributed to establishing international scholarly and professional networks that, twenty years on, are still meaningful to many of us veteran participants.

The Young Participants' Session is special because you mingle with the new generation of athletes and can partake in their dreams and hopes. In the last Session I lectured at, in 2019, I loved talking to one of the athletes who had developed a special interest in my specialist topic, the Cultural Olympiad, and had created her own piece of jewellery, blending the Olympic rings with the mark of the Cultural Olympiad as showcased in PyeongChang 2018, her first Games edition.

The NOA and NOC Presidents' Session offers a good opportunity to exchange views with long established Olympic leaders from around the world who often operate in isolation and must face the challenge of scarce resources to protect cultural and educational endeavours. During my contribution in 2008, I engaged in valuable discussions about the future of Olympic art and Olympic education in countries as diverse as Sri Lanka and Japan.

I also had the opportunity to return to Olympia in order to mark the immediate aftermath of the terrible fires of 2007. It was a sobering experience, as the Academy had been close to being burned down and the surrounding landscapes were all devastated by the fires. This special gathering, named "Scholars for Olympia", was a special opportunity to reunite with old friends from many branches of the Olympic Movement, most of them veteran professors from across the globe. This reunion was immensely touching and inspiring, and the heroic way with which the community from Ancient Olympia went out of their way to protect the Academy site was a testament to its significance and the high value it holds in the hearts and minds of local residents.

Since holding its first Session in 1961, the IOA has offered unparalleled opportunities to deepen our understanding of the values and aspirations of the Olympic Movement, something that is not always easy to achieve as participants, live spectators or media audiences of the Olympic Games, given the unavoidable dominance of other types of narrative and economic interests, such as the commercial agenda of sponsors, the socio-economic agenda of host governments, the geo-political agenda of many competing

nations and the often nationalistic overtones of their respective national media. Regardless of the best intentions, the competitive nature of the Games and the public obsession with medal rankings tend to overshadow discussions and reflections about internationalism and universal values. This is, however, what lies at the heart of the IOA experience and anyone who has the privilege to spend time at the Academy cannot fail to understand how it is the educational and cultural values of the Olympic Movement that make the Olympic Games a different kind of international sport competition.

After 20 years researching the cultural dimension of the Olympic Movement and attending the Olympic Games as an academic observer and writer, I must stress the significance of the IOA as a haven for paused reflection and international exchange focused on offering the best environment possible to explore the future of Olympic values as well as understanding their heritage.

Living as we do in a quickly changing world, the notion of "values" is not something that can easily be grasped with theory alone. We need to experience them, and we need to be changed by them in meaningful ways. The beauty of the

Peloponnese landscape, the significance of the historical site in Ancient Olympia, the charms and delights of contemporary Greek culture, the fantastic weather and, of course, the wonderful community of people gathering at the Academy year on year make it one of the most special and memorable study environments in the world. I say this wholeheartedly, as a leading scholar who has had the opportunity to travel to and work in more than fifty-three countries, and as someone who

has access to the most beautiful locations available anywhere, benefiting from my insights as a culture and arts expert.

It will always be my pleasure to contribute to the learning environment offered by the IOA and it will always be my privilege to build on the experiences I have gathered and the extraordinary people I have met there, all of them memories and relationships that deeply shape my understanding of the world today.





At the entrance of the ancient stadium of Delphi – 8th Postgraduate Seminar (2000).

Beatriz Garcia at the stele Pierre de Coubertin after the destructive fire of 2007, taking part in the "Scholars for Olympia" initiative.



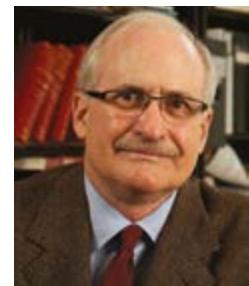
Beatriz Garcia was an invited lecturer at the 9th Joint Session for NOAs and NOCs (2008).



## 9th Postgraduate Seminar 2001

# *John J. MacAloon* PhD

*Professor of Social Sciences,  
The University of Chicago*



## *Pre-History of the IOA Postgraduate Seminar*

In his contribution to this volume, Prof. Konstantinos Georgiadis, scientific director of the IOA between 1989 and 1992, and Dean since then, provides the official institutional history of the IOA International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students (originally the "International Seminar for Selected Graduate Students of Physical Education and History"). To summarise his account: Nikos Filaretos, IOC member in Greece

and then IOA President, tasked Georgiadis early in his tenure, with "submitting ideas about the educational upgrade of the scientific work of the IOA."<sup>1</sup> This initiative was motivated in large measure by the challenge felt to be presented to the IOA by the recent foundation of Olympic Studies Centres at mainstream universities.<sup>2</sup>

In close collaboration with Prof. Norbert Müller, his *doktorvater* at Mainz, Georgiadis worked out

1 Personal communication, 6 December, 2019.

2 The two most notable were at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and Western Ontario (now Western) University, both created in 1989, with patronage by leading IOC members. I say "mainstream universities" to distinguish them from free-standing sports universities like the Deutsche Sporthochschule that already had a particular presence at Olympia.

a proposal for an Olympic studies seminar at the IOA for university masters and doctoral students. The IOA Ephoria received and approved the proposal in 1992, and the first Seminar met in 1993. Prof. Müller had meanwhile informed the IOC Commission for the IOA of this development. The Seminar evolved during its first years through the collaboration of its supervising professors. At the third session, I served the first of my five terms as IOA-PGS supervising professor and nominated and monitored the experiences of students and other professors across the years of its existence.

Rather than discuss these experiences, I think it valuable to mention in this volume an earlier phase of the IOA-PGS's history. I have treated this episode in detail elsewhere, and the interested reader is urged to consult this publication for the full context.<sup>3</sup>

In 1982, after reading my Coubertin biography,<sup>4</sup> Professor Nikolaos Nissiotis invited me to

lecture at that year's IOA Session for Young Participants, beginning an intense collaboration that further deepened at the 1984 IOA Sessions.

Nissiotis was the IOA President and an influential IOC member. He was also the first truly world class intellectual to be an IOC member since Coubertin's American friend William Milligan Sloane, and, thus far, the last. Nissiotis held the chair in Philosophy and Psychology of Religion and was Dean of Pastoral Theology at the University of Athens, where he had taken his doctorate. During his extraordinary development, he had studied with Karl Barth in Basel, C. G. Jung in Zurich, and Karl Jaspers in Basel, took a further diploma at Louvain, and began his faculty career at Geneva, where he served as Dean of the Postgraduate School of Ecumenical Studies. He was a global leader of the Ecumenical Movement, serving as Associate General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (twice proposed as WCC General Secretary). Visiting professorships at leading American, British, French, and

3 MacAloon, 2013. "This Flame, Our Eyes: Greek/American/IOC Relations, 1884-2002: An Ethnographic Memoir", in J. MacAloon, ed. *Bearing Light: Flame Relays and the Struggle for the Olympic Movement*. Oxford and New York: Routledge, pp. 21-61. See especially pp. 32-35, 57.

4 MacAloon, 2008 [1981]. *This Great Symbol: Pierre de Coubertin and the Origins of the Modern Olympic Games*, second edition. London and New York: Routledge.

German universities and lectureships in Asia and Africa further increased his global renown.<sup>5</sup>

Nissiotis's personal charisma and his leadership of world ecumenism made him a uniquely effective IOA President, steering sessions with truly pastoral care through the many difficulties of the high Cold War, Israeli-Arab strife, East-West intercultural dilemmas, and interpersonal dramas between cosmopolitan and traditionalist students. He moved IOA discussions to a much more effective balance between freedom of expression and respect for both cultural differences and IOC authority. In this, he often had to circumvent established IOA *literati*, who, lacking the necessary education and university habitus and fearful of their sinecures, tended to simply suppress any discourse that might conceivably offend IOC or Greek bosses.

Far from being threatened by new interest in the Olympic Movement at major universities, Nissiotis delighted in it, and in particular sought out ways to engage the IOA with faculty and post-graduate students in the established human sciences, thus stretching beyond physical education professors who, though many were now styling themselves sport historians, sociologists, and phi-

losophers, typically lacked the training to make fundamental research contributions.

Thus, the idea for an IOA "Postgraduate Seminar" was born in our conversations in the early 1980s. (I originally referred to it as the "graduate seminar," but Nikos convinced me that this was too North American a usage.) The format and curriculum we sought to develop was congruent in most ways with what the PGS eventually turned out to be: a month-long residence in Greece for *bona fide* master's and doctoral students, recommended by solicited professors but also by direct application, lectures in English exclusively by first-rate international faculty with a focus in the various human sciences, complete freedom of expression and debate in the university style, seminar-style student presentations of their own developing research, etc.

How thoroughly, if at all, Nissiotis informed his existing IOA and HOC colleagues of these plans in those days, I cannot say. (Besides, that is, Prof. Nikolaos Yalouris, with whom each of us had intensive discussions and who was enthusiastic.) My task was lining up distinguished scholars outside Europe and the usual Olympic

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5 See Grigoris, M., ed. 1994. *Nikolaos Nissiotis: Religion, Philosophy and Sport in Dialogue*. Athens.

Academy circuits. Nissiotis took charge of the IOC, and held direct discussions with President Samaranch, who, he reported back, was "open if noncommittal."

In 1984, Nissiotis was especially keen to have me back at the IOA, not only for the usual Session duties and to help contend with the atmosphere created by the Soviet boycott of LA1984, but also to do my own ethnographic and interview study of the traumatic and nearly disastrous events caused in Greece earlier that year by Peter Ueberroth and his LAOOC decision to sell the rights to carry the Olympic flame across the U.S. In the course of that inquiry, Nissiotis revealed to me the secret flame lighting at Olympia he and Samaranch had arranged to insure that there would be, under any circumstances, a legitimate flame for the LA Olympics. The risks to Nissiotis and his ritual collaborators were truly mortal.<sup>6</sup>

So when, at the opening reception of a Coubertin

symposium in Lausanne in March, 1986, I showed Nissiotis that Ueberroth had published photos of the secret flame lighting in his memoir, *Nikos* at first collapsed into an armchair.<sup>7</sup> When he recovered a bit, he grabbed me by the arm, and we rushed up to confront Samaranch. Sputtering with anger and anxiety, Nikos was nearly in the President's face, but Samaranch did not lose his characteristic sang-froid. (He already knew about the photos.) "Calm yourself, Nikos, there will not be a problem... Listen. You know that new Seminar you two want for the Olympic Academy, the one just for scholars and graduate students? I think the IOC should support that."

In August of that very year, Nikos Nissiotis died tragically in a car crash, and all our plans for the IOA Postgraduate Seminar went into abeyance. In 1992, Filaretos, Georgiadis, and Müller began again, apparently without any knowledge of this "pre-history."

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6 For complete details, see MacAloon, 2013, op. cit.

7 The photos had been stolen by former IOC Director General Monique Berlioux and handed over to Ueberroth in order to revenge herself on Samaranch for dismissing her. *Ibid.*, p. 34.





Prof. John MacAloon as a supervising professor at the 3rd Postgraduate Seminar (1995). At the stele Pierre de Coubertin (on the top), standing for the Olympic anthem (at the bottom, on the left; next to him Prof. Wolfgang Decker), walking with the students (on the right).



# *Angela J. Schneider* PhD. OLY.

Director, International Centre for Olympic Studies (ICOS)

Professor, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Western University



## *Reflections on the International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students: From the perspective of a supervising professor and an Olympian*

*I*t is an honour and privilege to be offered the opportunity to share my experiences and memories of the International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students organised by the International Olympic Academy for this special commemorative book.

I first learned of the very important work of the International Olympic Academy when I met Prof. Georgiadis in 1992 when presenting a paper on my research at the Olympic Scientific Congress in Malaga, Spain. At that time, the planning was underway for the International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students that

was to be organised by the International Olympic Academy for the first time in 1993. This "Postgraduate Seminar" was very well positioned and very much needed internationally as it was the first grounded, scholarly academic institution of the IOA. This rigour, along with the unique and special location of the IOA premises in Ancient Olympia, was a significant attraction for students and scholars aspiring to attend the Postgraduate Seminars.

I received my first invitation to participate as a supervising professor a few years after the Postgraduate Seminars started, in the mid-1990s.

The first thing I was struck by was that it reminded me of one of my most significant memories from my participation in the Olympic Games as an athlete; namely that international understanding and knowledge through sport can contribute to world peace. I experienced that first-hand through participation in both the Olympic Games and the IOA Postgraduate Seminars. Some of the students who came to participate in the Postgraduate Seminars were from war-torn countries in conflict with each other. At the beginning of the process they seemed to be quite wary of each other, but by the end of the Postgraduate Seminars, which significantly also included participation in physical sport games together, they began to exchange ideas more freely and to actually listen to each other in the Seminars on Olympism and the Olympic studies scholarship. It was this two-pronged engagement of these students, unique to the IOA Postgraduate Seminars, that allowed for the development of knowledge and life-changing experiences. This unique engagement of students defines one of the IOA's Postgraduate Seminars' most important characteristics; namely, its human-centred character. It was also a tremendous opportunity for me for growth as a professor and a teacher, as I learned

to better present ideas to postgraduate students with a wide range of cultural experiences.

It was not only through this cultural exchange of knowledge and understanding of the Olympic spirit that the IOA contributed significantly to the development of Olympic Studies around the world, but also to the better understanding of the complicated history of gender issues in sport. I found that the women students were passionate about also offering their knowledge and life-changing experiences to other students who may not have fully understood some of the challenges that women athletes have had to face. It also gave students with greater sport-related opportunity the ability to see how uneven those opportunities are around the world. I was thrilled and honoured to have led a group of these women students to run with me, with freedom and exhilaration, at the ancient stadium. To this day, over twenty-five years later, I still have them tell me how profoundly that affected their lives.

The Postgraduate Seminars have also contributed to the broader civil global society as well, as many of the student participants have later become very active members and contributors to society. Some of the best students have gone on to become university professors, and the very best

have become high-level scholars and researchers, in their own right, around the world. Many of the students who chose a different path from academia have gone on to become important contributors as officials in sport-governing bodies and governments. However, what is unique to all of these students who have participated in the Postgraduate Seminars, is the connection to the unique network that has been created and engendered by this special IOA programme.

On a personal level, my participation in the Postgraduate Seminar helped to ignite a passion for Olympic studies that profoundly affected my choices by defining my studies and research more clearly with the desire to connect to my experiences as an Olympic athlete. My career orientation was greatly influenced by the IOA Postgraduate Seminar programme and I have encouraged many of my graduate students in Canada over the

years to participate in the Postgraduate Seminars if they could. Perhaps the outcome of greatest significance in my life is my recent appointment as Director of the International Centre for Olympic Studies, established in 1989, at the University of Western Ontario, Canada. From this perspective, I see every day how the IOA Postgraduate Seminar has positively impacted the development of Olympic studies.

As for the future of Olympic studies, I believe the work of the Postgraduate Seminar is needed more than ever given the calamity and chaos we see on a world level. The Olympic Movement and the Olympic spirit are being tested and the bright minds and open hearts of the students coming through the Postgraduate Seminars are well positioned to contribute positively to the future of Olympic studies and our global future in general.





Prof. Angela Schneider  
lecturing at the IOA - 46th  
International Session for  
Young Participants (2006).



## 10th Postgraduate Seminar 2002

# *Jim Parry* PhD

*Professor Emeritus, Leeds University  
Professor, Charles University, Prague*



## *What fantastic career development and personal development!*

In September 2020, the 27th Postgraduate Seminar was held online for COVID-related reasons, and the students were denied the opportunity to visit Olympia and to experience the inspirational ambiance of an IOA Session.

As part of the Closing Ceremony, I was asked to provide an Address on behalf of the lecturers, which caused me to reflect on my 30 years of involvement with the Postgraduate Seminar, always a highlight of my teaching year. I scrolled through the years and read the list of colleagues with whom I have taught the “philosophy and ethics” input, which sounds like a who’s who of sport philosophers who have written on Olympic themes

- Cesar Torres, Mike McNamee, Sigmund Loland, Heather Reid, Irena Martíková. Each of them, I know, comes to Olympia not only to teach, but also to benefit from interaction with these inspirational groups of young people.

But I also had cause to reflect on the quality of students that I have encountered over the years, and this formed the subject of my Address, as follows:

“I am proud to address mainly the students at this Closing Ceremony on behalf of all the lecturers. Indeed, as a lecturer, I find it a privilege to be here and do this work with such a group as this. It is not the first time that I have been asked to do this job over the years. The last time was over ten

years ago at the 17th Postgraduate Seminar. On that occasion I was able to give voice to the usual references to your having been together for an unforgettable month in Olympia - what a beautiful site it is and how well things work - such wonderful conditions of life at the IOA that provide the background and context for collegial and productive activity. Well, as we all know, during these unusual times none of this has been possible - your presence in Olympia, and close contact between students, and between students and professors. Nevertheless, I do hope that you manage to establish and maintain future links with people you have 'met' remotely this week.

So, let me look back ten years and say a few words about just a few of those 39 people who were together in Olympia for the 17th Seminar. I looked through the list this morning and I just picked out a few people whose names fly out at me, although they have kept together since then with a Facebook group. They interact all the time and I am still in touch with many of these people. So, let me just tell you about a few.

Yann Hafner, PhD is now an academic in the Law Department at the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland, and he is a Statutory & Regulatory Expert with UEFA. Daniel de la Cueva from

Argentina, is President of the Argentinian Pierre de Coubertin Committee, and still working with his wrestling groups. Eva Prokesova, PhD is now my colleague at FTVS, Charles University, Prague, working in Adapted Physical Activity. I see her often, and we work together on projects. Ömür Dugan from Turkey is a professor of Sport Management at Pamukkale University. I spoke at a conference in Antalya, and her students were my guinea-pigs, helping me to illustrate methods of teaching philosophy. I would not have done that with such a group, if I had not known her, and been able to talk to her in advance. Raphaëlle Peltier is a sports journalist with *Agence France-Presse*. Steffie Lucidarme from Belgium made the first presentation in that year's Postgraduate Seminar - on the Youth Olympic Games. Belgium, of course, is a leader in Youth Olympic Games matters because Jacques Rogge, then the President of the IOC, very strongly promoted Youth Olympic Work over a 20-year period before the Youth Olympic Games began. So, she knew all about this, and I did not know anything in 2009. What came directly from her presentation at the IOA was a co-authored journal article in 2012, three years later, called "Challenges for the Youth Olympic Games". And I was motivated to develop the philosophical and ethical

dimensions in another article, 'The Youth Olympic Games – Some Ethical Issues' which examined the Singapore YOG 2010. Jephthah Ogunsanya from Nigeria is a Lecturer in the College of Education in Lagos, Nigeria. Luís Henrique Rolim Silva from Brazil was a young student in 2009. He got his PhD, then took a job in Qatar helping with the Museum of Sports History for five or six years. He is now back in Porto Alegre in Brazil and is a permanent Professor in PUCRS, the Catholic University in Porto Alegre, a city of 4 million people. I have only mentioned a few, but I cannot finish without talking about Joca Zurec from Slovenia. She was doing a PhD in 2009 and now she has got two PhDs. She is in Japan, working on her third PhD on Japanese Literature.

So, I look back on 2009 and I think, 'My God! Who were these guys? Was I teaching them? Look who these guys are! Look who they have become in ten years! What fantastic achievements! What fantastic career development and personal development!' And I cannot help thinking that this has something to do with their reasons for attending the Postgraduate Seminar – they were all seeking to develop themselves and their careers, and the PG Seminar is a part of their overall trajectory.

Now it is your time. What are your plans for the next five years? What will Kostas and I be saying about you in ten years' time? In my mind, I have no doubt that this 27th Postgraduate Seminar group will be just as impressive as the 17th. So, go for it!

I would like to express our appreciation of you and your talents and your enthusiasm, your contribution and your abilities and we would like to encourage you to remain a productive group of friends who know each other from around the world. I am sure you will all be taking home vivid and lasting impressions and memories of the Seminar, although unfortunately not really memories of Olympia. None of you or not many of you have ever been to Olympia. So, let me read you one of my favourite quotes of de Coubertin. He is talking about his visits to Olympia, and he says:

*I therefore invite you ... to come and sit on the wooded slopes of Mount Kronion at the hour when beyond the Alfeios River the rising sun begins to touch the swelling hills with gold and to lighten the green meadows at their feet.*

Kostas and I went more than once with groups of students onto the Kronion hill to stand on the top and watch the sun rise over the hills at 5.45 in the morning. This was glorious. De Coubertin is talking about his doing this very thing twice. He writes:

*I have drunk in this spectacle twice in an interval of thirty-three years. On a morning in November 1894 I became aware in this sacred place of the enormity of the task which I had undertaken in proclaiming five months earlier the restoration of the Olympic Games after an interruption of fifteen hundred years; ... On a morning in April 1927 I waited there in a kind of devout contemplation for the hour when the hand of the minister of education would draw back the Greek and French flags veiling the dazzling marble erected to attest success.*

And then he talks a bit about his second visit in 1927:

*From this lovely pine forest which climbs Mount Kronion ... it is possible to recreate in imagination the long avenues of plane trees along which there once came all the athletes and pilgrims, the embassies and the commerce, all the traffic and all the ambition, all the appetites and all the vainglories of a civilisation both more complex and more strictly defined than any which have followed it. Altis - the sacred precinct - immediately reveals itself as a*

*religious focus, the centre of a cult. Among this people and above all at this time it is difficult to imagine a religion not based upon a positive philosophical conception.*

*Let us therefore look for this basis. And if there really was a religion of athletics ... let us find out why it is in Greece that it took shape, and whether the Greek ideal ... is still suited to the rest of humanity.*

What de Coubertin meant by 'religion of athletics' was not a religion like a religious cult - he meant the internal values of athletics, he meant the morality of athletics, the hidden moral basis of sport. And this is what we tried to explore a bit in this week of philosophical study. It is a question for all of us: 'Is this conception of sport still suited to the rest of humanity today?'

So, I am really pleased that you all had this opportunity to spend some time in front of your screen thinking about these things a little, in the company of likeminded people who are striving after the same goods as you are. And I really do hope we get a chance to see you next year in Olympia."





Prof. Jim Parry being awarded the "Athina" prize from the IOA President, Isidoros Kouvelos at the Pnyx Ceremony (2014).

Prof. Jim Parry  
teaching at the 17th  
Postgraduate Seminar  
together with Prof. Irena  
Martínková (2009).



Prof. Jim Parry with Prof. Ian  
Henry, the student Maria Zapata  
and Prof. Sigmund Loland - 10th  
Postgraduate Seminar (2002).



17th Postgraduate Seminar  
(2009) - Commemorative  
photo (on the top) and Prof.  
Parry at the I. Ketseas  
and C. Diem monument  
(at the bottom).



# *Maha Zaoui* PhD

Graduate Assistant,  
Institut Supérieur de Sport et d'Éducation Physique (ISSEP) Kef



## *IOA Postgraduate Seminar 2002. 18 years later! What's new?*

I am a Doctor in sports management, General Manager of Women's Rugby in Rugby Africa and member of the Swimwear Approval Committee of the International Swimming Federation, because, 18 years ago, I was in Olympia for the Postgraduate Seminar at the IOA.

### **Experiences as a student, supervising professor and lecturer**

**As a student,** my Olympic adventure started on May 10, 2002 with a 45-day stay at Olympia. I had presented a paper entitled "Women within the Olympic Movement", which I concluded with a quote from Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch (IOA,

1990) "...I would like to tell you what a magnificent role can be yours in the world of tomorrow if you seek in Olympism your art of living, for your own development and in the service of those around you". At the time, it never occurred to me that, one day, I would have such a magnificent role in the national and international sports' system.

Being one of the three best students among the participants at the Loughborough University Certificate allowed me to have a scholarship from the Olympic Studies Centre (CEO). My stay in Lausanne at the CEO, helped me to work on my master's thesis which dealt with an Olympic issue: "Women in the Olympic Movement: Analysis of

the female participation in the 1896-2000 Summer Olympics. Towards gender parity?".

**As a coordinator,** I attended five Sessions (2003-2007) for Young Participants. This opportunity allowed me to develop my knowledge of the Olympic Movement as well as the Olympic spirit, openness to new cultures and tolerance of difference. Today I keep saying that I am an Olympic product, and that I am imbued with Olympic values.

In 2005, as a coordinator and lecturer, I presented the closing address on behalf of the lecturers and I wrote "...It is also a pleasure for me to be here again for the fourth consecutive year. Three years ago I was one of the students. I have grown since then, but the Olympic spirit has also grown in me and the fact that I am one of the lecturers is the result of the research work I have done and am still doing on the Olympic Movement. At the end of my first participation I caught the Olympic 'virus' and since then, I feel better, happy to belong to this large Olympic family which never stops expanding thanks to you".

In 2006, I presented the closing address on behalf of the coordinators and I said "I want to thank you for sharing this beautiful life experience and say to you: remember the important lesson of finding inspiration in the fundamental Olympic values

in order to be there at the meeting of hearts, those of men (and women) and those of Nations".

**As a lecturer...** Many years later (2015 & 2016), I took part in the 12th and 13th International Sessions for Presidents and Directors of National Olympic Academies and presented a lecture on "Equality of opportunities and excellence". At that time, I was a member of the Executive Board of the Tunisian National Olympic Committee (CNOT), President of the National Olympic Academy in Tunisia and Vice-President of the "Association Francophone des Académies Olympiques" (AFAO) (2013 to 2016).

Thanks to the Olympic network, Arnaud Richard, one of the French participants of the 2006 Session, President of the French Olympic Academy (2017-2021), invited me in 2016 to the International University Sports Forum in Montpellier, France as President of the plenary session of the "Volunteers" theme. This was a very interesting experience which allowed me to understand the functioning of the International University Sports Federation (FISU).

#### **How did the Postgraduate Seminar affect my career orientation?**

In 2005, as a member of the international Olym-

pic Movement, I was asked to join the board of the Tunisian Rugby Federation (FTR) as head of the Women's Rugby Commission. I was surprised by this proposal, as I am expert in swimming. This proposal was challenging for me and I said to myself, "Why not?". It was a great new adventure for me. As a sports teacher, it was not very difficult for me to set-up a female team and manage it. And since that date, I have never left the rugby family.

In 2014, I received the Certification of Olympic Solidarity Directors Programme. It was another great opportunity to share experiences with leaders from all around the world and have Jean Camy as a trainer.

In 2017, as a union board member, I was appointed as director of Rugby Africa Women's Sevens tournament. In 2018, I was selected for the first edition of the World Rugby Executive Leadership Scholarship. I decided to attend the Executive Masters in Sports Organisation Management (MEMOS) programme run by the International Olympic Committee. After a year of studying different modules, including Human Resources, Marketing, Strategy, Finance and Sports Events, I defended my thesis, "Develop-

ment strategy for women's rugby in Africa. 2019-2025" directed by Dr Nicolas Scelles. Once again, and 17 years after the Postgraduate Seminar, I am dealing again with women's sports.

In the same year, 2019, and three months before my MEMOS graduation, I defended my PhD thesis about performance of sports organisations "Conflicts and performance of union's board. Background and effects on organisational performance. Tunisian sports unions". This subject is linked to everything I have experienced since 2002 when I started my path in the sports movement and Olympic Movement management.

Part of the magic of Olympic spirit is the friends you make from all over the world and the networks you build of people who can support each other in numerous ways, in both our careers and everyday lives. Even if great distances separated us, with today's modern technology keeping in touch is far easier than it used to be. Even now, 18 years later, and thanks to Maria Zapata from Spain, 24 of the 2002 postgraduate participants are connected through social media and I am still in touch with many of the coordinators and the staff I met in the IOA.





Maha Zaoui reading excerpts from  
Pierre de Coubertin writings - 10th  
Postgraduate Seminar (2002).



Female ancient Games representation during  
the 10th Seminar (2002).



The students at the Pierre  
de Coubertin Grove (2002).



## 11th Postgraduate Seminar 2003

# *Susan Brownell* PhD

*Professor of Anthropology,  
University of Missouri-St. Louis*



## *The worldwide reach of the IOA's Postgraduate Seminars*

*J* was first invited to lecture in the Postgraduate Seminar in 2003. Athens was one year away from hosting the Olympic Games, and Beijing had been selected to host the 2008 Games. I am a scholar of Chinese sport, and so I was eager to strengthen my comprehension of Olympic history and of the organisation of the Games in preparation for research on the Beijing Olympics. At that time there was no place in the world in which one could get a more well-rounded overview of all facets of the Olympic Movement than in the Postgraduate Seminar (some years later, the IOA Master's degree programme was created, which offered a similar opportunity). On the one hand, the Semi-

nar brought well-known international scholars together in one place, where they shared knowledge from a range of disciplines, covering all time periods from ancient to modern. On the other hand, the scholars and many of the students were also engaged in the Olympic Movement. For an anthropologist such as myself, who utilises ethnographic fieldwork to study contemporary Olympic Games, the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of recent Games, and Games currently in preparation, was unequalled anywhere else. Over the years, I returned to the IOA to lecture in other Sessions, but the 2003 and 2004 Postgraduate Seminars had the biggest influence on my intellectual life and career.

During the Seminars, I became acquainted with outstanding scholars with whom I have collaborated ever since. The work of Christina Koulouri and Kostas Georgiadis on the growth of sports in late nineteenth-century Greece, and on the first modern Olympic Games in Athens, revealed the potential of applying excellent social history to sports. By helping me to better understand the imperialist and colonialist dynamics that underpinned sports at the turn of the previous century, their work made me see the introduction of sports into China in a new way. Christina and I explored these insights in a special issue of the *Journal of Sport History* on "The View from Greece: Questioning Eurocentrism in the History of the Olympic Games," which we co-edited in summer 2005.

I already knew Otto Schantz before we taught together at the IOA in 2003, but I appreciated the opportunity to listen to his famous lecture, a wide-ranging account of the history and ideals of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In 2004 I got to know Marc Maes, who invited me to be the 2011 "Olympic Chair Henri de Baillet-Latour and Jacques Rogge" at Ghent University and the Catholic University of Louvain. Sadly, he passed away before I was in Belgium to deliver the lectures.

In Ancient Olympia in 2003, I became interest-

ed in the difference between the Olympic Games in Greece and China. Greece was portraying itself as the originating point of Western civilization and claiming the Games as part of its legacy; China was portraying itself as the originating point of a contrasting Far Eastern civilization and aspiring to contribute new cultural traditions to the Games. This inspired me to organise a series of three symposia on the topic "From Athens to Beijing: West meets East in the Olympic Games." Funded by a gift from Greece-based Costamare Shipping, the symposia brought together 38 scholars from 12 countries who engaged in comparative analyses of sports, the body, and humanism in East Asia and the West from antiquity to today. They were held at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Beijing Sport University, and the IOA. We brought students of Professors Koulouri and Georgiadis from the University of the Peloponnese to take part in the IOA events. A selection of the papers was published as a book, *From Athens to Beijing: West meets East in the Olympic Games*. This was just one of many collaborations with these two friends and colleagues.

Several months after my second visit to the Postgraduate Seminar in 2004, I organised a conference in St. Louis, published as *The 1904 St.*

*Louis Anthropology Days and Olympic Games.* The volume contained three chapters by scholars I had met at Postgraduate Seminars. Otto wrote a chapter on Pierre de Coubertin's humanism, and Gerald Gems wrote about the participation of the Philippines. It was not just the faculty, but also the students with whom I established lasting relationships. Christine O'Bonsawin contributed a chapter on Canadian Indians. A member of the Abenaki indigenous peoples in Canada, she visited me in St. Louis to do research on the events of 1904. At the end of 2003, Andreas Niehaus, a Japan scholar, arranged an invitation for me to lecture at the East Asian Institute at University of Cologne, where he was finishing his PhD. Some years later we met up in Belgium, where he had become a faculty member at Ghent University.

It was also my pleasure to recommend two anthropology PhD students to the Postgraduate Seminar on whose dissertation committees I was a member - Karen Warner of Yale University and Daniel Guinness of Oxford University - which helped to connect the IOA with two of the world's

leading universities.

My purpose in recounting this story is to use my personal experiences to demonstrate the worldwide reach of the IOA's Postgraduate Seminars. The academic and personal networks that have formed there have elevated the scholarship on sports and the Olympic Games. In this era of virtual reality, the IOA has retained an emphasis on face-to-face human relationships, and this is the main reason for its importance. Because I have often discussed this with Honorary Dean Georgiadis, I know that this approach is intentional. He sees it as based in humanism; in my opinion, this version of humanism is unique to today's Greece, while drawing on ancient traditions. The peaceful location near the ancient Olympic stadium inspires scholars by making them feel a connection with the grand sweep of human history. The IOA's "people power" surpasses the academic realm itself and, by connecting people all over the world, helps to carry out the broader aims of the Olympic Movement: contributing to a more peaceful and better world.



The supervising professors Susan Brownell and Marc Maes with the students of the 12th Postgraduate Seminar (2004).



Prof. Susan Brownell and Conrado Durández laying a wreath at the Pierre de Coubertin stele (2009).





Prof. Susan Brownell  
lecturing at the 49th  
International Session for  
Young Participants (2009).

Prof. Susan Brownell  
participated in the  
"Scholars for Olympia"  
initiative after the fire  
of 2007.



# *Christian Wacker* PhD

Olympic Museum Manager  
President, International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH)



## *From Archaeology in Olympia to the Olympic Movement*

**B**ack in the year 1996, I got the chance to participate in one of the first International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students in Ancient Olympia. To me this happened by surprise as I did not have any connection to Sports Science or even the Olympic Movement until that time. I was educated as an archaeologist and had just finished my PhD thesis about the "Gymnasium in Ancient Olympia". Having spent several years participating in the excavation of Ancient Olympia between 1992 and 1995, my colleagues – the archaeologists – and I had always wondered what was going on behind the fence of the International Olympic Academy (IOA). We had been curious

about that world far away from dusty excavation grounds, pottery reconstructions and the interpretation of the Games in Ancient Olympia. With the support of my PhD supervisor, Prof. Dr Ulrich Sinn, and my mentor and friend, Prof. Dr Norbert Müller, the doors of the IOA had been opened to me and I entered a world I would never leave again in my life.

In long distance running competitions of ancient Greece the athletes did not run in oval stadiums like today, but they had to turn at the end of the ancient stadium around turning posts ("kampter" in ancient Greek). This meant a real turn-around and I have to confess that my first

stay in the IOA was the most significant “kampter” in my life.

### **My professional “kampter”**

From my first stay at the IOA I entered into the Olympic Movement, and especially Olympic history, with all my energy and passion. Up until today, I have returned many times to this beautiful green district where emotion, knowledge, discussion, exchange and motivation merge. I returned several times as a Professor for the Postgraduate Seminars, I returned with students from German universities, I returned with teachers from German schools and I was invited as a lecturer in different areas. The participants have always been very interested in my field, the ancient Olympic Games and the beginning of the modern Olympic Games, and I really appreciate having had the chance to enhance our knowledge and be part of this Movement. I have written many papers and also books about my topics and, in particular, I have contributed to the *Journal of Olympic History* for many years.

I regard myself as an Olympic Historian having lectured in different universities in Europe, the Middle East and Brazil, but my real profession is on Museum Studies and Museum Management. I

had been Director of two Olympic Museums in Germany and Qatar, and I myself specialised in collecting, exhibiting and interpreting Olympic Heritage. The tangible and intangible heritage of the Olympics are my profession and the seeds had been planted during my time excavating in ancient Olympia. Those seeds were coming up when I participated as a postgraduate student in the International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students in 1996, and today the tree has grown up to the sky and is producing new seeds by itself. I am happy and proud of this achievement and many things could only have happened thanks to the IOA and the networks there. One example is the exhibition “Olympics – Past and Present” I organised in Qatar in 2013 covering around 3,000 sqm. For the first time ever, Olympic heritage had been exhibited in the Middle East with hundreds of objects about ancient Games from different museums in Greece. Without the “invisible” networks this never would have been possible! Very recently I have been elected President of the International Society of Olympic Historians and I will not get tired of continuing to spread the word about the Olympic Movement and Olympic History around the world.

## **My private "kampter"**

Are there rumours about liaisons taking place at the IOA? There are! Are there love stories starting at Postgraduate Seminars? There are, too! The best thing that happened in my life and was directly connected to my participation as student back in 1996 was that I met my love and later wife Marcia. Prof. Dr Marcia De Franceschi Neto had been the representative of Brazil, a true sports woman working at the Sports Ministry in Brasília and teaching at the Federal University in the same city. Our paths crossed and we found each other and are together in our private lives until today, we brought up three children and are now waiting for the granddaughters and grandsons to come. Due to our common interests we also

worked together, published a book entitled "*Brazil goes Olympic*" and many academic papers, organised sports and Olympic exhibitions, founded the "Committee Pierre de Coubertin" in Brazil and supported many students on their way into the Olympic Movement.

We discuss Olympic history, but also the Olympic future, relentlessly. We participate in conferences internationally and might be regarded as an example of how the word of the Olympics spoken in the IOA was spread to the world. Until this day we are both proud of having been chosen as participants for the 4th International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students in 1996 and we are not tired of emphasising the importance of this Seminar and the IOA in general.





Christian Wacker's wife, Marcia (on the right), whom he met at the 4th Postgraduate Seminar (1996).



Christian Wacker, as an archaeologist, is providing information on the Olympia archaeological site.

Sports activities during the 4th Seminar (1996). Christian Wacker playing football.



Dr Wacker as a supervising professor with Prof. Hugh Lee guiding the students of the 15th Postgraduate Seminar around the Olympia archaeological site (2007).



## 12th Postgraduate Seminar 2004

# *Sarah Teetzel* PhD

Associate Professor and Associate Dean (Undergraduate Education),  
Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management,  
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba



## *Musings on Olympia as Muse: Finding Inspiration for a Career in Olympic Studies at the IOA's Postgraduate Seminar*

Reflecting on the summer of 2004 is an easy task: memories of this time are clear, impressions remain vivid, and this trip down memory lane has been a wonderfully nostalgic experience. It is a pleasure to reflect on the impact that a month in Olympia, as a participant at the 12th International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students, had on my studies, career trajectory, and worldview as an adherent of the philosophy of Olympism.

June 10 - July 10, 2004. These dates are inscribed in my mind, to the point that I am confident

those are the dates corresponding to my time at the 12th Postgraduate Seminar without consulting any documents or files to verify. It is not embellishing to say that month in 2004 in Greece was life-altering. Our stay in Olympia overlapped with Greece's remarkable performance at the EURO 2004 and the lead-up to the 2004 Olympics. As a mere casual football fan from North America, I cannot tell you who won the subsequent 2008, 2012, and 2016 men's UEFA European Football Championships, as these victories barely registered, but it was an honour to watch Greece cele-

breathe its incredible success in the prelude to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

The summer of 2004 was a turning point for me. I arrived in Athens preparing to finish a MA degree in philosophy of sport, and with considerable doubts about what to do next. An option to start a doctorate in the same area under the supervision of Dr Angela Schneider was available, but I was unsure if I wanted to start down that road. In Olympia, I found the inspiration I needed to plan a career path in Olympic studies. Many factors contributed to my decision to charge forward pursuing a PhD in Olympic Studies: the inspiring location, the emotion of the historically significant surroundings, and the exposure to myriad ideas and styles of learning. However, for me, a week studying the philosophy of the Olympic Games, under the tutelage of Professor Jim Parry, was a transformative experience. As a member of the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport (IAPS), I knew Jim by reputation and had read some of his work prior to arriving in Olympia. Anyone afforded the privilege of seeing him in action lecturing will recognise the refreshingly vivid perspectives he brings to teaching and learning.

Back in 2004, the new lecture hall building had a computer lab with a few desktop comput-

ers connected to the Internet. During our lunch breaks, we could line up to check emails, and, if the queue was not too long, have a quick online chat with friends and family back home. A few participants had cell phones, and a handful of people had digital cameras, but the majority of us arrived technology free and spent our month in Olympia that way. A final group project before we all departed the IOA premises for Athens involved burning a CD full of images for each participant, provided by those with digital cameras. With 2004 technology, this sluggish process was not completed until minutes before the bus departed. Leaving the IOA premises, leaving Olympia, leaving the Peloponnese region, and eventually going our separate ways in Athens, was overwhelmingly difficult. We knew the chance of us all returning and replicating our experience was beyond unlikely. But putting aside the melancholy of dispersing back into our regular lives, we were gobsmacked to see the incredible changes that occurred in Athens between our arrival in Greece in early June, and our return to the city in mid July, mere weeks before the opening ceremonies of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. While we were in Olympia, the city had literally bloomed. Gardens appeared seemingly everywhere, and we

were delighted to run into life-sized Phevos and Athena mascots roaming the streets. It seemed the world had changed while we were living and learning in Olympia.

Each time I return to Olympia to participate in a seminar at the Academy, it is easier to leave and return home, because I know now there is an option to return. What struck me on my first visit back to Olympia - as a lecturer nine years later, at the 2013 Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies - was the reasonably strong wifi signal across the campus, and the impact it had on how groups interact together. My first few days back I missed my 2004 Postgraduate Seminar friends terribly, and I had to keep reminding myself I could check my email or scroll through social media from my room. The days of waiting outside the computer lab are over, which certainly offers convenience, but at the expense of something that is hard to pinpoint. During my last few

visits to Olympia, I have made a conscientious effort to stash my phone, turn all wifi signals off as much as possible, and try to reconnect with the land and the people, like we did back in 2004.

What has stuck with me the most? The answer is the people, of course. Some I see yearly; others not once since we parted in Athens. Yet they all remain clear in my memories. For the last decade, educators have highlighted the importance of experiential learning, service learning, and immersive experiences to the point these phrases run the risk of becoming meaningless buzz words. However, long before it was trendy, the IOA was offering immersive experiential education for postgraduate students, in ways that multiple organisations have since tried to replicate. Like the Olympic Movement itself, the Academy has stood the test of time, and those of us lucky enough to have studied there will benefit from that experience forever.





The postgraduate  
students at  
Mycenae (2004).

The computer  
room at the IOA  
(2004).



At the Olympia archaeological site (2004).



Sarah Teetzel  
with her fellow  
students - 12th  
Postgraduate  
Seminar (2004).

# *Andreas Zagklis*

FIBA Secretary General



## *We will always have the IOA steps*

Visiting the archaeological site in Ancient Olympia is, by itself, a memorable experience particularly for those working (or dreaming of working) in international sports. Now imagine living next to that site for five weeks, together with some 35 fellow-students from more than 25 countries, delving into the science, history, ethics, management, law, psychology, marketing etc. of sport. And place this exciting combination in the summer of 2004, with the anticipation building up for the Olympics to "return home" and Ancient Olympia preparing to receive Olympians to compete (for the shotput discipline) for the first time after more than 1,600 years.

Arriving at Olympia in early summer for the

IOA Postgraduate Seminar, naturally you consider the intellectual and educational component first. We were indeed blessed with a rich selection of visiting lecturers and a tight schedule that keeps your mind busy in a way that, at least in the eyes of a (then) young sports lawyer, was quite a change: I was surrounded by colleagues who worked in other areas of sport, who came trained in different research methods, with a different culture and, at the end, a different way of thinking. The process is certainly putting your own views of the Olympic Movement into perspective when you hear, for example, an IT-expert on how technology can change sport; or a sport historian who explains the background behind

an amendment to the Olympic Charter some 40 years ago; or a sport psychologist who analyses what it means to be a student-athlete in the era of fast-track sport careers.

And then there is the social component. Even fellow students who had previously gone through the experience of Young Participants' Sessions were positively surprised. The number of participants was lower at the Postgraduate Seminar, the age and educational level was more homogeneous and the length of the stay created a sports-cultural "melting pot" that was quite unique, considering we were still in the relatively early days of multi-disciplinary, international sports education programmes. I have little doubt that these exchanges sharpen a person's ability to be communicative, tolerant and understanding, all essential qualities for anyone working in international sport.

Of course, each generation has its own stories. Ours included a night-after-night celebration which ended up with Greece winning the football EURO 2004. Or the Academy's stairs, the

"steps", traditional IOA photo background and at the same time main meeting and debating place for us, day and night, between and after the classes. At the first reunion, we replaced them with the steps at Syntagma square and spent the night discussing our sport stories and dreams - the sky was the limit, why not? Years later, the background would change and I would see the same friends in the most unexpected of places: from the Olympic Games, to a World Anti-Doping Agency symposium, or even at the NBA All-Star game - all with the smile of "co-conspirators" that is so common among alumni.

"This is a very good generation", I recall Dean Georgiadis saying just on the second day. "Quite early for such a statement", I thought. But here we are, so many of us in sport at all levels, contributing to its worldwide development as university professors, federation and league administrators, athlete representatives, consultants, coaches, fund-raisers, etc. Always remembering fondly our time in Olympia, with gratitude for what it offered to us.



The students of the 12th Postgraduate Seminar at the Palamidi fortress in Nafplion during an educational tour (2004).



Andreas Zagklis (on the right) with his fellow students from the Seminar (2004).



Commemorative photo of the 12th Postgraduate Seminar (2004).



## 13th Postgraduate Seminar 2005

# Thomas Junod

Head of UEFA Academy



## *My Olympia dream...*

Olympia! Here I am again... the feeling of a breath of fresh air on my neck opened my eyes. From a deep black to a vibrant light, I needed a few seconds to understand where I was and that I had returned to you... one more time.

As my eyes became used to the blue of your sky, I enjoyed the glimmering gold of the rising sun reflecting on your stones, these still and imposing rocks assembled and carved by the genius of devoted men. I heard silence, only broken by the sound of a few *calieferas*. The absence of noise invited me to fill the eerie silence with my imagination while travelling into your rich history. I thought about the athletes preparing in the *Gymnasium*, the *hellanodikai* gathering before

a ceremony, the spectators walking along the *Alpheios*. And I felt my body moving along your geometric spaces... the stadium, the tunnel, the *palaestra*.

As I left your immaculate premises which will soon open to the first visitors of the day, I strolled at a leisurely pace along a road. On my right, I studied the stadium; an empty slender rectangle, a stage with so many sporting achievements. On my left, the Kronion hill, covered with its dense vegetation, home of a hidden but active fauna. I remember climbing over the hill with some other young adventurers to contemplate your beauty from the top in a quest to discover some of your secrets.

As if it could bring me back to this elevated platform, I took long breaths in a desire to fill my lungs with your pure and refreshing air. Yet I am still walking along the road and, after another turn, I arrive by a gate. Standing at the end of a long gravel avenue, I see the stele of Baron Pierre de Coubertin; a monument celebrating the memory of the instigator of the Modern Olympics, but also marking the link between the ancient and contemporary history of the Games.

As I entered into the facilities of the International Olympic Academy, I am immediately welcomed by the pulse of sport. I heard the sound of a tennis ball rebounding on the ground followed by the echo and the distortion when hit by rackets. And then, splash! Someone dived into the water; I observed a bobbling head appearing and disappearing in a well-paced, perfected rhythm. My first *kalimera* of the day will be for a runner overtaking me, probably returning from a more strenuous ritual than mine.

In front of the first dormitory, a young man is reading his book which I immediately recognised. This is a modern edition of the writings of the Greek traveller Pausanias. I read it too the first time I visited you. I remember the efforts of the author to describe, with the greatest precision,

the position, size and colours of your monuments, and how much I had been captivated by the fascinating description of the Statue of Zeus made by Pheidias.

Without interrupting the reader, I arrive in front of four imposing flags that the timid wind caresses but does not manage to lift. On the marble stairs behind me, three people enjoyed a *frappé*. After having been surrounded only by my thoughts and the phantoms of some ancient gods and heroes, I felt like I had been taken to the world of the living.

I keep climbing up and soon I reach the New Lecture Hall perched on the left corner of the Academy. It seemed I was late again. From the outside, I heard a voice in a microphone addressing an assiduous audience. How many times have I entered this room? How many papers have I covered with notes? How many ideas and thoughts have been born in this amphitheatre?

Time is a relative notion here more than in any other place. Before I realised the auditorium was empty, the football pitch moved into action. I heard people giving instructions and cheering in many more languages than I could recognise. From my position I could also observe a small group who started to colour some old wood boxes under a simple shelter protecting them from

the sun. And at the end of a path, two people were rehearsing a Peruvian dance.

Time seems to have been compressed again. The sun has vanished, but the air still conveys its warmth. Everyone gathered in large semi-circle. I recognised the joyous wooden boxes which have been displayed both sides of an improvised stage. Show after show, we will travel around the world several times. The Peruvian dancers were joined by a dozen newly formed couples.

As the music went on, it became more intimate; the sound of a *bouzouki* enveloped the late discussion and the distinctive smell of *ouzo* emanated from our glasses.

My head is buzzing. My phone is ringing. I am waking up. I am on my sofa in Nyon, in Switzerland, just a few kilometres away from the brand new headquarters of the International Olympic Committee.

My laptop is in front of me. There are a few lines on the screen typed in a document called "IOA Postgraduate Seminar Publication\_Contribution by Thomas". The text says:

*There is no better place than Olympia to fully grasp the meaning of Olympism, the philosophy that underpins the Olympic Movement. No books, videos or even the most passionate talks can re-*

*place the physical experience of a visit to Olympia and the IOA. The IOA does not symbolise Olympism, it allows you to experience it!*

*The IOA Sessions do not represent universalism. They are universal. Although located in Greece and European, in their organisation they are the theatre of a peaceful collision of cultures. They are an invitation to open up to the diversity of our world. The fact that all participants are connected in the belief that sport is much more than a physical activity makes the connection immediate.*

*Olympia represents history and the legends which shape it. It is the connection of the Modern and Ancient Games which may seem very remote for many but which, in fact, is fundamental to understanding why the Olympic Games are much more than a series of sports competitions.*

*As an education specialist, I am convinced that there is nothing better than experiences to remember and understand concepts or ideas. How can you teach universalism when the places and moments you can truly experience it are so rare? Take a philosophy. What better way to learn about it than in trying to live it, even if only for a while? How can you better grasp the thoughts of Baron Pierre de Coubertin than in reading his writings while being surrounded by the nature he described?*

*I feel so privileged that I could experience Olym-pism at the International Olympic Academy. There is no doubt that it influenced the sport administrator - and the person - I became. This certainly explains my commitment to always trying to provide people attending the training sessions I organise with the right frame. There is an ideal place for every sub-ject to be taught. A place allowing the audience to become fully immersed in the topic. A place which incarnates the idea which will be developed during the lectures and the discussions.*

Reading again those lines, I am starting to wonder: If Olympia and the Seminars of the International Olympic Academy form a unique experience, how should I describe them? Would it be

fair to put into words something you can only fully understand by living? And what if the best justice I could do to my experience in Olympia was to simply tell you about my dream? If I cannot bring the reader to Olympia for real, at least a dream could, maybe, capture some of the impressions, feelings, memories of a place that is unique in the world. It will not say much about the content of the Postgraduate Seminar. I am sure other people will do it for me in this book, much better than I could have done. But this dream might give you a glimpse of what exists around it, about the context making this piece of learning so special and transformative. It will tell you about what I truly discovered in Olympia.





Thomas Junod as a coordinator at the 49th International Session for Young Participants (2009).



Thomas Junod reading Pierre de Coubertin's extracts.

Official dinner for the postgraduate students and the supervising professors - 13th Postgraduate Seminar (2005).

Among the coordinators of the Young Participants' Session.



# Nelson Todt PhD

*Professor at Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS)  
Coordinator of the Olympic Studies Research Group of PUCRS  
President of the Brazilian Pierre de Coubertin Committee*



## *Letter to Chronos*

*Χαιρεταὶ αγαπητέ μου Χρόνε!*  
Hello, my dear Chronos!

Sooner or later, I knew we would see each other again, after all, there is no need to wear a watch to know that you are watching.

It seems like yesterday that our paths crossed at Olympia, but it has been 21 years... Unlike you, I think I lost track of time. When I first stepped into the International Olympic Academy in June, 1999, that moment I felt that a spark had lit within me: a feeling which only time would be capable of explaining. Gladly, here we are... "Twenty twenty" and I have the next few lines to tell you how that

small spark has evolved into a huge flame that still burns inside my chest.

I was still young when I had the opportunity to meet Olympia, I was just starting my academic life as a researcher and taking my first steps as an educator... it was the 39th Session for Young Participants. When I think about this magical experience, I remember an excerpt from Coubertin: "Olympism ... is a state of mind. No place or time can hold an exclusive monopoly on it". It is difficult to express in words what we felt in Olympia that year, but what I can say in short is that we took a share of energy from that place with us to our homes.

There are moments in life that are so extraordinary that we accept that it might happen only once in a lifetime. Being in Olympia was definitely one of them and, considering the geographical distance between Brazil and Greece, a second chance was, let's say, unlikely. However, what the young Nelson did not know, Chronos, is that you play against the odds.

Back in Brazil after sharing special and knowledgeable moments in Greece, I felt that I was no longer the same man who took that plane some days before. That little bit of Olympism that Olympia shared with me and my colleagues in 1999 started to grow and I realised that it could occupy the hearts of others too. The spark of Olympism spread and the flame of the educator rose: I became a university professor in 2000.

Through classes I was able to convey to my students the importance of the "joy of effort", so defended by Coubertin. Teaching completed me in such a way that it motivated me to start my doctorate in Education in 2001. The theme of my thesis was *Olympic Rituals and Ceremonies* (I did not even need to say where the inspiration came from). In 2005, at the end of my PhD, your nephew Hermes sent me news as valuable as the title of doctor: Olympia would mark my life again!

You are relentless, Chronos... I would now take part in the 13th International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students! Although it would only be my second time in Olympia, I had the feeling that I was going "back home". If the two-week period in 1999 had changed my life, now you would be even more generous as we would spend a month in Olympia.

We are close to filling our lungs in the Olympic paradise once more! The bus awaits for us. When passing by the river Alpheios, we hear Professor Heather Reid recite her poem:

*"One day in Olympia, near the sacred grove  
The huntress saw the river gleam and into him  
she dove  
His waters churned around her, caressed her  
shining skin  
And something very powerful began to stir  
within..."*

After the arrival in Olympia, wow, it has not changed at all... The same incredible atmosphere! The motherland of the Olympic Games of Antiquity, so beautifully described by Pausanias and Pindar, receives 30 "postgraduate students" who come to learn and share their experiences.

Olympia has a symbolic energy surrounding it all. This time, more familiar with the place, I could

repeat the same "ritual", to walk around the gardens and meet the "heart of the Baron de Coubertin" again. "His heart" was the same as the last time... mine was not.

The International Olympic Academy has its mystic charm that makes us feel as if we are living in a cross-section between the past and the present. Therefore, there is nothing more suited to Olympia than the main theme of that year's Seminar: "The Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement: Past, Present and Future". In its 13th edition, the Postgraduate Seminar proved to be a differentiated catalyst in my life and in the field of Olympic studies. But the Seminar was not limited to a vast and deep knowledge about the modern Olympic Movement. During these days we were able to visit different places in this magical country (you are so lucky to watch the world from there, Chronos). In addition to Athens and Olympia, we visited Corinth, Epidaurus, Mycenae, Nemea, Delphi, Sparta, Mystras and Monemvasia.

I know, it is fantastic! Imagine yourself as a re-

searcher working on the Olympic world to be able to literally see what you read; and what is better, you did not do it alone. I have shared the grace of it with 39 other postgraduate students from 30 different countries! Coubertin had a vision for Internationalism and in this sense, I could not fail to mention the activities promoted by your other nephew, Dionysus: the "social evenings", multiculturalism and integration!

Most of these verses try to say that we are the only ones responsible for developing our dreams, but here I must be frank with you, Chronos... it was after that month that I realised that the small spark of 1999 no longer fitted me, and only then did I start to share it on an international network as well.

"Legacy is not given, legacy is built!". Thank you, Chronos, thank you, IOA, for your legacy and the opportunity you gave me of sharing these few lines with my colleagues and, more than anything, thank you for keeping the flame in our hearts burning. Forever Olympia!





Educational tour at  
the Palamidi fortress  
in Nafplion - 13th  
Postgraduate Seminar  
(2005).

Nelson Todt with Prof. Stephen Miller at  
the archaeological site of Nemea (2005).



Nelson Todt with Greek fellow students and IOA staff (2005).



## 14th Postgraduate Seminar 2006

# *Małgorzata Bronikowska* PhD

Associate Professor, University of Physical Education in Poznan



## *Proud Olympia – my dream and love...*

Long before I had a chance to be one of the participants in the Seminar for Postgraduate Students I had learnt about Ancient Olympia and all the facts related to that almost mythical place. That was during my university years. Having seen the pictures, hearing and reading beautiful stories of the history of the cradle of the ancient Olympic Games, it occurred to me that, "This is really a place where I want to go!" From then on, it became my biggest dream - I wanted to see the ruins of Ancient Olympia - surrounded by the green cypresses, palms and olive trees - with my own eyes.

This lucky day came when, as a doctoral student, I received confirmation I had qualified as a participant in the Seminar for Postgraduate Stu-

dents. It was a wonderful, unforgettable time and it all started with visiting the historical sites of the most important places in Greece (Athens, Delphi, Nemea, Isthmia and then Ancient Olympia) and becoming acquainted with the ancient concepts of *agon*, *kalokagathia* and *arete*.

For me, it was an opportunity to acquire crucial and valuable knowledge, delivered by outstanding scholars. I could also experience the flavour of other cultures via participants and their activities, which were unique to various parts of the world (e.g. from Australia, France, Switzerland, Taipei and many others). I started countless precious relationships, on both a research and personal level, that have lasted until today.

What do I remember the most? There are so

many experiences that stand out. One of them concerns when I presented my research in front of all the Seminar participants. It was extremely stressful for me, as it was the very first time I had had the opportunity to present to an international group. What is more, everyone already had some knowledge of the topics undertaken in Olympia. I need not have worried! The presentation went quite smoothly in an atmosphere that was pleasant and supportive (which is what really makes this place so outstanding and so unique), with questions from both professors and colleagues. With the stressful part over, afterwards I felt relieved and I was ready to enjoy my stay!

That was a time for freedom and pleasure – things that I did not even consider when I first dreamt of Olympia. Climbing up Kronion hill at five o'clock in the morning to see the picturesque sunrise. Just like the ancient pilgrims, travelling to Zeus's altar before the Olympic Games, watching them from the distance of the present day. Another unforgettable experience was re-enacting events from the ancient Olympic Games... I took the role of a referee, standing on guard, using a simple stick to maintain order in the contest. It was an amazing feeling to have a chance to experience the ancient atmosphere at

one of the winners' celebrations for the stadium sprint and *pankration* or *halma*.

My stay was a good time to discuss my research thoughts with the professors and at the same time to explore the huge number of valuable volumes in the IOA's library. But it was also really good down time, spending lots of time together with new friends. I remember those lazy, sunny afternoons spent by the pool, listening to music, spending time on the tennis court or playing volleyball and having fun with other participants. I even played a soccer game with the Dean and the others.

But the time passed quickly and we had to say farewell to each other, promising to keep in touch as long as possible. So we still do today, through Facebook, seeing each other at international conferences and Olympic congresses or reading each other's works and papers.

Fortunately, for some of us it was not our last time visiting the charmed Ancient Olympia IOA centre! I had a chance to feel that burst of joy again and how lucky I was! It was the winter of 2011 when I got the invitation from the IOA President to be a part of the International Session for Educators and Officials of Higher Institutes of Physical Education, but this time as an invited speaker.

"Oh my goodness", I thought. My greatest dream had come true – to have the chance to speak to a world-wide audience in the main amphitheatre of the IOA premises. I remember the topic I spoke about that day. It was on the importance of traditional sports in the current world as a cultural heritage and legacy of each region and each cultural circle. From my perspective, the audience appreciated my presentation, at least enough to raise some questions. It was good experience for me and a great confidence boost.

A few years later I was invited again, and later again, as a lecturer for Postgraduate Seminars dedicated to students from various countries of all continents. In particular, I remember a group of young people on the 2013 course. They were great! With their passion and a fresh look at life, not only with regard to sport, a lot could be learned from such individuals. It was a chance to exchange not just knowledge but also thoughts and experiences, shared among these people

coming from different parts of the world and each undergoing various life challenges determined by their place of residence.

Thanks to the close cooperation with the IOA centre, in 2012 I managed to invite the Dean of the Academy to my own university at the end of an EU project, the main aim of which was to integrate youth in the society through Olympic education. I consider having an opportunity to host an IOA representative as a great achievement and a big honour for our institution.

And thus, my cooperation with the International Olympic Academy continues to this day, allowing young people, and myself, to develop in the context of Olympic education thanks to the unique individuals I meet there every time I visit.

And finally, I just want to say that I am proud to be a part of the IOA's community, sharing Olympic education and ideas, from the grassroots to the highest level of academic education and research.





Commemorative photo of the female students - 14th Postgraduate Seminar (2006).



Group photo from an educational visit to Nafplion (2006).

# Nikos Choutas PhD

PhD in Modern History, Panteion University



## *Olympic Education “Greenhouse”: Lessons from the future*

The summers of our youth remain vivid in our memory, ready to visit us in the present whenever we call upon them, making us smile happily without asking anything in return. For me, the summer of 2006 is an inexhaustible source of such memories. It is when I attended the International Olympic Academy Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students. I will remember that summer for the rest of my life.

Having already completed the first cycle of my studies and fulfilled my military obligations, and shortly before I started working, I applied to participate in the Seminar. I had already been informed extensively about its objective and content by Kostas Georgiadis, Honorary Dean of the

IOA, in the context of the 1st Panhellenic Conference of Sports History and Philosophy in 2001. He reminded me of our 2001 talk in 2003, when the IOA hosted the 8th Congress of European Committee for Sports History in its facilities. As I had already decided to pursue doctoral studies in the political history of the Olympic Games, 2006 was the right time for me to participate in the Seminar.

Together with my 35 peers (16 men and 19 women) from 27 countries, all more or less in the same phase in our lives, we established important bonds from the moment we met. Our close relationship is reflected in the photographs of our first days visiting the archaeological sites.

At the end of a long tour, which had started very

early in the morning at the Acropolis, Athens, and included the Panathenaic (*Kallimarmaro*) and the Olympic Stadium, as well as the National Archaeological Museum and subsequent visits to Isthmia and Mycenae, we were received in Nemea, in the evening, by Stephen Miller, Professor of Classical Archaeology. This man, whose name is intrinsically connected with the excavations in that area, ended his tour by strongly encouraging us to run inside the ancient Stadium. Despite our exhaustion, we all responded with childlike spontaneity. We arrived in Nafplion late that night. While strolling around the picturesque alleys of the first capital of Greece together, we felt a natural intimacy even though we had just been introduced a few hours before. Our relaxed mood was kindly interrupted by Dr Christian Wacker. He had read in my CV that I was also studying modern history and asked me to talk to my peers about the history of the city. Such "surprises" would take us aback several times during the Seminar.

For instance, we all enjoyed a pleasant surprise in the final days. The Hellenic State had decided to celebrate the two years from the 2004 Athens Olympic Games with a simple ceremony in the ancient Stadium of Olympia. So we had the privilege to attend the event and talk with the two hon-

oured guests: Maria Hors, choreographer of the Olympic flame lighting ceremony for forty years, an iconic personality of modern Olympic Games, and Dimitris Papaioannou, choreographer and director, creator of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2004 Olympic Games.

Our expectations for the Seminar were met in every possible way. It enriched my knowledge and broadened my horizons with regard to current Olympic matters, and to an extent helped my thoughts on the direction of my doctoral research to mature. In the preamble to my doctoral dissertation, the first dissertation focusing on the political, social and economic aspects of the 2004 Olympic Games submitted to a Greek University, I make reference to the academic footprint of the Seminar and the IOA in general on my life. The understanding that I gained from the Seminar regarding all aspects of the Olympic Movement, and the stimuli it provided, were valuable for my subsequent scientific approach to my subject.

Each week of the Seminar focused on a different topic, which allowed for broader thinking and reflection on the institution of the Games throughout its history. Besides, that is the comparative advantage of the Seminar: it provides new knowledge and skills and encourages the assess-

ment of different perspectives and interpretative tools in a concentrated manner, in a short time and in the context of a unique environment where the tranquillity of the scenery inspires reflection and calms the mind. All this could be summarised by noting that what the Seminar offers primarily is an Olympic education model in ideal learning conditions. And who knows? Maybe in the – not so distant – future human societies will choose to apply this model as the ideal one for them.

The intensive morning and afternoon lectures became the driver for open discussions, mainly in the classroom but also during meals, on the marble staircase, outside our rooms or by the pool. I often recall the constructive discussions that I had, within this creative atmosphere, with Kostas Georgiadis and Thierry Terret about the aspects of the recent Athens Olympics, as well as the particularly helpful discussions with Benoit Séguin. Even my disagreements with Kemo Keimbou were fruitful, as were the discussions I had with my peers. Thanks to our coexistence in the same space, an unpretentious, humane communication was developed between us. The variety of opinions and the density of information were not an obstacle, but a relieving outlet. This is what allowed for co-operation and brainstorming, all in the co-

herent context of the Olympic principles and values. At the same time, the exchange of experiences with people from different political, economic and educational backgrounds improved our social skills, creating sincere human relationships. Often, the means to strengthen our relationship were engaging in sports activities, watching films and enjoying moments of entertainment.

I remember the feedback we gave in the context of daily presentations, when we all expressed our views for the purpose of making a positive contribution to the specific research subject of our peers. My roommate, Arnaud Waquet, and I shared both the worries of preparing our presentations and our professional goals. I am glad that, today, Arnaud already has a remarkable academic career. I remember how happy I felt when, years after the Seminar, I read my friend Thomas Kroppen's article in the *Nikephoros* journal about Roman sports, and how emotional I felt when I heard about Julie Gaucher's book *De la «femme de sport» à la sportive. Une anthologie* being published. Some of the dreams that we shared under the pines of Olympia came true; others did not. But we keep going. Personally I have been very lucky to count the archaeologist Fani Mourtzoukou among my good friends since that summer. Fani

continued her studies in museology, incorporating sports and Olympism in her field of interest. We also gradually share our Olympic memories with Dafni and Niki.

My connection with the IOA continued in an active manner after the Seminar. For three years I participated as coordinator in the annual International Sessions for Young Participants (2007-2009) and in 2016 the IOA gave me the honour of publishing my second book *Ολυμπιακοί Αγώνες «Αθήνα 2004». Αποτίμηση των επιπτώσεων των Αγώνων στην κοινωνία και την οικονομία μέσω κριτικής προσέγγισης: Αλήθειες και Μύθοι* (Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Assessing the impact of the Games on Society and the Economy through a Critical Approach: Truths and Myths), the result of my collaboration with Petros Synadinos, a member of the Hellenic Olympic Committee.

Last but not least, I would like to note that the topic of my paper at the Seminar was "The contrib-

bution of the Olympic Movement to international understanding and peace from 1894 to 2004". Following that four-week experience, I realised, re-defining the concept of "understanding", that the co-existence of sports and education both contributes to spreading the Olympic spirit and its social philosophy, and is the key to a world that seeks harmony while showing respect for difference.

Such timeless as well as current issues reflect the key questions of our time, and they could give food for thought to all of us who have participated in the programme. With the contribution of new technologies which help to keep our bonds strong, it would be useful to add a two-day online forum to the annual Seminar. In this event, old and new participants will attempt to respond to the challenges arising for Olympism in the 21st century, by means of a fresh take on our world, its universal ideas and values. Olympic education comes from the future. Olympia is teaching us.





Nikos Choutas with fellow students at the stele Pierre de Coubertin - 14th Postgraduate Seminar (2006).

Sports activities - 14th Postgraduate Seminar (2006).





Nikos Choutas with the choreographer of the  
Olympic Flame Lighting Ceremony Maria Hors,  
and Eleni Georgiadis (2006).



## 15th Postgraduate Seminar 2007

# *Becca Leopkey* PhD

Associate Professor, University of Georgia



## *The Legacies of the International Olympic Academy Experience*

Upon hearing about previous experiences had by colleagues and mentors in association with the International Olympic Academy (IOA) in Olympia, Greece I knew instantly that I wanted to attend. As a graduate student in sport management studying the application of organisation theory to the field of major sporting events at the University of Ottawa, I understood that representing Canada at this programme was fiercely competitive and I devoted myself to earning a seat at the IOA. On my second attempt, I was rewarded with a chance to visit the home of the ancient Olympic Games and be part of the 2007 International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students with 39 other scholars from around

the world. We studied topics ranging from ancient Olympic archaeology and sport history to sport management and ethics with leading experts in the fields. The experience was like no other! The enormous privilege was life changing as others have noted. The opportunity to participate in the "graduate student" Seminar in Olympia in blistering July heat launched a lifelong passion for travel and fuelled a desire to continue my postgraduate education and pursue a career in academia. In fact, I was part of the last group to experience the International Olympic Academy in its full glory before a fire destroyed a major part of the local greenery including Kronion hill in August 2007.

I was lucky enough to come back to Olympia

as a lecturer at the 10th International Session for Educators and Officials of Higher Institutes of Physical Education in 2013 to speak on the topic of Olympic legacy (the impacts and structures created by the hosting of a sporting event that remain for longer than the event itself). Like sport event legacy, the impact of the Academy reaches well beyond the time you spend in Ancient Olympia. When asked to write about my experiences and memories at the IOA one key legacy kept coming to mind: the development of a powerful network of friends and colleagues who share a common passion for the Olympic Movement and the world of sport.

My experience at the IOA gave me personal legacies I still cherish such as a learned appreciation for Greek cafeteria food, my love of ouzo at Zorbas', and the best tan of my life, yet the professional legacies continue to influence my career over a decade later. As someone who has built their career on understanding the long-lasting impacts of events on stakeholders, I want to highlight some of the most important legacies I gained from participating in International Olympic Academy programming. First, elevated social capital as a member of the IOA family I mentioned earlier. From conferences to IOA sponsored reunions

at major events such as the 2016 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Lillehammer or the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016 and the Winter Games in PyeongChang in 2018, I almost always find a friendly face who attended the IOA. Not only have I had the opportunity to reconnect with friends from my own sessions at these events, but it is easy to form a bond with anyone who has had the "Olympia experience". This network has also provided me with a plethora of outstanding personal experiences, from eating poutine at Canada House in PyeongChang with Swiss colleagues, trying chicken hearts with a Brazilian friend in South Africa at the 2010 World Cup, reuniting for a weekend of fun in England with my former "roomie" from Malta, to spending Christmas in Germany with a fellow participant and their family. These experiences know no bounds, and I constantly try to reconnect with my IOA network anytime I make travel plans for both work and pleasure.

Second, the network developed from my experiences in Olympia helped to advance my academic career that focuses more broadly on better understanding international sport organisations and major sporting events including the Olympic Games. I have collaborated with IOA friends and colleagues on research projects and aca-

demic publications and collected data around the world thanks to IOA alumni at international sport organisations such as UEFA and the IOC. I also took on my first PhD student because of a recommendation from a South Korean friend who attended the 2007 Postgraduate Seminar with me. Most recently, I was asked to serve on the editorial board the new *Journal of Olympic Studies* by another participant from the 2007 postgrad group.

I have also had the opportunity to give back and to spread the Olympic (and the Academy) message. The fortuity to be part of a programme that provides a deep and impactful experience in the birthplace of the Olympic Games leaves a lasting impression, one which it is my duty to pass on. I have and will continue to encourage this opportunity for my own graduate students who have made their own impacts on the Postgraduate Seminar by sharing their research experiences and creating their own lasting international

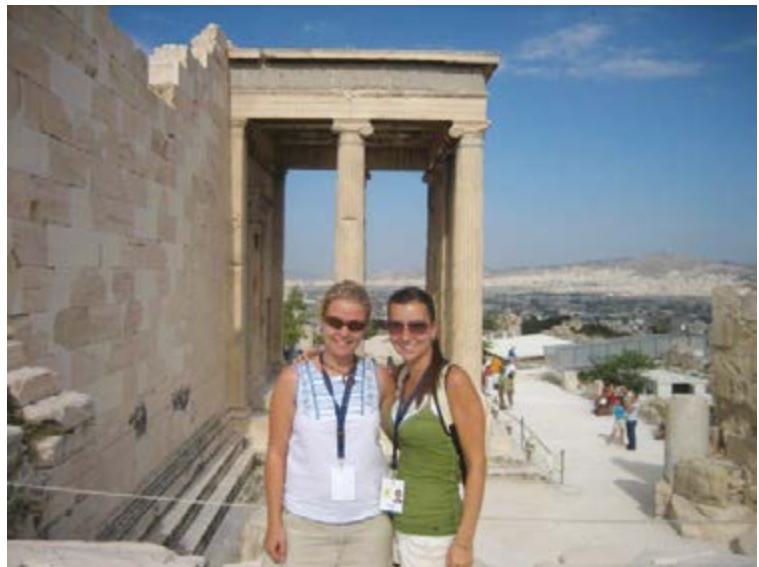
networks. I also presented my academy experience at the Canadian Olympic Academy in 2010, where I had the good fortune to encourage the next generation of sport leaders in Canada to participate in Academy programming should the opportunity arise. Finally, at my new institution, the University of Georgia in the United States, I aim to instil knowledge about the Olympic Games and the values of Olympism into every group of students that pass through my classes.

It is my hope that the International Olympic Academy will be here for future Olympic scholars for years to come, similar to the event legacies associated with each edition of the Olympic Games. It is one of the few places in the world that can provide such meaningful legacies and the opportunity to form a bond between individuals who are likely to play a large role in shaping the future of the Olympic Games and the world of sport.





Becca Leopkey with her fellow students from the 15th Postgraduate Seminar (2007).



Becca Leopkey at the archaeological sites at the Acropolis in 2007 (on the top) and Ancient Olympia in 2013 (at the bottom).





## 16th Postgraduate Seminar 2008

# *Evangelos Albanidis* PhD

*Professor,  
Democritus University of Thrace*



## *Travelling in memory... through the International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students*

*W*hen I look back on my first visit to Olympia as a student in 1982, I remember the scents and images of the wonderful setting with its unique historical background, and I also remember dreaming of returning soon. As a student, traveller, professor, who knows?

Both the gods of Greece and Olympia made my dream come true. Of course, I also put all my strength into using the inspiration from this magical place for my professional development, and my scientific self-realisation. After all, Olympia has this ability. It has always helped us, with all the visible and underground messages it sends through

the centuries, as it remained a durable and unchanging symbol. Each of us, in the course of life, makes their own symbols to find their way in every challenge. Still, how important is it to be inspired by ideas and to find paths with so much beauty and historical grandeur? The path suddenly becomes more navigable and the steps less lonely.

I first went to the International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students as a lecturer in 2000. I returned in the same capacity in 2001, 2008, 2011, 2012 and 2018. If I had to choose some moments from this twenty-year journey with the International Seminar on Olym-

pic Studies for Postgraduate Students, I would single out a few valuable moments.

As a guest speaker at the ancient Olympic history courses, I always started the road to Olympia by accompanying the students on their visits to the Archaeological Museums of Athens, the Acropolis, the Panathenaic Stadium, and the Zappeion Palace. This was followed by a visit to the archaeological site and the stadium of Nemea, with a tour by the great archaeologist Stephen Miller. Then we would take a breath in Nafplion and Mycenae, followed by Epidaurus. What to admire first! Students from all over the world slowly bonded and shared their first experiences in our most imposing historical monuments. It was so easy to move them and pique their interest in the historicity of the place. As a result, I was lucky to benefit from the influence of this historical tour. I picked up the baton and started my work as a teacher. I was not alone. I have always had the good fortune to have remarkable and renowned scientists in the international academic arena as collaborators and co-presenters. This urged me to constantly improve and fight for higher achievements and to deepen my research approaches and never rest. After all, Olympia has always been a challenge, a place that tested my knowledge, my teaching skills, and the ability to

communicate with people from all over the world.

A point of reference in those years was my collaboration with the renowned university professor Wolfgang Decker in 2000 and 2001. He was a prolific scientist and teacher who loved his work and his students. I always remember his generosity in sharing with us knowledge, unanswered questions, and new research directions. Questions often go beyond certainties and answers. And Decker had that gift and shared it with us generously.

Other professors who influenced my research efforts and whom I will never forget were Christian Wacker, director of the Qatar Olympic & Sports Museum, and Peter Mauritsch, a professor at the University of Graz, curator of *Nikephoros* magazine. Both of these colleagues introduced me to rich writing, very interesting studies and innovative approaches that opened new paths of search for me.

Furthermore, I will never forget the interaction with countless students from around the world who, with their youth and their "first" look at all this unprecedented world of Olympia, allowed me to wear their "glasses" and see the same places again and again in a fresh way, always with a different perspective. How can I forget the student

I first met at the Seminar and then found again in Olympia in the International Master's Programme in Olympic Studies and then as a University Lecturer and speaker at an International Congress in Lausanne? How can I ignore the female students who, overcoming the religious and social prejudices of their countries, came and fought for an equal scientific path? How can I forget the young men and women who came after wars or civil strife and proved that their momentum and will-power can give the world hope? How can I forget the beautiful and relaxing moments that we shared as part of the small celebrations/presentations about the students' countries of origin, with food, music, dances, and screenings from their homelands? All of these were great gifts.

The students' short presentations of their research work during the Seminar were more great gifts, as were their questions and queries. The greatest gift of all was the experience of multicultural coexistence - of many different cultures, languages and religions from various social and ethnic backgrounds coming together. And yet Olympia, and people's joy at be-

ing there together, united us exquisitely, overcoming differences and prejudices.

So, if I were to conclude my reflections on the programme's contribution to my personal career, I would say that the International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students gave me the opportunity to meet remarkable people and to be inspired by them. It allowed me to open new paths and new academic interdisciplinary collaborations. These Seminars also gave me the opportunity to visit this blessed place countless times, either as a world congress organiser (CESH Congress, 2003), or as a speaker at International Sessions for Educators, or the Master's Programme in Olympic Studies. To return almost every year to my personal "tama" (as a personal commitment to return to this sacred place) as many friends called it and to participate again and again in these programmes with the same enthusiasm I felt as a teenager. To be happy among the other students, teachers and employees. And above all, to be happy that I am an intercultural person, living beyond borders and divisions.





In the classroom. First on the right, Prof. Evangelos Albanidis – 8th Postgraduate Seminar (2000).



At the Opening ceremony of the 18th Postgraduate Seminar. From left to right: Prof. Evangelos Albanidis, Prof. Thomas Scanlon, Prof. Kostas Georgiadis and Prof. Wendy Raschke (2011).

# Anita Sterea PhD

Associate Professor, Faculty of History, University of Bucharest



## *2008 the year my Olympic journey began*

In 2008 I had the opportunity of being selected by the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee to participate in the International Seminar on Olympic Studies held by the International Olympic Academy in Olympia, Greece. I was in the 2nd year of my master's degree and although I had studied the impact of the Cold War on the Olympic Movement for my bachelor's degree at the Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, I did not know what would happen in my professional future career. I did not play sports but I loved sports and I was trying to find a way for my passion for sports to be combined with my future career as a historian.

The one-month experience in Olympia opened my horizons and paved the way. The courses I

took with professors that I just met then but who later became my mentors, professional reference points or even friends like Kostas Georgiadis, Benoit Séguin, Andy Miah or Irena Martínková meant an opening to a captivating subject that would mark my future: Olympism.

The meeting with Sam Ramsamy, IOC member for South Africa, was an honour and will remain in my emotional memory as the first meeting with an official of the Olympic Movement. The discussions with him and the memories from the Olympic family that he shared with me on the benches in the shade of the orange trees on the IOA Campus were a joy.

At the Postgraduate Seminar I also made

friends for life. Colleagues, so diverse and from whom I had so much to learn in that month, were a pleasant surprise. The friendship I forged in Olympia with Vagelis Alexandrakis, Kostas Vasileiou and Ana Adi is without question for a lifetime.

The 2008 experience in Olympia brought me back to the Young Participants' Session at the International Olympic Academy the following year as coordinator, which made me find out about the master's degree that IOA was going to launch that year. I applied and became part of the first Master's Programme of Olympic Studies in Olympia, a unique experience with a great impact on my personal and professional development which I would always like to repeat!

Also, the Olympic experience from 2008 led me to apply to a PhD programme at the University of Bucharest - Faculty of History, which I finished in 2012 with a thesis about the Romanian Olympic Movement during the communist period. During the doctoral programme I had a three-month research scholarship at the Olympic Studies Centre at the Autonomous University of Barcelona where I worked with Professor Emilio Fernández Peña whom I also met in Olympia in the summer of 2009. I had the chance to return to Olympia in 2010 and 2011 as coordinator at the

Young Participants' Session and as a participant in the 2015 Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies.

After returning from Olympia in 2008 I became a member of the Romanian Olympic Academy board which gave me the opportunity to organise and participate in various activities to promote Olympic education and history in Romania. From this position I participated in all the international meetings that led to the creation of the European Association of Olympic Academies.

From a professional point of view, in 2013 I coordinated the publication of the first *Olympic Guide* in Romanian with the Olympic fencing champion Laura Badea, a project realised by the Romanian Olympic Academy with the support of EOC. I have participated in dozens of international and national conferences with topics about Olympic history, Olympic education or Olympic values. Since 2011 I have been teaching the history of sports and sports communication at the National Centre for Coach Training and Development and since 2018 I have been an associate professor at the University of Bucharest - Faculty of History where I teach courses on sports during the communist period and how the communist heritage can be used today.

For the near future I plan to carry out joint research works on the history of Romanian sport and on volumes of documents about Romanian sport, re-editing the *Olympic Guide*. At the same time, I will continue with the projects which I have already started. I am also a member of the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH) and the International Olympic Academy Participants Association (IOAPA).

The experience from Olympia at the 2008 Seminar meant that I transformed from being a young master's student into a researcher, pas-

sionate about Olympic studies. The Olympic values I had only heard about up until then became my tools and an integral part of everyday life. The contact with the academic community was a connection that began to form in 2008 and continues to grow piece by piece by participating in conferences, meetings, debates or specialised congresses in sport and Olympic studies.

The time spent in Olympia with wonderful people has a special place in my soul and for this lucky meeting which started in 2008 I can only be grateful.





Anita Sterea presenting her Seminar paper during the 16th Postgraduate Seminar (2008).

The students of the 16th Postgraduate Seminar at the ancient stadium of Olympia (2008).



In the classroom (2008).





## 17th Postgraduate Seminar 2009

# *Sam Ramsamy*

IOC Honorary Member



## *Olympic Studies – Postgraduate Seminars*

My journeys to Olympia, stretching over 25 years, have been varied and most inspiring. Whenever I visit the International Olympic Academy I am absorbed with an air of vigour and stimulus. I believe that is because this institute is situated where the original Olympic Games began.

I have lectured and presented papers at Sessions for Young Participants, Master's Degree Programmes and Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students.

The question and comments at the Sessions for Young Participants largely revolved around students requiring clarification on issues concerning the organisation and outcomes of the Olympic Movement and the actualities of the present era.

The predominant focus of master's degree students was on the specialisation of their theses and the hypothesis of their respective areas of research.

However, participants in the Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students came with a variety of notions and ideas on how to proceed with their case studies. Most, if not all, arrived with a background of issues covered in their respective fields and individual research papers. Some came with pre-conceived notions on various issues.

Therefore, the challenges in the presentation of papers became extremely diverse. Interventions also covered searching analysis. Group studies opened up further concepts, largely surrounding the negative information emanating, no doubt,

from both mainstream publications and social media. On the other hand, papers were presented on suggestions for further improving administration in international sport considering the constantly evolving process of the societal environment.

My presentations, both in written format and oral lectures, evolved around the administration, aims and objects of the International Olympic Committee, discrimination and demographic representation in sport, unity in diversity, the historical evolution of aspects relating to the international sports movement concerning sport and ethics.

I have always tried to make my presentations controversial, so as to evoke as much debate as possible from the participants. I am pleased to state that I only failed a few times in this.

Most participants were always keen to hear my experiences and views of the changing face of South Africa - both during the period of white race domination and during the post-apartheid period. During the colonial and apartheid era the definition of race classification was to identify the groups as European and Non-European (Africans, Coloureds and Indians). This confused the white Americans, as to the use of facilities. The facilities for the white population were of exceptionally high standards, while the facilities

for the Non-European group were of a very poor standard or usually non-existent. The classification immediately changed to Whites and Non-Whites. Of course, this meant that only the White group could represent the country at international sports events and at the Olympic Games. This provoked widespread condemnation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for allowing South Africa to participate in the Olympic Games despite their total exclusion of the so-called Non-Whites. Although there was also wide-spread discrimination against African-Americans in the United States during this period, some felt there was a tincture of humanity when top athletes could compete in the Olympic Games. The condemnation of the IOC further intensified as the likes of Jesse Owens, Muhammad Ali and Wilma Rudolph, to name a few, would never have made it to the Games if they had lived in South Africa. But efforts made by recent Presidents and members of the IOC in assisting in the dismantling of apartheid received high commendation.

Of course, such discussions always frayed into other areas of discrimination. Discussions and debates on discrimination against women centred in certain countries where there was no women's representation and where women are prohibit-

ed from even watching sports events. Again, representation made by the IOC in their efforts to persuade, and sometimes coerce, the powers that be to effect change was acclaimed as a positive step in very difficult and trying circumstances.

Quite often, I was forced to explain the role and function of the IOC. Some came with the notion that the funds received were being exclusively or largely utilised for the benefit of its members and not for the development of sport as a whole. Some were surprised when it was pointed out that 90 per cent of monies received from television and sponsors went directly for the development of sport in one form or another. All Olympic Federations receive substantial grants. Large sums are allocated for scholarships through Olympic Solidarity. Special support is given to countries in deprived areas to improve administration. Courses for coaching and training administrators are conducted regularly. All National Olympic Committees receive, in one form or another, administration grants for conducting their daily activities. The IOC provides support for athletes living as ref-

ugees; and allocates funding for countries housing large numbers of refugees. Students who surf the IOC website are fully aware of the dynamics of funding. Others are not aware as they rely solely on social media and mainstream publications.

I always enjoy the supervision of research conducted by postgraduate students. Many still keep in touch with me. Their stories bring satisfaction to us as lecturers, not only because of the successful completion of their postgraduate research but also because of their continuing involvement in the various aspects of sport and its philosophy. I have also benefitted tremendously by interacting with students coming from various parts of the globe. Most importantly, my interaction with fellow-lecturers has broadened my concept and thinking on present-day trends in society. Deep discussions with the likes of John MacAloon, John Hoberman, Jim Parry and the ever-present Kostas Georgiadis, to name a few, and the voice of Antonia Bormpotsialou always hovering in the background, make my attachment to Olympia a perpetual one.





Group photo of the 17th Postgraduate Seminar (2009).



Sam Ramsamy in the classroom with Prof. Scott Kretchmar (on the left) and Prof. Benoit Séguin (on the right) - 15th Postgraduate Seminar (2007).



Sam Ramsamy and Kostas Georgiadis with IOA staff and coordinator - 15th Postgraduate Seminar (2007).

# Karsten Nikolas Liese PhD

Sport Policy Consultant for the CDU/CSU-Faction at the German Parliament



## *The social construction of the International Olympic Academy as a model of Cosmopolis?*

### **B**etween Internationalism and World - Society: Olympic idea and rational calculus in perspective of Relational Constructivism

The slogan "all Games all Nations" has developed into a synonym for the Olympic Games and represents the biggest sport event in the world, including both intercultural encounters and international relations. The Olympic Games are more than a conglomeration of world championships and records of different Olympic disciplines. The Olympic Movement claims itself to be a community of Olympic values, which is based

on the Olympic idea and especially on the aspect of "internationalism". The Olympic idea is an attitude of life, which has to be taught as a whole and should not only be limited to the period of the Olympic Games or to the athletes participating (IOC 2007, Fundamental Principle). Concerning this matter, there are plenty of international Olympic programmes, and the International Olympic Academy (IOA) plays an important role in this concern. Every year, more than 170 young people from over 100 nations participate in the Session for Young Participants at the IOA where intercultural dialogue is focused for about two

weeks. With participants from different continents coming from all over the world, the IOA almost in itself symbolises the aspect of "internationalism" as part of the Olympic idea.

In contrast to real politics, international relations or even to the theory of "The Clash of Civilizations" by Huntington (2006), the "Session for Young Participants" seems to be an ideal island or in other words a "subjective reality" (Berger/Luckmann 2004) where a harmonious cultural exchange of ideas across boundaries is possible. In this "second reality", it seems that international understanding, respect, acceptance and fairness are naturally lived among the participants. At the same time, cultural barriers are torn down and even military conflicts between different states fade away.

The results of the research programmes showed that within the perceived liberal social space, the IOA had been associated with a kind of openness concerning the different represented states, cultures, religions, role-attribution and ways of life. The interpretation of the IOA and its social context is closely related to the term "internationalism" as a social frame. The IOA is seen as a social space where "internationalism" is a functional norm and fundamental principle, as well as a facilitator of international encounter in general.

The social structure and culture of the IOA show that "internationalism" means, not only compliance with a norm but also a rational benefit for all. Similarly to the classification of Max Weber (cf. Weber 2005) and the theory of frame selection by Hartmut Esser (cf. Esser 1993) it can emanate from an instrumental and a value/belief-orientated rationality related to "internationalism". Accordingly, the IOA is able to offer the participants a secure and confidential social space for interaction, self-expression and external-perception linked to his or her own existing diversity.

In summary, the programme at the IOA offers a common international and intercultural experience and exchange (official & ceremonial programme), a group and team exchange and common work (common programme & group interaction) and a cognitive exchange (scientific programme with lectures, tasks, presentations). But the sessions are also about a social exchange (sports programme & group dynamics), a cultural exchange (social evenings & cultural programme) as well as an international and intercultural exchange regarding emotions (leisure time & fun programme). The results of the qualitative and quantitative studies (cf. Liese 2008, 2014), have shown that the IOA is an outstanding example of

"internationalism". The IOA can be seen as a world of its own as well as a global village connected to the Olympic Games.

The classification of the IOA as a Cosmopolis depends on a particular definition, on a measurable behaviour and finally on further quantitative evidence. Thereby the aspect of diversity at the IOA (regarding different cultural, religious, ethical or national backgrounds) plays an important role for constructing a more differentiated self-perception and social perception. Diversity is then seen as a precondition for international exchange and as a benefit for all. However, the relational exchange of diverse or equal ideas and interests among the participants can reflect the beginning of a process leading to the idea of a cosmopolitan community or World-Society. It can be summarised by saying that the IOA is seen by the participants as an "ideal island" for "internationalism" and a world in its own. The specific subculture of the IOA, with its normative implications, supports the idea of "internationalism" as an Olympic norm and rational calculus. At this juncture the IOA enabled the phenomenon of "internationalism" as a social frame for international and intercultural encounter. The wide range of international participants, the multilateral relations

at the Academy and the specific Olympic culture offer a social context where, on an individual level, potential political, ethничal or religious conflicts are faded out and the person's unique self is considered as a human being.

In this regard the group tested at the IOA regarding the concept of "internationalism" can be seen as parallel to the "state of nature" and Rawls' well known "veil of ignorance." In this period of time, the realisation of superior norms (e.g. "internationalism") on a meta-level is probable in a rational sense. The acceptance of universal norms, such as equality or freedom, is the result and, at the same time is the premise for a peaceful intercultural dialogue and international cooperation. This concept of "internationalism" is successfully realised at the IOA by normative (Olympic idea) and rational patterns (rational calculus). If the described social structure and normative implications at the IOA are to be further realised by the participants when this state of nature is abandoned or the IOA as a second reality is left, it has to be shown by the quantitative data. Finally, "internationalism" (as a relational construct, social structure and Olympic culture) at the IOA is, and will be, what the participants make out of it.





The students of the  
17th Postgraduate  
Seminar at the temple  
of Hera in Ancient  
Olympia (2009).



Karsten N. Liese  
at the educational  
tours in Ancient  
Olympia and  
Nemea (2009).



# 18th Postgraduate Seminar 2011

# *Jeffrey O. Segrave* PhD

*The David H. Porter Endowed Chair*

*Professor, Department of Health and Human Physiological Sciences,  
Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY*



## *The Beauty of Olympia*

I have always been struck by the sheer beauty of Olympia. Like Coubertin, I, too, immediately fell in love with what he called “the holy city of ancient athletics,” the capital of ancient sport. It is impossible not to embrace the Edenic qualities of the setting; the serene and tranquil majesty of the countryside, the grandeur and magnificence of the ancient Olympic site, and the cool, fragrant scent of the giant pine trees and silver poplars that wafts through the valley. Even though the ravages of the fire of 2007 were still evident when I first came to Olympia, my sense of the beauty of the area was not dimmed. “I invite you”, Pierre de Coubertin wrote in 1929, “to come and sit on

the wooden slopes of Mount Kronion at the hour when beyond the Alpheus the rising sun begins to touch the swelling hills with gold to lighten the green meadows at their feet.” I am glad I accepted Coubertin’s invitation.

I first visited the International Olympic Academy (IOA) in June 2008 to speak at the 48th International Session for Young Participants. I later returned, in July 2013, to present at the 10th International Session for Educators and Officials of Higher Institutes of Physical Education. In between, in September 2011, I served as a supervising professor at the 18th International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students. I

was joined by three esteemed colleagues, Vassil Girginov (Brunel University), Holger Preuss (University of Mainz), and Kazuo Uchiumi (Hiroshima University). It was during my time at the Postgraduate Seminar that I became most acquainted with Olympia and the IOA. Spending more than a week interacting with graduate students and fellow faculty from around the globe, visiting the ancient site and the museum, and meandering around the village of Olympia quickened and intensified my fascination with all things Olympic. Walking around the ancient ruins, I gained a heightened respect for material culture. Nothing enhances engagement more than direct contact. The historian Polybius once wrote in *Historiae*, "In all matters a certainty founded on the evidence of one's eyes is of the greatest value." But, being at Olympia does something more: it inculcates a certainty based on the feelings incited by simply wandering around the Olympic environs. How can you dismiss the emotional impact of walking in the footsteps of the ancient Hellenes?

My visit to the IOA coincided with my own burgeoning scholarly interest in the aesthetic dimensions of the Olympic Games, most especially, the way in which music, art, and literature served as transport for the survival of the Olympic idea

between the dissolution of the Games under Emperor Theodosius and their revival at the hands of Coubertin in 1896, during what may be considered the interim years. As I wandered past the ancient stadium to and from the village of Olympia, I mused on how the Olympic idea endured across the centuries and why the Olympic, and not the Pythian, or even the Roman, model of games resonated throughout the course of medieval, Enlightenment, and modern times. While historians have identified a whole series of traditions and developments that contributed to the survival of the Olympics, including the English tradition of medieval peasant recreations, the chivalric tournaments, the various Olympic-style games that dotted the historical landscape, what sport historian Gerry Redmond called "pseudo-Olympics," and the professional records of historians, travellers, archaeologists, cartographers, and paleographers, I contemplated other ways in which the Games may have entered and endured in the public imagination. I thought about the arts; I thought about what people read, watched and listened to during the intervening centuries. My research led me to realise that, from the moment in 1595 when the English dramatist Thomas Kyd first proclaimed in *Pompey the Great, his faire Cornelias Tragedie*

that athletes competed in the Olympics in order “to grace themselves with honour,” the Games were increasingly eulogised in music, extolled in prose and verse, and celebrated on the dance stage. Moreover, the Olympics were depicted as a dignified, noble, and indeed honourable form of sport, the apex of athletic accomplishment. In music, Pietro Metastasio’s magnificent libretto, *L’Olympiade*, was set as opera by composers as esteemed as Caldara, Pergolesi, and Hasse; it was as celebrated throughout Europe as the works of Racine, Voltaire and Goethe. Playwrights as diverse as Shakespeare and Robert Garnier, poets like Friedrich Hölderlin and Jan Kochanowski, and novelists including Gustave Flaubert and Edgar Allan Poe, implanted the Olympic reference deep into the European consciousness, and opera-ballets such as *Les Fêtes grecques et romaines* and Jean-Georges Noverre’s heroic ballet *La Mort d’Hercule* served to reaffirm the Olympics as instantiating excellence, grandeur, enlightenment, and transcendence. The Olympic thread that ran through the arts served as a fitting paeon to the romantic splendour and majesty of ancient Olympia. The status and magnificence of the Olympic Games were reified and perpetuated in the performing and literary arts.

The significance of the aesthetic led me to present for the first time at the Postgraduate Seminar my ideas on Coubertin’s ideology of beauty. Conversations with students and faculty honed my perspective that Coubertin’s deployment of the aesthetic applied equally to the descriptive and evocative as it did to the metaphysical and ontological. Ultimately, Coubertin’s manifold conceptualisation of beauty served as the cornerstone of a cultural aesthetic of sport grounded in the Enlightenment promise of social progress and the imagined perfectibility of the individual and of society. It was a conception of sport cultivated in the Arts Festivals, the Olympic Academies, as well as the Olympic ceremonial, leading me to study the profound role that Beethoven’s famed Choral symphony, with its distinctly Olympic message of hope and international community, played in the context of the modern Olympic Games’ ritual and pageantry. In short, my time at the IOA’s Postgraduate Seminar in 2011 served to inform my developing interest in why and how the ancient games survived and thrived within the European imagination, the way in which the character of the games was presented and fostered throughout the interim years, and the nature of Coubertin’s religio-philosophical conception of Olympism.

In the same way that the IOA has furthered my own scholarly agenda, so also has it performed the same service for countless other scholars. As the epitome of an authentic and living internationalism, the IOA is not only the “spiritual and cultural centre of the Olympic Movement”, as Kevin Whitney, the first official Olympic artist in the United Kingdom, once put it; it is also the

intellectual centre. At the IOA, scholars, administrators, officials, and students are enjoined to regularly meet to discuss and debate the myriad issues and challenges that confront sport at every level, and, most especially, at the Olympic level. The IOA is the educational engine that drives and refreshes Olympic studies throughout the globe.





Prof. Jeffrey Segrave teaching at the same Seminar cycle with Prof. Holger Preuss - 18th Postgraduate Seminar (2011).



Prof. Jeffrey Segrave as a lecturer at the 48th International Session for Young Participants (2008).



The students of the 18th Postgraduate Seminar at the temple of Hera in Ancient Olympia (2011).

# *Angelo Altieri*

*Teacher and Project Manager at Scuola dello Sport - CONI  
Junior Advisor, Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee  
Sport industry and employment freelance researcher*



## *A National Olympic Academy in the 21st century*

This short article aims to summarise and share my experiences in the Olympia Sessions and my work in Olympic education to date. I have been to Olympia five times, in 2007 and 2011 as a participant in the Session for Young Participants and the Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students. In 2012 and 2014 my role was as the coordinator of the Seminar for Postgraduate Students and as one of the coordinators for the Young Participants' Session. In 2013 I attended as an Italian NOC researcher during my sabbatical year.

### **An introduction to one of my experiences in Olympia**

All the Sessions are different because people are different, but the feelings are always the same. I am going to speak about the 19th International Postgraduate Seminar (1-30 September 2012).

Twenty-six participants, 13 men and 13 women, from 21 countries took part in the annual Postgraduate Seminar. It was my third visit to Olympia, a unique place, with nowhere else like it in the whole world.

Thanks to the Academy, all the Seminars pro-

vide a forum for studies on the "three pillars" – the Olympic Movement, the Olympic Games and Olympism. These studies involve both ancient and contemporary Olympic issues. The special subject of the 19th Postgraduate Seminar was "The legacy of Olympic Games" which has proved to be a unique catalyst in the domain of Olympic studies. Professors from all over the world who are specialised in Olympic Movement issues contributed to the work of the Seminar.

The Seminar was divided into four cycles:

- a) The Ancient Olympic Games and its philosophy.
- b) The modern Olympic Movement, the revival of the Olympic Games and the history of the modern Olympic Games.
- c) Olympic Education and socio-political aspects of the modern Olympic Games (media and communication, management, organisation and marketing).
- d) The ethical and philosophical issues of Olympism as well as athletes' rights in the modern Olympic Movement.

The topics presented by the supervising professors offered us the opportunity to consider and to contemplate the Olympic realities. The students

considered that these topics should be discussed further in the future.

The lectures were instructive, providing us with learning content and they also gave us the opportunity to collaborate and to develop our skills of analysis and critical review.

In summary, the lectures provided participants with specific information and guidance aimed at fostering and encouraging research in a variety of Olympic-related fields. Lectures also offered support regarding research methodologies, as well as promoting ideals aimed at each individual as an intellectual and "Olympic" human being.

The postgraduate student presentations echoed the powerful meanings highlighted in the Olympic Movement and the importance of education about the Olympic Games and the management of its values.

The topics ranged from:

- the analysis of gender representations and consumption in the Olympic Games (highlighting the complex intersections of identities that should be considered within Olympic media sport),
- critical analysis of the new generation's sport activities,
- organisational ethics,

- Olympic legacy,
- analysis of broadcast coverage of the Olympics in different countries.

All presentations were well received and led to continued debate amongst Seminar participants. The research was related to varied themes in the Olympic Movement and highlighted the multi-faceted work that is being done within the international postgraduate community.

The case study and the debates about "The Ethics in the Olympic Movement and Corruption" remind us that the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games are confronted with tremendous internal and external challenges. The International Olympic Academy can play an important role in dealing with these challenges, and to help this happen, all participants, teachers and coordinators should contribute, whether at a national or international level, to support positive changes.

During the 19th Postgraduate Seminar I was the coordinator, which gave me a different perspective. First of all, it was an opportunity to help young students selected from many parts of the world to gain knowledge and experience on the Olympic Movement. We all had the opportunity to contribute to Olympic research and knowledge. Apart from that, the thing that was more

important for us was the experience of living together for 30 days, exchanging ideas, creating friendships, and helping each other, since that is the real meaning of Olympism. That helped us in making personal contacts in different countries all around the world. Our countries were so important in the first few days, when it was not easy to remember names and faces. After four weeks in this special context we were beyond an international meeting, beyond an international seminar, beyond the Games... That is why it was possible to remember names and nicknames, and learn from each other and joke together. *Tolerance* is one of the principles of the philosophy of the Olympic Academy. Here we could find new colleagues for our network, new friends for our life, or something more. I found all of them.

## **Next step: Saudi Olympic Academy**

There are still NOCs that do not have an Olympic Academy. Some countries adopt a "mini-IOA" model - they hold a short residential conference devoted to themes which are similar to those about to be discussed at the IOA's next international Session. If held early enough in the year, participants might be offered the opportunity to enter an essay-writing competition, the winner's

prize being a place in the delegation to the IOA.

A different idea of the NOA would suggest a "committee" model – whereby a committee of the NOC takes responsibility for the pursuit of a range of tasks defined by educational purposes. This is a much wider remit, making the NOA the focus of the NOC's educational activity. This would in-

clude holding an annual conference but would also involve work in some of the areas discussed in the IOA Sessions, a close collaboration with educational institutions already present at national level and active exchanges with Olympic Solidarity. This is the Saudi Arabian idea of an NOA, a National Olympic Academy in the 21st century.



The students of the 19th Postgraduate Seminar at the archaeological museum of Delphi (2012).



Sports activities –  
20th Postgraduate Seminar (2013).





Closing address by the coordinator Angelo Altieri - 19th Postgraduate Seminar (2012). On the podium from left to right the supervising professors: Gabriela Tymowski, Kostas Georgiadis, Leo Hsu and Evangelos Albanidis.



# 19th Postgraduate Seminar 2012

# *Li-Hong (Leo) Hsu PhD*

*Professor at Liberal Arts Centre (General Education),  
National Taiwan University of Sport  
CEO of Olympic Education Studies Society  
Member of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Education Committee*



## *A Journey to last: My Olympic Dream*

*I*t is with great pleasure that I write this piece acknowledging the International Olympic Academy.

My first Olympic dream started when I was formally introduced to the Olympic world as a master student selected by the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee to attend the IOA International Session for Young Participants in 1993 (after having attended our National Olympic Academy Sessions three times). After this Session, I therefore developed research interests in both Olympic studies and sports philosophy. At the time of my first international Olympic experience I decided to work on my master

thesis (1993-1995) in relation to the Olympic theme on "Criticism and Reconstruction of Amateurism in the modern Olympic Games" at the National Taiwan Normal University. Following that 1993 IOA experience, I decided to go abroad to pursue my PhD and was fortunate to receive a warm welcome from one of the IOA's best lecturers Prof. Jim Parry, an internationally well-known Olympic and sport philosophy scholar, at Leeds University, UK.

During my study in the UK (1998-2003), at the age of 31 (1999), another Olympic dream was realised with a great opportunity to return

to my second academic home, the IOA, for the 7th Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students. During this Seminar, I was an active participant in various activities such as sport and discussions on Olympism from the East Asian perspective. I met many good and life-long friends from different nations and enjoyed every opportunity to discuss, debate and learn from different experts, with the topic of Olympic education being our special link with each other.

Throughout this Seminar, I developed a variety of research interests, especially in sport ethics and Olympic education, which I believe are a valuable combination for my future career as a university professor, particularly in a Global Studies Division.

In 2003, I received my PhD (1998-2003) from the School of Philosophy, Leeds University, UK and returned to Taiwan to start my first teaching post and became a Professor of Sport Philosophy and Olympic Studies at the Department of Sport Management, Da-Yeh University. Immediately upon my return, I established the first International Olympic and Multicultural Studies Centre in Taiwan at the Da-Yeh University to demonstrate my continuing interest, research, and dedication to these areas of study.

Ever since my academic enrolment in Olympic

studies began I have taken part in international conferences/seminars with respect to Olympic studies and Sport Philosophy. As well as my PhD thesis on "Olympic Ethics and Sports Rules", I have also published many papers and textbooks in relation to this field such as "Philosophy of Sport and Education", "Philosophical inquiry in Olympic Education" and "Olympic Education". In addition, I also worked with Prof. Mike McNamee and Prof. Jim Parry on the translation of their book on "Ethics and Sport" (published in 2004 in Chinese), and for the international journal *Sports, Ethics and Philosophy* since 2006.

In May 2006, I was honoured to be invited by the IOA as a guest lecturer at the Educators' Session. Then, in 2011 and 2012, it was a privilege to be invited again as a supervising professor for the 18th and the 19th Seminar for Postgraduate Students. Lecturers at the IOA very often have a far-reaching positive impact on the "young minds" that study there. Words cannot describe how wonderful it is to see so many young and bright students from all over the world taking part in this special academic programme.

Being a lecturer and supervising professor in those Sessions and Seminars, I could closely observe how the participants built up close friend-

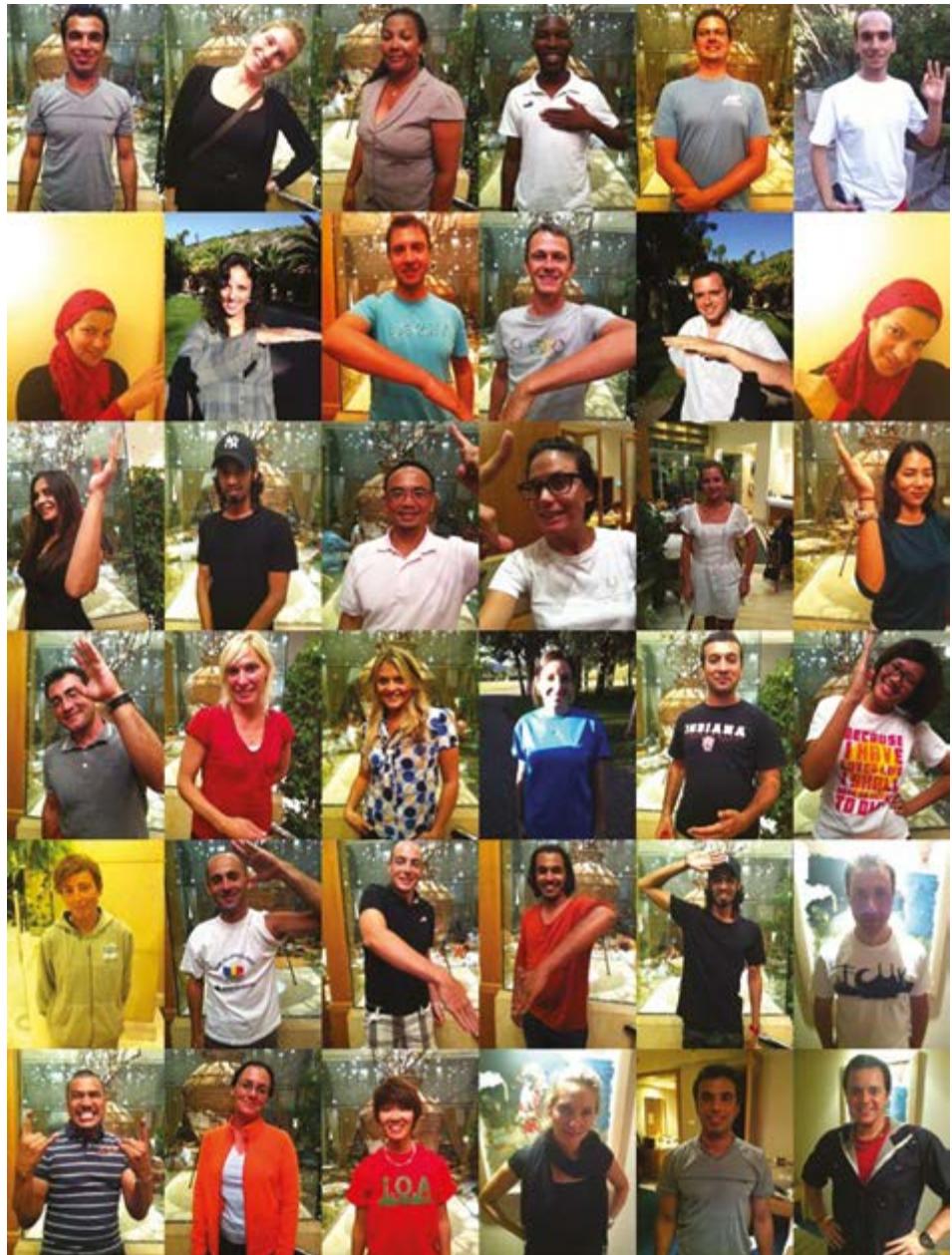
ships and international mutual understanding without language barriers – just as I experienced as a participant in the past. Despite the fact that each participant came from a different cultural background, we studied together, played together, ate together and tried our best to engage in all kinds of social interactions.

Looking back with a little bit of a nostalgic feeling, it is hard to believe that my personal Olympic journey has come so far. It must be “meant to be” or “fate” if one believes that. What a wonderful and ideal world could possibly be realised through this educational programme at this magic “hidden paradise”!

Through my personal Olympic journey, I am convinced that those of us who have taken part in the IOA’s programmes have widened our international horizon and achieved more awareness of what a global community can be. My sincere gratitude and congratulations to the IOA President, Mr Isidoros Kouvelos, IOA Honorary Dean, Prof. Konstantinos Georgiadis, IOA Development Projects Consultant, Prof. Dionyssis Gangas and all the ex/current officers, staff and colleagues. It is you – who have dedicated your life to make this place so magic and wonderful!

Wishing the IOA can continue the way it has done so far!





Poster made by  
the students of the  
19th Postgraduate  
Seminar (2012).



Leo Hsu receiving his diploma as a participant in the 7th Postgraduate Seminar from Kostas Georgiadis and the coordinator Gabriela Tymowski (1999).



Leo Hsu with fellow students of the 7th Postgraduate Seminar (1999).



Leo Hsu invited to the 19th Postgraduate Seminar as a supervising professor (2012).

# *Alberto Aragón-Pérez* PhD

Archive Officer, Olympic Studies Center J. A. Samaranch, Barcelona  
Member, Spanish Olympic Committee's Commission of Sustainability



## *A first step to falling in love with Olympic Studies*

Representing Spain at the 19th Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students in 2012, when I was a master's student researching the religious and athletic aspects of Ancient Olympia, was a turning point in my career. María Eugenia Martínez, my professor at the Autonomous University of Madrid, and Conrado Durández, President of the Spanish Olympic Academy, trusted me and selected me as the Spanish representative for the Seminar. The chance to spend four weeks near my research topic, the archaeological site of Olympia itself, was a dream come true.

Twelve days before the opening of the Seminar for Postgraduate Students, my uncle passed away and I was devastated. For a couple of weeks, my

mood did not allow me to think about travelling to Greece. Anyway, I had made a commitment to myself that I would not miss that once-in-a-lifetime experience. I did not regret it because it changed my life and, mostly, my vision of the Olympic Movement. I must admit that I became fascinated with the Seminar's contents: Ancient History; Management of Modern Olympic Games; Ethics and Philosophy, and Education provided us with an outstanding knowledge and vision on the main aspects of the Olympic Movement.

During the four weeks, a new family of 25 people from 19 countries learnt a lot about Olympic studies in a magical valley. I realised during the Seminar that the Olympic Games were more than

just a hobby to me so, a few days before it ended, I asked Kostas Georgiadis (one of our professors) for his advice on possible ways to stay involved within the spectrum of Olympism in Spain. The following year, I was working at the J. A. Samaranch Centre for Olympic and Sports Studies (within the Olympic Museum of Barcelona) and I was getting ready for going back to the IOA as a student in its Master's Degree programme. Six years later, my target was clear: the search for sustainable ways in sport management. I had just been appointed a member of the Spanish Olympic Committee Commission of Sustainability and I defended my doctoral thesis at the Autonomous University of Barcelona on the presence of ecological thought in the management of the 1992 Summer Olympic Games. One of the three professors on the Thesis Committee was Kostas Georgiadis, which cemented my deep connection with the IOA, that is, my participation in 2012 had not been a dream but something real.

One of the most exceptional aspects of the IOA is that it sets a perfect atmosphere for meeting exceptional people in many ways, such as my colleagues during the 2012 Seminar for Post-graduate Students. From among them all, I have taken Salhat Abbasova as an example of the en-

tire group because of her values, intelligence and determination. When I visited Azerbaijan a few months before the 2015 European Games in Baku, she was immensely hospitable to me and other IOA participants, despite her busy schedule within the organisation of these upcoming Games. One year after the Seminar, as a student of the IOA Master's Degree, one of my classmates was Gillian Bartle who had attended the 3rd Post-graduate Seminar in 1995. As a lecturer in education in Scotland, she continues to use Olympic values education in her work with undergraduate and postgraduate students. My connection to Berta Cerezuela is mostly related to my job in Barcelona and my doctoral studies. She took part in the 1997 Seminar and since then has been the soul of the Olympic Studies Centre of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, having an outstanding impact on the growth of knowledge on sport management.

From my personal experience, Olympic studies are an exciting and democratic source of knowledge for researchers with different interests and backgrounds. In many aspects, they reflect who we are as society: History, Physical Education, International Relations, Sociology, Journalism, Sport Management. Sport reflects today's world because it is

a key modern social phenomenon whose historical, economic, cultural and political importance intersects at its best expression: in Olympism. Olympic studies is a field with a huge scientific domain thanks to its versatility and multidisciplinary nature. Its subject focuses on everything around the Games, a unique social activity that attracts the efforts of many stakeholders and interests. A topic of such dimension requires well-trained and capable specialists, so the IOA emerged 60 years ago as the global university for it. Consequently, its Seminar for Postgraduate Students is the course that brings together students from different fields with one future in common: the Olympic phenomenon. The IOA must continue working very closely with other partner bodies, like the IOC Olympic Studies Centre, to strengthen their complementary leading roles. The Seminar was the door to enter this fascinating network named Olympism for hundreds of students, and so it must remain for future generations. For all of this, I believe that the academic and educative mission of the IOA should definitively be empowered inside the Olympic Movement.

As a personal comment, when the IOC President Thomas Bach visited my workplace, the Olympic Museum of Barcelona, in July 2017, I gave him a group picture of the Master's Degree students and himself taken in Olympia in 2013. He replied a couple of weeks later with a very inspiring letter. Among other things, he mentioned

*I am glad to hear you continued to stay close to the Olympic Movement and can promote the Olympic spirit as part of your career. Let us always remember the power of sport to bring all people together in peace and friendship, and to bring out the best of the humanity in all ways.*

I am sharing his words because they condense well what the Seminar is all about: it let me find my own way within Olympism, and I can say that I am very proud of it. This new world which resulted from the aftermath of the recent health global crisis needs experienced international projects to build a better future together. The Olympic Movement already did it in 1920 and 1948, and it will do it again.





Alberto Aragón-Pérez with other students of the 19th Postgraduate Seminar in the conference hall (2012).



Students of the 19th Postgraduate Seminar running at the Olympia ancient stadium (2012).



The postgraduate students in front of the Kryptai of the Olympia ancient stadium (2012).



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR  
FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS - OLYMPIA 2013

## 20th Postgraduate Seminar 2013

# *Wojciech Lipiński* PhD

Professor, Szczecin University  
Senior Professor, Adam Mickiewicz University



## *A meaningful Seminar, not only for Olympism*

In the autumn of 2000, the former President of the IOA, the late Nikos Filaretos, asked me if I would be prepared to supervise one element of the yearly Postgraduate Seminar in Ancient Olympia for 2001. I did not hesitate for too long and agreed. The expectations of Filaretos, however, were high and only the second edit of my suggested lectures and Seminar units was finally approved. It was not the first job I had done for the IOA. My first visit to *Archaia Olympia* happened as late as 1983 when, as a young scholar, I participated in the Session for Young Participants. I delivered a short paper on the origins of fair play (later published in Ireland in "Coaching News").

Also, in the section on experiences delivered by participants in the Olympic Games, I presented the story of my journey from being severely crippled in two serious car accidents to participation in the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964, after seven years of rehabilitation. During the same Session I was selected as group coordinator and was responsible for the final reports of the discussion groups. After these three activities I was further recommended by Professor Liselott Diem, present at the 1983 Session, to Norbert Müller, who soon invited me to a special conference in Lausanne in 1986 to discuss the possibility of publishing a three-volume collection of works by Pierre

de Coubertin. There I presided over a specialised session "*L'Actualité de Pierre de Coubertin du point de vue de la pegagogie appliquée*". In Lausanne I met John MacAloon, with whom, along with Bruce Kidd, I worked for the international Culture Evaluation Commission at the Seoul Olympics Organising Committee in the years 1987-1990. In 1989 or 1990 in Athens I met the Dean of the IOA, Otto Szymczek, who invited me as a lecturer to one of the upcoming IOA Sessions for Young Participants at which I delivered lectures in 1992, 1993, 1994 and 2008. In 1993 Freddy Serpieris, then the President of the IOA, asked me to select Polish candidates for the recently initiated Post-graduate Seminar. Until 2014 I cooperated with the IOA in the selection of appropriate students. Most of them fulfilled the goals of the Seminar by completing their PhDs and thus strengthening the Olympic scholarly field at different Schools and Departments of Sport and PE in Poland. Two of them, a married couple, Małgorzata and Michał Bronikowskis, achieved the position of Professorship at the Physical Education Academy in Poznań where, incidentally, I established a small Department of Olympism and Ethnology of Sport, where I was director until 2014 when I retired. This Department was visited by the honorary Dean of the

IOA, Professor Konstantinos Georgiadis, in 2013. Both Bronikowskis were also invited to the IOA as lecturers, while Małgorzata was twice supervising professor at the Postgraduate Seminar. Małgorzata Mankowska who, as I predicted, would become my assistant in Poland, met another PhD writer from the USA, John Gleaves, at the Post-graduate Seminar. Soon they were married and now they teach at California State University in Fullerton, the Department of Kinesiology. Thus, I lost my promising and capable assistant. Generally, candidates whom I had selected were gaining positive evaluations from the IOA. Following their first appearances at the Seminar, the President of the IOA stressed in a letter addressed to me that, "up to date all the students you've recommended to us have satisfactorily met the demands of the Seminar and we think that this is mainly due to your well-constructed briefing on the IOA's work." Soon after, Nikos Filaretos appreciated that even after the Seminar I observe my candidates' Olympic activities and he wrote to me that, "you are among the very few who follow up on their students and their activities within the Olympic Movement and I wish to congratulate you wholeheartedly".

All my lectures and classes during the Semi-

nar were associated with audio-visual methods. I concentrated my teaching on relations between literature, art and sport, beginning with Pindar, Myron and Praksyteles. Also, I included forgotten and unknown facts I had discovered regarding fair play. The influence of folk games on creating Olympic events was also emphasised on the basis of my *World Sports Encyclopedia*, published under UNESCO auspices in three languages. All in all, I supervised three Seminars, first with Norbert Müller in 2001, then in 2013 and 2014 with Dean Georgiadis and Stephan Wassong.

There could not be any higher distinction for a scholar involved in Olympic studies than teaching at the picturesque IOA campus, located next to the archaeological excavations of *Archaia Olympia*, the most sacred place for sports history and touched by the spirit of the ancient Games. I hope that my teaching there accomplished two main goals: first, I believe that it increased participants' knowledge of Olympism and its intellectual content. Secondly, it enabled them to become supporters of Olympic ideals in their own societies, using knowledge of Olympism as an intellectual tool for counteracting the dangers which are so

destructive to sport like doping, political propaganda and economic pressures. But apart from the formal content of my teaching, I hope that I was also able to saturate students with my own general attitude towards Greece, the motherland of Olympism. Thus, I am so grateful to both Hellas and the IOA, a superb institution, not only for making it possible to teach at *Archaia Olympia*, but also to cooperate with other Greek cultural organisations, individual persons, and my fellow-scholars, such as the late Nikolaos Yalouris, Thomas Yannakis and Ioannis Mouratidis, with whose assistance I was able to acquire a deeper knowledge of Greece and Olympism in all my works. They indirectly contributed to my chapters on Greece in my *History of Sport* published in Polish, and most recently a large section on Greek culture and history (not only sport), in my *History of European Civilization*. Its first volume was published in December of 2019. There is no question that the IOA and its Postgraduate Seminars have been the most important link between myself, international Olympic studies, and more generally Hellenic civilisation and its conspicuous role in both the ancient and modern worlds.



Prof. Wojciech  
Lipoński at the  
IOA Library with  
the librarian  
Themis Lainis.





Prof. Wojciech  
Lipoński and Nikos  
Yalouris in Akroteri.



Prof. Wojciech  
Lipoński teaching  
at the 20th  
Postgraduate  
Seminar (2013).

# *Bárbara Schaufeld de Almeida* PhD

*Independent Scholar and educational entrepreneur  
at BSAlmeida Serviços Educacionais*



## *When a young researcher met the world: Essay on a personal experience at the IOA*

I was honoured to be part of the 2013 International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Post-graduate Students. I was on my second year as a doctoral student and this experience brought so many contributions to my career and my life that I may not even be able to count all of them.

Such an international experience could only change a young researcher who had the chance to hear and learn from colleagues with different backgrounds. It was my first time in such an international environment. I was fascinated by all the conversations and contributions that each person could give. It was my first insight about so many countries, cultures and, most importantly, people.

We were geographically from different parts of the world but found many reasons to feel united.

This experience changed how I see the Olympic Movement and made me rethink the power of sport. Our discussions were deep and did not ignore the many issues related to the Olympic Games. Yet those criticisms would not minimise the importance of sport in communities around the world. I became even more aware of listening to other people's experiences. I became even more conscious of how everyone must be respectful of other people's reality.

At the same time, it empowered me to be heard. I felt that other researchers had to read

a Brazilian perspective regarding the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. As much as I valued other people's experiences, I did not forget the importance of my own. Being familiar with the debates from the IOA gave me strength to keep researching and publishing about the Olympic Games, as I did during the years that followed.

When I came back to Brazil after Olympia, I applied for a job. As part of the evaluation panel I taught a class on a topic that we had discussed during the Seminar. The panel later claimed it was one of the best classes they had seen and I got the position. I am sure that any quality was due to the great professors and colleagues from whom I learned so much. Those four weeks are worth years of study.

That September was unforgettable in other senses as well. It was my first time in Greece and the experience made me a huge fan of ancient history. I felt so lucky to see history right in front of my eyes and being taught by great anthropologists. I also have fond memories from the Acade-

my itself and the smell of olives that I can remember as if it was yesterday.

As I cannot deny how important this Seminar was for my career, I must say a few words about my colleagues. I have vivid memories of all of them, as we discussed, learned, shared meals, evenings or coffees. Culture, religion, economics, language, sport, politics, everyday life - I cannot imagine so much could be learned otherwise if not by people talking about themselves.

I remember that Professor Georgiadis said that the world would be peaceful if people met other countries' people. When we have our hearts open to hear about someone else, I am a firm believer that peace will be granted.

Olympia and IOA are in my heart forever, they changed me forever. I am very lucky to have had the chance to be there with such great people in such a special environment. It contributed to my career, but most of all, influenced who I am right up to the present day and gave me friendships that are forever.





The students of the 20th Postgraduate Seminar with their participation diplomas (2013).



The students of the 20th Postgraduate Seminar on an educational tour of Epidaurus (2013).



At the ancient stadium of Olympia (on the top) and at the archaeological site of Nemea (at the bottom) (2013).



## 21st Postgraduate Seminar 2014

# *Paul Christesen* PhD

*William R. Kenan Professor of Ancient Greek History,  
Department of Classics, Dartmouth College,  
Hanover, New Hampshire  
Life Fellow, Clare Hall, University of Cambridge*



## *Fond Memories Indeed: Studying the Olympics at the International Olympic Academy*

*J*am delighted to have the opportunity to reflect on the experience of serving as one of the supervising professors of the 20th and 21st International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students that were held at the International Olympic Academy (IOA) in 2013 and 2014. The International Olympic Academy is one of my favourite places in the world. First and foremost, it is a model for how people from around the globe can live alongside and work with each other in ways that are both educational and joyful. In an era when international understanding is threat-

ened on many levels, the seminars at the IOA are a powerful reminder of what is possible.

The Seminars for Postgraduate Students are also remarkably stimulating intellectual experiences. The confluence of researchers, at different stages of their careers, who are all working on various aspects of the Olympics produces a highly dynamic environment for the exchange of insights and methodologies. Although I came to the IOA as a supervising professor, which might suggest that my primary activity there was teaching, in fact much of my time was spent learning from the

many students with whom I interacted. Early-career scholars, who bring fresh perspectives and ideas to their work, consistently produce some of the best academic research, and the exchanges I had with students at the IOA have had a lasting impact on how I think about the Olympics.

Moreover, the International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students at the IOA are a rare occasion when it is possible for researchers from all over the world – each bringing with them views and approaches that are shaped by their own individual intellects and the influences of their various national cultures and educational systems – to discuss everything having to do with the Olympics for an extended period of time. Whereas much can be done over email or at short conferences, the irreplaceable experience of interacting on a daily basis over an extended period of time creates ideal conditions for special kinds of learning that happen all too rarely.

Speaking of ideal conditions, the IOA provides an absolutely perfect setting for the study of the

Olympics, a setting that resembles in many ways my vision of what Plato's Academy or Aristotle's Lyceum must have been like. At the IOA a diverse group of bright, intellectually curious people live, eat, and play sports together in a self-contained place awash in natural beauty. The location of the IOA at ancient Olympia adds something almost inexpressible but truly remarkable because a powerful sense of the past and present merging together into a seamless whole suffuses everything that takes place there. If one were to encounter the ghost of Pericles throwing the discus on the playing fields at the IOA, it would somehow not be at all surprising.

Each International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students at the IOA thus represents a unique and uniquely valuable experience for all of the participants. I am deeply grateful to everyone at the IOA who makes it possible for people from around the world to come together and think deeply about the history of a phenomenon, the Olympics, that has shaped our past and our present.





Students and supervising professors of the 21st Postgraduate Seminar at the ancient stadium of Olympia (2014).



Standing for the Olympic anthem during the Opening ceremony of the 21st Seminar. From right to left: Prof. Paul Christesen, the IOA Dean Prof. Kostas Georgiadis, the IOA President Isidoros Kouvelos, Prof. Ingomar Weiler and the coordinator Krystian Michalak (2014).



Prof. Paul Christesen (2nd on the left) in the classroom - 21st Postgraduate Seminar (2014).

# *Adrianna Banio* PhD

Assistant Professor, Institute of Physical Culture Sciences  
Faculty of Physical Education and Health  
University of Szczecin



## *Memories from the 21st International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students in 2014*

The beginning of each learning is personal experience. I participated in the 21st International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students in 2014, where I presented the relationship of dance with the Olympic Games. It was absolutely one of the most beautiful adventures of my life, and trust me, there have been many... as a backpacker I travel all over the world, I have visited many places on 5 continents. What is more, I participated in the Olympics in Beijing (2008), London (2012) and Rio de Janeiro (2016) as a fan and activist of the Polish community abroad. However,

since my first visit to Olympia I can experience the Olympic spirit in a profound way. There I did not only learn about the Olympic values in an ancient setting, but I experienced them in every action of the people with whom I was there. Participation in the Seminar gave me not only knowledge, but also great friends with whom I keep in close contact until this day. Thanks to this experience, items related to Olympism have a special place in my scientific and popular science publications (over 45). In 2020, I published a book on Olympic tourism, which I have been practicing since 2008. At

the beginning of 2021, I published a book entitled "*Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic*." So for me, education in IOA is an immeasurable sea of good water. The more you drink it, the thirstier you are.

The keynote of the 2014 Seminar was the slogan: "Future Games supported by strategy". PhD and graduate students from all over the world - 39 representatives from 26 countries - visited the cradle of the Olympic Games. They were not only graduates of physical education, but also history, sociology, philosophy, law and marketing. The Seminar consisted of lectures, fieldwork and working in groups. Moreover, the programme was filled with cultural evenings during which we learned about other cultures; work in the library and the archive; sports activities, which due to the educational elements included in them were an excellent example of practical, conscious action in shaping ethical and moral attitudes; and screenings. We watched films such as: *Hoosiers* (1986), *Chariots of Fire* (1981), and *100 Years of Olympic Glory* (1991). Since it was undoubtedly contemporary Western education, i.e. education through discussion and collaboration, I was privileged to learn and collaborate with such outstanding professors as: Prof. Dr S. Wassong, Prof. Dr A. Strigas,

Prof. Dr M. McNamee, Prof. Dr H. Preuss, Prof. Dr I. Weiler, Prof. Dr P. Christesen, Prof. Dr W. Lipoński, Prof. Dr M. Bronikowska, Asst Prof. C. Myler. The professors in their lectures:

- referred to sport as an ideal means of democratizing society,
- showed the concepts of vertical and horizontal interpersonal relationships,
- discussed the current purposefulness and importance of sport in the educational process at all stages of education,
- indicated the directions in which physical and Olympic education should go,
- indicated the possibilities of including Olympic education in the core curriculum of physical education,
- showed what physical activity really is in combination with Olympic philosophy,
- underlined the need to know sports terminology as a way to better understand culture,
- introduced the issues related to the position of the IOC in the context of amateur sport.

The historical journey around the cradle of European culture began in Athens, where we visited the Acropolis complex, the Zappeion, and the Panathenaic Stadium. Then, we visited Isthmia and the archaeological site of Epidaurus, as well

as Nafplion and Mycenae. In Nemea, we met Stephen Miller, an outstanding professor of classical archaeology from the USA and director of local excavations. He discovered Nemea and was named the "Coubertin of the Nemean Games". The meeting was very informative and motivating. We also visited the delightful Delphi, hidden at the foot of Parnassus, which fully reflects the artistic craftsmanship of contemporary architects, manifested in every little detail. We visited the archaeological complex in Olympia, which is next to the IOA, several times. We looked for answers to many puzzling questions related to Olympism during traditional lectures, workshops, outdoor activities, in archives, museums, and archaeological complexes. Moreover, we remembered that it is worth using not only scientific heritage, but also the experience of other people from all over the world. Thus, we learned a lot from each other. We discussed such topics as: sports ethics, fair play, children's rights, women's rights, boycotting Olympic Games, the importance of technology in sport, the abuse of advertising campaigns, doping in sport, ecology and Olympic Games, racism, social exclusion, corruption, to what extent Olympians are private people and public personas and where is the border.

During the think tank classes, we were divided into three groups according to our scientific interests. Thus, the first group studied the history of Olympic values and Olympism. As a result of their work, they presented the difficulties that history posed, they argued that one should use various tools to promote Olympism, but above all, one should go back to history and roots. To create a better future, we must be inspired by history. This group undertook a very critical discussion about the directions in which the Olympic Movement is going. The second group dealt with the philosophy of Olympism. They tried to find out if the Olympic values are still valid and how they should be understood in the 21st century. They also debated sport as an educational tool, what we could do to make Olympic education a 365-day process and whether participation, and not a medal, is still the most important thing these days. Thus, they brought up the subject of the communication function of the Olympic Games. On the other hand, the third group dealt with matters related to management as broadly understood. They discussed the important issues facing the organisation and hosting of the future Olympic Games. They tried to suggest innovative solutions and delib-

erated on how the Olympic Movement could work to ensure a more economic, democratic and educational Olympic Games.

Based on mutual respect and the friendships we formed, we learned from each other about Olympic values that were, are and will always, be universal and true, just like us, becoming one big Olympic family. During this month, we experienced, so to speak "first hand", the Olympic spirit. We felt it almost constantly: during our archaeological visits, cultural evenings, sports activities, reconstructions of ancient Olympic Games and the torch relay. We even experienced it during our personal time. In every situation, there was

always an atmosphere of friendship, respect and perfection. This unique environment allowed for establishing many professional contacts; it was there that new international and intercultural research projects were born. On September 1, 2014, 39 individuals from all over the world, from different nationalities and cultures, religions and ideologies, as well as with different experiences and views on life, came to Greece. And we left Greece as one united group and family - the Olympic family. This is what Baron Pierre de Coubertin wanted. His dream has come true and I am convinced that thanks to the activities of the IOA it will continue...





Students of the 21st Postgraduate Seminar participating in a torch relay at the IOA (2014). Prof. Wojciech Lipoński holding the torch.

Students in the conference hall (2014).





Adrianna Banio receiving her participation diploma  
from Kostas Georgiadis (2014).



## 22nd Postgraduate Seminar 2015

# *Jean-Loup Chappellet* PhD

*Professor, University of Lausanne,  
Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP)*



## *Meeting Olympic scholars in Olympia*

I have been many times to the IOA (International Olympic Academy) since my first visit in 1984, but I participated only twice in the Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students as a supervising professor. This was in July 2007, just before the great fire, and in September 2015. I have wonderful memories of all my stays. Discussions with the postgraduate students and other participants were always very fruitful. I met many well-known sport figures such as Dick Fosbury, the 1968 Olympic champion who reinvented the high jump with the technique he popularised: the Fosbury Flop.

In Olympia, I also met many Olympic scholars

who inspired me, such as Jim Parry or Stephan Wassong, and young scholars who started their careers such as Dawn Aquilina from Malta, and Becca Leopkey from Canada. Colleagues such as Ian Henry, Leigh Robinson and Benoît Séguin were also great inspirations. My interest in Olympic history - both ancient and modern - certainly stems from all these long discussions and visits to the library in the new conference building.

I also remember the early visits to the ancient ruins, the mornings in the village, the afternoons at the nearby-beach and the late evenings at Zorbas', a local bar. And of course, the laying of wreaths at the Coubertin and Ketseas-Diem monuments.

*Jean-Loup Chappélet*

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I am glad the IOA was renovated in 2020-2021 and thus will remain the most important and suitable place to reflect on the future of the Olympic system. Thanks to the Greek Government and

to the IOC for having supported this wonderful place all along. Many thanks also to the successive IOA Presidents and its Honorary Dean, Professor Kostas Georgiadis.



Group photo at the commemorative stele Pierre de Coubertin (2015).



Prof. Jean-Loup Chappelet during his lecture at the 53rd International Session for Young Participants (2013).



22nd INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS , OLYMPIA HELLAS 2015

Prof. Jean-Loup Chappelet (on the right) with the Olympic gold medallist Dick Fosbury (in the middle) and the student Olivier Mutter - 15th Postgraduate Seminar (2007).



# *Ewa Malchowicz-Mosko* PhD

Poznan University of Physical Education,  
Faculty of Kinesiology of Sport, Department of Sports Tourism



## *Studying Olympism*

I had the pleasure of staying in Olympia four times. The first time I took part in the 2015 International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Post-graduate Students. I took part in the Seminar on the recommendation of Prof. M. Bronikowska and Prof. M. Bronikowski from Poznan University of Physical Education, who were students of Prof. Wojciech Lipiński - an outstanding sports historian who, many years ago as the first researcher in my city, established cooperation with the International Olympic Academy and thus gave international contacts to future generations of researchers. I remember the stay wonderfully. It was an opportunity for me to meet interesting people

representing various cultures of the world and an opportunity to participate in lectures given by people whom I admired and knew from their publications. I could discuss, among others, with such outstanding teachers as Prof. K. Georgiadis, Prof. O. Schantz or Prof. J. L. Chappelet. A year later I attended the same Seminar as a coordinator.

Together with the wonderful Charitomeni Tsordia from University of Patras, we once again had the opportunity to spend a month in the atmosphere of the Olympic spirit with ambitious young researchers from around the world. I was very happy working with the Greek team - especially with the amazing Marilena Katsadoraki

and George Margaritis. The result of my stays in Olympia are joint publications with researchers from around the world, and also some friendships have survived to this day outside the scientific sphere. The trip made me even more interested in the subject of Olympic legacy and management of sporting events. I also included the Olympic theme in the scientific dissertation on sports tourism that I prepared then.

The next year I took part as an academic teacher at the International Session for Educators of Higher Institutes of Physical Education. I listened to many wonderful lectures, including those delivered by Prof. V. Girginov, Prof. H. Preuss and Prof. Marijke Taks from the University of Ottawa in Canada. This meeting ended with the fact that in 2020 I went to Ottawa for an internship, where my supervisor was Prof. Taks. I also took part in the same Session in 2019.

Many classes were very useful to me – in Poland I teach classes in subjects such as sport tourism, sport cultural heritage or sport event tourism with Polish and Erasmus students. All my stays in Olympia developed me a lot and left a big mark on my scientific and non-scientific life. Olympia was also an inspiration for me to take part in the scientific conference in 2019 – the

Second Annual Conference of the Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research at Fullerton (California State University) in the United States, where I spoke about the topic: *Is Sport Tourism Halal or Haram? Leisure Time of Muslim Women in Islamic Countries*.

I really hope that I will be able to return to Olympia, maybe as a teacher, because I miss this place (Academy and old city) very much. I also hope that in many years a session for seniors may be organised, and then maybe I can also take part in it? When I visited the Olympic Academy for the first time, I was a student. Today I am already a mother and I hope that my child will someday also have a chance to learn cultural tolerance on such journeys. Wherever I am in Greece today, whether at work or on vacation, I always feel as if it is my second home. I miss the taste of *spanakopita*. I would not be at the current point of my scientific path if I had not visited Olympia. My stays greatly deepened my interest in studying Olympism. I recommend Olympia to all young people who have an appetite for life, an appetite for *spanakopita* and an appetite for meetings with prominent figures of world science and world sport. However, I advise you not to waste time – the fact that someone sends us to Olympia is a great opportu-

nity, but how many of these opportunities we take depends on us.

I would like to thank all the Greeks from the Olympic Academy for their beautiful smiles and great hospitality. This year I want to go back to

Greece – this time for an academic internship at the University of Patras under the supervision of Prof. D. Papadimitriou. Greece is definitely one of the most beautiful countries in the world and I miss Greek culture every day!



Social evening -  
23rd Postgraduate  
Seminar (2016).



Ewa Malchowicz-Mośko participated in the 13th IOA International Session for Educators of Higher Institutes of PE, as a guest (2019).



Ewa Malchowicz-Mośko as a coordinator with students of the 23rd Postgraduate Seminar (2016).





# 23rd Postgraduate Seminar 2016

# *Nigel B. Crowther* PhD

*Emeritus Professor of Classics*

*Former Director of the International Centre for Olympic Studies  
Western University, London, Ontario*



## *My two magical places: Ancient Olympia and the IOA*

*“...the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places.  
Those who don’t believe in magic will never find it.”*

*(Roald Dahl, British novelist).*

*I* was lucky enough to discover one magical place at a very young age. As early as 1960, I visited Ancient Olympia, inspired then not so much by Pindar and other ancient writers but more by athletes such as Jesse Owens and Roger Bannister. I remember that I was somewhat disappointed at the time, as the stadium was being excavated, which put a swift end to any thoughts of emulating runners ancient or modern. It was only later that I was enthralled by the site and its archaeology.

Little did I know it at the time but my second

magical place did not yet exist – the IOA. Only in the next year did it hold its initial programme and much later its International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students. It took several decades before I became familiar with that institution hidden away in the trees on a hill slope neighbouring the stadium. It was in 2004 that I first taught the Postgraduate Seminar and I have had the good fortune to return many times since. One of my students from that year, Sarah Teetzel, has been invited back several times as a scholar in

her own right on gender studies. She was not the only such returnee.

By 2004, the IOA had long since advanced from being a microcosm of the primitive "tent city" that existed at Olympia at the time of the ancient Games. The last two decades or so have seen a great influx of technology. In the early days students lined up to use the public phones to call home.

In time past, the IOA paid for professors to travel business class, an exciting adventure that for me did not always turn out so well. I recall that the engine on the first plane failed and my luggage on the second plane ended up in Frankfurt. Moreover, I arrived in Athens on the day of a national strike, having decided to come a day early and having declined to be picked up by taxi. Yet the charms of Olympia and the IOA soon banished any negative thoughts.

I was not present at the IOA in 2007 when the fire on that fateful day of August 25th disfigured much of the beautiful campus, although I did hear that Canadian water bombers had helped to save Olympia. Or was it Zeus? I was touched by how many former students from the Seminars sent me pictures and comments.

One of the most interesting features for me of the Postgraduate Seminar has been meeting

colleagues in related disciplines from around the world, for it is indeed international both in respect of faculty as well as students. One day outside the cafeteria I heard a very familiar accent behind me. It was someone I knew well from his writings but had never met in person before, none other than Professor Jim Parry, who was brought up in England just a few kilometers away from me and went to the same University. I have learned so much from fellow professors both during the Seminars and in "after hours" discussions.

Yet in many ways it is the students who make the IOA what it is. I have enjoyed taking participants round ancient athletic facilities in the Peloponnese. I talk to them about Olympia in the morning and then continue the class at the actual site in the afternoon. How good is that! Nowhere else can one enjoy this privilege. With the students I have climbed Kronion hill at dawn, looked over at the campus and listened to the breakfast music. Yes, the music carries a long way. From its peak I have heard the deep tones of my fellow Canadian Leonard Cohen and, I seem to remember, Drake.

It never ceases to amaze me from how many different countries and cultures the participants come, who not only work hard but also play hard in the true Olympic spirit. As Pierre de Coubertin

said: "The Olympic Spirit is neither the property of one race nor of one age." I have admired students from Lebanon who participate in the Seminars in their third language (as does the Honorary Dean). Some of the highlights from over the years include running in the stadium with the students; taking karate lessons with a world champion from Serbia and aerobic lessons with an Olympic gold medallist from Romania; working out with a "Viking" from Iceland; tussling with a taekwondo Olympian from Guatemala and losing a small chunk of my thumb in the process; playing soccer with former professionals from Tottenham Hotspur and other clubs; meeting an Olympic gold medallist at the airport, just a few weeks after her success in Rio, especially her modesty in introducing herself to me when she was the most well-known person in Canada at the time; listening to the student from west Africa talk about his 56 siblings - I do not think

he could remember all their names. I declined a tennis match against a British student when I learned his regular partner was taking part in the Wimbledon Championships. Olympism is indeed "the marriage of sport and culture." (Juan Antonio Samaranch)

Ancient Olympia and the IOA Seminar have certainly defined and enriched my life and career. Able to read the sources in ancient Greek, I have become more and more interested in ancient sport and the Olympics in general. In retrospect the IOA played a large part in encouraging me to become Director of the International Centre for Olympic Studies in Canada.

"In many ways we are all sons and daughters of ancient Greece (Nia Vardalos, Greek-Canadian actress). The IOA has been almost my second home. Every time I leave the campus, I say to myself, as the famous movie actor said - "I'll be back!"





Prof. Nigel Crowther made the closing address on behalf of the supervising professors at the 22nd Postgraduate Seminar (2015). Next to him, Kostas Georgiadis and Isidoros Kouvelos.

Prof. Nigel Crowther holding an olive wreath for victor in footrace at the ancient stadium of Olympia.





Prof. Nigel Crowther (on the left) with the twice Olympic gold medallist Rosie MacLennan and student of the 23rd Seminar, and Kostas Georgiadis (2016).



From left to right the professors: Nigel Crowther, Kostas Georgiadis, Stephen Miller and Ingomar Weiler at the archaeological site of Nemea.

# *Nikolaos Papacharalampous* PhD

Department of Business Management  
University of Patras



## *Building knowledge and life skills through experiencing the Postgraduate Seminar*

First, I would like to express my gratitude towards the IOA for providing me the precious opportunity to participate in this historical publication dedicated to the evolution of the Postgraduate Seminars since 1993. It is truly an honour to be chosen among a large number of people to contribute to this unique disclosure by IOA.

My interaction with this academic endeavour started in 2016, when I became part of the big family of the IOA by attending the 23rd International Postgraduate Seminar in Ancient Olympia as a student. Gaining valuable knowledge, the exchange of innovative ideas, the exposure to multi-cultural elements, and sharing life-changing experiences

with young and ambitious people accompanied by the precious guidance of specialised professors, have all led to the formation of useful academic capacities and high-level research skills. Moreover, strong bonds have emerged between the participants of the Seminar and lifelong friendships have been created. Definitely, experiencing the Olympic spirit through the IOA, along with the aforementioned benefits, amplified not only the quality of my PhD studies, but contributed to the development of my interpersonal relations and communication skills as well. In terms of the contribution of the Seminar to the progress of my empirical work, I presented my research con-

ducted on WIND's sponsorship of the 31st Classic Marathon of Athens (November 2013) and which focuses on the evaluation of benefits and the differentiation between three target-markets (volunteers, athletes, spectators). Athens Classic Marathon was selected due to the fact that it is a big annual sport event of international scope and one of the most important sports of the modern Olympic Games. The recommendations, constructive comments and helpful feedback that both professors and colleagues from the Seminar provided have strengthened my study, which led to my empirical work being published as a peer-reviewed scientific paper by the Journal of Business & Industrial Marketing, under the title "Sport event-sponsor fit and its effects on sponsor purchase intentions: A non-consumer perspective among athletes, volunteers and spectators". In a few words, I would say the Seminar was a well-rounded educational process and the premises of the IOA provided the perfect surrounding for this productive session to benefit me and, of course, all participants to the maximum.

The following year, I had the privilege to visit again the special place of Ancient Olympia and repeat this wonderful experience from an alternative perspective, since I had been chosen to coor-

dinate the 24th Postgraduate Seminar. Although it was a big responsibility, it was truly a pleasure for me to contribute to the Seminar's great purpose so that more young people experience the Olympic spirit through the IOA. Particularly, my second interaction with the IOA and the Seminar had been an even more powerful lesson for me, since it proved to be, yet again, an educational process not only for the participants but also for the coordinators. The magnitude of the Seminar made me soon realise that each session is special, and each group of participants contributes in a unique way to the building of the Seminar's historic development. To describe my second contact with the IOA Postgraduate Seminar, I would say it is rather a dynamic educational programme, which attributes a remarkable character to the session. This had also been established by my third contact with the IOA in 2019, and the coordination of the 26th Postgraduate Seminar. With those experiences from three different Seminars, I went through a huge spectrum of Olympic ideas dealing with Olympic legacy, the historical aspects of Olympism, the peace-promoting endeavours, the solidarity through Olympic ideals, the humanitarian attempt to diminish prejudices of race, religion, or political views through sports,

etc. In terms of the professional and job-related benefits of the Seminar, I had gained valuable experience in coordinating and organising educational events in collaboration with national and international organisations and institutions. Last but not least, the communication in English along with the interactive communication with the new participants improved my teaching capacities and my abilities to transmit ideas to others, which I consider a great asset for PhD students to use later on in their academic career.

To conclude, it is wonderful to know that, due to the constructive IOA Postgraduate Seminar, we have a friend and a place to stay in nearly every corner of the globe. As young and active people we have the obligation to bring our knowledge

to the world, to spread the Olympic ideals and to share our research and new ideas throughout our communities, our countries and abroad in an honest and direct way. Through that we can have an impact on the progress of the Olympic Movement in society and maybe some will be back to the IOA premises to teach the next generations and contribute to the development of the Post-graduate Seminar in the future. Regardless of the path we choose, whether we teach in schools and universities, work in management and business or try sports and train athletes, our shared values of fairness, joy of effort, peace and mutual understanding will always be with us, and the IOA Post-graduate Seminar has a pivotal role to play for the participants and all people involved.





Commemorative photo of the students and the supervising professors Norbert Müller and John MacAlloon - 26th Postgraduate Seminar (2019).



Sports activities - 26th Postgraduate Seminar (2019).



Nikos Papacharalampous as a coordinator, with the postgraduate students in front of the Parthenon - 26th Seminar (2019).



## 24th Postgraduate Seminar 2017

# *Stephan Wassong* PhD

*Professor, German Sport University Cologne  
Head of the Olympic Studies Centre and Institute of Sport History  
President, International Pierre de Coubertin Committee  
Member, IOC Olympic Education Commission*



## *Lecturing at the International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students: An honour and academic experience*

*T*has always been a pleasure and great honour to receive the President of the International Olympic Academy's invitation letters to teach at, and nominate a student for, the International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students. The first time I opened one of these letters was back in 2012, which was, in my opinion, an ideal year to commence this academic endeavour. The rationale for this was that I would have been able to centre the teaching contents and discussions around the facts, figures and topics on the London Olympic Games. However, I was

unfortunately not able to put these plans into action on account of having been in an accident only one day before my scheduled departure. Thus, as opposed to enjoying the atmosphere in Olympia, I was instead bedridden in hospital. Although I felt terrible that I missed this first opportunity, I was greatly moved by the kind words and wishes of a speedy recovery I received from the IOA President and Prof. Kostas Georgiadis. Further, it was a delight and great relief to hear that Prof. Dr Norbert Müller, who contributed strongly to coining the founding idea of the Postgraduate Semi-

nar, had stepped in to replace me in my teaching responsibilities. Despite this “rocky” start, and luckily for me, the President has continued in the years thereafter to send me subsequent invitation letters for various Sessions of the IOA, including that of the postgraduate studies.

It is clear to see that the International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students were designed in such a way that their aims reflect those of the original conceptions of Ioannis Ketseas and Carl Diem, who were the founding fathers of the IOA. In the Seminar, the two supporting pillars of the Academy have been addressed: The dissemination of multi- and interdisciplinary knowledge on the Olympic Movement and the strengthening of research initiatives and projects. My intention to also follow these objectives has guided both my teaching and preparation of topics, which have, amongst others, included Pierre de Coubertin and his educational internationalism, the issue of amateurism and professionalism, the anti-doping fight of the IOC, Olympic boycotts and boycott threats, and an institutional representation for athletes. All of these topics were addressed from a contemporary and historical perspective. As to the former, the IOA is an ideal place in which to en-

gage in such discussion as it allows one to connect the modern Olympic Games with the cultural festival in antiquity. I have also been able to do this with almost every topic covered in my teachings. Most importantly, the students appear to have appreciated this approach, mentioning to me how this provided them with profound knowledge on processes of continuity and transition in the development of the Olympic Games and Olympic Movement.

From my experience however, participating in the Seminar as a lecturer or supervising professor is not merely about teaching. This also involves fostering dialogue with the participants and digesting their constructive feedback on your lectures. Invariably, such discussions and comments have encouraged me to expand my research on a respective topic or even to revise my statements. Hence, these dialogues and listening to students’ research initiatives or projects have significantly widened my views on numerous topics on the Olympic Movement. The variety of the participants’ research projects has always fascinated me and evidences that research on the ancient and modern Olympic Movement is an ongoing and always appealing field for young academics. My experience has led me to perceive that the Sem-

inar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students is an ideal platform for students to present their research and to open it up for discussions. At the Seminar, this is possible within a multicultural context among fellow-students and professors, all of who have diverse expertise on Olympic topics. It would be a great challenge to find another institution in our field where these opportunities are available for young researchers.

The research-led learning and teaching approach, as well as its application at the Seminar in and outside of the lecture halls, at the library, during talks at the archaeological site, in breaks in sport competitions, at the marble stairs and the refectory, makes the Seminar incredibly unique and also such an ideal place to educate Olympic ambassadors. These ambassadors are vital for the dissemination of a multi- and interdisciplinary objective knowledge based on the Olympic Movement across the globe. Without doubt, this is a central pillar of Olympic education and one that plays an important role for the positioning of the Olympic

Movement in society, while still being guided by the ideals and initiatives of Pierre de Coubertin.

Many students have benefited from the Seminar and the fact that I have had the opportunity to contribute to this in whatsoever way gives me great satisfaction. It is this that stimulates my ongoing motivation to continue my passionate research and teaching agenda on the Olympic Movement. Additionally, it also encourages me to think responsibly about whom to nominate as a candidate for the Seminar. Since 2012, I have been given the opportunity to fulfil this responsibility on an almost regular basis. The students that I have nominated and who were then accepted to attend have profited greatly from their experiences at the IOA on both a personal and professional level. The fact that the IOA has given me the opportunity to send students from the German Sport University Cologne (GSU) must be highly acknowledged, as it secures the longstanding tradition of cooperation between GSU and the IOA dating back to the idea of founding the institution.





Prof. Stephan Wassong  
during his lesson at  
the 20th Postgraduate  
Seminar (2013).



Prof. Stephan Wassong,  
as invited lecturer, with  
his daughter at the 13th  
International Session  
for Educators of Higher  
Institutes of PE (2019).



Group photos from the 21st Postgraduate Seminar (2014).



# *Susannah Stevens* PhD

*Lecturer, University of Canterbury  
President, Physical Education New Zealand (PENZ)  
Co-director, New Zealand Centre for Olympic Studies (NZCOS)*



## *The IOA as a platform for pedagogical discussions, playfulness and peace*

In Aotearoa | New Zealand there is a Māori whakatauki proverb which says: "Mā te kimi ka kite. Mā te kite ka mōhio. Mā te mōhio ka mārama." It means "Seek and discover. Discover and know. Know and become enlightened."

We live our lives looking through a single lens. We view the world in the way our countries, cities, regions, families and friends shape it for us. In turn, we shape the world for our next generations. Pierre de Coubertin spoke of the importance of peace, non-discrimination and tolerance, and how sport could facilitate this. However, it is naïve to believe that by simply holding a utopian view of sport

as an inherent good, or playing sport will somehow "naturally" lead to peace and non-discrimination. Learning starts with a conscious effort to seek knowledge, acknowledge and celebrate difference. Contention, uncomfortable discussions, and being with others are vital to this process. We have to experience the "other" in order to really understand and empathise with alternative world views to our own. Over time, the more encounters we are exposed to, the more we learn and the more we respect those different to ourselves.

I have had the honour of attending three International Olympic Academy Sessions/Seminars.

In 2007, I attended the 47th International Session for Young Participants; in 2013 I attended the 10th International Session for Educators and Officials of Higher Institutes of PE, and in 2017, I was part of the month-long 24th Postgraduate Seminar. All three of these Sessions helped me to grow as a human being; but the key learning for me did not come from the Seminar content. Sure, I learned about the history of the Games, Legacy, Olympism, Greek culture, and the Olympic Movement, but these things have not shaped my career as much as the implicit learning from living at the Academy. For me, when I listened to other participants' perspectives, learned of their culture and countries' struggles, I became astutely aware of my western, white privileged position. The IOA was a space for us to listen to one another, amplify marginalised voices, and solve problems as a global team. In my humble opinion, this is the real strength of the Academy. I would love to see the Academy extend this further, through participant-led social action projects that benefit the community in Olympia.

I learned many implicit lessons about the importance of friendship. No matter how deep, challenging and confronting the discussion or work had been during the day; an evening beer on the

steps with friends reminded us that human connection and disposition always surpasses "knowledge". In fact, I have friends from all three of these Sessions that I am still in touch with on a regular basis. I remember sharing a moment with a new friend from a very different ontological and cultural background to myself. He said to me, "You are so free. You are a woman, but you are free. You dance, and drink, and laugh, and say what you like." This encounter taught me many things. It taught me about my privilege as a white woman from New Zealand. It taught me that I could be friends with someone who thought so differently from the way I did. It taught me that dance, laughter, joy and humour were an excellent way to break boundaries and transcend language and cultural difference. When I stayed at the Academy, we played music and sang together, walked together, played sport together and spent hours in the library researching. During the global Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, we used video conferencing to share national experiences, our hardships and our love and support for one another.

The Academy taught me that I should never take the responsibility of role-modelling lightly. When I was invited to share my knowledge, either as a group leader or an academic from a higher-

institute of physical education, I used these situations to challenge ideas, confront norms and ensure that the discussion was critical and of a high standard. It was at these times, I appreciated the IOA for providing the platform to do this, and allowing varied interpretations of topics and content. This is what enabled us all to grow. We discovered things about others and their world views, but simultaneously we discovered things about ourselves, our assumptions and our ways of life. I was privileged to be able to help other participants with their English, work on job applications, translate documents and compile group reports.

I now work as an academic, and I manage an interdisciplinary research institute that crosses disciplines of health and education to advance knowledge in the area of child and youth well-being. I am the president for Physical Education New Zealand (PENZ); which is the national subject association that supports the quality planning, facilitation and assessment

of physical education in New Zealand. My encounters at the International Olympic Academy have impacted my life. Olympism continues to shape my practice overtly through the completion of my Master of Education in Olympic Studies, my PhD study which examined the joy of movement, my membership with the International Olympic Academy Past Participants Association (IOAPA), and appointment as Co-Director of the New Zealand Centre for Olympic Studies, University of Canterbury. Yet these accomplishments are second to how Olympism is inherent in my daily life. I am joyful, I am respectful, I acknowledge my privilege and I never wish to stop learning. Olympism is embedded in my decision-making processes, my understanding of well-being, my actions, my love for movement and my love for philosophy, the way I parent my two sons, and my process of becoming. I have no doubt that my time at the Academy has influenced this.





Group photo of the female postgraduate students - 24th Seminar (2017).

Prof. Reinhard Senff, head of the excavations of the German Archaeological Institute, presenting the new findings in Olympia to the students of the 24th Postgraduate Seminar (2017).



Sunrise at the Kronion hill - 24th Postgraduate Seminar (2017).





## 25th Postgraduate Seminar 2018

# *Trena Martinková* PhD

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Charles University



## *20 years at the IOA*

I participated in the 7th International Post-graduate Seminar on Olympic studies in a 6-week period during May and June in 1999 as a young doctoral student from the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Charles University, Prague. Since this was at the beginning of the internationalisation of higher education in the Czech Republic, a post-socialistic country, it was my first international academic encounter with foreign professors and students outside of my country and had a deep impact on my future academic career.

The Postgraduate Seminar gave my previous academic experience an international perspective. It was exciting to meet other postgraduate students with similar interests, to meet personal-

ly various lecturers whom I knew only as authors of academic papers, to study and discuss various Olympic issues during the lessons, in the library, or in the huts scattered in the natural environment within the IOA. Some of the participants and lecturers became my long-term friends and later also colleagues in the area of sport studies, many of whom I still meet nowadays.

I valued immensely the opportunity to visit ancient sites of the development of sport during these six weeks. It was very enriching to be able to see the places of the four Panhellenic games - Ancient Olympia, Delphi, Isthmia and Nemea, as well as places important for ancient Greek culture, such as the Acropolis and Agora of Athens,

Epidaurus and Mycenae. The visits were special, since this was not just ordinary tourism, but visits accompanied by in-depth explanations given by guides and scholars who had devoted their lives to the study of ancient Greek sport and culture. Meeting Prof. Ingomar Weiler from Karl-Franzens University of Graz, Austria as the first lecturer during the first week was of great importance for my academic development. Since the topic of my doctoral thesis was of ancient Greek origin, connecting the ancient past with modern sport under the title "*Kalokagathia, past and present*", it just felt like I was in the right place. Being able to visit repeatedly the historical site of the Olympic Games and the adjacent museum were great benefits of this stay, enabling me to deepen my understanding of ancient Greek culture.

The IOA, in the spirit of the ancient Greek ideal of education of *kalokagathia*, emphasising human development towards beauty and goodness of the human being, gave many opportunities to develop oneself with respect to understanding sport in the context of ancient Greek games as well as modern Olympism, to deepen our international understanding thanks to staying in close contact for six weeks with participants from all over the world and, last but not least, by enabling

us to practise these ideas in various sport and cultural encounters in the beautiful Academy setting.

After finishing my doctoral studies, I continued my academic career as Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Charles University, and I got a further opportunity to develop as a scholar in the field of philosophy and ethics of sport. In July 2006, I was honoured to be invited as a lecturer at the 7th International Session for Educators and Officials of Higher Institutes of Physical Education, and later in May 2015 also at the 13th International Session for Directors of NOAs. This was a great opportunity to share my work on philosophical and ethical aspects of Olympism, ideas of Pierre de Coubertin, as well as the ideal of *kalokagathia*, the starting topic of focus for my doctoral studies, to which I have returned repeatedly during my academic career. These IOA Sessions were of a different kind from the Postgraduate Seminar. They enabled me to meet colleagues interested in various aspects of Olympism and to discuss with them, whilst being able to enjoy the Academy once again, as well as the nearby archaeological site and museum.

Another kind of IOA experience was to be invited as a supervising professor to give lectures for postgraduate students at the 16th and

17th International Seminars on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students in July 2008 and July 2009, and also the 25th and 26th Seminars in September 2018 and May 2019 on the theme of ethical and philosophical issues of Olympism. I felt honoured to be on the lecturers' side, sharing my expertise with young Olympic scholars, some of whom would doubtless be pursuing their own academic careers just as I had done some years before.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Postgraduate Seminar in September 2020 will be by Zoom. This will mean a change of approach, without the setting of the inspiring environment and atmosphere of the Academy. I wonder if the experience of this year's postgraduate students will be significantly different, or if we will be able to overcome the geographical limitations. Social distancing, which will probably have to stay with us for some time, is for sure an obstacle to the Olympic spirit. It not only prevents the playing of sports

and the organisation of sports competitions, but it also gets in the way of many kinds of academic encounters that are crucial for the development of Olympism. While Zoom and other devices are better than nothing at all, face-to-face teaching and discussions are still of crucial importance.

So far, I have been lucky to be able to experience the IOA from various points of view. It is a place which I enjoy returning to, a place that does not seem to change, even after disasters like the fires in 2007, a place that is always welcoming new academic discussions within the realm of Olympism, in its various aspects. Thanks to the long-time influence of Kostas Georgiadis, Dean of the IOA, the International Olympic Academy with its adjacent ancient Olympic site is a unique place, open for a fresh development of Olympism. Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympic Games and Olympism, whose heart rests in the nearby memorial, would be joyful to see that his idea of Olympic education remains alive.





Prof. Irena Martíková and the postgraduate students of  
the 25th Seminar with their participation diplomas (2018).



Closing address on behalf of the supervising professors by Prof. Irena Martíková (2018). On the podium (from left to right): the students' coordinator Ivana Aničić and the Seminar's coordinator Gina Tsiotra.

Social evening - 7th Postgraduate Seminar (1999).



# *Matthew P. Llewellyn* PhD

*Professor, Department of Kinesiology  
Co-Director, Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research (CSSOR)  
Editor, Journal of Olympic Studies  
California State University, Fullerton*



## *The most profound educational and cultural experience in my life*

In May 2019 I had the honour of being invited to serve as a guest professor at the 26th annual International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students, organised by the International Olympic Academy (IOA). As a professor of kinesiology, with an expertise in sport and Olympic history, I had been invited to deliver three lectures to an audience of graduate students drawn from countries around the globe. Over the course of three days, the students and I examined the historical role that politics, amateurism, and race has played in shaping the modern Olympic Movement. This proved to be a highly-enjoyable and

intellectually stimulating experience. Whether sharing knowledge and ideas in the classroom or over a meal in the cafeteria, I learnt as much from the students as I hope they learnt from me.

My visit to Olympia in 2019 marked the twelfth anniversary since my first visit to the beautiful IOA campus. In the summer of 2007, I was one of forty-four graduate students selected to participate in the 14th annual International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students. At the time, I was a doctoral student at the Pennsylvania State University working towards a PhD in kinesiology. Although I was born and raised in Wales, Unit-

ed Kingdom, I arrived in Olympia in 2007 as the representative from the United States. An “American” with a thick “Welsh” accent was the source of much confusion and laughter among my fellow graduate students. The six weeks that I spent in Olympia during the 14th International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students proved to be the most profound educational and cultural experience in my life. I developed a deeper understanding and appreciation of the power of Olympism in cultivating a more peaceful and interconnected world. I explored the ancient ruins at Olympia, listened to daily lectures on various aspects of the Olympic Games, and forged lasting relationships with my fellow graduate students over a game of football, basketball, or table-tennis. At the IOA, the Baron Pierre de Coubertin’s idealistic vision of using sport to bridge cultural differences and foster mutual understanding came alive.

I returned to the Pennsylvania State University in the Fall of 2007 with a renewed determination to support and further the mission of the IOA. I published scholarly articles on various aspects of modern Olympic history and, in January 2010, successfully defended a doctoral dissertation that explored the history of Great Britain’s involve-

ment in the Olympic Games. Olympic studies became my intellectual passion and has played a significant role in shaping and influencing my professional academic career.

Following the completion of a PhD, I accepted a tenure-track position within the department of kinesiology at the California State University, Fullerton [USA]. Since that time, I have striven to contribute to the growing body of Olympic scholarship, publishing numerous books and articles on Olympic history. In 2015, my colleagues and I founded the Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research (CSSOR). The CSSOR is recognised as an International Olympic Studies Centre – one of only three in North America – by both the International Olympic Committee’s Olympic Studies Centre and the United States Olympic Committee for its quality and commitment to research and academic activities. The CSSOR hosts an annual academic conference and publishes a peer-review academic journal. The *Journal of Olympic Studies* is the official publication of the CSSOR, and aspires to be the preeminent international multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed scholarly journal in the field of Olympic research. As Managing Editor, I work to support the journal’s mission of publishing

# *Matthew P. Llewellyn*

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high-quality academic work on the Olympic Movement, in all of its forms, from scholars in the fields of history, philosophy, management, communication, classics, literature, anthropology, cultural studies, economics, marketing, and law.

In my role as co-director, I further support the CSSOR's mission to promote education and research concerning sport and the Olympic Games by leading an annual Olympic studies study abroad programme to Greece. Every summer, 26 undergraduate and graduate students from the California State University, Fullerton travel to Greece to learn about the Olympic Games, ancient to modern. The International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students served as the inspiration and blueprint for this programme. My students and I explore the ancient Pan-Hellenic festival sites, discover the ancient origins of the Olympic Games, and examine the Baron Pierre de Coubertin's modern Olympic revival. As part

of the two-week study abroad programme, my students spend five days at the IOA campus. Lectures are delivered in the IOA classrooms, sports are played on the IOA football pitch and basketball and volleyball courts, and discussions are continued over competitive games of table-tennis inside the IOA cafeteria. Since the founding of the study abroad programme in 2015, my students have been unanimous in rating their stay at the IOA as the highlight of their time in Greece.

The IOA has played a pivotal role in shaping and influencing my academic journey from graduate student to university professor. My participation in the 14th annual International Seminar on Olympic studies for Postgraduate Students in the summer of 2007 heightened my understanding and appreciation of Olympic studies and provided the inspiration for developing an academic career focused upon the promotion and dissemination of Olympic research and Olympic values.



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POLSKA PRZEZ SPORT, MOŻEMY ZMIĘNIĆ ŚWIĘTĘ

Hungary Néhány sport, m a műdön le tudsz hagyni bőrt.

Jordan ملائكة من خلال الرياضة نستطيع تغيير العالم

Canada Through sport, we can change the world!

España /A través del deporte podemos cambiar el mundo!

Germany Durch Sport können wir die Welt verändern.

India अंगरेजों ने कैसे बदला दिल?!

Barbados (Bajan) True Sport We Can Change the World!

TURKEY (TURKCE) Spor aracılığı ile değişim, değişimdeki bir

U.S.A. Through Sport, We Can Change The World!

Belgium Kunnen we de wereld veranderen door middel van sport???

LATVIA: Cāja sportā mēs varām mainīt pasaulei.

Chile: Yo traeje a los Deportes juntos conmigo

王靜娟同學說：體育是認識世界的有趣視窗。體育主導。 (CHINA)

Australia: Through Sport, We Can Change the World Mate!

China: Kroz sport možemo promjeniti svijet.



Poster with the message  
"Through Sport, we can  
change the world" written  
in the native languages of  
the postgraduate students  
following an initiative of Prof.  
Yannis Theodorakis - 25th  
Seminar (2018).



The students of the 15th Postgraduate Seminar in the conference hall (2007).

In the classroom  
15th Postgraduate Seminar (2007).





Matthew Llewellyn with his fellow students presenting the conclusions of the 15th Postgraduate Seminar (2007).



## 26th Postgraduate Seminar 2019

# *H. Björn Galjaardt*

*Master of Sports Coaching,  
School of Human Movement & Nutrition Studies University of Queensland*



## *From participant to Seminar researcher*

### *Sincere thanks*

First of all, I would like to express my kindest and warmest greetings and appreciation to the staff of the International Olympic Academy. Joining the 26th International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students has been a wonderful experience. I still feel privileged and honoured to be a part of the Olympic spirit in the beautiful environment in Olympia with wonderful, knowledgeable and compassionate staff.

### **Introduction**

Continuous educational development is a huge

part of my life, whether as a coach or teacher or learning myself. Hence in my mid-thirties I started a Master in sports coaching at The University of Queensland, in Australia. I have been involved from grassroots to a high-performance level in the Olympic sport water polo. The Olympics have always been a passion for me and working with international emerging and elite athletes and coaches, some Olympians, has been a great part of my life. I worked in various countries and am confident in a few languages. This definitely helped me lay further and perhaps rooted foundations for lifetime friendships at the International Olympic Academy.

**Nomination**

University of Queensland Associate Professor and Affiliate Senior Lecturer Steve Rynne, head of programme for my master in Sports Coaching, discussed the International Olympic Academy's programme in my first year of study but felt that it was better to first meet Professor Ian Jobling. From that moment he lit the "Olympic flame" for Olympic education and the field of study! University of Queensland Associate Professor Ian Jobling was a past lecturer at the International Olympic Academy himself. In addition, he is a honorary Professor and Director of the Centre for Olympic Studies in the School of Human Movement and Nutrition Studies at The University of Queensland. Aside from numerous articles, books and research, he is also a member of the Queensland Olympic Council. After meeting Ian I felt a connection as if I had been taken on a journey with Pierre de Coubertin himself through various Olympic stories. Ian nominated me and I was delighted to be invited, as only 26 postgraduate students were selected.

**Time at the International Olympic Academy**

The 26th Seminar was held concurrently with the 15th International Session for Presidents or Directors of National Olympic Academies and the 59th

International Session for Young Participants. On arrival, late in the afternoon in Athens, we were greeted by the Dean of the International Olympic Academy, Professor Georgiadis. The next day we visited the Acropolis archaeological site, the Acropolis Museum, the Panathenaic Stadium and Epidaurus with an overnight stay in Nafplion. The following day we visited the Fortress of Palamidi and the site of Nemea, where Professor Miller shared his findings and the journey of the archaeological site's excavation. Thereafter we arrived at the premises of the International Olympic Academy. From the various lectures, site visits and truly informative paper presentations of peers I fondly remember the passion of each individual. At afternoon sports, mostly joined by Professor Georgiadis, we showed the Olympic spirit by all joining the activities as best as possible. Representing one of the five continents in our group, I was chosen to lay a wreath in front of the stele of Pierre de Coubertin.

I was intrigued by the lectures of Professor Müller and Professor MacAloon, they sparked further interest in Olympic education. After my three weeks' experience, with a concluding visit to Ancient Elis and the site of Delphi, I was determined to explore further information provided by those

two Professors. My energy was fully focussed on the International Seminars and after an hour-long conversation with Professor Georgiadis I knew this would be my study subject. I met great ambassadors of the National Olympic Committees, including those from The Netherlands, Australia and Germany, who were elaborating on their educational ideas and projects. In addition, I was delighted to meet David Wallechinsky as well as Conrado Durández in the International Olympic Academy's library and go through the latter's book, to explore the abundance of educational material and to see the passion of the Young Participants.

### **Continuing**

Returning home, I knew that I wanted to explore the effects of the International Seminars, seek advice on the programme's educational meaning and intentions, support the Olympic Movement and become an expert in the material myself. I started my master thesis, which I may use for a future PhD. The thesis steppingstone starts with researching the educational effects of the International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students. In the future I would like to explore Olympic education to a greater extent in terms of

the educational cohort and contributions or outcomes from past lecturers and participants. My experience and memories here would be a great start, since it shaped my future interest and support for Olympism, the Olympic Movement and Olympic education.

As a final note to the 26th International Seminar; little did we know that we were the last cohort that completed the programme on the International Academy's current premises. This was partly due to COVID-19, but also due to a pleasant reason as the International Olympic Academy had received support to renovate the premises and the facilities. This meant that our cohort was the last cohort to have attended the Seminar in the International Olympic Academy's premises in their original state as they were from construction until 2019, with the adjunct library, seminar hall and facilities such as the sports field and swimming pool. A pleasant thought that I was part of such heritage buildings in terms of the origin of its programme. Subsequently it confirms that the International Olympic Academy has a bright future and will continue to inspire many other like-minded people to preserve and pass on the Olympic spirit.

The IOA President,  
Isidoros Kouvelos  
and students of the  
26th Postgraduate  
Seminar laying  
a wreath at the  
Coubertin stele  
(2019).





Björn Galjaardt presenting his Seminar paper (2019).



Björn Galjaardt with the President of the Spanish NOA Conrado Durández in the IOA Library (2019).

# Krystian Zawadzki PhD

Associate Professor, Rector's Proxy for AACSB International Accreditation  
Gdansk University of Technology  
Member of the Polish Olympic Academy



## Class 2019...

Ancient Olympia is the only place on the entire globe in which the modern world so directly meets the ancient one. From the terrace outside the International Olympic Academy library, you can see the Alpheios River Valley, and further to the right, the grove of Altis with the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, where there was once a statue of the father of the gods which was recognised as one of the seven wonders of the world.

Nearby, are the ruins of the gymnasium in which athletes competed nude. A little closer, on the left, is the stadium, with white blocks where athletes would place their feet and get ready for

their races. This ancient part of the modern campus of the International Olympic Academy is separated by a strip of asphalt which, as a participant in the 26th International Seminar on Olympic studies for Postgraduate Students, I walked along repeatedly during my nearly three-week stay, strolling down to the charming town, and sometimes hitting Zorbas bar. The green of the football field at the foot of the campus, the blue rectangle of the swimming pool, the red of the sports fields all contrast with the sun-dried, rust-coloured fields behind the campus fence, the silent witnesses to ancient competitions.

I often recall my memories of the 2019 event. The beautiful location of the IOA defies description. Waking up every day to the accompaniment of melodies through the speakers, morning coffee on the terrace by the canteen, and evening sports games. The latter, after returning, I missed so much that in my home I introduced an "hour of sport" rule and every day my family of five plays matches in the backyard. This will not replace the unforgettable wrestling or karate lessons, but it remains a peculiar legacy of what began in 2019 in Olympia.

My participation in the Seminar convinced me that my choice of scientific subjects in the field of sport and Olympic studies was the right one. It did not change my career orientation because this was specified before I came to Olympia, but it confirmed my belief that the concept of sport can be defined in various ways in scientific research. Sport operates at the interface of various fields and disciplines: history, philosophy, politics, medicine, technology, management and, in recent years, more and more in economics and finance. The number of volumes in the charming IOA library can testify to the range of issues in sport.

If I were to recommend some changes in the organisation of future Seminars, my recommen-

dation would include more emphasis on showing the broad spectrum of the Olympic Games and of sport itself during lectures and workshops. I particularly mean going beyond the obvious, due to the location of the IOA, and the historical and philosophical framework, and showing, to a greater though not necessarily overwhelming extent, the challenges facing the organisers of sporting events, sports federations, fans and sportspeople themselves today. Using an international, interdisciplinary perspective, Olympic studies could examine today's most pressing and far-reaching questions about sport, including the Olympic Games. I believe that addressing such issues as, for example: doping in modern sport, gambling in sport or the economic impact of sporting events, would make the formula of the classes more attractive and allow the Seminar participants to broaden their horizons, and would perhaps instil new ideas for scientific research.

In addition, it would be worth considering giving scientific publications signed with the IOA abbreviation a higher rank. Nowadays, the best quality studies, whether one agrees with this or not, are published in international journals ensuring citation and recognition on the global market. For example, if, as is the case in Poland, a scienti-

fic publication in the IOA proceedings does not lead to certain benefits for the author, in the sense that when assessing scientific achievements such studies are not taken into account, then there is no pressure to prepare the best studies in qualitative terms, or if university assistance in the process of preparing such a publication (such as financial support in the field of language correction) does not exist or is very limited. Adopting obvious and proven scientific solutions at a certain level, such as the selection of reviewers or review procedures, on the one hand avoids bias in terms of reliable article evaluation, and on the other hand develops a certain attitude among young people – participants of Olympic studies seminars, who are very often at the beginning of their scientific careers.

Personally, the greatest value of the Seminar was gaining new acquaintances, wonderful people both on the organisers' side, led by Professor Georgiadis, and the lecturers and the participants themselves – students from all over the world – representatives of each continent. The opportunity to listen to unusual stories recounted by experts should be considered the most valuable intangible benefit of the IOA Seminar. I still remember the narrative of Professor MacAloon, who men-

tioned some interesting stories about how secret military services from all over the world collaborated in order to perform a joint parachute display at the time of the opening ceremony for the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Korea. Moreover, there were some intriguing discussions concerning the varying social status of ancient athletes. Although they did not receive financial rewards explicitly, they could count on huge privileges in their respective city states, for example, honorary citizenship, tax redemptions, a statue or free food for life. Probably the most impressive example was the case of Diagoras of Rhodes, a statue of whom is erected at the bottom of the marble steps at the IOA.

I miss the place and the people I lived with for three fascinating weeks. Nevertheless, thanks to modern technologies, the participants of the Seminar are in constant contact with each other. We exchange information, report on our achievements and pride ourselves on our successes. My greatest wish would be to meet again someday, although I know this will be extremely difficult. However, I am grateful that we were able to meet during the Seminar in Greece in 2019. The following year, it would not have been possible in view of Covid-19...



Guided tour at  
the Panathenaic  
Stadium in Athens  
- 26th Postgraduate  
Seminar (2019).

Sports activities - 26th  
Postgraduate Seminar (2019).



From the presentation of Krystian  
Zawadzki's Seminar paper - 26th  
Postgraduate Seminar (2019).





# 27th Postgraduate Seminar 2020

# *Bianca Gama Pena* PhD

*CEO at the Virtual Sport Museum*

*Project Manager at the Innovation Department at Rio de Janeiro State University*

*Olympic studies Research Group - Rio de Janeiro State University*



## *Experiences, Memories and Opportunities provided by the IOA Seminar*

*P*articipating in the IOA Seminar in 2015 was a milestone in my personal and professional life. Personally, the whole routine of waking up, studying in the library, attending lectures given by the most renowned professors in the Olympic environment, visiting archaeological sites, eating meals and participating in sports activities with all my new international friends and members of the Academy was intense and extremely valuable. I formed friendships that have endured until now.

As for professional opportunities, it was a really great experience. I would especially highlight my amazing connection with Professor Dimitra

Papadimitriou from the University of Patras, who also took part in the 2015 event. During the Seminar, Dimitra started guiding my doctoral dissertation, which also came into being in Olympia, Greece, after I had finished my post-graduation work.

After the Seminar, an international agreement was signed between the University of Patras, Greece, and the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), Brazil, to begin scientific research and data collection at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. This agreement has been renewed annually since then, and thus far it has yielded two visits by Prof. Papadimitriou to Brazil, as well as visits by three

professors from UERJ to the University of Patras.

The Olympic Academy Seminar also provided me with numerous scientific productions. I would especially highlight the production generated by the IOA Seminar, in that I was able to present my master's thesis, which was made into an article in the IOA book (Pena, 2015). Also, at the same Seminar, we released to all students the book "*The Future of Sport Mega Events*" by Prof. Lamartine DaCosta and Prof. Ana Miragaya.

As a result of the international partnership with the University of Patras, one article was published about the doctoral dissertation I wrote with Prof. Papadimitriou (Pena, 2020), as well as a chapter in the book *Mega Events Footprints: Past, Present and Future* (Pena, 2017) in celebration of the first-year anniversary of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

The 2015 IOA Seminar also reconnected me with two people two years later and inspired me to do an exchange during my doctoral work (2017), a partnership with the Technical University of Munich (TUM). Consequently, at TUM I was able to renew a wonderful friendship that I had formed at the IOA, which demonstrated how very important the IOA is for generating professional and academic relationships. At the IOA another extremely important connection was

with Prof. Jean-Loup Chappelet, whom I had the opportunity to visit at his University in Switzerland (IDHEAP) in 2017.

Thus, once again I would reiterate that participating in the IOA Seminar was a great watershed moment for me as it was responsible for expanding the horizons of my professional life, especially from the perspective of my international career, enhancing my connections in the academic world.

## **The future of Olympic studies**

As a contribution to the future of Olympic studies, I would highlight the product of my doctoral dissertation (Pena, 2018), the creation of a virtual hub for the preservation of international Olympic memories in conjunction with Prof. Lamartine DaCosta - also a former IOA collaborator - through a collaborative, digital network of sports stakeholders, including federations, confederations and sports museums.

Using digital technology, we created the prototype for the virtual sports museum in partnership with UERJ and the Brazilian Basketball Confederation. We are currently expanding the creation of this hub from eight new virtual museums for the purpose of registering, cataloguing and digitising the memory of sports in order to make it ac-

cessible through digital means and translating it into English.

The partnership grew stronger starting with the connection of the last edition of the 2016 Olympic Games held in Rio with the next edition, to be held in Tokyo in 2021, through a partnership with the University of Tsukuba, Tokyo (Pena, 2020). The intention is to create the Tokyo Virtual Museum for international dissemination of the content legacy of that edition of the Games.

It is important to note the total alignment of the virtual museum with the recommendations of the 2020 Agenda; among the recommendations are: no. 5 (Include sustainability within the Olympic Movement's daily operations); no. 20 (Enter into strategic partnerships); no. 22 (Spread Olympic values-based education); no. 23 (Create a virtual hub for athletes) and no. 26 (Study an "Olympic Museum on the move" concept to introduce Olympic culture to the general public).

Lastly, as my personal contribution and as a legacy proposal from the Postgraduate Seminar in 2015, Prof. Lamartine DaCosta and I have registered the invitation for the IOA to join the stakeholder group of the virtual sports museum created in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and so have the IOA's 2004 Olympic Games collection displayed worldwide.

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Bianca Gama Pena  
presenting her  
Seminar paper  
during the 22nd  
Postgraduate  
Seminar (2015).



Bianca Gama Pena (on the right) with Prof. Dimitra Papadimitriou - 22nd Postgraduate Seminar (2015).



Torch relay at the IOA - 22nd Postgraduate Seminar (2015).

# *Tariq Ali Gujar* PhD

*Member of Education Commission, Pakistan Olympic Association  
Manager, Sports NED University of Engineering and Technology, Pakistan  
Research Associate, University of ULM, Germany*



## *Way to Olympism through the Seminar*

I was glad to attend the 27th International Seminar on Olympic studies for Postgraduate Students, organised online by the International Olympic Academy (IOA). It was an excellent experience for me to understand the philosophy of the Olympic Movement. The organising committee did its best to deliver knowledge about "The Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement: Past, Present and Future – An Analysis from the Historical, Philosophical and Social Perspectives". I found the IOA to almost feel like a utopia, where I acquired new knowledge with an explicit aim, which was priceless. From an educational point of view,

we got the chance to learn and discuss different perspectives on the Olympic Movement such as Olympic Games in antiquity which were held in places other than Olympia – the Olympic Games in Macedonia and Antioch - teaching awareness of ethical governance, the role of the Olympic Movement in social inclusion, the philosophy of Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympics, and the revival of the modern Olympics. Besides this, it was an excellent opportunity to meet and discuss the prospects of the Olympic Movement with renowned scholars.

Another significant activity in the Seminar

was the group discussion in the shape of working groups, which brought up the participants perspectives on ancient and modern Olympic Games, women's participation in the Olympics, cultural and educational attitudes, a philosophy beyond sport; the values learned through sports and the role of Olympics in Society. This activity broadened my knowledge of the Olympic Movement, past and present, and Olympic values in society. Moreover, through this Seminar, I had a chance to explore different research perspectives by exploring the research papers the participants presented. Every participant in the Seminar offered a unique research paper addressing a vital perspective of the Olympic Movement, which helped me to broaden my knowledge.

Even in this pandemic, the organising committee also arranged social activities like the social meetings between participants so we could get

to know each other and cultural meetings, which gave me an exciting chance to learn about the culture of different countries from the inside. An interesting part of the social activities was the Olympic Quiz which helped me to evaluate my knowledge about the Olympics. The organising committee also organised a virtual tour of the Museum of the History of the Olympic Games of Antiquity, which was a fantastic experience for me. I wish to visit The Museum of the History of the Olympic Games of Antiquity in Olympia to feel Olympism and experience the Olympic Movement's progress for myself. I hope we will have the chance to visit the IOA and meet the participants and the IOA faculty personally, which will increase the ties between the IOA and the Olympic community. Finally, I am thankful to the IOA for giving me such a memorable chance to be a member of the Olympic family.





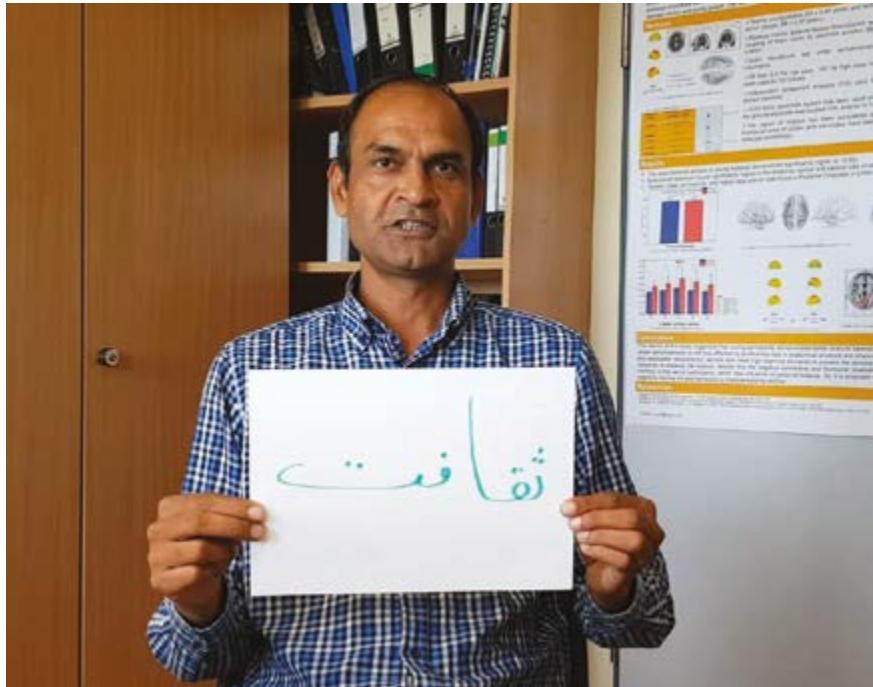
Welcoming page from the platform created to host the online edition of the 27th Postgraduate Seminar (2020).

From the works of the online 27th Postgraduate Seminar (2020).





Shots of the students of the 27th online Postgraduate Seminar (2020) answering the question "What does Olympism mean to you?". Below Tariq Ali Gujar giving the answer "Culture" to the above question.





# 28th Postgraduate Seminar 2021

# Iva Glibo

Research Associate & PhD Candidate, Technical University of Munich



## *Reflections on the International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students*

I remember vividly the respect I had for the doctoral and postgraduate students I met in Olympia. The day in Greece was hot, as usual, and they were on their way to the lecture halls at the IOA premises. We, the students at the IOA Master's degree programme, were told that a group of young researchers will be joining us in Olympia for a month. Intrigued, I talked to some of them. Confident, ambitious people from all over the world came to Olympia to present their research, discuss, and learn from each other and their professors – while living Olympism.

Fast forward a couple of years, I became a doctoral candidate myself on my way to the highest

academic degree and a fulfilment of my long ambition. The road to getting that doctoral title is long, strenuous and filled with situations that will pull you out of your comfort zone and turn your confidence into a mush. And counterintuitively, these situations are precisely those that are worth pursuing. So, click! That was me, sending out my application for the International Seminar on Olympic studies for Postgraduate Students. Greece, here I come again!

Dear Greece, I am not coming. I will miss your sun, your Olympia and its clean air. I will miss the pool at the IOA premises and all the oranges. I will also miss sport pitches, unlimited feta cheese and

ouzo from Zorbas. I will miss talking to people from countries that I could only imagine visiting and making friends with local people, probably named Kostas. The Covid pandemic did its thing again, and I will have to be happy with Zoom. And after convincing myself to look at the bright side, I am.

The German Olympic Academy prepared me well for the event. I got their shiny Zoom background to hide my messy room and a lovely Olympic German team t-shirt to wear. I sent a snapshot of my research and prepared a presentation. I was ready to share my work and excited about lectures and other students' presentations. On the day of the opening, all the professors who would be teaching for a week greeted us. This was also the first time I met my fellow colleagues, and while the Olympic anthem was playing, I felt honoured and privileged to be there. The IOA has a way of making things feel solemn and extraordinary. Even through Zoom.

Our days were structured in a way that combined lectures given by professors, student presentations and group work intertwined with plenty of discussion time and opportunities to ask questions. Besides the standard classes on the ancient and modern Olympic Movement, the em-

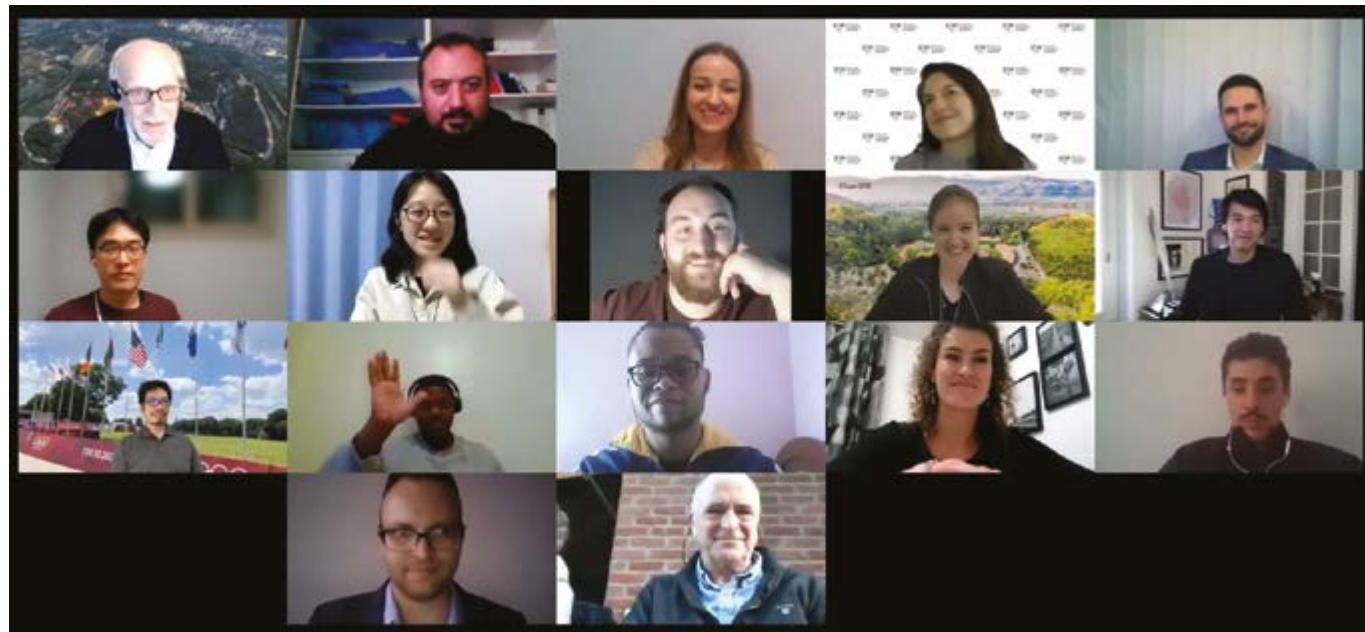
phasis was put on the Covid-19 pandemic and its repercussions for the Olympic Movement. It was eye-opening to discuss the inequality surrounding athletes coming from different countries depending on their access to vaccinations and its effect on their participation on the Olympic stage. Equally, discussions about the people of Japan and their attitudes towards the Games were intriguing and yielded a lot of food for thought.

Student presentations included various topics, different research foci and methods of addressing them. I learned about the Olympic education in Hungary and Ghana, about the history of badminton, Pierre de Coubertin and volunteer management and judging in artistic gymnastics, to name a few topics on the roster. In a small and intimate atmosphere, all questions were allowed and welcomed; feedback was as benevolent as much as useful. Learnings were then strengthened through teamwork on a set of questions that required serious brainstorming to be answered. As the IOA does not shy away from cultural events, we had a digital guided tour of the Olympic Museum in Olympia, by Kostas, naturally, and cultural evenings.

All in all, there is not much to say then; thank you, German Olympic Academy for nominating

me and thank you, IOA! Thank you for persisting and not giving up on your mission to educate despite obstacles. The International Seminar on

Olympic studies for Postgraduate Students was an important asset to my academic career and an experience to remember.



Closing of the 28th online Postgraduate Seminar (2021).

# *Derrick Charway*

PhD Candidate



## *Recounting my IOA Postgraduate Seminar experience*

**B**ack in 2017, I successfully defended my MA Sport Management thesis about the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) while at the Seoul National University, South Korea. Pleased with my thesis, the head of the department of our master programme discussed with me the possibilities of presenting my thesis findings at the International Olympic Academy (IOA). Unfortunately, this was not possible. Although I follow IOA on their various digital platforms I was not fully aware of their Postgraduate Seminar programme. Fast-forward to 2019, and I gained admission to study for a PhD at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (NIH). Little did I know that I would be nominated by the Norwegian Olympic and

Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF) to be a part of the 28th International Seminar on Olympic studies for Postgraduate Students which was organised by the IOA from November 15-21, 2021. Finally, I can present the findings of my Master thesis and in addition, have a true Olympic experience where lecturers and students from various parts of the world meet and share ideas.

At first, I was excited to travel to Athens, Greece where all the Seminar participants would converge. For me, it felt like returning to the cradle of the Olympic Games where the spirit of Olympism was born. This feeling was shut down by the sudden rise of the COVID-19 pandemic around the

same period. In response, the Seminar was held in a digital format and this remained throughout. Despite this new development, I had a fruitful learning experience at the Seminar. I would like to recount my experiences there as follows (1) organisation of the Seminar, (2) the lectures/presentations, (3) extra-curricular activities, (4) joining the International Olympic Academy Participants Association (IOAPA) and (5) concluding remarks.

First and foremost, the organisation process was fluid before and for the duration of the Seminar. From the very first time I received the news that I had been selected to be a part of the IOA Postgraduate Seminar, the organisers were up to the task. There was constant communication, timely feedback and overall the information regarding the Seminar was clear. Also, new developments or updates were reported in good time. I had the opportunity to get to know some details about the lecturers/professors for the Seminar and my fellow participants. For instance, about their home countries, education, research projects, and hobbies to mention a few. During the Seminar, the reading materials provided and the IT support added value to the organisation process. For me, this made learning easier. Overall, I think the organisation is great.

The second point is the lecturing and presentations. The lecturing at the Seminar was unforgettable because all the presentations underpinned my thoughts on the Olympic Games. I have always maintained that there is a gap between the Games and knowledge of the Olympic ideology oft-times referred to as "Olympism". Topics about Ancient and Modern Olympic Games, Olympism, the Olympic Values Education, the impact of COVID-19 on the Games and the work of the IOA were revealing. I sat glued to my chair throughout the Seminar thinking about how modern Olympics do relatively little to pitch Olympism and the Olympic values during the Games. In as much as the Games are imperative, I think it is equally important to lever the same energy to promote the Olympic Values Education Programme, particularly during the Olympiad (the four years gap between the Olympic Games).

The third subject is the extra-curricular activities which took the form of a digital social gathering. This was my favourite part because we had the chance to take a deep breath after the whole-day Seminar and to bond and share ideas. We formed a fraternity where we engaged with each other and shared our personal experiences. The time allotted for the gathering was short but at

least we were able to go beyond the Seminar and share both our work and research experiences. Further, we created a WhatsApp group and participants follow each other's personal accounts on various social media sites. This was refreshing.

The fourth part is when I joined the International Olympic Academy Participants Association (IOAPA) at the end of the Seminar. The IOAPA hosts several past participants of the IOA programmes and activities. This IOAPA intrigued me because of their mission to "foster international and multicultural Olympic fellowship, provide tools and resources to facilitate Olympic education and to support Olympism worldwide".

Last but not least, I cannot share my experience without mentioning the intellectual faculty behind

the Seminar. Particularly, Mr Isidoros Kouvelos (IOA President), Prof. Dr Konstantinos Georgiadis (IOA Honorary Dean) and Ms Gina Tsiotra (Seminar coordinator). Special thanks also go to Mr Konstantinos Karadimas (Technical Support), Ms Antonia Bormpotsialou (Administration Office), Ms Alexandra Karaiskou (President's Office/NOAs Relations), Mr Christos Skaliarakis (Financial Department and Logistics), Ms Roula Vathi (IOA Publications) and the extra-curriculum organisers, Ms Yarden Har Lev and Mr Dimitris Regalos.

In conclusion, the Seminar left an indelible mark on me. The Olympic history, ideology and values live on. Therefore, I would love to do it again when re-invited to IOA programmes in Athens, Greece and beyond.





The 29th International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students will be held at the renovated IOA premises from September, 7 to September, 26, 2022 marking 30 years of the Seminar's operation (2010 not being counted due to cancellation).



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY



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