

mdu advanced trainings // week 9

debating sports



workshop structure

... most sports debates are not only about sport

- **sport in and of itself**
- **sports and economics**
 - THR the trend of foreign investors purchasing football clubs
 - THBT football associations should require clubs to be majority owned by their fans
- **sports and social justice**
 - THR the NFL's decision to implement interviewing and hiring incentives (i.e. higher draft picks) for African-American coaches rather than pursuing the punishment of management for unequal hiring practices
 - This house believes that national sporting teams should reflect the diversity of the national population
- **sports and IR**
 - THBT FIFA should reallocate the 2022 World Cup from Qatar to a country with a superior human rights record





sport in itself



- teams often struggle to make sport impacts sound **impactful** → necessary to do a good actor analysis on why individuals care about sport
 - tying one's **identity** to the club (attending matches, making merch, learning about the club)
 - forming **communities** around the club - social activity with shared interests → forming relationships, trained social response, nostalgia
- particularly impactful in e.g. economically deprived areas
- use e.g. in **equality** vs. **quality** clash (*THBT sports leagues should significantly tax and redistribute from wealthier teams to poorer teams*)
 - demoralisation (optimism bias, envy of other people)
 - better narrative - people care about the story, not just the results
 - but individuals base their expectations within context

sports and economics i

- **wealthy owners**
 - **good incentives?**
 - buying teams that are currently underperforming and likely to bring them up - cost and benefit analysis
 - coaches, managers, specific time-consuming preparation
 - new players
 - infrastructure (more applicable to smaller/local)
 - catering to local communities
 - depending on local fans for visiting matches and atmosphere
 - more important than broadening the base beyond the local
 - **bad incentives?**
 - entertainment (Football Manager but expensive)
 - profit - this leads to
 - desire to expand fanbase to a larger group (why more important than local?)
 - changes to the team, to advertisement, to stadium (even location) - changing the core identity
 - desire to raise ticket prices





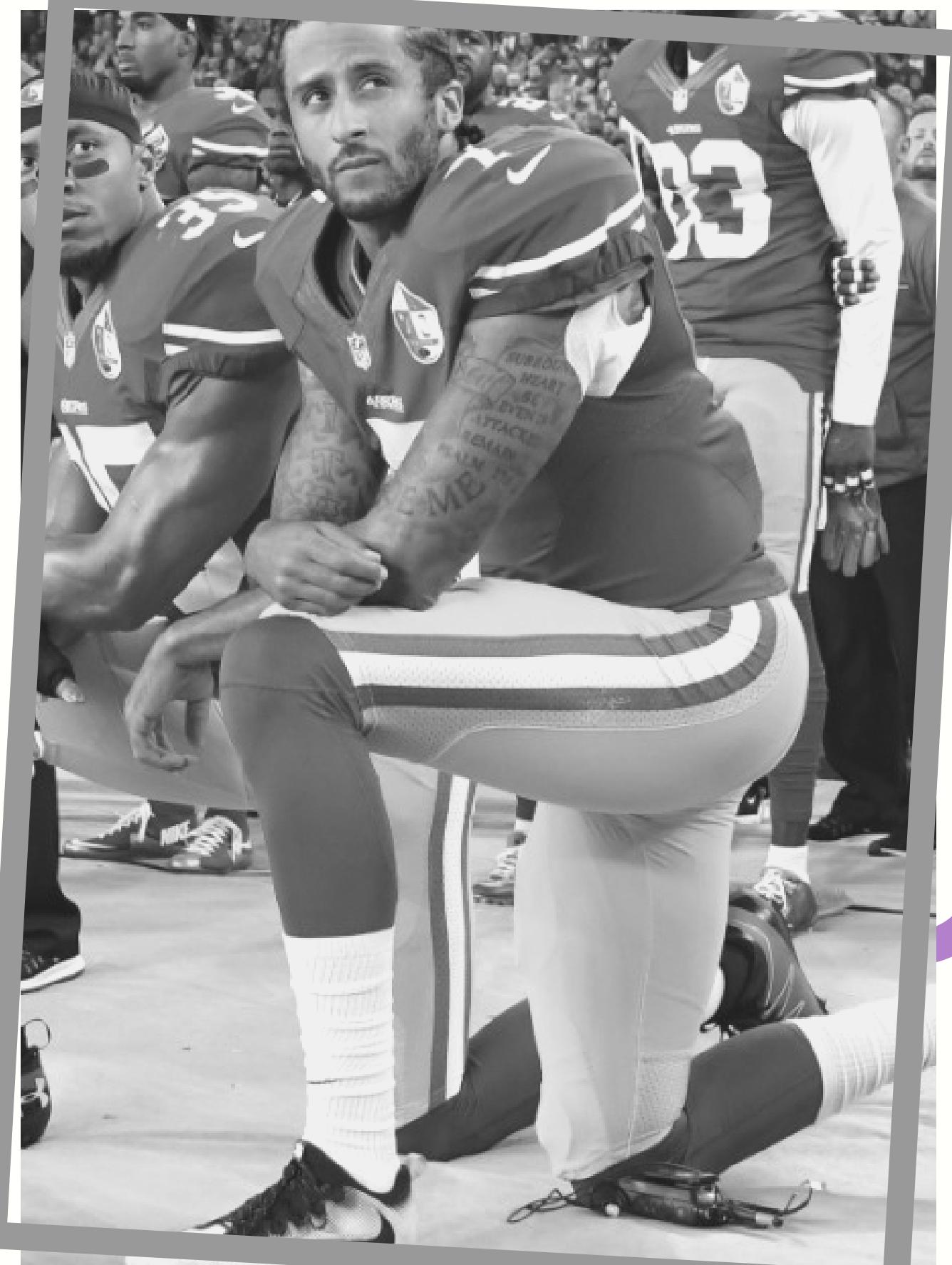
sports and economics ii



- impacting money and popularity
 - development of local areas
 - sport itself (academies, training infrastructure)
 - infrastructure
 - revenues from tourism
 - international expansion
 - academies / scouting in the developing world → opportunities for individuals from economically deprived areas
 - remittances
 - tourism revenues

sports and social justice

- **problems to identify**
 - representation problems (managerial positions, players especially in financially less accessible sports)
 - cultures of racism / violence
 - gender inequality (pay gap, screen time)
- **often suggested tools in debateland**
 - quotas
 - holding teams accountable e.g. for violent behaviour of fans
- mechanising sports as a **tool for social progress**
 - players have status - can generate **discourse** (characterise what kind of discourse - good or bad?)
 - kids often socialised through behaviour around sport
 - 'contact theory' through e.g. immigrants on the team one supports
 - X racist fans more likely to explain failures through blaming minorities
 - backlash via leaving the team unlikely
 - X other ways through which fans can backlash - e.g. microaggressions



sports and IR

- most motions related to hosting of international sporting events
- **common arguments**
 - governments using sports as a **tool to entrench power** - constructing narratives of pride
 - **human rights abuses**
 - need to construct fast and on a large scale
 - bad working conditions
 - demolitions or sanitisation of areas
 - **media portrayal**
 - attention to the country could allow media / NGOs to highlight ongoing issues
 - X individuals often pay more attention to the official promotion materials (happy, colourful, sanitised)
 - athletes themselves often get to see a highly sanitised version of the country and give personal testimonies

