



CENTER FOR
SOCIOCULTURAL
SPORT & OLYMPIC
RESEARCH

Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research

Eighth Annual Conference

12-13 March, 2026

www.cssor.org

Hosts

Founded in 2014, the Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research (CSSOR) is located at California State University, Fullerton. Its mission is to promote education and research concerning sport and the Olympic Games in their broadest cultural, social, and political dimensions.

The goal of the center is widespread support and sharing of research and education that takes sport seriously and sincerely. By hosting conferences, community events, and supporting curricula on sport and the Olympic Movement, CSSOR hopes to further our understanding of these enduring human enterprises. In addition to this conference, CSSOR continues to pursue new projects, funding opportunities, and innovative research through visiting professorships and collaborative activities with scholars from around the world.



Maps

Map of California State University Fullerton Campus



Legend

(Important Locations Starred on Map)

31. Titan Student Union (TSU)
Conference Activities (See
Page 4 for building map)

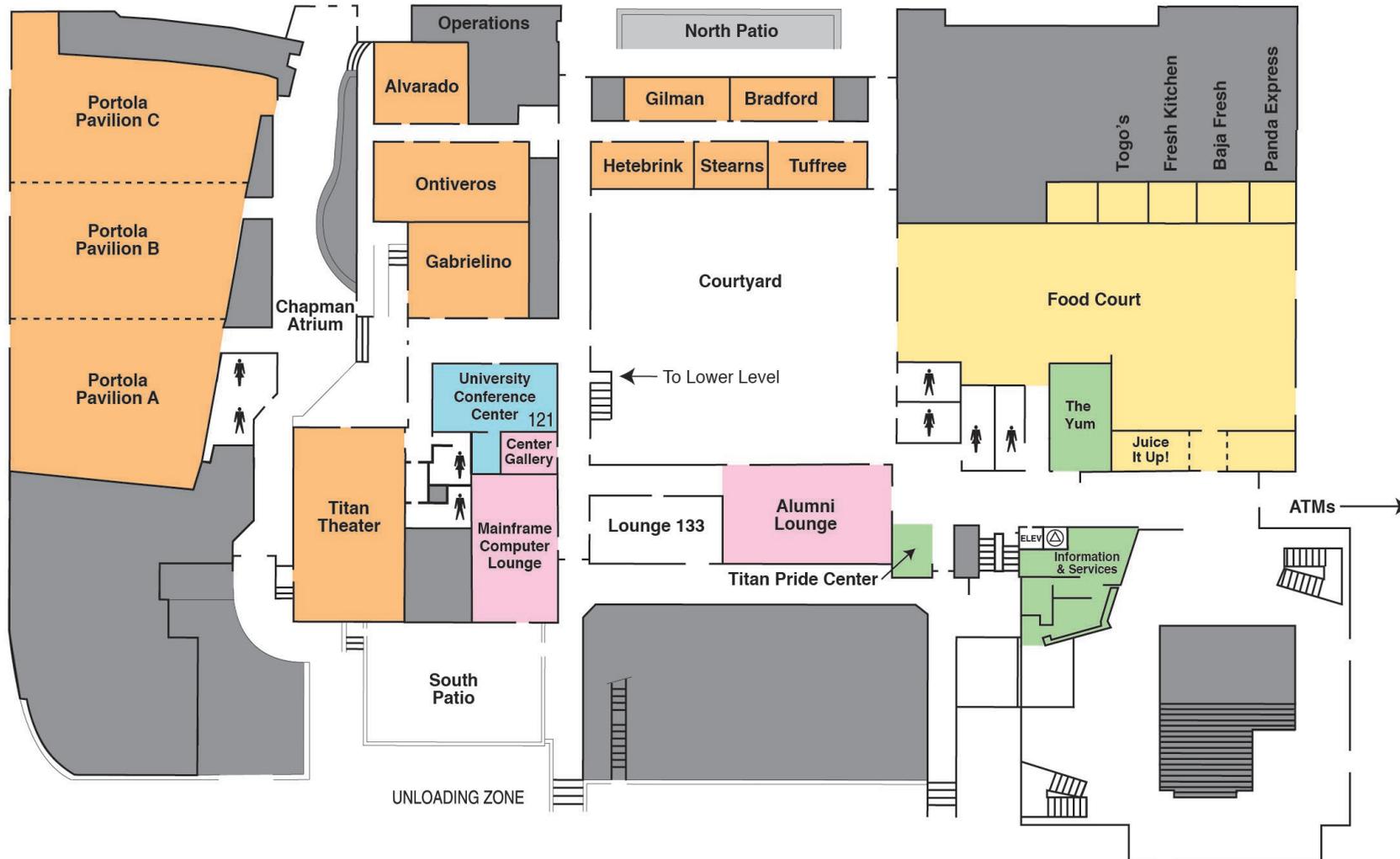
36. Parking for Day Use,
purchased permit required

25. Gastronome

 Marriott Hotel

Expanded Map of TSU for Conference Activities

MAIN LEVEL





UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS

Journal of OLYMPIC STUDIES



Edited by:
Matthew P. Llewellyn

Official Publication of the
Center for Sociocultural Sport
and Olympic Research



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The *Journal of Olympic Studies* aspires to be the preeminent international multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed scholarly journal in the field of Olympic research. The *Journal* publishes high quality academic work on the Olympic and Paralympic Movements, in all of its forms, from scholars in the fields of history, philosophy, management, communication, classics, literature, anthropology, cultural studies, economics, marketing, and law.

JOURNAL OF SPORT HISTORY



Edited by:
Daniel A. Nathan

Official Publication of the North
American Society for Sport
History



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The *Journal of Sport History* promotes the study of historical, social, and cultural aspects of sports. The *Journal* invites the submission of scholarly articles, research notes, documents, and commentaries exploring the development of sports; their societal impact; their intersection with politics, economics, and identity; and more. The *Journal* welcomes interdisciplinary works as well as methodological discussions concerning the study of sport history.

Learn more at press.uillinois.edu/journals

CSSOR Distinguished Scholar Award

The Distinguished Scholar Award was established in 2015 to annually recognize one individual for their significant research contributions to the sociocultural understanding of sport. Recipients are nominated and selected by CSSOR Directors based on their overall body of scholarship.

Past recipients:

2015	Paul Dimeo, University of Stirling
2016	Cheryl Cooky, Purdue University
2017	John MacAloon, University of Chicago
2018	Andrew Zimbalist, Smith College
2019	David Wiggins, George Mason University
2020	Barbara Keys, Durham University
2021	Not Awarded Due To COVID 19
2022	Christine O'Bonsawin, University of Victoria
2023	Holly Thorpe, University of Waikato
2024	Akilah Carter-Francique, Benedict College
2025	Douglas Hartmann, University of Minnesota
2026	Michael Messner, University of Southern California

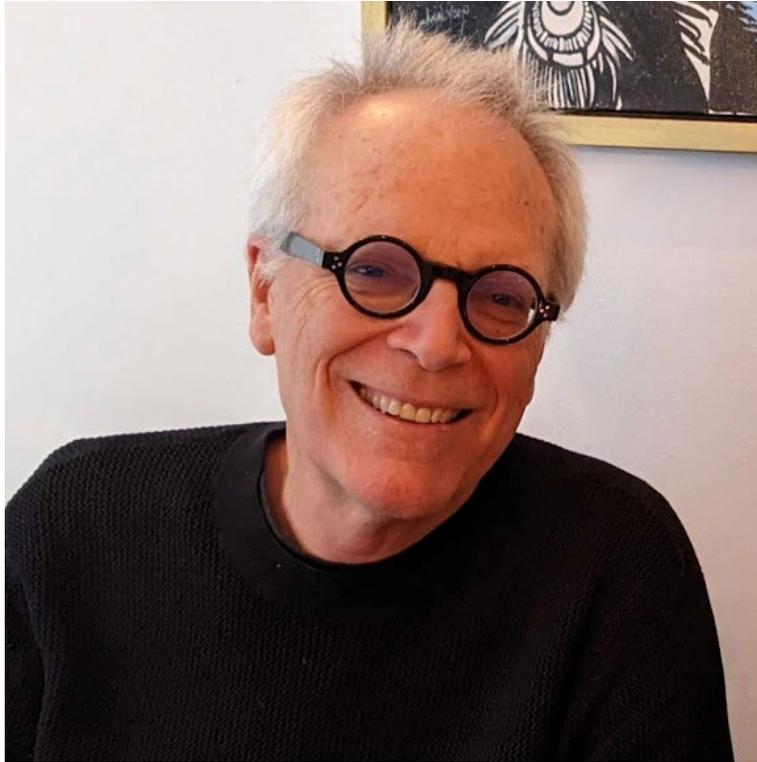
CSSOR Distinguished Leadership Award

The Distinguished Leadership Award was established in 2018 to recognize outstanding leaders who have dedicated themselves to help sport achieve its highest ideals. Recipients are nominated and selected by CSSOR Directors.

Past recipients:

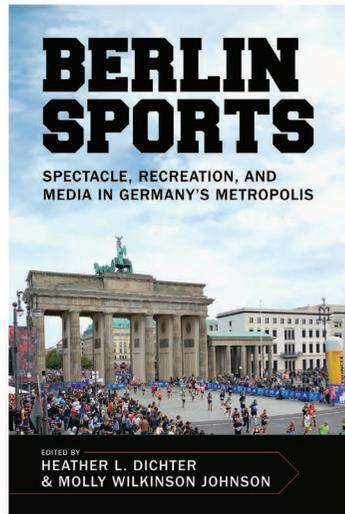
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| 2018 | Anita DeFrantz, Vice President of the International Olympic Committee |
| 2019 | Harry Edwards, Civil Rights Activist and Professor at University of California, Berkley |
| 2020 | Robert K. Barney, Professor Emeritus of Kinesiology at Western University, London, Ontario |
| 2021 | Not Awarded Due To COVID 19 |
| 2022 | Richard E. Lapchick, Endowed Chair and Director, DeVos Sports Business Management Program; University of Central Florida |
| 2023 | Veronica Ivy, Academic and Activist |
| 2026 | Ben Carrington, University of Southern California |

2026 Distinguished Scholar Recipient



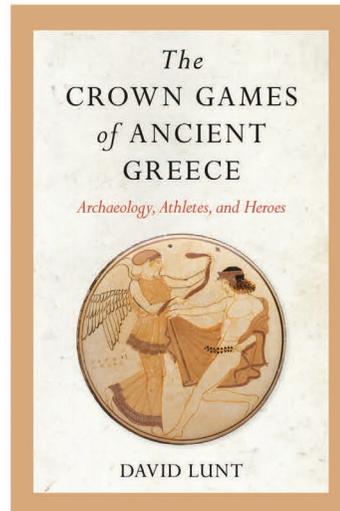
Michael Messner, CSSOR Distinguished Scholar Award

Michael Messner is professor emeritus of sociology and gender studies at the University of Southern California. His research spans the topics of gender and sports, men and feminism, gender-based violence, and war and peace. Messner's honors include the Pursuit of Justice Award from the California Women's Law Center, for his work in support of girls' and women's sports, and the Jessie Bernard Award, given by the American Sociological Association for a career of research that has enlarged the horizons of sociology to encompass fully the role of women in society. *The High School: Sports, Spirit, and Citizens, 1903-2024* is his twentieth book. He and his wife, sociologist Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, live in Santa Fe, NM.



“*Berlin Sports* is a fascinating and multi-faceted collection of essays on Germany’s capital of sport from the Empire to the present. Dichter, Wilkinson, and their expert contributors convincingly show that Berlin’s sporting history cannot be reduced to the Nazi Olympics of 1936. Students and aficionados of modern sport and culture will find this engaging collection essential.”

—Kay Schiller, co-author of *The 1972 Munich Olympics and the Making of Modern Germany*



“David Lunt’s *The Crown Games of Ancient Greece* is a strong survey of the four Panhellenic Games, with separate chapters on the Olympics, Pythian Games, Isthmian Games, and Nemean Games, alongside two concluding chapters on athletic heroes and future directions for research. ... By combining a sound survey of recent archaeology and a thorough understanding of the literary and documentary sources, Lunt’s book achieves its goal, to show how the Panhellenic circuit, not just the Olympic Games, are signal aspects of ancient Greek sport specifically, and ancient Greek culture in general.”

—Peter J. Miller, *Journal of Sport History*

Conference Program

Unless noted as open to the public, all events listed on the conference program are limited to registered conference participants

Time	Thursday March 12, 2026	
8.30 - 9.00	Registration TSU Atrium	
9.00 - 9.15	Welcome and Conference Introduction Directors Toby Rider, Matthew Llewellyn, John Gleaves, and Julie Brice Tuffree Room	
9.15 – 10.30	Parallel Sessions	
	Hetebrink Room	Tuffree Room
	<u>Lifestyle Sports, Youth, and Education</u>	<u>Olympic Hosting and Legacies</u>
	Chair: John Gleaves California State University, United States	Chair: Toby Rider California State University, Fullerton
	Bethany Geckle and Samuel Bernstein SUNY Cortland, United States and Miami University, United States <i>Lost Boys and Girls: Skateboarding's Youthful Failures and Successes</i>	Tiffany Bourgeois The Ohio State University, United States <i>After the Curtain Call: The Cultural and Intangible Legacies of the Rio 2016 Olympics</i>
	R. Douglas Manning and Sean Daly University of San Francisco, United States and University of Oklahoma <i>X Games: A Living Laboratory for Student Learning</i>	Muhammad Rafi University of California, Irvine, United States <i>Policing an Image: Image-Making and Displacement at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics</i>
Paul McCarthy University of California, Los Angeles, United States <i>Demystifying Martial Arts: Addressing Risks and Responsibilities in an Unregulated Industry</i>	Phil Hatlem Saint Leo University, United States <i>Olympic Legacy: All Play a Role</i>	

10.30 - 11.00	Coffee and Refreshments	
11.00 - 12.15	Parallel Sessions	
	Hetebrink Room <u>Inclusion, Activism, and Social Change</u>	Tuffree Room <u>The Politics of Race</u>
	Chair: Suzanne Ryder California State University, Sacramento, United States	Chair: Sam Schelfhout Sacred Heart University, United States
	Margaret Baugh University of Utah, United States <i>Gay Olympic Games: San Francisco Arts & Athletics, Inc. v. United States Olympic Committee</i>	Andrew Linden and Lindsay Parks Pieper California State University, Northridge, United States Elon University, United States <i>The Return of Jesse Owens: Memory and Cultural Politics in Rural Alabama</i>
	Kristin Wells Indiana University, United States <i>Media, Cultural Memory, and Athlete Activism: The Case of the IU Ten and the Event of Reconciliation</i>	Harold Hubbard Peachtree Ridge High School, United States <i>Punching Through Borders: African American Boxers and the Global Struggle for Recognition and Respect</i>
	Greta Bladh Mid Sweden University, Sweden <i>Inclusive Health-Promoting Infrastructure: Intersectional Challenges and Opportunities in the Organisation of Outdoor Gyms in Sweden</i>	Matthew Llewellyn and Toby Rider California State University, Fullerton, United States <i>“The stinking mess of racialism in Britain today”: The Black British Community, Domestic Racism, and the Anti-Apartheid Movement</i>

12.15 -14.00

Lunch at the Titan Dining Hall

14.00 - 15.00

CSSOR Distinguished Leadership Address

TSU Theatre

Ben Carrington

University of Southern California, United States

Politics at Play: Sports, American Nationalism, and the Populist Right

Open to the Public

15.00 - 15.30

Coffee and Refreshments

Parallel Sessions

Hetebrink Room

Tuffree Room

Diplomacy and Mega-Events

WADA and the War on Doping

Chair:

Chair:

Tiffany Bourgeois
The Ohio State University, United States

Andrew Linden
California State University, Northridge, United States

Jay Wang
University of Southern California, United States

Werner Pitsch
Saarland University, Germany

City Diplomacy in Action: U.S. Host Cities and the 2026 FIFA World Cup

Successfully Failing Anti-Doping Organizations

Sam Schelfhout
Sacred Heart University, United States

John Gleaves
California State University, Fullerton, United States

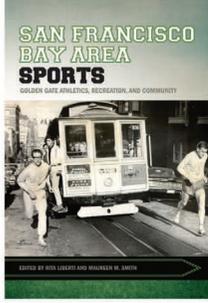
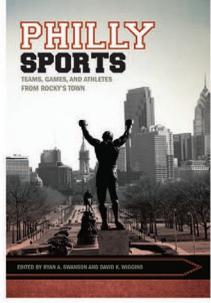
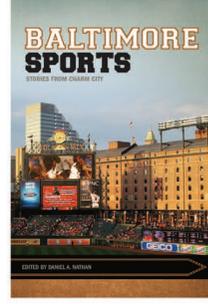
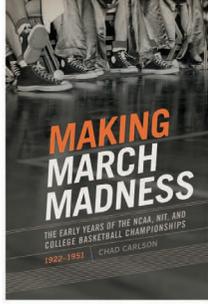
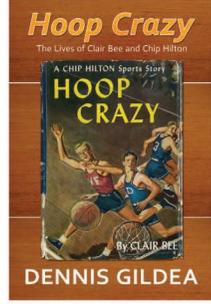
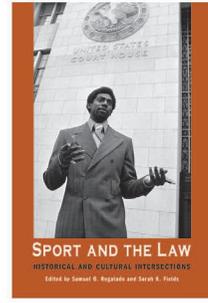
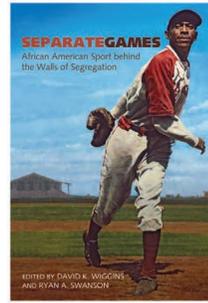
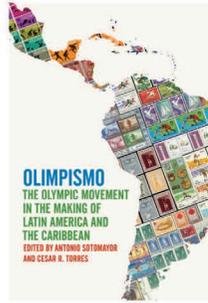
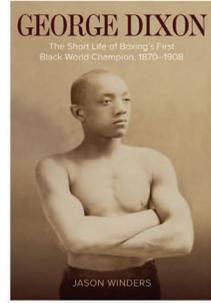
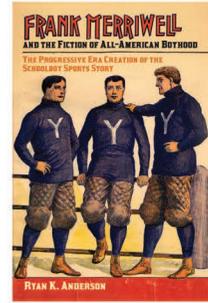
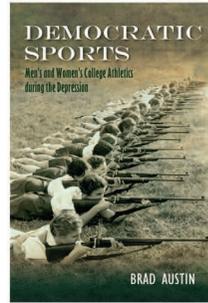
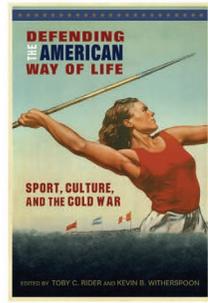
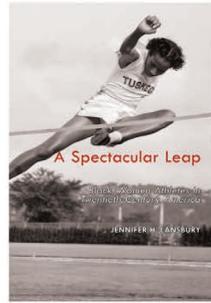
“Esportswashing”: How Saudi Arabia Uses Esports to Reconfigure Soft Power and Olympic Legitimacy

Technology, Doping, and High Performance

Yacov Zohn Muldoon
University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States

The USSR and the Olympic Soccer Tournament: A Trivial Olympic Competition (1952-1992)?

15.30 - 17.00



Time	Friday March 13, 2026	
9.00 - 10.15	Parallel Sessions	
	Hetebrink Room	Tuffree Room
	<u>Gender and Inclusion in Sport 1</u>	<u>Dragon Boat Racing</u>
	Chair: Kristin Wells Indiana University, United States	Chair: Matthew P. Llewellyn California State University, Fullerton, United States
	Suzanne Ryder and Julie Brice California State University, Sacramento, United States California State University, Fullerton, United States <i>“She went for a run in California” – The Californian perspective of the international SHE RUNS research project</i>	Liang Xinyuan Peking University, China <i>From Teamwork to Cultural Understanding: The Globalization of Dragon Boat Racing</i>
	Heather Van Mullem Washington State University, United States <i>More Than a Plus One: How We Talk About Professional Athletes and Their Partners</i>	Lisa Fu, Xinyuan Liang, Xinyu Zhang, and Hao Wu Peking University, China <i>The Intertwining of Sports and Religion: A Study on the Interaction Mechanisms from the Olympic Movement to Chinese Dragon Boat Culture</i>
	Julie Brice, Madison Ferguson, Lauryn Jarvis, and Brooke Morgan California State University, Fullerton, United States <i>“Bodies are like fast fashion”: Gen Z Women’s Understandings of Idealized Bodies and Fitness</i>	May TEO Xin Yu, GAN Ching Leong, and WU Hao Peking University, China and Beijing Normal University, China <i>Rowing Across Cultures: Dragon Boat Sport as a Platform for Interethnic Interaction in Malaysia</i>

10.15 - 10.45	Coffee & Refreshments	
10.45 - 12:00	Parallel Sessions	
	Hetebrink Room	Tuffree Room
	<u>Gender and Inclusion in Sport 2</u>	<u>Brisbane and the 2032 Olympics</u>
	Chair: Julie Brice California State University, Fullerton, United States	Chair: Phil Hatlem Saint Leo University, United States
	Mikailey Judkins Irvine California State University, Northridge, United States <i>Power on the Pitch: The Impact of the First U.S. Collegiate Women's Rugby Team</i>	Sam Duncan and Tom Heenan Holmesglen Institute and Swinburne University, and Monash University, Australia <i>Australia's 'Art-of-the-Deal' Green & Gold Decade: Sport Diplomacy, Neo-colonialism and the Brisbane Olympics</i>
	Madison Ferguson California State University, Fullerton, United States <i>Artistic Gymnasts in the Spotlight: Exploring American Media Portrayals and Constructions of Femininity at the Olympics (2012-2024)</i>	Sam Duncan and Tom Heenan Holmesglen Institute and Swinburne University, and Monash University, Australia <i>Greenwashing Brisbane 2032: The IOC's Fossil Fuelled Belching Olympics Games</i>
	Brooke Morgan California State University, Fullerton, United States <i>A Quiet Mannered Amateur: Ann Curtis, the AAU Sullivan Award, and Women's Swimming in 1940s America</i>	Sam Duncan and Tom Heenan Holmesglen Institute and Swinburne University, and Monash University, Australia <i>Barrambin: A Stadium, Pool and Australia's 'Cult' Of Erasure</i>
12.00 - 14.00	Lunch at the Titan Dining Hall	

Session	
14.00 – 15.30	Tuffree Room
	<u>Olympic Studies</u>
	Chair: Toby Rider California State University, Fullerton, United States
	Robert K. Barney Western University, Canada
	<i>Pierre de Coubertin's American Benefactor: Andrew Dickson White: Athlete, Educator, Diplomat, Statesman, Politician</i>
	Natalia Camps Y. Wilant and Gary Rhodes Independent Scholar and California State University, Dominguez Hills, United States <i>Reconstructing Historical Realities with AI: From Pierre de Coubertin's Social Circles to Transatlantic Travels</i>
15.30-15.45	Andrew Hao and Michele Waslin University of Minnesota Morris, and University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, United States <i>Olympic Gold vs. Grand Slam Title, Revisited: Now They Want It All</i>
	Coffee & Refreshments

15.45-16.45

CSSOR Distinguished Scholar Address

Michael Messner

University of Southern California, United States

The Ascent of the Sports-Spirit Complex in an American High School

Tuffree Room

17.00

Conference Reception

Wine and Hors D'oeuvres

Marriott Hotel Banquet Room



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