

Center Self-Study for 3 Year Review

Period 2014-2017

Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research

Center Directors

Coordinator for Research and Grants—John Gleaves, PhD., Associate Professor

Coordinator for Curriculum and Student Development—Matthew Llewellyn, PhD., Associate Professor

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Center Sponsors

College of Health and Human Development

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Department of Kinesiology

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Mission and Goals

As stated in the approved Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research (CSSOR) bylaws, CSSOR's mission is "To promote education and research concerning sport and the Olympic Games in their broadest cultural, social and political dimensions." To achieve this mission, CSSOR facilitates research on sport and the Olympic Games in relation to human culture and society. This includes research in traditionally recognized humanities disciplines as well as certain social science disciplines, specifically: history, philosophy, communication, ancient and modern languages, literature, religion, and visual and performing arts, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, and law. CSSOR also seeks grants and fundraising to support education, research, and scholarly activities associated with its mission.

CSSOR also engages students and the community through conferences, public lectures, symposia, publications, and various forms of educational media. As many courses on sport exist across the university, CSSOR supports faculty that develop courses on the topic of sport and the Olympic Games within the sociocultural disciplines listed above.

Activities

Since being formed in June 2014, CSSOR has devoted the past three years to balancing the logistical tasks of creating a center with the work required to fulfill its mission. Administrative duties such as developing a center logo, creating philanthropic and ASI accounts, establishing a website and founding a speaker series have all been completed. At the same time, CSSOR has facilitated three study abroad trips to Greece, hosted 3 CSSOR Distinguished Scholar lectures, secured \$7,000 of philanthropic gifts, and organized an international conference.

In addition, CSSOR has provided assistance, both financial and academic, to numerous undergraduate and graduate students. Over 12 student authored papers have been presented at conferences and three students have been placed in doctoral institutions. Faculty members of CSSOR have authored 5 books and countless journal articles, conference presentations, and editorials.

CSSOR has also received significant attention both within and beyond CSUF. The center was featured in the CSUF Titan magazine in the Summer/Fall 2016 issue. The center has also featured in articles for the OC Register. CSSOR members have also devoted significant time to engaging the community, including appearances on Southern California Public Radio's "Air Talk with Larry Mantel" and the OLLI Lecture series.

CSSOR has also submitted external grants to support its mission. These include two National Endowment for the Humanities Grants, three World Anti-Doping Agency Grants, two International Olympic Committee Grants. Though CSSOR has yet to be successful in landing a large external grant, given the center is still finding its legs, it expects to be successful in future funding.

Finally, CSSOR has received recognition by the International Olympic Committee and the United States Olympic Committee as an International Olympic Studies Center. They are one of three institutions in the United States to hold this recognition. They have also established a partnership with the LA84 Foundation to support ongoing center activities.

Organizational Structure and Governance

CSSOR is comprised of both faculty and student members. Its governance is comprised of three co-directors, and a Community Advisory Board. Each of the co-directors will coordinate one specific aspect of the center's mission. The three coordinators and their tasks are:

Coordinator for Research and Grants:

1. Facilitate and encourage the creation and dissemination of original research in the sociocultural study of sport and the Olympic Games.
2. Form collaborative networks between members and the academic community.
3. Administer the center's publications in collaboration with the other co-directors.
4. Seek out and apply for research grants that will support the work of the center.
5. Explore new and innovative ways to study sport and the Olympic Games from a sociocultural perspective.

Coordinator for Curriculum and Student Development:

1. Develop and guide the center's educational initiatives.
2. Engage the members in the center's educational initiatives.
3. Apply the knowledge and ideas developed by the center to the student experience in the classroom.
4. Invite guest lecturers and speakers to attend and present at the CSUF campus.

Coordinator for Conferences and Community Outreach:

1. Organize, host, and promote conferences, symposia, and workshops at CSUF.

2. Plan and administer community outreach projects run by the center including the development of a peer-reviewed journal.
3. Ensure that CSSOR's members and CSUF's students are engaged in the center's mission and have access to its resources.
4. Foster an amicable relationship between the center and the community.
5. Update and maintain the center's website and media presence.
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CSSOR membership includes researchers from across the humanities and social sciences and represents a range of research interests, positions, and disciplines. There is no requirement that any members share a position or agree on an issue. Rather, membership aims to support diversity and willingness to broadly converse. Members remain committed to sharing and disseminating their findings, developing curriculum and supporting student research, and pursuing grants and fundraising to support CSSOR. Membership is open to both faculty and students with a specific interest in the sociocultural study of sport and the Olympic Games. The criteria for membership and process for additions are detailed in the bylaws.

CSSOR is also supposed to form a community advisory board (CAB). In preparing this self-study, the center directors realized that the CAB has not been formed. Forming the CAB and scheduling regular meetings will be the top priority for the center directors as they move forward.

Resource and Sustainability

CSSOR remains committed to sustainability while achieving its goals. Most of the funds CSSOR receive come through grants, philanthropic gifts, or organizing events such as conferences that produce revenue. To date, CSSOR maintains a trust account to support student travel to Greece, student travel for research and conferences, and conference hosting. The center receives no annual budget from any office at CSUF nor does it have any financial commitments. Thus CSSOR is financially stable while continuing to generate revenue through its various activities that it reinvests to support its mission.

Highlights and accomplishments

- Recognition by International Olympic Committee and United States Olympic Committee as an International Olympic Studies Center
- Hosted 3 annual CSSOR Distinguished Scholar Lectures

- Organized 3 annual study abroad trips to Greece for CSUF students
- Organized the 2017 North American Society for Sport History Conference

Planning and Strategic Outlook

In addition to continuing the success of CSSOR, two areas deserve further attention. First, while CSSOR has quickly built its infrastructure, it needs to establish a community advisory board. CSSOR co-directors will address this issue promptly. Second, CSSOR will continue targeting external grants with the aim of securing funds to further support its mission with revenue from outside of the university. Moving forward, the distinguished scholar lecture series, the Greece Study Abroad, as well as the research support and student engagement will continue while it continues to grow and further serve the CSUF community as well as the public.