

introduction

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On November 16 and 17, 2017, an international conference devoted to the philosophy of sport and games was held in the Philippines for the first time, at the Laguna campus of De La Salle University (DLSU). It was organized by the DLSU Philosophy Department and College of Liberal Arts, along with the Philosophical Association of the Philippines. This special issue of *Suri* collects some of the best papers presented on this unique occasion.

The philosophy of sport, while today a significant field in philosophy, is relatively new. It first developed in the late 1960s in North America, initially as a critical response to the philosophy of physical education (McNamee and Morgan 2015, 1-2). The landmark text that helped it come into its own was Paul Weiss's *Sport: A Philosophic Inquiry*, published in 1969. Owing to Weiss's stature as the founder of *The Review of Metaphysics* and The Metaphysical Society of America, his focus on sport gave the topic its intellectual bona fides, bringing it to the attention of mainstream philosophy (Torres 2014, 1). By the 1970s, the State University of New York at Brockport was offering a physical education major based on a liberal arts model, whose curriculum included the philosophy of sports as a core subject. It was at Brockport that the first conference dedicated to the philosophical study of sports was held in 1972, featuring Weiss as a main speaker. This historic gathering led to the formation of the Philosophic Society for the Study of Sport (PSSS), later renamed the International Association of the Philosophy of Sport (IAPS), which first



published the *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* in 1974 (McNamee and Morgan 2015, 2-4).

Today, in addition to IAPS and its long-running publication, there is a plethora of international organizations *and* academic journals devoted to the philosophy of sport, such as: the British Philosophy of Sport Association (BPSA), whose official journal is *Sport, Ethics and Philosophy*; the European Association for the Philosophy of Sport, initiated by BPSA; the Latin Association for the Philosophy of Sport, whose official journal is *Fair Play: Journal of Philosophy, Ethics, and Sports Law*; and the Spanish Association for the Philosophy of Sport (McNamee and Morgan 2015, 5).

This exciting field is “primarily concerned with exploring the nature of sport (and related practices), how it functions, what its significance is and how it fits with other spheres of human experience” (Torres 2014, 5). Wide-ranging and interdisciplinary, the philosophy of sport cuts across a variety of philosophical approaches and theories. This is not an exhaustive list, but the key issues and themes it deals with include fair play, risk and danger, violence, competition, disability, doping, performance enhancement, the practice of coaching, spectatorship, sport and the market, sport and technology, the aesthetics of sport, sport and the environment, and sport and spirituality.

The seven articles that comprise this special issue reflect some of the above-mentioned key problems and themes. The collection is distinguished by its concern with three aspects of philosophy of sport: (1) *the meanings and philosophical significance of foundational concepts* such as “play” and “games” (Scapp); (2) *a critique of the practice of sport or athletics today*, in particular its intertwinement with the market economy (Escobia, Rennesland), the ascendancy of showmanship at the expense of gamesmanship (Ting), and the perennial problem of sex and gender discrimination (Albano); and (3) *the application of philosophical theories and concepts to specific kinds of sport*, such as running (Biana and Sarza) and karate (Unson and Lama).

It is my hope that this humble contribution to the burgeoning field of philosophy of sport would highlight some of the best thinking about contemporary issues in sport, especially as they occur in the context of the Philippines and Asia. For clearly, these geographic regions have heretofore been underrepresented in the literature. This special issue fills that gap.

References

McNamee, Mike and William J. Morgan. 2015. "A Historical Introduction to the Philosophy of Sport," in *Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of Sport*, edited by Mike McNamee and William J. Morgan. London and New York: Routledge.

Torres, Cesar R. 2014. "Introduction," in *The Bloomsbury Companion to the Philosophy of Sport*, edited by Cesar R. Torres. London: Bloomsbury.