

# LIVING

10-12 JUNE  
2026

# WITH SPORT

LOUGHBOROUGH  
UNIVERSITY



3RD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**INSA**

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK  
OF SPORT ANTHROPOLOGY

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## LIVING WITH SPORT

Sport has become embedded in the everyday lives of billions around the world. Whether in formal, organised matches, pickup games, or training sessions, sports both reflect and constitute social norms and ideals. With their quotidian nature, sports are a compelling subject for considering the fundamental aspects of social life. Yet there is something distinctive about sporting movement that sets sport – and sport-like practices – apart from analogous phenomena like games and play. These differences suggest novel opportunities for future research and insight.

In 2024, INSA delegates interrogated the need to define ‘sport’, and in 2025 considered how to move beyond such definitions. Delegates examined how the embodied movement practices of ‘sport’ relate to hegemonic understandings of ‘Sport’, including ideals of fairness, discipline, citizenship, and competition. In the process, they illustrated how sporting movement is affected by – and in turn affects – the idea of ‘Sport’ itself. Always at the centre, the sporting individual mediates understanding as they move through the world. Sport is not only something we do or think about, but is a phenomenon we interact *with*.

Rather than asking what sport *is*, we examine the everyday relationships that human beings have *with* sport. Manifesting as a moral field, material infrastructure, political medium, or force for change, ‘sport’ can become an epistemic partner, a crutch, or burden. Through engaging with sport as embodied practice or as idea, people (re-)structure their everyday movement and their sociality, inhabiting this differently across the life course. Interrogating sport as something people live *with* reflects that sport is a generative medium, through which disciplinary questions may be re-examined. It is not our perspective on what sport ‘is’ that matters. Rather, it is the relationships people have *with* sport that can illuminate fundamental aspects of social life.

Therefore we ask: What does it mean to live with sport?

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## LIVING WITH SPORT

For our 3<sup>rd</sup> INSA conference, we invite scholars to move beyond the study of sport towards the study of how people live *with* sport. We invite paper abstracts from all adjacent disciplines and especially encourage those 'outside' anthropology to contribute to this debate.

We invite papers related (but not limited) to the following themes:

- How people relate to sport in their everyday lives
- How sport is lived, experienced and made meaningful
- How sport functions as an epistemic partner
- How everyday spaces (streets, parks, homes, etc.) sustain sporting practices
- How sporting environments are reshaped in times of ecological uncertainty
- How sport is inhabited, remembered or reworked across the life course
- How quotidian sporting practices challenge spectacular or heroic framings of sport
- What a future of sport might look like beyond competition, (hyper)performance, and exploitation
- How digital mediation (re)shapes intimacy and proximity in sporting contexts
- What it means to study sport through relationality rather than definitional frameworks
- The methodological challenges and possibilities that arise when studying movement and lived relations with sport

To submit your abstract, please fill out [\*\*this form\*\*](#) by the **3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026**.  
*Please note: abstracts should be no more than 250 words in length.*

For any queries, please email [admin@sportanthro.org](mailto:admin@sportanthro.org)

# RESEARCH IMAGE CONTEST

## LIVING WITH SPORT

INSA is committed to supporting creative, practical and experimental ways of sharing knowledge. We invite submissions to an Research Image Contest on the theme of *Living with Sport*. In the lead up to the conference images will be exhibited online for attendees to vote on, and selected entries will be exhibited at the conference venue. A prize will be awarded to the winning entry during the conference closing session.

Submissions (individual or collective) should consist of one research image accompanied by a short caption (max. 150 words) reflecting on the image and situating it within your wider research project.

Selected entries will be invited to record a voiceover of their caption ahead of exhibition at the conference (max. 2 min). Experimental approaches are warmly welcomed (e.g. creative soundscapes or alternative narrative styles).

Submissions must engage with the conference theme and meet the following technical requirements:

- Images should be at least 300 dpi (recommended 600-1200 dpi)
- Images should be suitable for print sizes ranging from 8x11 cm up to DIN A2 (preferred dimensions should be specified at submission)

To enter the online Research Image Contest, please send your image and caption alongside your details (title, name, and affiliation) to [admin@sportanthro.org](mailto:admin@sportanthro.org) by **3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2026**.

Authors of selected entries will then be invited to submit their recorded voiceover by **10<sup>th</sup> of May 2026**.

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## LIVING WITH SPORT

### KEY DATES:

March 2nd – April 3rd    General Call for Participation

April 9th    Decisions made to presenters

April 10th – May 15th    Registration Open

June 10th – June 12th    3rd Annual Conference in Loughborough

Please visit [www.sportanthro.org/conference](http://www.sportanthro.org/conference) for more information including travel advice, accommodation options, special events, things to do, the updated program, and late breaking information.

To join our mailing list, visit [www.sportanthro.org/join](http://www.sportanthro.org/join).