Women's Football in a Global, Professional Era

Emerald Studies in Sport and Gender

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Emerald Studies in Sport and Gender promotes research on two important and related areas within sport studies: women and gender. The concept of gender is included in the series title in order to problematise traditional binary thinking that classifies individuals as male or female, rather than looking at the full gender spectrum. In sport contexts, this is a particularly relevant and controversial issue, for example, in the case of transgendered athletes and female athletes with hyperandrogenism. The concept of sport is interpreted broadly to include activities ranging from physical recreation to high-performance sport.

The interdisciplinary nature of the series will encompass social and cultural history and philosophy as well as sociological analyses of contemporary issues. Since any analysis of sport and gender has political implications and advocacy applications, learning from history is essential.

Contributors to the series are encouraged to develop an intersectional analysis where appropriate, by examining how multiple identities, including gender, sexuality, ethnicity, social class and ability, intersect to shape the sport experiences of women and men who are Indigenous, racialised, members of ethnic minorities, LGBTQ, working class or disabled.

We welcome submissions from both early career and more established researchers.

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Katie Liston is a Senior Lecturer and researcher in the Social Sciences of Sport, specialising in Gender amongst other issues. Dr Liston combines personal insight and experience of women's sport with an established research pedigree. She is a former elite sportsperson, including women's football, and a regular contributor to print media and radio in Ireland. Katie is also co-editor of *The Business and Culture of Sports* and *The Palgrave Handbook of Globalization and Sport*.

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We would like to acknowledge and thank each and every women's footballer, coach, volunteer and fan who has played a part in the history and development of the game, without whom none of this would be possible.

On a personal level, for Ali and I, this book has strengthened our working relationship but most of all our friendship. We have guided and pulled each other through, and dug deep when it mattered. Thank you, Ali.

Finally, from Ali to Noa, her beautiful, brave girl.