

IAPS NEWS

The official newsletter for the International Association for the
Philosophy of Sport

October 2026



Sunset over Rio de Janeiro, on the way to IAPS 2026 in São Paulo



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PRESIDENT'S GREETING

Takayuki Hata

School of Sport and Health Science,
Tokai Gakuen University

hata-t@tokaigakuen-u.ac.jp; takayuki.hata@okayama-u.ac.jp



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

My term as president entered its second year in September. I appreciate the support and valuable discussions I have had since starting this role. As I begin my second year, I am dedicated to encouraging open, international, and intellectually generous scholarly exchanges in our community.

Annual IAPS officer elections, assisted by Colleen English, introduced new members to several roles. I sincerely thank the outgoing officers for their leadership and service to the society. They are Douglas McLaughlin (Election chair), Willem Blikendaal and Jim Parry (Members-at-large), Filip Kobiela (HAFS committee), Adam Berg and Miroslav Imbrisevic (DEIB committee). Their work in academic leadership, international collaboration, and support for emerging scholars has been vital in maintaining and advancing our communities. I deeply respect and appreciate their dedication.



IAPS official website

PRESIDENT'S GREETING CONT'D...

I am pleased to announce our newly elected officers: Christopher Yorke is the election chair, Alexander Asay and Alan Oldham are members-at-large, Matija Mato Škerbić is joining the HAFS committee, and Olivia Howe is on the DEIB committee. Additionally, Ai Aramaki has been officially appointed to the DEIB committee member by the Executive Council. With these new leaders, I believe our shared vision will grow, and our plans for the next year will be even stronger.

The IAPS Annual Conference in September was held on the green campus of the University of São Paulo (USP). Scholars from various cultural and academic backgrounds came together to discuss topics from theoretical inquiry to teaching methods, showcasing the wide scope of sport philosophy. The conference began with a keynote speech by Ida Mara Freire, who spoke about embodiment, memory, and reconciliation. Her presentation had a lasting impact on the audience. We also had the opportunity to experience Brazilian culture, including capoeira, which added a unique mix of intellectual and cultural interactions to the conference. I sincerely thank Ana Cristina Zimmermann, Solaia Chung Saura, their students at USP, and all the presenters and participants for making this event successful.

The upcoming IAPS Annual Conference will be held in Banff, Alberta, Canada. We anticipate that the questions and new research directions discussed in São Paulo will be further explored in Banff, strengthening international scholarly networks and advancing the field.

In Japan, autumn is often known as 'the season for reading,' a time ideal for thoughtful reflection. I hope this season provides you with opportunities to advance your research, connect with colleagues around the world, and mentor the next generation of scholars. The success of IAPS depends on the dedication of its members. I am thankful to those who have completed their service and hopeful for the contributions of our new officers.

I hope you all have a healthy and refreshing start to this new season.

Warm regards,

Takayuki

2026 R. SCOTT KRETCHMAR STUDENT ESSAY AWARD



Congratulations to Andrea Marcela Castaño Rodríguez, winner of the 2026 R. Scott Kretchmar Student Essay Award. Andrea is a PhD candidate in Kinanthropology at Charles University, Prague. Andrea's winning essay is titled "Epistemic Injustice and Martial Practices: Classificatory Invisibility in Latin American Combat Traditions". The prize was presented by IAPS president Takayuki Hata at the 2026 IAPS Annual Conference in São Paulo, Brazil. Our thanks to the HAFS committee!

MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Taliah Powers- Pennsylvania State University, tlpowers@psu.edu

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the 2026/2027 edition of the IAPS Newsletter! This volume will have the usual reports and updates from your executive council, along with our community board. I will do my best to gather news for the board, but I also encourage members to send anything they would like featured in future issues.

This issue also introduces a new section. Each year during our annual conference, I am reminded of how much I enjoy reuniting with old colleagues and friends, meeting new people and, above all, sharing stories that often point to where our ideas came from, and to the teachers, mentors, and thinkers who set us on our path. This is the inspiration for 'We stand on the shoulders of giants.'

IAPS is built by people who gave it their time and care, whether it was by organizing our conferences, mentoring students, editing our journal, or welcoming newcomers. In each of these people and their actions exists a small piece of the giants who inspired them.

Each issue will feature a member or two who will write about the person who shaped their thinking. Issue by issue, I hope these contributions will document a piece of who we are and who made us. Most of all, I hope this section serves as a reminder that each of us might one day be someone else's giant.

My inbox is always open,
Taliah

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Peter Hopsicker - Pennsylvania State University, iaps.sectres@gmail.com

Summary

1. 2027 IAPS Memberships will be available November 1, 2026. Reminders will be sent to current members around that time.
2. Membership numbers hit their second highest mark in ten years. Demographics have shifted slightly, although this is usually dependent on conference location. Europe and North America constitute roughly 75% of the membership.
3. IAPS remains in good fiscal health. Our Taylor and Francis publishing deal has provided IAPS with its largest income to date, our membership income is stable, and our investments continue to grow. After 2026 conference expenses, IAPS has over \$400,000 USD in assets.
4. Our conference expenses were slightly less than last year. Please note that we paid the first of three deposits for next year's conference in Banff in this fiscal year.

THE GIANTS AMONG US



Vincent van Gogh, The Stone Bench in the Asylum at Saint-Remy, 1889, MASP, São Paulo.

Every story featured in 'We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants' is a story someone in our community wanted to hear.

If you are keen to hear about the giant who inspired a fellow IAPS member, send their name to the newsletter editor, Taliah (tlpowers@psu.edu).

Suggestions are welcome at any time!

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT CONT'D...

5. Student Travel Awards (\$21,000) and the host site Conference Grant (\$15,000) combine for over 60% of all conference expenses this year. We awarded 29 Student Travel Awards, but ultimately only 21 were able to attend.
6. Our investment balance at the start of 2026 was \$153,430.14 and has risen to \$161,581.55 this year. Our initial investment of \$100,000 in 2017 has increased over 50% in less than ten years and continues to provide us a steady increase of financial security.

IAPS 2026 Budget

Income	\$74 479.35
Memberships and Student Travel Donations	\$6 881.88
Routledge Royalties	\$67 597.47
Investments	\$161 581.55
Expenses	\$88 749.90
2026 Brazil Conference Expenses	\$55 359.39
2027 Banff Conference Deposit	\$21 292.73
Legal fees (Investment, LLC, Inc.)	\$85.25
Bank service charges	\$336.76
Other expenses	\$191.21
Totals	
Total cash (M&T bank)	\$254 937.38
Total cash (PayPal)	\$8 203.30
Total investments	\$161 581.55
Grand total	\$424 722.23

IAPS MEMBERSHIPS 2026

Standard	116	Student w/ journal	12
Sustaining	19	Emeritus	11
Student w/o journal	46	Subsidized	7
Total 2026 membership			211

Renew your IAPS memberships through our [IAPS membership portal](#)

HISTORICAL MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

2014	= 141 Natal, Brazil
2015	= 163 Cardiff, Wales
2016	= 170 Olympia, Greece
2017	= 169 Whistler, Canada
2018	= 204 Oslo, Norway
2019	= 182 Kyoto, Japan
2020	= 150 None, Pandemic
2021	= 169 Virtual
2022	= 174 State College, PA, USA
2023	= 205 Split, Croatia
2024	= 173 Antigonish, NS, Canada
2025	= 219 Odense, Denmark
2026	= 211 São Paulo, Brazil

MEMBERSHIP DIVERSITY

North America	42%
Europe	32%
South America	13%
Asia	12%
Australia	1%
Africa	1%
Antarctica	0%



2025
Impact
Factor
1.4

Click [here](#) to view the most recent issue of *JPS*

JPS METRIC SCORES

- **Usage:** 129,000 downloads/views
- **Citations:** Impact Factor (1.4); 5 Year Impact Factor (1.3); Cite Score (2.4)
- **Speed:** 2 days average from submission to first decision; 36 days average from submission to first post-review decision; 26 days average from acceptance to online publication.
- **Acceptance rate:** 22%

JPS WEBSITE LINKS

There is an "Editing Services" link under the "Submit Your Article" link on the JPS webpage, which might be of value. Here is what they offer:

- English Language Editing
- Scientific Editing
- Manuscript Formatting
- Rapid Technical Review
- Research Communication Services
- Translation with Editing

NEWS FROM THE *JOURNAL OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF SPORT*

Pam Sailors (Editor) - Missouri State University, PamelaSailors@MissouriState.edu

Print Publication Schedule

The November 2026 issue (JPS 53-03) is complete; you will receive your copy in short order. The March issue (54-01) is well on the way to completion, with eight articles and the Fraleigh address already slated.

Submissions

The number of submissions for 2026 has already surpassed the total number for 2025. Many of the submissions are immediately and obviously unsuitable for publication, but there remain a sizable number that need to undergo peer review. If you are invited to review a manuscript and are unable to do so, please respond to let me know as soon as possible. This will facilitate timely review and communication with authors.

2026: 215 submissions from January-September 2026

2025: 163 new submissions from January-December 2025

2024: 101 new submissions from January-December 2024

2023: 122 new submissions from January-December 2023

2022: 79 new submissions from January-December 2022

Special Issues and Special Sections

The Editorial Board approved the following proposal for the July 2027 special issue at the recent meeting in Brazil:

What is good in sport? Special issue coordinated by Shawn E. Klein and Francisco Javier López Frías

The question 'What is good in sport?' admits many possible meanings and can bring together discussions about a wide range of metaethical issues related to how we determine what qualifies as 'good' in the context of sport. It also encourages examination of the different sources and evaluations of normativity in sport, including ethical, aesthetic, social, and political aspects: Does it mean what makes sport a worthwhile activity? Does it mean what qualifies as good within sport? Does it mean what good we gain from participating? Whatever way the question is understood, it opens up rich philosophical ground and invites varied perspectives.

We invite submissions that critically explore the potential meanings of 'good' in sport, as well as the different sources of goodness in sport. Submissions that closely engage with foundational sources in the philosophy of sport and integrate them with broader philosophical approaches will be highly valued.

WHAT IS GOOD IN SPORT: POSSIBLE TOPICS

- What types of values does sport instantiate?
- What makes sport valuable in itself? Does a focus on instrumental value undermine the appreciation of the intrinsic value of sport?
- What does it mean to be a 'good' athlete? How do excellence and beauty intertwine in sport? Can ethical and aesthetic value be separated from each other?
- How should we evaluate good play?
- What social function(s) does sport serve? Do sporting activities contribute to individual valuable goals, such as flourishing? Do they play a part in promoting the common good?
- When does sport go wrong, becoming 'bad' sport? What corrupts sport, or distorts its value?
- What philosophers and philosophical traditions are most helpful in elucidating the value of sport?
- Does sport have existential significance? What makes sport valuable from a communitarian perspective?

Submission process:

Phase 1: Contributors must submit an extended abstract (800 - 1 000 words, excluding a bibliography of 10 - 15 references) that outlines the main points of their contribution. Extended abstracts should be emailed to Shawn E. Klein (sklein@asu.edu) and Francisco Javier López Frías (javi.lopezfrias@usu.edu), with Pam Sailors copied. The special issue associate editors and the journal's editor-in-chief will evaluate the abstracts for relevance to the special issue, ensuring a complementary selection of articles and adherence to the journal's scope and publication standards.

Phase 2: Contributors whose abstracts are selected will prepare a complete manuscript following the journal's author guidelines. The manuscripts will be submitted through the journal's submission platform and will undergo double-blind peer review. Each manuscript will be evaluated by two reviewers: a scholar who has submitted a manuscript for consideration to the special issue, and a scholar with relevant expertise who has no affiliation with the special issue. Authors should therefore expect to review a peer's article. Every submission must receive two favourable evaluations to be accepted for publication.

Timetable: Abstract submission deadline: Oct. 22, 2026; Abstract selection notification: Nov. 1, 2026; Full paper submission deadline: Jan. 16, 2027; Reviewer feedback due: Feb. 27, 2027; Revised article submission deadline: Mar. 20th, 2027; Second review round due: Apr. 15th, 2027; Final submission deadline: May 1, 2027; Publication: Jul. 2027

Please consider submitting a proposal for a Special Issue/Special Section to appear in July 2028. There is a link on the journal website that explains the process for Special Issue/Special Section proposals. Members of the Editorial Board discuss these proposals during Editorial Board meetings at our annual conference. Special Sections are good for focused studies on timely topics, which then become excellent resources for future scholarly work, and they are also excellent opportunities to bring new authors and new perspectives into our Association.

Missing Issues

If you have any problems or questions about receipt of the print issues in the mail, please contact me directly and I will follow up with the people at Taylor & Francis to get it resolved. First, check whether your IAPS dues are paid up and were paid up at the time that an expected issues did not arrive: if your membership is/was current but you did not receive your issue(s), I can work on it. Please do not contact anyone at Taylor & Francis or anyone at IAPS about this, as that will only delay action.



CONFERENCE CHAIR'S REPORT

Colleen English - Penn State Berks, cue113@psu.edu

Many thanks to Ana Zimmermann and Soraia Chung Saura for hosting a successful conference at the University of São Paulo, Brazil. This year's conference included 75 presentations, one panel discussion on Nietzsche in sport, a workshop on the phenomenology of combat and martial sports, as well as a thought-provoking keynote addresses from Ida Mara Freire and Warren Fraleigh Distinguished Scholar Kenneth Aggerholm. In addition to the academic program, the hosts also provided time for fun social activities, including an evening of Brazilian social dance, a Capoeira demonstration, and a closing banquet at the beautiful Figueira Rubaiyat, a delicious São Paulo restaurant.

Next year's conference will take place at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Banff, Alberta, Canada, **September 15 – 18, 2027** and will be hosted by Charlene Weaving, Colleen English, and Peter Hopsicker. Check out the [conference website](#) for more information about the location, accommodation, and travel. See you in Canada!

A Call for Abstracts will be circulated in January 2027.



HONOURS, AWARDS & FUTURE SITES REPORT

Conference Site Proposals for 2028 and beyond are welcome!

We encourage proposals from members and institutions around the world to host our annual conference.

The detailed process description and site proposal form are available at <https://iaps.net/conference/>. The HAFS Committee will review site proposals and will provide their recommendation to the IAPS Executive Council. The Executive Council will vote and proposers will be notified.

2026 ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the incoming IAPS officers!

Election Chair



Christopher Yorke
University of Zagreb

HAFS Committee



Matija Mato Škerbić
University of Zagreb

DEIB Committee



Olivia Howe
KU Leuven

Members-at-large



Alan C. Oldham
University of Western Ontario



Alexander Asay
University of Georgia

2026 IAPS CONFERENCE IN REVIEW

From September 1st to 4th, the University of São Paulo hosted the annual IAPS conference at the School of Physical Education and Sport (EEFE-USP). It was a four-day gathering of an academic community that has built professional ties and collaborative relationships over the years. For the organizers, EEFE-USP, and the University of São Paulo, hosting an international event of this significance offered an opportunity to share Brazilian spaces of scientific, academic, and cultural production while exchanging knowledge.

The conference had 98 registered participants, comprising 61 regular faculty members (62.2%), 34 graduate students and one undergraduate (34.7%), and 3 accompanying persons (3.1%). The event's international scope was notable: 76 researchers (77.6%) came from abroad, while 22 (22.4%) were Brazilian. Countries represented included the United States, Brazil, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Croatia, the Netherlands, Norway, Japan, Portugal, and the United Kingdom.

The program was designed to integrate science and culture. The scientific agenda included two lectures and 80 oral presentations. Cultural activities included game and dance workshops with Tião Carvalho, a capoeira workshop with the Nzinga Capoeira Angola Group, and a tour of downtown São Paulo and Ibirapuera Park.

Participants also visited the Butantan Institute's Biological Museum—a major Brazilian public institution dedicated to research and vaccine production, which played a prominent role in producing COVID-19 vaccines during the pandemic. The capybaras at the USP rowing basin also had their moment in the spotlight. On the final day, participants visited the Football Museum, a space dedicated to the memory, culture, and multifaceted nature of Brazilian football. It was a symbolic way to conclude the congress, linking philosophical reflection to the tangible experience of a sport so deeply ingrained in the country's culture. The event wrapped up with a closing lecture at the museum itself, followed by dinner beneath the massive tree at Figueira Rubaiyat, a traditional São Paulo restaurant.

For the organizers, planning and hosting the 53rd IAPS conference was a particularly meaningful experience: welcoming this community and sharing spaces dedicated to research, academia, and culture helped celebrate the very vocation of sport and play. Leading researchers in the philosophy of sport inspired Brazilian colleagues, students, and future thinkers in the field. Here, sport is understood in all its forms of expression—from leisure to elite performance—stemming from diverse contexts. Philosophy helps us understand the contemporary nature and complexity of sport through various expert analytical lenses.



WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

'We can see more and farther than they – not because our sight is sharper or our bodies taller, but because we are lifted up by their giant stature.'

– Bernard of Chartres, as recorded by John of Salisbury (1159)

In this section, members of the IAPS community reflect on the giants on whose shoulders they stand: the teachers, writers and thinkers who shaped their work and lives.



QIAN WANG ON MERLEAU-PONTY

'You can't see the house when you are in it.' This is one of the insights I learned from Maurice Merleau-Ponty, the French phenomenologist whose ideas have shaped my master's thesis, my PhD work and my future research direction. When I sat down to write this piece, this sentence kept playing in my head. I was trying to locate the moment he changed me, in what situation, and through which sentence in his writings, but I could not pinpoint a single thing and say: this is it.

But, two cases from his work help explain his influence. In *Phenomenology of Perception*, Merleau-Ponty used a couple vivid examples to describe habitual bodily movements in which an object is incorporated into the body schema, and the movements appear to be pre-reflective, immediate and spontaneous. One is the feather on a lady's hat: wearing it, she passes through a door without worrying about the feather or the objects that might damage it; she senses where the feather is just as we sense where our hand is. Another is the blind person's cane, whose furthest point is not a mere object for them but is transformed into a sense zone, increasing their scope of touch.

What I learned from reading Merleau-Ponty is like the feather or the cane. It is something incorporated into my thinking: not one specific sentence or example, but a different way of seeing and reflecting, one I now use without noticing to make sense of the world. He is no longer what I look at, but has become what I look through. And perhaps the fact that I can't identify a single thing to articulate his influence is a case of 'you can't see the house when you are in it.' :)

— “
He is no longer
what I look at,
but has become
what I look
through
”

Qian Wang, PhD, Charles University, Prague, Czechia

Recent publication: [Bodily Movements in Video Game Practice: A Phenomenological Analysis of Digital Virtuality](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

BPSA Seminar series

Contact Olivia Howe
(olivia.howe@kuleuven.be)
for the meeting Zoom link

- Up next, **Nina Windgaetter**,
Sigmund Loland and
Cesár Torres,
November 4th, 2026,
Fair Play Academic Circle (F-PAC)
- **Jacob Giesbrecht**,
December 2nd, 2026,
Iterations and Degenerations of Sport
- **Maria Luísa Ávila da Costa**, **February 3rd, 2027**, *Title TBD*

2027 EAPS Conference

May 5-7, 2027

- Hosted by Maria Panagiotopoulou and Yiannis Giossos, School of Physical Education and Sport Science, **The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**
- Call for abstracts forthcoming

RECENT HAPPENINGS

IAPS is on Instagram!

The International Association for the Philosophy of Sport has a new home on Instagram. Follow [@philosofsport](https://www.instagram.com/philosofsport) to keep up with conference news, member achievements, new publications and moments from our community between newsletter issues. Tag us in your posts, or send us your news (morrissp@miamioh.edu), so we can share it.

5th ALFiD Congress in São Paulo

The Latin American Association of Philosophy of Sport held its 5th Congress at the University of São Paulo (EEFE-USP), August 27–29, just days before the IAPS Annual Conference. It drew 93 participants from seven countries and featured 66 presentations. Congratulations to organizers Ana Zimmermann and Soraia Chung Saura!

The 15th Czech Philosophy of Sport Conference

The 15th annual Czech philosophy of sport conference, hosted by Irena Martínková and Jim Parry at Charles University, Prague, is set to take place October 15-17, 2026. This year the conference has a large international demographic, welcoming 24 presenters, including keynote presentations from Kenneth Aggerholm and Leslie Howe.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

2nd International Scientific Conference ‘Beyond the Game: Women, Sport, and Social Change’, Zagreb, Croatia, 17-19 December 2026

Featuring keynote speakers, Mariann Vaczi (University of Nevada) and Leanne Norman (Loughborough University)

Following the successful first edition of the conference in 2023, this year we will once again bring together national and international researchers from different disciplines to create a space for discussion on women, gender, and sport, as well as on the broader social, cultural, historical, economic, and political dimensions of sport. Please find the abstract submission form [here](#). See the [conference website](#) for more details.