

## FOOTBALL AS AN INSTRUMENT OF NATION-BUILDING II

(South-)East-Europe and Overseas Countries

“Some people believe football is a matter of life and death; I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that.”

The statement by former FC Liverpool manager Bill Shankly proved true when the European Championship qualifying match in Belgrade on October 14th, 2014 between Serbia and Albania had to be cut short after a drone carrying the flag of “greater Albania” was flown over the stadium by Albanian nationalists, provoking violence between players on both sides.

As this incident demonstrates, the narrative that associates football with understanding between nations falls short of the mark. The fields of social science and history have dealt extensively with the topic of “football and violence.” Social psychologists have also researched the role of football in the construction of social as well as regional and national identities. However, one aspect that has gained very little attraction until now is Eric Hobsbawm’s theory that the sport of football takes on meaning in the context of the formation of the concept of the nation: “The imagined community of millions seems more real as a team of eleven named people.”

Both world wars, decolonization and the end of the Cold War have brought forth a new international order in the 20th century, the basic building block of which is the nation-state. Nation-building is a complex process that comprises both the establishment of shared cultural standards and the arbitrary creation of national identity (keyword: “invention of tradition”).

The 10th Irsee Sports Historical Conference on “Football as an Instrument of Nation-Building” will discuss, from a contemporary and global history perspective, to what extent the game of football with its mass media appeal has become a central element and instrument of nation-building.

### CHAIR

**Dr. Markwart Herzog**  
Schwabenakademie Irsee

**Dominik J. Schaller**  
Heidelberg University

### VENUE

Home of FIFA  
Fédération Internationale de Football Association  
FIFA-Strasse 20  
8044 Zurich  
Switzerland

### REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

Schwabenakademie Irsee  
Klosterring 4  
87660 Irsee  
phone: 0049 (0)8341 906-661 or -662  
e-mail: buero@schwabenakademie.de  
www.schwabenakademie.de

### FEE

Free of charge.

### ACCOMMODATION

Participants are requested to organise accommodation themselves.

### SPONSORS



Cover picture: Mural in Budapest which celebrates The Golden Team’s famous 6-3 victory over England at Wembley in 1953; Photographer: Luke Hodges-Ramon.



**SCHWABEN  
AKADEMIE  
IRSEE**

*Bildung genießen.*

### HISTORY

Football as an Instrument of  
Nation-Building II: (South-)East-  
Europe and Overseas Countries

10th Irsee Sports Historical Conference

17–19 February 2017



## **FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2017**

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5.00 pm

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Dr Markwart Herzog, Schwabenakademie Irsee, Germany  
Dominik Schaller, Heidelberg University, Germany

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### **I. (SOUTH-)EAST EUROPE**

5.15 pm

### **The Global Politics of Pride and Prejudice: Hooliganism, Nationalism and Racism of a Local Football Game between Serbia and Albania**

Enika Abazi/Albert Doja, University of Lille, France

6.00 pm

### **National Identity and Nation-Building in Interwar Romania: The National Football Team between "Foreigners" and Romanianization**

Catalin Parfene MA, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France

6.45 pm Dinner

## **SATURDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2017**

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9.00 am

### **Golden Team and Nationalist Dreams: The Politics of Hungarian Football Past, Present and Future**

Luke Hodges-Ramon, MA University College London's School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies (SSEES), London, UK

9.45 am

### **Why the Moldovans don't Play Football? Football and Empire/State-Building in the Moldovan SSR (1944–1989)**

Dr Octavian Ticu, Academy of Science of the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, Moldova

10.30 am Coffee Break

10.45 am

### **Football Nationalism in the USSR: Ararat-73 and Football Nationalism in Soviet Armenia**

Mikayel Zolyan, Brusov State University of Linguistics and Social Sciences, Yerevan, Armenia

11.30 am

### **The Nation against "Europe": Football and Nationalism in Turkey**

Can Evren MA, Duke University, Durham (North Carolina), USA

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### **II. OVERSEAS COUNTRIES**

12.15 pm

### **The Samurai Spirit of Nadeshiko Japan: The Women's National Team, 3/11 and Nationalism in Japan**

Prof Dr Christian Tagsold, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, Germany

1.00 pm Lunch

2.00 pm

### **Guided Tour: The FIFA Headquarters**

Alexander Koch, FIFA, Communications & Public Affairs, Zurich, Switzerland

3.30 pm

### **Both Sides of the Field: Football and the Relations between Jews and Arabs in Palestine, 1917–1929**

Omer Einav MA, Tel Aviv University, Israel

4.15 pm Coffee Break

4.30 pm

### **Brazilian *futebol*: An Agent of Nation-Building that has Lost its Drive?**

Dr Ilan Rachum, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel

5.15 pm

### **Settlers, Kings and Lesser Players: Football and the Nation of Liberia, West Africa**

Dr Gary Armstrong/Dr Holly Collison, Brunel University West London, UK

6.00 pm Key-Note

### **Migrants and Patriots: Football Players and Nation-Building in Lusophone Africa across the Colonial/Post-Colonial Divide**

Dr Todd Cleveland, University of Arkansas, USA

6.45 pm Dinner

## **SUNDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2017**

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9.00 am

### **A Successful Bubble for the Nation's Normal: Notes on the Emotional Politics of Football Mubarak's Egypt**

Dr Carl Rommel, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK

9.45 am

### **The Nation and its Embodiments: Mohammedan Sporting in Bengal**

Sudipto Mitra, School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, India

10.30 am Coffee Break

10.45 am

### **BRICS, Bats, and Balls: Nation-Building and the Politics of Mega-Sporting Events in the BRICS Countries**

Prof Dr Derek Catsam, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, USA

11.30 am

### **Round Table: Systematic Perspectives**

12.00 Noon Lunch – End of Conference – Departure

– Program is Subject to Change. –