

Вестник МИРБИС. 2021. № 1 (25): С. 229–232.

Vestnik MIRBIS. 2021; 1(25): 229–232.

Материалы конференции

УДК 316.74

DOI: 10.25634/MIRBIS.2021.1.27

Conference proceedings

### Round table on the topic of conceptualization of integrity in sports

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**Abstract.** This article is the result of the International round table "Conceptualization of Integrative Sports: Multiple Practices and Approaches" which took place on November 21, 2020. Purpose of the research: to give an objective assessment of the last sociological conference. Research methods: content analysis is the main method of research. Practical significance: the interest in this topic is dictated by the growing attention of international sports organizations to ensure the principles of fairness and integrity of sport, as well as the response of leading representatives of modern sociology of sport.

**Key words:** "Round table", sport, integrity, Fair Play, ethics, commercialization sociology of sports.

**For citation:** Koptseva E. V. Round table on the topic of conceptualization of integrity in sports.

E. V. Koptseva. *Vestnik MIRBIS*. 2021; 1(25): 229–232. DOI: 10.25634/MIRBIS.2021.1.27

### Круглый стол на тему концептуализации интегрита в спорте

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**Аннотация.** Данная статья есть результат прошедшей в 21 ноября 2020 года Международного круглого стола по теме «Концептуализация интегрита спорта: множественные практики и подходы».

Цель исследования: дать объективную оценку прошедшей социологической конференции.

Методы исследования: в качестве основного метода исследования выступает контент-анализ.

Практическая значимость: Интерес к данной тематике продиктован нарастающим вниманием международных спортивных организаций по обеспечению принципов честности и целостности спорта, а также откликом на это ведущих представителей современной социологии спорта.

**Ключевые слова:** «Круглый стол», спорт, интегрита, фэйр-плей, этика, консьюмериз, социология спорта.

**Для цитирования:** Koptseva E. V. Round table on the topic of conceptualization of integrity in

sports / E. V. Koptseva // Вестник МИРБИС. 2021; 1(25): 229–232. DOI: 10.25634/MIRBIS.2021.1.27

#### Introduction

Under the patronage of the St. Petersburg Scientific Committee, namely the Sociology of Physical Culture and Sports Committee of the Russian Society of Sociologists, a round table was held as part of the XII International Conference "Theoretical and Applied Ethics: Traditions and Prospects", organized at St. Petersburg State University, on November 21, 2020, a round table on the topic "Conceptualization of sports integration: multiple practices and approaches" was held. The interest in this topic was dictated by the growing attention of international sports organizations to the principles of honesty and integrity of sport and by the response of leading

representatives of modern sociology of sport [Cleret 2015]. The increasing tendencies of consumerism, medialization, and commercialization of sport set new practical tasks for its social regulation and institutional organization [Gardiner 2017].

Leading international scientists in the field of sports sociology from Taiwan participated in the roundtable, India and the USA, as well as teachers, sociologists and lawyers of St. Petersburg State University.

#### Research results

The discussion began with a presentation by Song Chia-Tin (National Chao Tung University) entitled "Taking Gene Doping as a Route for Thinking: Ethical Dilemmas and Challenges in the Fields of Contemporary Sports". Which marked the problem of

the spread of so-called "gene doping" as a revolution in biomedical impact on the potential of the human body [Unal 2004]. In spite of the fact that the newest technologies of genetic engineering in recent years began to change significantly the possibilities of biomedical influence on sports practices, the adequate reflection in the system of anti-doping regulation of sports has not yet taken place. The latest achievements of science have become a serious challenge for sport ethics adapted to the former social forms of moral consciousness. Now the world of sport faces an absolutely new reality and this challenge turned out to be unexpected. The line between doping and approved stimulants in sport is becoming increasingly thin and flexible. Based on the available scientific literature on the topic, as well as the latest acts of the International Olympic Committee, a number of national federations have traced the main trends in the control of genetic technologies in modern sports. The speaker analyzed the main methods and practices of the fight against genetic doping, noting that the success of these methods depends on reorientation of the whole system of sport values and reconstruction of the policy of sport management. While discussing the report, the participants of the round table came to the importance of taking into account cultural peculiarities of different countries and nations while adapting to new gene technologies.

Next report submitted by S. Tevari (Indian Life Insurance Corporation; Indian Sociological Society) and S. Tevari (University of Milan Bicocca), called "Fixing: Menace towards Integrity of the Indian Sport's", was dedicated to the acute issue of the so-called "bargaining chips" in sporting events, where athletes come to an agreement in advance with each other about the result, contributing in a variety of ways. Speakers highlighted the growing transformation of sport into an entertainment sphere where money and media dominate [Feustel 2015]. A professional soccer league and a cricket league in India were discussed for specific analysis. In both cases, wealthy businessmen invest substantial financial resources in sports competitions to generate income from the entertainment of the sports audience. This becomes a fertile ground for corruption, fraud and betting games. As a result, huge damage is inflicted both to the integration of sports and sports in general, as a social phenomenon. According to the speakers' opinion, the cornerstone

in the struggle against such destructive tendencies is the development of effective legislative base and legal instruments of social regulation of sport. In the end a program of measures was offered to develop such instruments and, what is more important, to prepare social institutions of Indian society for such innovations. During the discussion of the report, special attention was paid to the presence of specific cultural conditions that give a unique form of adaptation of state policy in the sphere of sports, namely sports regulation to the traditional attitudes of the inhabitants of the regions..

E. Ivan (University of St. Johns) in his fascinating report "Game Changers in Sport: The Ethics of Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship" focused on the plasticity of the moral imperatives of sport in view of the regular technical improvement of sports practices. Together with techniques, athletes' behavior patterns are changing, which requires new knowledge and as a result raises the question of changing moral consciousness, the attitude of sport ethics to the ways of regulating behavior and expected behavior in games related to physical or mental activity [McLaren 2011]. Under these conditions, the development of new models of sports entrepreneurship becomes very popular. Three directions of development of entrepreneurial mentality in sport seem to be the most significant. First, these are actions aimed at innovation and innovative understanding of the role of ethics in sport. This means that there is a targeted approach to integrating entrepreneurship into sports ethics with a vision of broad perspectives for future action. The question is particularly one of proactive strategies for sports organizations to address perceived ethical issues in the future. Second, there are unplanned or random forms of entrepreneurship in sports ethics. They occur in cases of spontaneous changes that are an inevitable ethical response to technological innovation. But technological variability needs to be institutionalized. In other words, a strategy to develop moral regulators must be more proactive than reactive to change. Thirdly, there are evolutionary forms of entrepreneurship in sports ethics. Changes in sports ethics always take place in a certain social environment, are included in the system of interconnected institutions based on values, traditions and culture.

In an interesting report of I. A. Vasilyev (St. Petersburg State University) "Sports jurisprudence

vs. narrow understanding of integrity" the emphasis was made on the legal side of the issue of integrating sports. Today some sports lawyers openly refer to integration as a principle of Lex sportive formed on the basis of sport specifics and differing from fundamental and branch law principles [Guseinova 2019]. Nevertheless, the understanding of the content of integration is far from consensus. To be more precise, there is certain consent of sports lawyers but it reflects a forced narrow view on this principle. The speaker suggested that integration is deduced from the opposite, i.e. from certain violations-calls by the special values of sports, which are the facade of the pyramid of governance in sports. In his opinion, it is in this context that traces of the influence of the difference of meanings in the English language for the concept in question are found, including such as "honesty", "purity", "completeness". In the end it was concluded that the abovementioned violations not only negatively influence the "honesty" of the sport or its "purity", but also represent the risk of complete elimination of such a component for achieving the partisan non-legal interests. The big interest of the participants of the round table was caused by the discussion about correlation of national and international statistics of results manipulation in certain sports and specificity of the content in Russian and Chinese sports.

A. S. Gonashvili (St. Petersburg State University) in his report "The role of Fair Play in shaping sports practices" emphasized that nowadays recognition of sportsmen's achievements requires both material and social support so that expenses and rewards from the state and/or society could serve as a form of recognition of social value of such achievements. The author emphasizes the fact that sport is a form of market relations, which does not reflect its original factor of leisure forms. Sport becomes a form of labor relations, where one of the factors of production is the human potential, and the product is the sports result [Gonashvili 2016; Gonashvili 2019]. Considering sport as an example of industrial

civilization, it must be said that it is a countercultural phenomenon in contrast to the original philosophy and culture of sport proclaimed by Pierre de Coubertin, which is the founding principle of the Olympic Charter.

In conclusion, M. V. Sinyutin (St. Petersburg State University) presented a report on "Contradiction in the definition of sport integrity as an expression of a real social contradiction: the question statement". The report dealt with theoretical problems related to the consideration of the issue of sports integration. A hypothesis was proposed according to which dualism existing in the scientific literature concerning the notion of sport integration is not an evidence of the falsehood of one of the approaches and the truth of the other but is connected with the contradiction of the social nature of the sport itself [Sinyutin 2020]. The contradictory nature of modern sports is embodied in the contradictory nature of integration. On the one hand, we are talking about the moral regulators of sport, referring primarily to the competition itself as the attitude of athletes, while on the other hand, there are legal regulators related to the public manifestation of sport. The most fragile element of the social construction of sport is the transition of the competition into a performance. Specifically in this dream we can trace the contradictions of the poles are intensified by modern trends of medialization, medicalization, and consumerism. The analysis of the documents concerning the principles of integration of the leading sports organizations, in particular the International Olympic Committee, shows the priority importance of the normative and regulatory developments.

### Conclusion

At the end of the round table the participants expressed their hope for international cooperation of scientists in the field of sports sociology as an effective instrument of preparation of sports organizations for the social changes taking place.

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*The article was submitted 12/21/2020; approved after reviewing 01/20/2021; accepted for publication 01/20/2021.*

*Статья поступила в редакцию 21.12.2020; одобрена после рецензирования 20.01.2021; принята к публикации 20.01.2021.*