

package tour around some aspects of *au courant* social theories that are grafted on to questions of leisure. Although there are some useful insights, and the ambition of the author should not be faulted, the book reads awkwardly as if it is caught between the devil and the deep-blue sea.

Reference

Willis, P. (1977). *Learning to labor: How working class kids get working class jobs*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Sport and Social Exclusion. Michael Collins with Tess Kay. (2003). London and New York: Routledge

Reviewed by Kostas Alexandris
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Thessaloniki, Greece

Sport and Social Exclusion is a critical review of academic literature and applied projects, which were conducted mainly in the UK, in the areas of social exclusion, sport/leisure participation, and social policy. The main objective of the book is to indicate how specific groups of the population are disadvantaged in terms of sport and leisure participation. Michael Collins uses the concept of social exclusion as the main theme of the book, and the base of the analysis of the inequalities in sport participation.

The book starts with the definitions of the concepts of poverty and social exclusion (Chapter 2). The influence of poverty on leisure participation is the focus of chapter 4. Based on the British literature and on a British case study Collins argues that poverty is one of the major reasons for not taking part in sport and leisure activities. Collins did an excellent job using both the academic literature and the case study, and his conclusions are very clear. However, I would like to point out that the focus of this chapter and the evidence presented are on organized sporting activities, provided by leisure centers. The issue of the relationship between income and participation is more complex, when we refer to outdoor (unorganized) sporting activities. Studies in the area of leisure constraints, for example, have not supported the importance of financial constraints as determinants of sport and leisure participation.

Chapter 3 is a review of leisure constraints and leisure benefits literature. Collins made it clear that the objective of this chapter was only to provide definitions of the concepts, and not to review the extensive literature on the topic. However, considering the fact that leisure constraints have been a major theme in leisure studies literature in the last 20 years, and that this literature is very relevant to the issue of sport exclusion, I think that the book would benefit from a more detailed review of studies in this area, and from integrating the constraints theory, concepts, and findings within different chapters in the book.

Chapter 5 examines briefly the influence of education on sport participation and, by adopting a developmental approach, mainly focuses on children's and adolescents' sport behavior. I particularly liked the section on dropping out of sports, where Collins adopted an international approach, and briefly integrated studies from other European countries.

Chapter 6 is written by Tess Kay, and serves as a brief synopsis of the extensive literature on gender and sport participation. Chapter 7 is descriptive and quite brief and focuses on the relationship between age and sport participation. Collins did not present theoretical frameworks applied in the study of older individuals, and did not review studies published in sport and health-related journals. It is, however, clear that his interest was on analyzing policy issues related to sport provision for older individuals.

The following three chapters focus on (a) ethnic minority groups, (b) people with disabilities, and (c) youth delinquent individuals. The promotion of sport among ethnic minority groups is a topic of particular importance for both UK and North America. Collins uses sport participation data from the General Household Survey to indicate the inequalities in sport participation. The intervention section is very interesting; Collins proposes specific strategies, based on published studies, on how to promote sports among different ethnic minority groups. An applied approach is also adopted in Chapter 9 analyzing sport participation among people with disabilities. The chapter presents a clear picture on how issues related to financial resources, accessibility, and programs provision limit opportunities for sport and recreation among people with disabilities, and shows the need for more research and applied projects in this area.

The chapter on youth delinquency and sport/leisure education (Chapter 10) uses information on youth justice and delinquency to indicate the value of sport and recreation in violence prevention and/or in youth rehabilitation. Collins successfully combines information from the academic literature, applied projects, and two case studies (the first describing a recreational work among young teenagers and the second a rehabilitative work among young adult offenders). I particularly liked the critical approach on the methodology of the intervention projects that have been applied to deal with the issue of youth and delinquency. Collins finishes the book by offering suggestions on how to provide effective inclusion policies and deal with the issue of inequalities in sport and recreation (chapter 12). I found Collins's brief discussion on how voluntary sport clubs can act as promoters of sport and recreation, and how they can be used as partners to promote community health, safety and environmental improvement to be very interesting.

In conclusion, the use of both academic and applied literature (projects and case studies) is a welcome approach, and reflects the extensive consultancy experience of the author. This combination strengthens the contribution of the book and makes it a valuable resource for students, practitioners, policy makers, and academics. I found the limited review of the literature and the limited depth of the analysis in some of the book's chapters (e.g., Chapter 3, Chapter 7, and Chapter 9) to be somewhat troubling. This ap-

parent inadequacy of the book can be explained, however, by Collins's intentional focus on the applications, critical analysis of the existing policies, and on discussing examples of a good practice.

In terms of the book's perspective to be attractive to an international audience, I could argue that the topics covered are of great interest in a cross-cultural setting (e.g., minority issues in North America, aging of the population internationally, etc.). However, and despite the effort of Collins to review some of the international literature in sport participation, the book, as expected, is mainly placed in the context of the British sport system. The vast majority of the reviewed projects and case studies come from the UK. The international reader can, however, benefit from the critical review of the case studies, and the critical evaluation of policy-related issues. My only concern is that, in order to fully appreciate the contents of the book, the international readers should be somewhat familiar with the British sport provision system, and sport-related policies.

Black Recreation: A Historical Perspective. Holland, Jearold W. (2002). Chicago, IL: Burnham Inc., Publishers.

Reviewed by Corliss Wilson Outley
Division of Recreation and Sport Studies
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

In *Black Recreation*, Jearold Holland presents, describes and explains the influence of recreation on Black culture and how Black recreation has influenced American culture from before slavery to the present. Dr. Holland's introduction reveals that his initial premise was to provide a text that could historically document blacks and their leisure experiences in the U.S. He proclaims that the book "will show that blacks, contrary to some myths, have never had a chaotic culture; that play, recreation, and leisure were important and significant in the black experience; and that blacks contributed significantly to white recreation and leisure." Other scholars have failed when attempting to illustrate the influence leisure has had on Blacks *and* how black recreation has influenced other groups' leisure as well. Holland succeeds in this challenge by producing a text that will be useful for introductory classes, as well as a good starting point for classes on leisure/recreation and diversity. Dr. Holland provides simplicity in reading that will appeal to not only those within academe but practitioners as well. The book contains 11 chapters and explores a wide array of topics including the major theories utilized to explain black participation in recreation, leisure and recreation of African cultures before being brought to America, recreation while in slavery until the reconstruction period, leisure for Blacks under the Jim Crow era, the impact of Civil Rights legislation on Black recreation and current issues.

In the Prologue, Holland provides an overview and critical analysis of the conceptual foundations of various terms: race, culture, play, recreation,